

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #266 - Side A/B/C/D/E/F

Subject: Lena Wilson - Discusses Bill Brown

Place: Double O Valley

Date: October 1, 1979

Interviewer: Richard Cowan

Release Form: No

(Tape quality very poor. Very hard to understand.)

RICHARD COWAN: I'm talking to Mrs. Lena Wilson from Anderson, California. Mrs. Wilson is ninety years old, and as she'll tell you, was born on Buck Creek. She was married originally to a nephew of Bill Brown. Mrs. Wilson's daughter is Mrs. Helen Moon, approximately seventy years old, who now lives on the ranch with her son Joe Moon in the Double O Valley in lower Silver Creek. The conversation is mainly with Mrs. Wilson, but with her daughter Helen Moon in the background. --- Well now Woodie Best was your uncle?

LENA WILSON: Yes, he was. And Joe Street was my father.

RICHARD: And Joe Street was your father. And now you were born on Buck Creek?

LENA: No --- yes, I was up at the Jim Street place. I had one sister born down on the old Street place.

RICHARD: Uh huh. Where was the old Jim Street place over there?

LENA: Clear up to the top of Buck Creek, when you start over Buck Mountain.

RICHARD: Oh, way up there.

LENA: Uh huh. Five miles above the ranch down where Barney lived.

RICHARD: Boy that was a snowy place in the winter, wasn't it?

LENA: Well it used to be, and floods and everything.

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: That creek come down there and drowned a cow in the wintertime when I was a mighty little girl.

RICHARD: Well, now there used to be a school on Buck Creek, didn't they?

LENA: Yes, there was.

RICHARD: Did you go to school there?

LENA: I sure did. That's the only place I ever went to school.

RICHARD: Well, I'll be darned. Well, so you're about ninety now aren't you, ninety-one?

LENA: Yeah, ninety.

RICHARD: Isn't that marvelous.

LENA: The Fourth of July.

RICHARD: That's wonderful. So actually, you were in school there eighty years ago?

LENA: Yes, I was.

RICHARD: Well, now where was the school located?

LENA: Well, let's see now, you know where the old Lemon's Place was?

RICHARD: Where did that lay from Barney's old place?

LENA: Just about a quarter of a mile.

RICHARD: Okay, yeah. There is a big spring there.

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: Yeah, uh huh.

LENA: And then there is, where the schoolhouse was, was up on that little hill across from the creek going up to Bill Brown's.

RICHARD: I see. Well, now was it a one-room school?

LENA: That's all.

RICHARD: Well, how many kids were there?

LENA: Well, that was indefinite, part of the time there was just the Buck Creek School, of us

children, that was ... Churchill's two boys, at the time that I went to school. Because her girls had already gone to school, and was older than us.

RICHARD: Uh huh.

LENA: And then there was us, which Mama had six children. And we went to school there. And that settled it till after Daddy ... Before that they had school on the old Lemon's Place. And that was down below where, is the old house there yet?

PAUL WILSON: No. (Too far from microphone to pick up most of his conversation during the interview.)

LENA: That was in those quaking aspen trees down there.

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: Well, that's the first place that my brother, just older than I, went to school there. He went there. And then they built the little schoolhouse up on the hill ... there was little juniper trees there. And it was built just this side of that juniper tree, where the gulch comes down that side.

RICHARD: Well, was there ever another school at Buck Creek, or was that the only school there?

LENA: That was the only one. When it burned down, I went to school up at Bill Brown's.

RICHARD: Now when did it burn down? It must have been when you were a little girl then, huh?

LENA: No, I can't think. I think I was about fifteen when that burnt down. I think so.

RICHARD: Then after it burnt down why they held school at Bill Brown's.

LENA: They held school in an old sod house, the old house out in the meadow.

RICHARD: Oh, uh huh.

LENA: They did that, then they built the one down in the flat, you know.

RICHARD: Well when was the one built down in the flat then? After the old one burned down up at the Lemon's Place?

LENA: Oh, yes. ...

RICHARD: So that would be about 1910 or so.

LENA: ... I think, wouldn't it? No, it would be about then.

RICHARD: Well now what, and well that's where the school and all the settlers in that area came.

All those people out in what we call Misery Flat now.

LENA: I guess.

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: I wouldn't have called it Misery Flat, because I loved it.

RICHARD: Well, I'm sure that anybody that lived there did, but---

LENA: Well that's ...

RICHARD: Yeah uh huh. But ---

LENA: And we was eighty miles from Prineville, and sixty miles from Burns.

RICHARD: Well, you never went to school down in the flat, though did you?

LENA: No, I didn't.

RICHARD: How many kids did they have there?

LENA: Gee, I don't know. I don't know how many.

PAUL: Helen went down there.

RICHARD: Well, did you go to school there Helen?

HELEN MOON: Uh huh. ... (Too far from microphone to pick up most of her conversation during the interview.)

PAUL: ...

LENA: The homesteaders come in.

HELEN: ...

LENA: Well ...

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Was Cecil Hart your cousin? Yeah, I knew Cecil.

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Well now, what happened to that old school down there?

LENA: They tore it down I think.

HELEN: I think it was torn down.

RICHARD: Did you have any pictures of it, or would there be any pictures anywhere?

HELEN: No, I don't think.

RICHARD: The reason I ask is there is a lady in Prineville who is writing an article on the ---

LENA: And she wrote to me.

RICHARD: Oh, she did write to you. Okay. And when I told her I was going to talk to you in particular, why she asked me to ask you if you had any pictures of it.

LENA: Well, she asked me for a picture.

RICHARD: Uh huh.

LENA: But I don't know how she knew anything about me, because---

RICHARD: Everybody knows about you. No matter where I go, and I talk about Bill Brown, they say talk to Lena Wilson. (Laughter)

LENA: Well, I cooked for him ... for a long time.

RICHARD: Well Mrs. Best, did she teach, that is Mabel Best, did she teach school at Buck Creek for a while?

LENA: Yes, she did, for a while.

RICHARD: And that's when she met and married Woodie, and moved over to the, over to Silver Creek?

LENA: No. Well, you see I lived at Powell Butte during this time. See she was his second wife.

RICHARD: Yeah, I knew that.

LENA: And I don't know when Aunt Etta left. And I don't know who he had working there between that time. Grandma ... now that was aunt --- his wife's, Aunt Etta's mother. She kept house for Uncle Wood for years after they separated. See they separated after they left Silver Creek.

RICHARD: Well, now you say Aunt Etta, you mean Mrs. Laughlin?

LENA: She was Best's wife, his first wife.

RICHARD: Oh, I see. And then, she and Wood Best separated?

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: Oh, I had always thought she died.

LENA: Now his children, Woodie and Mabel and Ethel, she had three, and she was the mother of all of them.

RICHARD: Oh, I see. Well, now Wood the boy, was still alive when we bought the ranch.

LENA: Oh, was he?

RICHARD: Yeah, because in Mrs. Best's will, why there were some items that went to him.

LENA: Oh. Was ... alive?

RICHARD: Well, Wood was the only one that was mentioned in the will.

LENA: Oh. Well, Mabel died there at Silver Creek, she was Bob ... wife when they lived down by the Oakerman place.

RICHARD: So, Mabel would have been your aunt then too?

LENA: No, she was my cousin.

RICHARD: Your cousin I mean, yeah. Well then Wood and his first wife split up?

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: Oh, I see, I had always thought she died.

LENA: No. He died before she did.

RICHARD: Huh. And then Wood married Mabel.

LENA: Yes. Several years after they had separated, Uncle Wood was awfully broken up. It was several years after she left him before he married Mabel. He had Mabel come and work there for him when Grandma died ...

RICHARD: Oh, I see.

LENA: And that's when they got married.

RICHARD: Well, they were married in 1912.

LENA: Were they?

RICHARD: Yeah. Because when she moved off the ranch in '62 when we bought it, she had been there just fifty years I guess.

LENA: Oh.

RICHARD: Well now, when did you start to work --- let me back up a bit. When did Bill Brown

come to the country?

LENA: Heavens, he was there before my dad was.

RICHARD: Oh, he was, way back ---

LENA: He and his brothers came up there and was running sheep.

RICHARD: There at Buck Creek, or down at Wagontire?

LENA: Down at Wagontire. That was his headquarters. See my dad's ... Bill Johnson, owned the Bill Brown place. They took that, and I think that was Uncle Willy's homestead, I don't know.

RICHARD: When you say the Bill Brown place, you mean the place on Buck Creek?

LENA: I do. And then they sold it, no Uncle Willy; he got a place over at Silver Creek and ... Johnson, his brother, run that. And then they sold it to Creighton Kline and Creighton Kline sold it to Uncle Will.

RICHARD: I see. Well, then Bill Brown bought it then?

LENA: Yes, he bought it.

RICHARD: Oh I --- but he originally worked at Wagontire?

LENA: Yes. He worked at Wagontire, but when he built the new house there at Buck Creek, that was his home.

RICHARD: I see.

LENA: He made his home there. ... I could come there and go to work.

RICHARD: Was that the center of his operations then?

LENA: Well, yes it was. Yeah. All of his business was done there.

RICHARD: Well, how old were you when you went there?

LENA: In 1908, I was married. And I went to work for him about two weeks after I was married.

RICHARD: In 1908. And that's at Buck Creek?

LENA: That's at Buck Creek. They had the old house there.

RICHARD: Well, how old a man was he then?

LENA: Let's see, he is one year younger than my dad, and how old would dad have been? ...

RICHARD: Well, he probably was about, must have been thirty or forty by that time.

LENA: Oh, I suppose he was, I suppose he was. See there was, I think his three brothers came up there. This was all before I was born. But these three brothers came up there and they all went together and bought these sheep. You know, there was a ... among one of the homesteaders out in ... out in there. And Uncle Will, he was ... going to pull a gun on him. Uncle Will shot and ... and shot the ... at Silver Creek. And his name was Overstreet. And Papa's name was Joe Street. And ... my mother's ... and was going to move up, she had two children, Wesley and Maude. And she was going to move up there. And Dad hadn't got back down to get her, and she was grieving, thinking it was Dad. Now I know that story about being ...

RICHARD: Well then, he was pretty well established at Buck Creek when you moved up there?

LENA: Just the old house. Yes, he was there. He was here and there. As they used to say most of the time he was on a horse ... Well when we got married, I married his nephew, and when we got married we stayed at Mama's. And he said, "Gad dang it," he said, "might as well put Lena up there cooking. And I'll take Harve," and he said, "he can tend the sheep camps."

RICHARD: How long did you stay there working for him?

LENA: I was there about a year --- about seven months, and then I went down to Prineville. And we lived at Powell Butte for about two years. Then I came back up and he and I separated and I ended up working for Uncle Will.

RICHARD: And how long did you stay with Uncle Will that time?

LENA: About five years.

RICHARD: Well you were then right at the center of his operations, weren't you? You saw everything that happened?

LENA: Yeah, I know quite a bit about it, yeah.

RICHARD: Well now when Bill was, when you moved up there, did he have that big house?

LENA: No.

RICHARD: Someone told me ---

LENA: Just the last time he did, when I moved back.

RICHARD: When you moved back.

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: I see, uh huh.

LENA: He had the big house there.

PAUL: We moved out in 1910.

RICHARD: 1910. You know about half of it is gone now.

PAUL: Yeah.

LENA: Well that was ... the man that did it. I don't know what in the world he tore the best part of it off.

RICHARD: Is that right?

LENA: But it, you know that was the place to keep, that's all. And I did that work alone too.

RICHARD: You kept house and kept the place up for him.

LENA: Yeah, I kept the house up, and then when the sheep shearers come, I had to cook for fifty. I hired my sister to help me. I tried to do this alone, but I just couldn't get around to all of it. So, I hired my sister to help me. And he paid me thirty-five dollars a month, and I paid a girl out of it. And then when he wasn't there, I had to tend to the store. He put in a store. Of course, his store was put in before I worked there, because Johnson, he had a man by the name of Johnson, and he hired her and he to run the house. Besides Bob ... and Maude ... that was Mrs. Johnson's son-in-law.

RICHARD: Yeah, I've heard that name.

LENA: They lived there before, you know. And then this Johnson came, and they run it, and they should have never been in the store. And then Uncle Will had a terrible habit of coming in, so he was so awful honest. He was just as honest; he'd tie everything up along the side of the store, in the racks. Then in the center he'd heap it way up here, and then on the side he'd heap it over here. And then he'd order a great lot of peanuts and stuff, and he was a great man to eat peanuts. And he was so clean with everything. Ordered chocolate candies, you know, the very best. And he was very free with everything that he had.

And they could come in there, ... help yourself, anything you want, make a list of it, and

come over and show it to me, and pay it. And they'd just lie to him ... and still they'd come with ... their wives and sometimes their kids and stay there and I'd have so many to cook for. I wouldn't never know, I'd go to bed at about eleven at night, up at three, and sometimes I had to make white bread rolls for him if he wanted them.

Why ... and take care of my two children. And I did it. He told me when I asked him for the last job, I weighed eighty-two pounds, and he said then ... And I said, "I can try." He had some apples in a sack, and they were cold, and he said, "... if you can take a sack of apples down to the house, why then you can have a job."

Well now my sister-in-law, Henry Street and Ruby was a working there. And she told me they was going to leave and come to Silver Creek to their homes. They proved up on their homestead. And so, she said, "Lena," she says, "you're alone." And I told her, I said, "I don't want to live off the folks ... I just can't do it." And she said, "Well," she said, "we're going to leave," she said, "how about you come and ask him if you can go to work." That's what he told me, if I could get it down to the house. So, I dragged it down part way, and ... and up to the porch. I lifted it down off of there, and then I drug it down to the house. Then I come back up and I said, "The apples setting on the front porch, how's my job?" "Gad dang it," he says ...

And he liked my kids. He would buy all their clothes for them, and he never charged me for their board, or mine either. He was different. I think the world of him.

RICHARD: Well, now why did he build, when he built, why did he build such a big house?

LENA: I don't know. I think Johnson talked him into it. Now I don't know that, because I lived at Powell Butte. That was all ... when I come up there. And I don't know, maybe ...

PAUL: ... Said he was going to marry and raise a big family.

LENA: Oh yes, he built that big room that they had ... that was his nursery. And I had five beds in that. And I had to wash sheets and pillowcases for the whole thing. Iron them and put them back on the beds.

RICHARD: Well, this nursery that he built there, he had it all equipped and everything for kids, cribs and everything like that?

LENA: No, no.

RICHARD: Just called a nursery.

LENA: You know, he had a good idea, if he could accomplish it. And Harvey, my husband, ... husband, he'd answer all these advertisements for women. Advertise for husbands, they'd all come from ... And he'd sign that, you know, and he'd have them come there ... The woman would come out there, and he'd get on his old ... his horse, and ride off. Leave them there. He never was married. He was a schoolteacher, as well as a ...

RICHARD: Was he educated here in Oregon?

LENA: Oh no, no. I don't know where he was --- I guess in Seattle. His sister was, and his brothers.

RICHARD: I know his brother was a doctor, wasn't he?

LENA: Two of them.

RICHARD: Two of them.

LENA: Ellis and Sam. Yeah, the one raised potatoes, and I guess ... did too, I don't know. I never met those two. I did Ellis, I met him. He was a nice person.

RICHARD: Well, I had always heard that, you know, he wanted to get married, and he wanted a family.

LENA: He did. But he talked he did.

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: ... she'd have to work.

RICHARD: Did he spend much time in town?

LENA: No. He never did.

RICHARD: I know he, I've always heard that he wanted to marry Virgil, Virgil Shields' sister at one time.

LENA: Well he did. He said she illuminated before him. And then he wanted one of the Cecil girls, and he bought her a diamond ring. And she threw it, she wouldn't have it. So, Mrs. Cecil wore it. And he bought a watch for the Shields girl, and they wouldn't let her have it. So, he gave it

to the Shields' girl --- or the Cecil girl because he thought he would get her. But that is ... to my husband's sister Ella.

RICHARD: Well these were young girls, weren't they?

LENA: Yeah.

RICHARD: And actually, he was an old man, wasn't he? Well, I don't mean old man, but he was a middle-aged man.

LENA: He used to come down to see my sister Maude; she was two or three years older than I. And Mama told him that he, he couldn't. He bought her a beautiful book. And she told him that he couldn't go with her daughter, that he was too old a man. And she was too young; she wasn't going with the boys.

RICHARD: You would think that some girl would have really made a play for him, wouldn't you?

LENA: She tried, don't think she didn't try. And he was pretty smart too, you know. She had to be just ...

RICHARD: Actually way --- it sounds like if anybody ever said yes, he'd of backed off pretty fast.

LENA: Yes, he would have. Yeah, he would have.

RICHARD: Well, now we'd always heard that he had a lot of, with that big house, is where a lot of people stopped when they were going through ---

LENA: Oh, heavens, they did.

RICHARD: --- Burns and Prineville.

LENA: Anybody come along, that was the stopping place. Used to be that my dad had to ... quite a bit, you know. They'd stop there. But after Uncle Will got all fixed up there, why everybody come, far, wide, and handsome.

RICHARD: Well now did he charge them?

PAUL: No.

RICHARD: Well, I once heard that he charged the governor, when the governor stayed over night. He had a flat rate he charged the governor just like everybody else.

LENA: I never heard that. I never heard it.

PAUL: Only one time I ever heard him ever charged anybody.

LENA: We both worked there together ---

RICHARD: Well, you ought to know.

LENA: --- after we were married. And if he did it, I don't know when he did it. Now he gave church, very seldom we had church, because we was too far from town. The minister would come out there and he'd give him four or five hundred-dollar check every time he came. He wasn't a stingy guy at all. He ... his money, he really did. And he'd write a check out on a chip out of the woodpile, it was good. On a tomato paper, was good. And in fact, they say, now I don't know whether that's been discovered or not, but he's got a trust chair in the bank at Prineville, it's W. W. William Brown in ... I don't know, I never seen it.

HELEN: ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: Well, did he do his business in Prineville or in Burns?

LENA: Well, I think both places, didn't he? Mostly Prineville I think.

PAUL: He did Prineville for years, and then at last he changed to Burns.

LENA: Everybody was his friend. Because they could use him. He told them that they could go in and put on a pair of boots in there, a brand-new pair of boots, and walk out without him ... it could have them. And that ... And there was sheep lined coats. There was a man come in there that, he come in, in his shirt sleeves in the winter, they was cold, standing around, say gee I'm cold. ... I didn't wear that coat; I thought it was going to be warm. But then he'd say, "You should have worn your coat." Well he says, "Here take a new one, put it on," he said, "while you're in the store." He stayed all forenoon, and wore the coat. And got ready to go home, he wore it, and in about a week he come back, and he didn't have his coat, had to give him another one.

When they were laid off, a whole bunch of them from Wagonfire come in there, and ... He let them go in and get what they wanted, and he told them he thought they would be honest. And he told them to come up and let him know what he had. They wanted some blankets, now he had a gray blanket, and a maroon blanket, and a white blanket. And they were all wool, the very best.

And this white blanket was so expensive, so they slipped tags from the gray, and put it ...

So, Uncle Woodie, he didn't think too much about that, because they went and helped themselves to the silverware, which was stored there. And they put it in a box, and they went to move it and it rattled. And it wasn't, they hadn't bought anything. And then he saw them load up the blanket, and it had a false bottom, and they ... and he had ... And so, he went out and unloaded the whole business, and sent that, that box out without a single thing. It was stolen.

RICHARD: Well now, let's back up, why did he, how did he happen to start the store?

LENA: Well through this Johnson ... because I was at Powell Butte. I had just --- he liked Sam, and they used to be at the Justice place. They were related to Justice somehow, or a good friend, I don't know which. And they, he was a store man, and that's what ... I don't know whether he had stores at first ... I don't know. ... would have known that, but I don't.

RICHARD: Well actually, he probably originally, he set Johnson up in the store maybe.

LENA: He did. Well no, it was his store.

RICHARD: It was his store, but I mean Johnson was ---

LENA: Yeah, they freighted the stuff, and Paul's dad freighted for him.

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: Well he must have had a lot of merchandise in there.

LENA: Oh, heavens.

PAUL: ... an eight-horse team.

LENA: There wasn't a store in Burns that had any more than he had. Hats, coats, suits, everything. But he was careless and I told him, I said Uncle Will, and over at Long Hollow at that --- what was that man's name, ... woman that sold the ...

PAUL: Delores.

LENA: Delores. Took him over there and stayed and sold a whole bolt of outing flannel ... My kids were little, and he had this one piece of outing flannel, with white, with a blue lining in it. And I said, "Uncle Will," --- he told me he said, "... if you see anything you want for the kids and yourself," he said, "go up and pick it up." I didn't have any ready, made stuff for ... So, he says,

"You can sew," he said, "you can make the kid's nighties." I said, "Okay." Well I said, "I don't want to take it down there, because I have too many to cook for." And I said, "I'll come and get some off of it, I don't need a bolt." I said, "I just need a few yards." So, he said, "Alright." So, he went up and run the store two days, and he left to get some staples, and ... the third day, and he hadn't left. And it wasn't there. And I said, "Uncle Will did you sell that out." "And my goodness," he said, "I never sold any at all." He said, "I sold a few things." Because he said, "I ... and cut it off and put it down ..." And I said, "Well now did you ... now what become of it?" ... So, I said, "Well let's go up to the store." And we went out to the store and it was gone. So, he said, "Let's ..." and he said, "you haven't got it?" I said, "No, Uncle Will." And he looked all over. He looked all over, and he said, "Nope, daggone it," he said, "you haven't got it." I said, "You're right." And ... to be honest about it. So, he got his horse, he said, "I'll just get on old ... and I'll gallop over there," and he said, "I'll stay there and I'll see if there is any scraps around over there."

He never ... didn't know where things ... They put on over-shoes and socks, anything they wanted. And he was good to people. He'd go up and get five-pound sacks, ... boxes of candy and put it down with walnuts on the top, and you could have as much as you want, and if you wanted a box, lots of them he would give away.

RICHARD: I think what, what I can't understand about the man, is he built up a real empire, land, and horses, and sheep, and yet you always hear people taking advantage of him.

LENA: Yeah, he was a man's man. And they were homesteaders and things, and they were hungry. They didn't raise any crops.

RICHARD: Well, these people really took advantage of him, didn't they?

LENA: Well, I should think so. He was ...

RICHARD: Well, did he know it was happening?

LENA: Of course, he missed the stuff. Well just like those blankets and everything, you know. He got part of them, part of them he didn't get. But lots of ... he didn't know anything about, and he couldn't believe it. He wouldn't believe you. And he had a five-pound can of baking powder. Now his sister ... come there and stayed, now by this time I'm gone, see. And she come there and stayed,

and he was ---

SIDE B

LENA: ... And a bottle of vanilla, you could have it for fifty cents. And ... and take his extract and take it out to the tent and get drunk. And ...

PAUL: ... Johnson kept the store, because Bill wouldn't let him make any money, Bill was ...

LENA: And he did, he told Dad when he put the store up ... and he said, "I put that store in there, and I realized, daggone it, I just realized that people would be honest, and come in and if I'm not there, I'll leave the store unlocked, and they can come in and help themselves and mark it down, and then I'll put it, let them pay for it as they ..." And then one fellow come to the store ... from him ... went out and caught him taking it. ... said they arrested him and it was ... that lived down there by my brother's place. He had a homestead down ... And he had him arrested and took to jail, and then he went down and paid his fine, and turned him loose.

RICHARD: Well, he didn't like to hurt anybody, did he?

LENA: He didn't hurt anybody. He was ...

RICHARD: Well now, when he built up his tremendous herd of horses and sheep, he must have had to fight for the range, and fight for the animals at various times.

LENA: Well, he took them over to the ... place, and I was still going to school ... about twelve. And they killed his sheep, broke their legs, cut their ears off, and their tails off, and what he didn't buy back, he hauled home in a wagon trying to save them. And they run him out of there ...

RICHARD: Yeah. Well, how did he get started on his horses?

LENA: I couldn't tell you ...

PAUL: ... and he just started buying them up. He'd buy the ranch ...

LENA: At one time he had cattle.

RICHARD: Oh, he did have cattle.

LENA: When I was a little kid, he had a few cattle. He didn't like cattle. He didn't like them.

PAUL: ... food for them in the wintertime.

LENA: And he was a good man, he'd come by the house and Papa would have him drive him

through the lane, you know, lots of times he helped him. He said ...

RICHARD: Well he must have, you know ... I can call you Paul, can't I? But ... it seemed to me he was a man of great vision. He could look way down the road, and he must have seen that with these horses.

LENA: Yes, I think so. And they'd take his horses, just like they had taken stuff out of the store. ...

RICHARD: That's another thing I was going to ask you, he had all these horses --- now I've talked to Frank Morgan, and Sammy Boyce, and Claude Brennan, and I ... buckaroo boss for awhile, wasn't he?

LENA: ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: ...

PAUL: ... for two thousand colts. ...

RICHARD: Well, he must have run from Wagontire to Benjamin, and to Brothers, and Hampton, a lot of country.

PAUL: All over the desert ...

LENA: He's been all over the ranch ...

RICHARD: Yeah, you probably know it a lot better than I do. Well what, how did you, you know with all the settlers, and everybody else there, how did he keep his horses? Looks like they would have stole him blind.

LENA: They did.

PAUL: They stole a lot of horses, but not too much.

LENA: And then they got to chicken feeding them ...

PAUL: ... just regular. ... a bunch of them ... at Lakeview. ... he said the daggone colts are worse than the ... they fined him five hundred dollars. ...

RICHARD: Well, he had a series of buckaroo bosses I guess then?

PAUL: Well, I can remember he had ...

LENA: He had ...

PAUL: ... that I know of. ... Mosier, and Frank ...

LENA: ...

PAUL: Oh no, he ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: How about Sumner Houston, was he?

LENA: He worked for him.

RICHARD: Sumner Houston worked over there I guess.

PAUL: Sumner did.

RICHARD: Yeah, uh huh.

PAUL: I don't think Sumner was boss. ... Sumner might have been.

HELEN: ...

LENA: ...

PAUL: In the summertime when he ...

RICHARD: ... he was. ... would be quite a bunch of horses, wouldn't it? ... just the horse bunch would be quite a bunch.

PAUL: Yeah. ... a lot of horses. ...

RICHARD: I knew Al; he was still alive when I moved to the country. His wife was a schoolteacher. Real nice people, real nice people.

PAUL: ...

LENA: ...

PAUL: He ...

LENA: ... was a good man.

RICHARD: Well Bill, I guess he just, he had an idea that these horses were going to be worth something eventually. And he just kept accumulating, and eventually he was right, wasn't he?

PAUL: He was ...

LENA: I think ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: Yeah, but he come back to horses too, I hate to ...

PAUL: ... good saddle horses were worth a lot of money.

LENA: ...

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: Well, what happened to all these horses when he, after the first war I guess, he never did get good value for them, did he?

PAUL: No. ... offered him eighty dollars a head for them. And Charlie [John Frederick] Mosier was the buckaroo boss then, and he said, "Don't sell them, if you hold them they'll be paying a hundred dollars for them." ... horses off of the range. ...

RICHARD: Eighteen hundred horses ...

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: ... you're looking at one of those. ... Yeah, then those horses just came back, and they just ---

PAUL: ... chicken feed them.

RICHARD: Worth practically nothing when ...

LENA: Beautiful horses too.

RICHARD: Yeah, that's what I understand ... Did he go out and buy stud horses, or did he use his own?

PAUL: Well, he bought ...

RICHARD: Where did he have to go for them?

PAUL: Oh, out ... had some big black horses ...

RICHARD: Couldn't stand the winter.

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: Well, how many horses would you say he had at one time, Paul?

PAUL: Well, I don't know, I heard different people say he had three or four thousand head of horses.

RICHARD: A lot of horses.

PAUL: He just had horses everywhere. In 1910 and 1911 when I started working for him he just had horses everywhere. ...

RICHARD: Well, did the horses interfere with the sheep at all?

PAUL: No, but he ... He made his money off of horses. And when the horses ... that's when he started running out of money.

RICHARD: Well now, I've always heard he had about ten thousand sheep, does that sound right?

PAUL: He could have had ... at one time ... five thousand head in a band ...

RICHARD: By himself, I imagine. Claude told me.

PAUL: I helped him move them from ... Glass Buttes over to the Gap Ranch. ...

RICHARD: Well he got, he kind of built up his ... just by accumulating, not selling any ewe lambs, huh?

PAUL: I guess that's the way he did it. ... lambs.

RICHARD: Well, did he have quite a, quite a crew of sheepherders and camp tenders?

PAUL: No, I think, all I remember ... camp tenders. ...

RICHARD: Where did he lamb?

LENA: Buck Creek.

RICHARD: Oh, at Buck Creek. He took them to Buck Creek to lamb.

LENA: ... down in that place of Dad's, that's where ... I suppose that's all ...

PAUL: Lamed mostly over there at that ...

RICHARD: I think I heard Barney talk about that.

LENA: ...

HELEN: ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: ... was the baby.

RICHARD: Did he operate his sheep kind of weak, I mean, seems like all his business operations were weak, you know. He just wasn't on top of it. Did people steal his sheep the way they stole everything else from him?

LENA: They got a few bands I imagine. ...

RICHARD: Now he used to herd sheep himself too.

LENA: Yes, he did.

PAUL: In 1922, ... he come along and ... If you take the horses, you can have the wool for thirteen cents. I told Bill, I said, "If you take a look at the paper, wool is going now for twenty-eight cents." Well confound it ... give him two thousand dollars down on the horses, and ... on the wool. And he wrote him out a check ... and rode to Wagontire and ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: Yeah, I heard that.

PAUL: ... that's why he never made much money on sheep.

RICHARD: Well, this is what I can't figure out, Bill Brown had all these horses and sheep, and built up an empire, really.

PAUL: Yes, he did.

RICHARD: And yet these people all took advantage of him.

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: He must have trusted everybody. He just thought everybody was honest.

LENA: Yes, he did. He made the remark, he said that if everybody was as trusting, and not lie ... he might of, if it would have been his ... to tell a lie, but I don't think so. He trusted my dad.

PAUL: ...

LENA: I don't know how true it was, but they said that he left the ledger laying on the counter, and they cut the pages out, the things that they owed ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: I could never have done the work if we'd have had to raise a garden, but everything was canned. And sometimes I think, I think I'd get a meal for ten or twelve, and maybe I'd have maybe twenty or thirty before ... I'd just have to go open ...

RICHARD: Well, you say you sometimes had to cook ... where would all these people come from?

LENA: Silver Creek, Suplee ---

PAUL: Homesteaders all over ---

LENA: --- clear down to Camp Creek ... everywhere.

RICHARD: They all come in there.

LENA: Yes. Even the Laughlin's.

RICHARD: ...

LENA: Yes, they did, they all traded there. And they all ate there. They ate my cooking ...

(Laughter) I used to think maybe some of them would get sick. ... I used to want to go to the dance, and ... didn't get to go very often. ... But I said this time I can go, and I'd like to go, and he said ...

RICHARD: Where were the dances?

LENA: They was down there at the dance hall at Buck Creek.

RICHARD: Oh, down at the ... Wesley's field at ... Barney told me about that.

LENA: ... Yeah, he was there at the ...

RICHARD: ...

LENA: Oh, yes. ...

PAUL: Walters?

LENA: No. Uncle Will ...

RICHARD: ... come up to Buck Creek to ... Was Bill a horseman, did he know horses?

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: Did he ride horses; did he own one?

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: He wore shoes all the time, though. Uh huh.

PAUL: ... He knew horses, he always picked a good horse.

LENA: He was a wonderful person.

RICHARD: Well, now I've heard that he walked a lot. He was a great walker. Now Claude once told me he could walk to Burns from Buck Creek in a day. Now that sounds ...

LENA: No, I don't think ... at one time he did, but not ...

RICHARD: Well, he did walk a lot, didn't he?

LENA: Yes, he did. ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: ... his own sister?

LENA: His own sister.

RICHARD: ...

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: ... one girl ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: I see.

LENA: My brother-in-law ...

RICHARD: ... Well, I heard stories that Bill walked after his ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: And he never wore overshoes apparently. He walked out in the ...

LENA: Well, he used to wear overshoes when the snow was deep. ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: He filled his ...

RICHARD: Well, now he lived on raisins a lot I'm told. He carried strychnine too.

LENA: He did.

RICHARD: In the same pocket?

LENA: ...

RICHARD: ...

LENA: No ...

RICHARD: Is it effective; is the strychnine effective on the coyotes? Did he poison a lot of them?

LENA: I think some of them. He never had any raisins ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: Yes, he did.

RICHARD: That's what he had the strychnine for.

LENA: Yes, to poison them.

RICHARD: Did he ...

LENA: No, he didn't have the raisins ... he carried a bottle of strychnine.

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: Well, this is what I wanted to find out, yeah.

LENA: ...

RICHARD: Well, you know another thing that impressed me about him, was the vision he had, what could be done with water. You know, I've been back in there above the Gap Ranch ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: The Gap Ranch?

LENA: He was working ...

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: Well, he actually brought that water into the Gap Ranch, and back up, you know back towards the north there, and then brought it in from ... and put it there in these two lakes and irrigated with it.

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: That's what they told me. Said he didn't use a surveyor.

LENA: No.

RICHARD: Well how ... some of it is through solid rock.

PAUL: I don't know.

LENA: ...

RICHARD: At the Gap?

LENA: Uh huh.

RICHARD: Uh huh.

LENA: My sister worked there ...

RICHARD: She cooked there. Well, it seemed like he ... Paul, he didn't use an instrument. He could just tract the water himself.

PAUL: ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: Did he keep a book so he knew who was working for him and all their work? Or did he ... the store?

LENA: Sometimes I think he had part of them down and sometimes he didn't. He always had a ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: Paul took care of the buckaroos.

PAUL: ... thirty dollars a month, I was fourteen years old.

HELEN: ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: Well, he was a religious man too, wasn't he?

LENA: Yes, he was very. I never heard him say anything mean either. He'd say daggone it, and stuff like that, about all he'd say. And ...

RICHARD: And he gave away a lot of money too to different churches ...

LENA: Yes, he did. ... He'd help anybody that was poor. You could go to him and he'd help you out. ...

RICHARD: Well, didn't he give the bulk of the money to the home in which he died?

LENA: Well, he gave an awful lot. He built that home, yes, he did.

HELEN: ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: Salem. ... Do you have any idea how much money he gave away ...?

LENA: It was. I have no idea what he give away. He was always helping somebody. He was an awful good man.

RICHARD: Yet he, when you were working for him, he worked you real hard.

LENA: Yeah, well. He was a man that never realized, he never realized how much he did. And if he got it done, and he realized he could do a little more ...

PAUL: ... he'd drive anybody.

LENA: He was ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: Yeah, Uncle Will done lots of work. He had a lot on his mind ... And he was good to me. He was good to me too, but he never realized that all these people coming in, that I was feeding them, he never paid any attention, as long as they were fed and gone ... didn't bother him. ... I cooked ... play some music. And all these people down in the flat, they'd come up and ... So, he said, I told him, I said, "... let me think about it." He said, "That's all right." So, they set the time, and they said, "You get the supper." And I said, "Well, I guess I can." So, I cooked a ham and a turkey, and made thirteen pies, and a cake, and then they come in there ... and passed out candy out by the box, had them all over the place, in the dining room, everyplace. And he just ... And he was as happy as he could be, you know, because the people would come in there and tease him about getting married, and about the girls, and everything, and shoot all they had to do is start mentioning women and him getting married, and he was happy. He'd sit and talk until two o'clock in the morning.

RICHARD: How often did he ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: ... Bill Brown.

LENA: Bill Brown?

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: Oh, maybe once or twice a year.

RICHARD: Oh, that's all.

LENA: Oh, the last time he went to town ... and we was going in ... he was really broken hearted that he didn't let ... I said, "Uncle Will are you going to town with us today?" ...

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

LENA: ... so I told him, I said, "Yes, you can wear Paul's shirt." And he looked at his hat, and shined it up a little bit, and got some Dutch Cleanser, and he brushed it off with Dutch Cleanser, and "Gad dang," he said "... can you shave me?" And I said, "Yes, I'll shave you." I'd shaved him lots of times. He'd get a razor out of the store that had never been sharpened; I'd pull like the dickens to keep it from turning over in my hand, because it wasn't sharp. ... because it pulled. So, he said, "If you can shave me." And I said, "I'll shave you ..." So, I shaved him, and he got this hat down and shined it all up the best he could, you know, put it on and pulled it down, he said, "I don't look very good in the mirror ..." And I said, "Alright." So, they let him out in town, he wanted to get out then on the corner street, and let him out. He walked up the street whittling, he always took his knife out and whittled all the way up the street, all the way back, all the time. And then he ate dinner, and then he went around town and got ready to leave, and come back whittling, then right back home.

RICHARD: Huh. Well, how did he handle his business? He had to do thousands of dollars worth of business ...

LENA: Well, he had the brains to do it.

RICHARD: Well, I mean did he do it in the mail?

LENA: Yes, he done an awful lot of it on the mail, yes, he did. He got lots of mail. And he did a lot ... box too. Yeah. Well, he seldom used the telephone. And you could make suggestions of anything that he wanted done at the house; he'd see that it was done. Fixing anything, anything like that. He ordered his stuff through a German, he was over at ... Was he at ... when he ordered the stuff and he told them to come and ask me whatever I wanted.

PAUL: ...

LENA: He ordered how much ...

PAUL: The German come there in a car, and Bill was herding sheep over at Sheep Ridge. So, I went with him, took him over to the camp, so Bill ordered a bunch of stuff, everything for the store, and a lot of stuff. And when ... Christmas is coming along pretty soon, how about candy? So, Bill said, "Get some of them walnut topped chocolates." And said, "Well, how much?" "Oh, about a ton," he said. (Laughter) And about a ton of peanuts, walnuts and peanuts. And when he got ready to leave, he said, "And you stop at the house and see what Lena wants at the house, and get what she wants you to order."

LENA: He said order anything I wanted to, but I didn't try to bleed him. I just got what I needed. I got extracts, and spices, and ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: No, ... he ordered that. And he ordered fig bars and things like that. He was awful nice to us. I never had ...

RICHARD: That's was big for a store.

LENA: How big was it? Wider than this room.

PAUL: It was probably, about thirty by sixty.

LENA: And then that storage room.

PAUL: ... then had two floors, upstairs, as big upstairs as it was down.

RICHARD: Whatever happened to it, do you know?

LENA: No, it was tore down. I was sick when I went over there, when Bonnie Grant and them was there here about seven years ago, or eight last time. I went over there, and we got to go up there, and I was just sick when I saw the condition of that place. Honestly, I was. What did they put the stairway outside for? A foot of snow and everything. Is that fence closed there, do you know, to go up there?

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: No. Actually, I didn't know until Claude told me last month that the house had been ...

LENA: Oh, it's been down a long time.

RICHARD: Yeah, it was done before I came here.

LENA: And I guess they sold the bathtubs, and everything out of there.

RICHARD: There is nothing ... now.

LENA: You know ... right after Uncle Will was gone. I don't understand why they did that.

RICHARD: Well, what, did he have the house all furnished, were all the seventeen rooms furnished?

LENA: Yes, they was. Beds in every room. And he had a piano, and he had all, everything for your front room. Everything beautiful in there for that kind of a home.

RICHARD: Did he have his own bedroom and his own office?

LENA: He had his own bedroom, and his desk was in there. He had a beautiful desk with a rolling top. That was gone when I went. He never had one closet in a bedroom or anyplace to hang your clothes except on a nail drove in the wall. Nothing to store. And he wouldn't have a bedroom so that you could lock it.

And they had a cellar downstairs; McEwen built that, but it, it never was finished right or something. It froze and wasn't good. ... now he had a homestead out on the desert. And he was a carpenter. Now of course, I wasn't up there then, I was at Powell Butte.

RICHARD: Where did he bring the lumber from?

LENA: Must have come from Buck Mountain.

PAUL: Pine Mountain, and they had a sawmill over --- at that time I guess Frank Dibble had a mill up there.

LENA: Was my cousin, Frank Dibble.

RICHARD: Was Frank Dibble your cousin?

LENA: Yeah, he married a Johnson girl, and the Johnson's were --- and Alfred Johnson, he was my cousin.

PAUL: Well they was all good lumber in the house, you know. Them days they didn't give up ... just took the good logs off.

LENA: Who owns it now? Who owns that Buck Creek place?

RICHARD: Well, it was sold to, you know, Dominique Verges bought it, and then he was the one that tore the house down, and split the house up.

LENA: Yeah.

RICHARD: And I wouldn't be surprised what he also moved the, you know, tore the store down. Now I don't know this, but I would guess he did.

LENA: I bet he did.

RICHARD: And then he sold it to the Hudspeth Company, a big company in Prineville. And then they sold it last year; they sold it about six or eight years ago to some people from California. And then it sold last year to another outfit. And it's combined now with the old Mill's ranch.

LENA: Mill ranch.

RICHARD: Well, you know the Mills brothers, they owned the old Mills Ranch, and the Sherman Ranch, and Buck Creek, you know.

LENA: Well, is anybody living on ... place that you know of?

RICHARD: Well, the GI Ranch, that's you know, the Gilchrist people. They bought that place.

LENA: Oh, did they buy it?

RICHARD: And they have help up there periodically, and spasmodically. You know Barneys built a nice house there.

LENA: Yeah, I know they did. I'm going over tomorrow to see him.

HELEN: Do you think we could go ...

RICHARD: The gate is locked, but I've got a key. I'll go over with you if you like. The gate is locked, but I've got a key for it.

PAUL: Well, we don't have to do it tomorrow.

RICHARD: Well, now the gate is locked.

LENA: Well, we haven't got anything to go there for.

PAUL: We was just going over to the old Street place ...

LENA: I don't suppose you could go to the Jim Street place at all.

RICHARD: No, no. As a matter of fact ---

LENA: That's where I was born.

RICHARD: A fellow told me that even going up to the old Brown Ranch, you better have a pickup. You can't make it in a car any more.

LENA: That's the only thing we have.

RICHARD: Yeah. You probably wouldn't want to see it now. That's like, you know, we lived over at the Laughlin place for so many years, and it's just fallen apart now. And my wife doesn't like to go back.

LENA: No, no.

RICHARD: We were so happy over there, and had a nice place, and it's fallen apart.

PAUL: ...

LENA: Who owns that Homer Cecil place that he took up out there at ...

RICHARD: Homer Cecil, now which place was that?

PAUL: Homer Cecil's place was at Rye Grass.

LENA: Rye Grass.

RICHARD: Oh, well that's, Carl Mayo owns that.

LENA: Oh, does he?

RICHARD: Yeah, yeah. We own the old Spencer place.

LENA: Oh, do you?

RICHARD: Yeah. And Ole Nordall had a place down there, and we own that. And everything Laughlin had. And then a lot of those old homesteads out on the flat, I forget their names, but --- There were a lot of homesteads out there on that Bulger Flat.

LENA: That's right.

RICHARD: Were there a lot of homesteaders in the area when you were there, or did they come later?

LENA: Two years before, well about the time that that schoolhouse was built there at Burnt Flat, you know. The homesteaders come in then. Of course, I was married, and had been down to Powell Butte, and ... Bill Brown, so many were there. But then when they begin coming in ---

HELEN: ...

LENA: The ... Huh?

HELEN: ...

LENA: Did what?

HELEN: Powell Butte ...

LENA: No, no. There was no ... on Buck Creek. There was no homesteads down there when I was a girl.

RICHARD: Oh, down below the ... place.

LENA: No.

PAUL: The whole Buck Creek flat filled up with homesteaders.

LENA: That old Smith place, at the end of Henry's place, you know it? Well, now I was a married woman when that place was fenced off there. Yeah. And then my sister married ... he had a homestead, but ... they lived down there ...

PAUL: ... come along in 1910 and ...

LENA: And Stanley Balfour, he was a kid I went to school with, he took a homestead just off from the corner of Henry Spence and they sold that to Miss May.

RICHARD: Some of these names I'm familiar with, and some I'm not.

LENA: Huh?

RICHARD: I say some of these names I've heard, and some I haven't.

LENA: No, no. Well, there was Pruitt's out there that took a homestead, and one man; he died from drinking ... syrup out of a rusty can. I can't think what his name was.

PAUL: Penrow.

LENA: Penrow, he had a homestead out there. ...

RICHARD: Where did most of these homesteaders come from?

LENA: I don't know.

PAUL: They came from everywhere.

LENA: My dad located part of them out there himself. They come there for him to run the corners

out.

RICHARD: Did they ever make any money? Did they ever have ...

LENA: I don't think so.

PAUL: ...

LENA: I think if they come there with any money, I think they soaked it into it to fence it, and get down a well, and that was it.

RICHARD: And that's why we call it Misery Flat. (Laughter)

LENA: Well, you could.

RICHARD: Yeah. Well an awful lot of misery. People went out there with everything they had, and high hopes.

LENA: That's true.

RICHARD: And just lost everything.

LENA: That's true.

RICHARD: Actually, Bill Brown probably kept several of them there for ---

PAUL: Some of them worked for him.

RICHARD: Yeah, longer than they would have stayed otherwise, huh?

LENA: I bet they would. I wouldn't have had so many to cook for. (Laughter)

RICHARD: You'd have been bored.

LENA: Yeah, I was bored. Yes, I was. I was awful tired.

RICHARD: Yeah, I'll bet.

LENA: Kept my youngsters, and worked right there.

RICHARD: How far did Bill's sheep run? Did he, he brought everything into Buck Creek to lamb?

LENA: Yes.

PAUL: No, he lambed them mostly at Long Hollow, had the corrals over there and everything, the lambing corrals, shearing corrals.

LENA: That was a poor ...

PAUL: Sheared mostly at Buck Creek.

RICHARD: Oh, I see.

LENA: Yeah, his lambing outfit wasn't ...

PAUL: You lamb most around Willow Springs, through that country.

RICHARD: Oh, yeah.

LENA: ... Levens worked for him.

PAUL: Huh?

LENA: ... Levens was one of his old time ...

RICHARD: Well, now there is a big spring, about three or four miles south of Buck Creek, over the hill, that I own now. We call it Juniper Springs.

LENA: It is Juniper Springs.

RICHARD: Is it, yeah, okay. You know where it is?

LENA: I walked there.

RICHARD: Yeah, sure.

LENA: Three miles from home.

RICHARD: That's right. Well now, apparently, did Bill Brown own that?

LENA: Well I ---

RICHARD: And the reason I ask ---

LENA: I don't think so, Bedell had that. But Bedell took that.

RICHARD: Because when we came there, there was a big, you know one of these towers that they hung those wool bags in?

LENA: Yeah.

RICHARD: And it was still up there. And the spring was piped.

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: ...

LENA: I don't know. The reason he might have camped back there, I don't know.

RICHARD: The Bedell Ranch was ...

LENA: No, it was ---

RICHARD: Because someone had used that as a shearing camp. I was wondering whether it was Bill or not.

LENA: I don't know, it wasn't there when we ... That's been down since we ...

PAUL: He worked for him last in the 1930's. ... we left in '32, and went to Lakeview. So we hadn't been around very much after that.

RICHARD: When did Bill leave? He left around '33, didn't he?

Somewhere about that time?

LENA: We wasn't gone to long when Uncle Will left. When he went into the Gap, he didn't ... that was just about the end of Uncle Will.

PAUL: 1930, there was a bunch of ... Bend came out there, and they offered him \$350,000 cash for his spread. And Bill wouldn't sell it to them. And I told Bill, "You're crazy." I said, "You're going broke anyhow." "Well, but gad dang if I sell out and don't stay active, I won't live a year." And I said, "You ain't going to live here anyhow, you might as well enjoy it with the rest of them. And that's plenty of money for you." Well he wouldn't sell it to them. And it was just three or four years after that, the Miller ... Association took ...

RICHARD: That was a lot of money, wasn't it?

PAUL: Yeah, \$350,000 cash. Because he had the horses and sheep, and a whole lot of land, you know. At that time, it was a lot of money. At his age, what more money would he need.

LENA: Did they put up any hay on that place at Buck Creek, where the store was?

RICHARD: No, they haven't put up hay there in twenty years. No, the ditches are gone, and it's just a swamp now, hasn't been taken care of.

LENA: My ...

RICHARD: Well, a little bit.

PAUL: They just want it for the range.

RICHARD: Yeah, they just pasture cattle. Then they've had, they've had, again a bachelor buckaroo living in the house. And just this summer, why someone told me there was a hippie living in there. That's all I know.

HELEN: ...

LENA: No, I don't want to ... I think I've got a picture of it. I think I have. I hope I have.

RICHARD: I'd like to see it if you have.

LENA: I don't know for sure where I put it though.

HELEN: Of the store or the house?

LENA: Huh?

HELEN: Of the store or the house?

LENA: It would be the house. ... there was a little porch on there.

RICHARD: Yeah, in the front, yeah. Well, that big staircase, it was inside then?

LENA: Yes, it was.

HELEN: A beautiful winding ---

LENA: Went winding up the stairs.

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Yeah, well you know, just the front door there is exceptional work, the carving in the wood.

LENA: Yes, it is.

RICHARD: We've got several pictures of that.

LENA: We had a hen house built there ... Raised a lot of chickens in there.

PAUL: A big dining room, kitchen, and ---

LENA: Sewing room.

PAUL: Sewing room, and a bathroom. In the kitchen, they built a big storeroom out over the cellar.

LENA: Real big one.

PAUL: On the back end of it.

LENA: Held dances in it too.

PAUL: The storeroom was as big as this room about.

LENA: Oh, yeah.

HELEN: ...

LENA: Had a little screened cupboard built in here. And you could put your leftovers and your meat in this screened cupboard. We never had no way of keeping ... Had a lovely pantry. Oh, that pantry was something. I guess it's still there.

RICHARD: Part of it is still there.

LENA: I loved that pantry.

HELEN: ...

LENA: I had a small kitchen. And nothing built in the kitchen excepting the cupboards. And then a little shelf let down, that you cooked your food, you set it on that, and then go into the dining room with it. My dining room table was never, never unset. I had to keep it set in order to get by. And I had to use white linen table clothes every day. Sometimes I changed them three times a day.

HELEN: I thought you never ...

LENA: Three yards long, those tablecloths was. And when I worked they were --- hot, long ... I used the tablecloths just the same. I got spunky one time with an Irishman, when he used a spoon to dish the gravy out and ... over like that, dripped down on the tablecloth.

RICHARD: White tablecloth?

LENA: Yeah. ... was only three months old, and they ... their dishes up so, and Uncle Will got so he did it. And I said, "Uncle Will, I can't have that." I said, "I just can't get these things dry and put back on the table. You've got to cut that out." Those spoons --- didn't you men know what those spoons are on the dish for? And of course, the Irishman he couldn't talk very good, so they didn't say anything ... finally one of them sassed back. And I just turned the skillet over on his head, I wasn't going to have any more of that, I was mad. ...

RICHARD: White linen tablecloths? How did you keep them clean?

LENA: With the washboard, and ...

RICHARD: You had to do that too, in addition to cooking?

LENA: Absolutely! Sure did.

RICHARD: Oh, boy.

LENA: Yes, sir.

HELEN: How many men would sit at that ...

LENA: I don't know. I had two, and I had my own table, and I fed fifty-two during shearing.

That's all the people that come; they all come to buy something at that time. Because Uncle Will was busy down there, you know. And then he'd give them the key and tell them to help themselves. And they stayed and stayed, and stayed ...

HELEN: Mama ...

LENA: Oh, the great big pans of biscuits.

HELEN: Three and four was as long as that table ...

LENA: Long as they ... have to pay.

RICHARD: Well, Bill kept the store going as long as he was there then? Even after, when Johnson left, why he still kept ordering stuff?

PAUL: ... just a short time before he went to Oregon City, and he was down there firing up the heating stove. And he was right down there trying to read by that light from that stove. And he had stuff for his sheep camp up at his store yet. Like beans and dried fruit, and stuff like that, you know, for his shepherders.

LENA: He liked his sheep of course.

PAUL: He didn't even have a light ... the stove door open.

LENA: Well, all the light we had, all the light we had was lamps, and they was on a ... and I could hang them up, you know. And he'd come in, the chimney, maybe he'd turn them up, and they'd get black, I'd have to keep them clean. I had all that to do, and I think there was, let's see, one, two --- four in the front room, in the lobby, and two in the dining room. And then I had two in the kitchen, and it was a job to keep that all up in shape.

RICHARD: What was the water system there?

LENA: He had water piped in the house, cold water, in the house. He finally piped in hot water too.

RICHARD: I've got a recollection of seeing the pipe coming into the house over there.

LENA: Yes, they did.

RICHARD: How did you heat it, in your stove?

LENA: Yes.

PAUL: Yeah, the coils in the fire box to heat the water.

LENA: He was ornery about taking a bath. I had to draw the water in the bathtub for him. He had it off of the dining room, I don't know who ever made the arrangements of the house, but I thought that was a poor thing to go right, they come in, you know, to the dining room table, the bathroom was right there. Just the bathtub was all he had in there. And I'd get him to take a bath, and I'd have an awful time. I'd draw that water, and I'd bring up the ... "Well, I'm mighty certain that I don't need it." "Well, I'm mighty certain that you do, it's been over a week, you've got to take a bath." "Oh, shucks. Bathe tonight, and bathe tomorrow night." I said, "No, I've got the water all in now, the towels are in there, and everything is ready." I'd take him by the hand and lead him up there, and shove him in ...

HELEN: ... he'd be screaming ...

LENA: Oh well, I suppose he wouldn't have been that way with anybody else but me. ...

RICHARD: It sounds like it was really too bad he never married and had a family.

LENA: Oh, it was too bad. It was too bad. And he --- I didn't get too much schooling, so when I first worked for him, he got books. And boy he put me through the arithmetic, and the reading, and writing. He really taught me a little bit. ...

RICHARD: Did he like kids?

LENA: Oh ...

RICHARD: The homesteader's kids around there, and ---

LENA: Well, he didn't monkey around with them, but he liked my two children ... he liked all of them. My boy, when he was little, we was back up there at work, and he could creep, and I would put a little ... across the door so that he couldn't go into the dining room and bother anybody. And so, Uncle Will come in, he was crying one morning. And he could walk around a little bit, not very good, ... crybaby, scream, and I was tired of the kid a crying, I wanted it to stop. ... I'll make a

shepherd out of you.

RICHARD: He never had to go out after help, there was always enough people coming through.

LENA: Yes, there was.

RICHARD: ...

LENA: Some of them were good people, and some of them you just, ... even want them, but then you had to make the best of everything.

RICHARD: Well, he was just, one of the most amazing men I have ever studied, or learned about. Because I think what impressed me about him the most was the fact that --- you read about Bill Hanley, and Pete French, and they stepped on people. They got where they were by climbing on somebody else's back. But Bill Brown never hurt anybody.

PAUL: He didn't need to hurt anybody.

LENA: No, he wouldn't for the world.

PAUL: He never got his money by stepping on somebody.

LENA: And if anybody was hard up, and in trouble, and kicked beneath the earth, you go to him and ask him for help, to stay all night, or a job, they got it. He didn't pay any attention to your reputation, that he didn't do.

RICHARD: Well, this is what I've --- well it's hard to reconcile this with the man who built up a real empire, in a tough country, you know. This was a tough country, still a tough country.

LENA: There is only one man, he said there is only one man ever slapped me, and he was an Indian boy. I knew this fellow, but I don't think he worked for him. I was a mighty little girl. Abbott, what was the first name, Abbott? Anyway, he was, had a sweetheart, and Uncle Will was teasing him about it, and he told him to shut up. Uncle Will didn't shut up, so he just slapped him. "Daggone it," he said, "don't you slap me ..." And he ...

RICHARD: Was he quite a tease with those people?

LENA: No, he ... No, he wasn't.

HELEN: Did you ever hear of Ira Brown?

LENA: Ira Brown?

HELEN: ... And I don't know what the father's name was. ...

LENA: Had to be Georgie's ---

HELEN: ...

LENA: Well, it's probably his children.

HELEN: I don't know whether ...

LENA: He had a nephew come to work for him, Wally Brown. And he sent him back home.

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: He, I think he saw Sammy Boyce one day. Sammy told me that he came out to Dry Valley to talk to him. Sam didn't know how to contact him either.

HELEN: He came by the ranch ... but we weren't here. ...

LENA: It had to be ... or something like that, I don't know.

RICHARD: Well, Bill Brown had no relatives in this country then? He came in here without relatives. You were related to everybody in the country, weren't you?

LENA: Just about. Yes, I had a big ... we're all related.

RICHARD: Where did the Laughlin's come from?

LENA: I don't know.

RICHARD: Well, there was a Laughlin woman who was a daughter of the Laughlin's.

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: Who was here two years ago? They live in Sacramento now.

LENA: Oh.

RICHARD: And a woman I guess about sixty-five or seventy.

LENA: Had to be Ed Laughlin's daughters I guess.

RICHARD: Yeah, and I ---

LENA: You know her first name?

RICHARD: No, I've got it at home. I can call it down to you. Wally Welcome ---

LENA: Oh, I knew Wally.

RICHARD: Wally knew her.

LENA: Helen knows Wally Welcome.

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: We all knew Wally.

RICHARD: Well, Wally is younger than you, isn't he?

LENA: Oh, yeah.

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: ... Wally is nearer her age.

RICHARD: Yeah, Wally is near your age. Well, this girl went to school with Wally.

LENA: Well, who did you say she was?

RICHARD: She was a Laughlin. She was either Laughlin's daughter, or Laughlin's niece.

LENA: Probably, one of Ed Laughlin's children's child.

RICHARD: Well, maybe that's what it was.

LENA: It would pretty near have to be. There was Lloyd Laughlin, and his wife's name is Wilma Gilchrist, she was a Gilchrist.

RICHARD: Yeah, uh huh.

LENA: And let's see, Patty Laughlin, and I don't know any of the other kids.

RICHARD: I'll look on my notes and I'll call Joe and ---

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LENA: Ed Laughlin run cattle.

RICHARD: Well, where did Wood Best come from?

LENA: ...

PAUL: ... Somewhere in Prineville.

LENA: Well, they lived in Surprise Valley, but where they come from to Surprise Valley, I can't think.

PAUL: They lived over in ---

LENA: I knew too, but I can't think of the place.

PAUL: Over by Yreka.

LENA: Yreka ...

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: Yeah. Well, he was a fairly prosperous affluent man, wasn't he?

LENA: What's that?

PAUL: Yes.

LENA: Yes, I would say he was. He had quite a lot of cattle. My grandmother on Mama's side come from Norway, but I don't know exactly where my grandpa came from, on her side. And I don't know about my father's mother ... but her husband was killed before Mama and Daddy was married ...

RICHARD: Well, Mabel Best, she taught school.

LENA: Uh huh. She was a Gibbons.

RICHARD: Yeah. Were the Gibbons moving here too?

LENA: No.

RICHARD: Well, at the time we bought the ranch, her brother Clyde was still alive, and was widowed. So, he's got a brother Bert, you know, that passed away before that.

LENA: Yeah. And I don't know whether she had any sisters or not. In fact, my brother went to school to Mabel.

RICHARD: Oh, he did?

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: There at Buck Creek?

LENA: Uh huh.

RICHARD: Well now, Red Walter worked for Bill too, didn't he?

LENA: I couldn't answer that.

HELEN: ...

LENA: Yeah, Bill Burgett worked there, but I --- and Bill Burgett is related to Walters.

RICHARD: Well, Red told me ---

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: --- yeah, he and Frank Morgan were talking at the fair there.

LENA: I don't think I met, I don't know when I met Red Walter. I really don't. There was so many men coming and going, I couldn't keep track of them.

HELEN: ...

LENA: He probably worked there.

HELEN: Then his Uncle, Bill Burgett ... Is that right Paul?

PAUL: Yeah ... Wild River Bill.

RICHARD: Burgett.

PAUL: Burgett, they called him Wild River Bill, that was Bill Burgett. Yeah, he buckarood there as long as I did.

LENA: And ...

RICHARD: Well, now when you buckarood for Bill, you must have, you were on the move all the time. You had a wagon.

PAUL: Oh, yeah. ...

LENA: And ...

RICHARD: Oh, she went right with the wagon?

PAUL: Yes. ... And we was camped out at Benjamin Lake one spring, and had to use the water to cook with out of the lake. ... going to cook with it. And one ... and that was the end of ...

LENA: He just really needed ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: ... and my husband, and his wife, ... That's when I went to work for Bill again. ...

RICHARD: Well, you really think Bill was a real fine man?

LENA: Well, I don't have to think it, I know it.

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: This is exactly ... a real fine man.

LENA: He was. They just don't make them any better. If we had some of that today now, we'd

live easier in the world, that's true. He was a good man. And he was good to everybody.

RICHARD: Well, all the land that he bought, he must have had to deal kind of hard for it, didn't he?

LENA: Well, I don't know how that was. But he had this land when I went to work for him ... He bought so much ... And when he bought the Price Place, because I know that Prices ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: Well, they were there before, I don't know now, because when Papa moved up, Hutton's were already on that place out there. Hutton's was, they were already there when my folks come up.

RICHARD: I had always heard they were there when Bill first came over here.

LENA: Well, I think they was, I think they was.

RICHARD: Well, Bill first came to Wagontire didn't he, when he first ---

LENA: Well, he was ... he did, because that is where they had all that, all the brothers land. He had settled ...

RICHARD: Oh, all the brothers came.

LENA: Not all of them. I think it was Sam and ---

HELEN: ...

LENA: ... There was two boys. I know because my dad said the Brown boys. But then, they was just the two children, my dad had ...

PAUL: Out around Hampton Buttes ...

LENA: ...

PAUL: ... place, and ...

LENA: ...

PAUL: All these people had horses, and he bought them, and he bought ...

RICHARD: I see.

LENA: But Tom ... children, went to school at that schoolhouse that is down there on the hill. I went to school with them.

RICHARD: Oh, is that right? They came a long ways.

LENA: Uh huh. Well see ... Uncle Will's house.

RICHARD: They stayed there.

LENA: And the ... they went to school there. I went to school with all of them. In fact, the Tom Long's boys is the ones that taught us how to walk on stilts.

RICHARD: Well, is there anything else you can tell me? I could sit here all night and listen to you. If you get tired and want to go to bed, and want to go to bed, well run me off. This is fascinating to me.

HELEN: ...

LENA: Well, I like to be reminded about ... really, about as nice a home as I could ever have had. It really was.

RICHARD: Although he worked you awfully hard. Yeah.

LENA: After all, I didn't mind the work.

RICHARD: That's right.

LENA: I was glad ... nothing like that. In fact, I didn't know too much about cooking when I first started. It didn't take me very long to learn. My mother was a good cook.

RICHARD: Did he have much to do with the people over on Silver Creek? Did they ---

LENA: Oh, yes.

RICHARD: --- have a lot of business together?

LENA: ... And Bob Leland's wife made butter, and he got butter from them, and eggs from them. If anybody had anything they wanted to sell, why they'd go to Uncle Will's he'd buy it.

RICHARD: He paid a good price for it I guess.

LENA: Yes, he did. Lots of potatoes and apples, and meat. My dad sold him lots of beef. ...

RICHARD: Well, did you know Tom Street, Virgil's dad?

LENA: Tom Shields?

RICHARD: Or I mean Shields, excuse me, yeah.

LENA: Shields, yes, I knew them, uh huh. He's the one that Uncle Will went to when he got in all

that trouble ...

RICHARD: Well, we bought that ranch from Shields.

LENA: Did you?

RICHARD: Yeah. And then we, two years ago sold it to that fellow from Washington. He put all the sprinklers and everything on it. But we bought it from Virgil and Lula.

LENA: You did.

RICHARD: Lula is still there, you know.

LENA: ...

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Oh, she's fine. Yeah.

LENA: We wondered about her.

RICHARD: You ought to stop and see her if you're going back that way.

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Yeah, she's ---

HELEN: ...

LENA: Oh, when I come up, I thought of ... go up to the cemetery where the folks are at, when I go back.

RICHARD: Well, now where are your folks buried?

LENA: Right up there at Silver Creek, on my brother's place up there.

RICHARD: Oh, sure, sure.

LENA: All of my dad's ...

RICHARD: That's right, they would be. Well, Virgil Shields is buried there too.

LENA: They have a ... that's Mrs. Shields, ... Shields is buried there.

RICHARD: Well, I didn't know this.

LENA: Yes. Mrs. Shields had a boy that died when he was about ten or eleven years old.

RICHARD: Oh, uh huh.

LENA: And he is buried out there.

HELEN: ...

LENA: ... no, ... is the oldest boy. His name is ... because my boy is named after him. Ruby was an awful nice sister-in-law.

RICHARD: Oh, she was a fine --- that is, I didn't know her too well. I knew her ...

LENA: Did you?

RICHARD: And you won't see any finer people.

LENA: They were. ... I used to worry because ... get out of the way ...

PAUL: ... walk over to Long Hollow, and on the way back, Bill saw a chain laying there.

LENA: Logging chain.

PAUL: ... Bill picked it up ... carry this to the ranch if ... and he said I packed it a ways. Pretty soon I said, "Bill if you want that chain, you're going to have to carry it yourself, because I've carried it as far as I can make it, and keep up with you." But ... throw it down there.

RICHARD: Probably still there.

PAUL: Probably.

HELEN: ...

LENA: And he did, he didn't believe in anybody ...

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: He didn't ...

LENA: Oh, no.

RICHARD: ...

LENA: ... No, he said ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: Well ...

RICHARD: Well gosh; I just kind of hate to wind it up. ... a million more things.

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Well, everybody that I have talked to says the same thing you say. There was only one Bill Brown.

LENA: Oh, yes, that's right.

RICHARD: ...

LENA: There was people that ... realized that he was only one Bill Brown too.

RICHARD: ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: He ...

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Were you raised in that country, Paul?

PAUL: No, I was raised over at ...

RICHARD: Oh.

PAUL: ... when I was fourteen.

HELEN: ...

PAUL: Well he come ... at the sheep camps.

HELEN: ...

PAUL: ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: No, that's right. ... there was two children ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: ...

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Well, he was at his sheep camp most of the time, so how did he ... buckaroos ... every month.

PAUL: He turned that over to his buckaroo boss.

LENA: And if you got ... he'd jump on his horse and ... and back to the home ranch, and he'd ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: Everybody had to be shaped up. ... didn't like it when he told me that I couldn't go to the dance. But he taught me to play five hundred. I was raised not to have anything to do with cards.

My people didn't believe in it. Dad was real strict about it. And I didn't play cards, and I didn't know cards. I didn't know a diamond from anything else ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: Uncle Will? He ... so was your dad. Your dad would do the same thing.

RICHARD: Did he gamble?

LENA: No.

RICHARD: Just play cards to pass the time.

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: Did he smoke or chew?

LENA: Nope. Wouldn't drink tea, wouldn't drink coffee. But you could take the, a few eggs and beat them up in a glass, and he would drink them. And he wanted cream --- he told us that he had a cow, milk cow that Papa let me have up on the ranch, and then ... And I said, "No Uncle Will, there isn't any cream." Gad dang it ...

RICHARD: Did he, Claude Brennan talked about him raising some hogs there. Is that right?

LENA: He had hogs there once, but never when I was there.

RICHARD: ...

LENA: ... He never had ...

RICHARD: Prineville. See Claude and, when Dominique Verges bought the ranch from the ... company, why Claude turned around and leased it to ... And so, Claude was there in the late '30's and early '40's. And he lived there. He was living there when Barneys, when Barney bought Buck Creek and moved there.

LENA: That's right, somebody was living on that place. I never knew ... And he come down there ... he wasn't too tall, but he was very slender ...

RICHARD: But he was probably a buckaroo, wasn't he?

PAUL: Yeah, he was just a buckaroo.

RICHARD: Yeah, for the outfit. Yeah, they haven't had anybody; they haven't had a family living there in the thirty years I've been here.

LENA: Well I don't think ... living there at that time.

RICHARD: Yeah, '57 or something.

LENA: I don't. I've always thought he was trying to put that house there, you know, that it would be a hippie house. And I just hate to see that. We went there two years ago, wasn't it? ... And the house was all empty.

HELEN: ...

LENA: No honey, not last year when we ---

PAUL: ...

LENA: And the doors was all open, and the house was all empty ... And the well was still running. And the food was in the refrigerator. And there was some blankets on a bed, and it didn't ... See Barney put that well down there. My dad had another ... When my dad got that ranch, ... that's where it was. And I remember when Papa dug the other well. And my dad built that rock cellar.

RICHARD: Oh, he did?

LENA: Yes, he did. ... At that house, was an old house that was vacant when my dad ... because Berdell had a, you know that bunch of willow trees down in the field, and Berdell lived there. And his son-in-law, by the name of Harris, lived up on this house where we got. And then Papa put the kitchen on; I can remember it was awful tiny. I can remember never seeing a pitcher pump, and a sink. So, we moved from the Jim Street place down there.

RICHARD: Is that right?

LENA: And my brother just ... he was just learning to walk. And my Papa put up a kitchen in ...

RICHARD: Well, now are you the last one of your brothers and sisters? Are the rest of them gone?

LENA: All gone but me. I got to be ...

RICHARD: When did ...

PAUL: '59.

LENA: ... and Libby died in '59. And my sister died before that. And I took care of her at the hospital ... Did you know the Gibson boys? They had the ... Gibson's had it.

RICHARD: Yeah, Gibson's, Chester. Yeah, yeah. I met him once.

LENA: ...

RICHARD: ...

LENA: Gibson's had that. ... Gibson.

HELEN: ...

LENA: Well, they lived farther over ... And Sherman's lived over there. They were homesteaders down on the flat. And then they bought over there.

RICHARD: That was Henry Sherman's ...

LENA: Uh huh.

RICHARD: Charlie was ---

PAUL: Charlie was ...

RICHARD: Well, he was too old when I first moved here. I knew him, I mean ---

LENA: Did you know him? He's the one that played the fiddle that we all danced to.

RICHARD: Yeah, is that right?

LENA: Uh huh.

RICHARD: He was a feisty little guy. I used to watch him take on the Forest Service. He'd give them a hard time.

LENA: ...

RICHARD: Yeah, oh he always did. He and Pat would get together; take out after the Forest Service.

LENA: Yeah, Pat ---

RICHARD: I don't know about Calvin. Is Calvin still alive or not?

LENA: No, I think he died. I think I heard that he passed away.

RICHARD: ... She was a nice woman.

LENA: ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: ... I liked.

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Always in the wintertime too, weren't they?

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: ... in the summertime.

LENA: ...

HELEN: ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: Did you know the buckaroo ... up there that Bill Brown had? ...

RICHARD: ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: Now that's ... You know there was plenty of water at Buck Creek for a long time. And then my dad kept quite a bit of it, they always raised a garden ... and they got that little white house ... If they kept that spring cleaned out up there, they had lots of water.

HELEN: Tell him about ... Paul.

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: What is that?

PAUL: Well, there was a ...

RICHARD: Well, now is that the place that is kind of an old stone building that is falling down?

PAUL: It might be.

RICHARD: Helen do you remember that as you drive to Bend, there is a well there now. But there used to be when we first moved here, there used to be kind of a stone building, falling down, and I always heard it was a stage stop.

PAUL: ... on the left-hand side of the highway.

RICHARD: Well, now this would be on the right side, so maybe it wasn't the same place.

PAUL: This ...

LENA: Did you ever see that place; what place was that on the Uncle Will's ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: ...

RICHARD: The one called Brown's wall.

LENA: Yeah, I guess they call it that.

RICHARD: Yeah, it's called Brown's wall now.

LENA: ... I cooked for the men in a little bit of a stove, and ... just had a cabin. ... just had a cabin, and when they come in to eat, we had to sit down on the bed and ... I had ... across the bed this way

...

RICHARD: How come you had a crew out there? Was ---

PAUL: Well, they came out there to cook ...

RICHARD: Oh, I see, she substituted.

PAUL: I hauled cement and gas and everything from Burns ... we had an old Ford truck.

LENA: ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: Well, didn't he buy it from you? ... A lot of them would come in drunk ...

RICHARD: ...

LENA: Oh, I'm sure. ...

TAPE 3 - SIDE E

RICHARD: ... Bill Brown ... people were helping him, and then hurting him.

LENA: ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: She wrote ... about my brother's life. ... I have a big story about it, about this place there at Buck Creek.

RICHARD: ... The next time I'm, I'm near your country a couple times a year. I'd like to stop by and see you.

LENA: Yes, it's just a little bit of a place.

RICHARD: You see my sons in school, outside of San Francisco, and so we go down, yeah.

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Yeah, he's at Stanford.

LENA: How many children have you?

RICHARD: Just two.

LENA: Just two boys?

RICHARD: Boys, yeah.

HELEN: Clifford and what's the other one?

RICHARD: Cran, is the one at Stanford. And Clifford is a senior this year, at the high school in Burns.

LENA: How do they like this country?

RICHARD: Well Cran, huh uh. (Laughter) I think Clifford is kind of like George boy, he likes it. But the oldest boy, he doesn't want any part of it.

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: That --- we call it Brown's well.

PAUL: Yeah, we called it Pest house.

RICHARD: Yeah, that's right, I heard that.

PAUL: Yeah.

LENA: That was named the Pest house, because when we come Uncle Will had a cabin down there, and a man got the smallpox. And they quarantined him out there. I heard my dad tell about that in the snow and everything. Dad took me out from school ...

RICHARD: A long ways away for quarantine, wasn't it?

LENA: Well, he was quarantined there. Uncle Will had lots of sheep and people working in that area ... he reported it. I remember that, of him telling it, because I wasn't even born.

RICHARD: Do you ... permanent waters, Paul?

PAUL: What was that?

RICHARD: Do you get a lot of permanent water, I mean ---

PAUL: ... on that well there. ... but we always ... Pest house.

RICHARD: Pest house. Well, Rusty had quite a job bringing everything up from Bend to ... must have had to make quite a few trips.

PAUL: Oh yeah, the old Model-T Ford truck, you know. Lost the transmission in it. ... loaded with cement.

LENA: Why don't you tell him about the time that Uncle Will had the ...

PAUL: We come over to Burns, and we left Burns pretty late at night. So ... old Bill he was always going to sleep in there. So, about half way up on top of that hill, he ... transmission out again. Gad dang can't you stop it, can't you stop it? I said, "No, it will stop when it gets down on the flat."

Well the ... just open back there ... it will stop after awhile. ... and the lights went out on the road.

"Daggone it we can't go in the dark." I said, "No." Said, "We got a big corral here, I'll just go out in the corral, and daggone it you can pull brush and keep flies off of me." It was cold, and late in the fall, you know. I had to pull brush to keep warm. I'll just settle up and use this quilt, daggone it.

RICHARD: Someone told me that Bill always slept with someone. That is, I guess to keep warm or something.

LENA: I know, because his room was here, and my room was here, and nobody went in there to sleep with any of the help, ever.

RICHARD: I'm not implying anything wrong.

LENA: No, no.

RICHARD: I mean ---

LENA: He might of out someplace.

RICHARD: Well, maybe that's what it was.

LENA: Some place --- He didn't like anybody to be in his room.

PAUL: ... halfway between Gap and Buck Creek, when we was running sheep to Buck Creek from the Gap, and set up a little old tent ... Bill. "Daggone it," he said, "I'll sleep in the middle, and all you people in front, and you can build a fire and get breakfast in the morning." I was glad to build the fire when morning come, because I didn't get no sleep. ...

LENA: He was such a good person.

PAUL: ... he went to Bend one time ... he bought a real good-sized box of fresh concord grapes. And so, he was eating on them all the time. He got ... there at Brothers. ... that was in the wintertime too. ... "Well Bill, we just as well stay in town tonight." "Well daggone it, we can get out of town."

LENA: He didn't like in town. He was never a man to stay in town. He didn't care, you know lots of times he'd never eat a bite, and you'd think he would, but he didn't. He bought an old White car, wasn't that what they called it, White, the make of it?

PAUL: They called it White ... everybody told me they never made a car made a White ... But he had ... on that old car, White ...

LENA: Well, he had it. And he couldn't drive it, so he got Homer Cecil, that's Pat's brother, so he got him to drive it. And then Homer told me, he says, "You might as well learn to drive that." And so, I went with him ... so he took ... Homer he wanted to drive. So, Homer told him, I wasn't there at the time, and Uncle Will said he was almost certain that he could drive, and ... Homer setting by him, and he looked over at the horses, and that's what he was interested in, and he took right after the horses with the car. And then they, the people ... hunting out ...

RICHARD: Did he ever learn to drive?

LENA: No, no he never did. He wouldn't let anybody drive that car but Homer Cecil. He'd have to come from Silver Creek to Buck Creek.

PAUL: Well, he finally let old Bill ... drive it.

LENA: Well, he let Bill ...

PAUL: He drove it to ... when you went over to ...

LENA: Yeah, that's right. And didn't, when Cecil's had the car over there for a while, at Cecil's.

PAUL: Might have had.

LENA: I think so.

PAUL: ... somebody else drove it out of the garage there at Buck Creek one night ... put syrup in it.

...

RICHARD: ... Is that ... did Bill know someone poured syrup in it?

PAUL: Yeah, he knew what happened to it. But he didn't know who did it.

LENA: He had a nice buggy, and a team one time ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: Yes.

RICHARD: Well, I suppose I should be thinking of leaving, and let you people go to bed.

LENA: We're all right.

PAUL: He had good horses.

RICHARD: Who bought most of his horses, Paul?

PAUL: ... most of them went to California. A fellow named ... he was a big man, broke horses for that outfit. ...

LENA: He wasn't ...

PAUL: ... it didn't take him long to get to the bank when he had to operate.

RICHARD: Where did he get his mail, at Fife?

PAUL: Yeah, at Fife.

LENA: My that Fife Post Office has been moved, and moved, and moved.

RICHARD: Old Fife, New Fife, Middle Fife. (Laughter)

LENA: Now they got it clear down in ---

PAUL: When he'd start opening mail, boy ...

LENA: He scatter it all over my lobby ... heavens on earth, and then he'd go to bed and leave it there. It was up to me to get it up in the morning. First year I worked for him he had a bunch of buckaroos in that old house. They had a fireplace in it, and a hearth out in front about the size of that rug. And the buckaroos would put in, sit down on it, and they all chewed smoke, and they spit at that fireplace and hit the hearth. I'd have to clean it three or four times a day. I got so mad about that. It was terrible.

RICHARD: Didn't bother him?

LENA: He didn't care. No, he didn't.

RICHARD: But he didn't do it himself.

LENA: I don't know just what they ... When he first got the Buck Creek place, before he had his house built, he moved, some ... out in the back there so ... It didn't belong to that house ... but he set it back to the fence over there. What was it they ... before he put in his store. And he said he was going to put the, a ... he bought his flour by the bag. And his sugar, and he stored it in there. ... because I was one small kid when this happened. And he said he was going to fix that, a hole in side, up next to the ceiling, if they done it anymore. They broke in his storage shack, and he said he put the gun ... open that door he would shoot them. (Laughter) ... Then he was pretty disgusted. I don't know who the people were that would bother, because then there wasn't any people that lived around there. ... And somebody had a nice horse come right down there at the barn, asking who had this other place ... and this fellow wanted his horse, riding horse ...

PAUL: No ...

LENA: Nobody ever knows what become --- he paid an enormous price for it. Wasn't satisfied with ...

RICHARD: Where was his main horse corrals, Paul?

PAUL: Well there, had the corrals there at Buck Creek.

HELEN: Dick, do you want a piece of cake?

RICHARD: Oh boy. Thank you.

PAUL: And Twelvemile. And then we had out there at South Creek on Wagontire he had ... real big corrals up there. Had corrals at Lost Creek, corrals at Benjamin Lake.

RICHARD: Corrals everywhere, huh?

LENA: And at Dry Lake, didn't he?

PAUL: No.

RICHARD: Where is Dry Lake, you mentioned that before?

PAUL: Well, there is two Dry Lakes; there is Dry Lake on top of Fisher Hill.

RICHARD: Yeah, that's the one I know as Dry Lake.

PAUL: The other Dry Lake is over at Hampton Buttes there, in that flat out there as you're going to

Beaver Flat, on the main road.

RICHARD: Okay, yeah, I know.

LENA: There used to be lots of deer out there at Silver Creek. ... at Dry Lake.

PAUL: ... over at Twelvemile, corrals all over the country. Last Chance, they had corrals there. ... and a family there by the name of ... they were making moonshine.

RICHARD: Now wait a minute, where is Last Chance?

PAUL: Last Chance, you've heard, talking about Frederick Butte?

RICHARD: Yeah.

PAUL: Well, Last Chance is on the other side of ---

RICHARD: Oh, down towards Lost Forest.

PAUL: Yeah.

RICHARD: Yeah, okay.

PAUL: They call it Last Chance. ... the first year I worked for him, I was a wrangler boy. And we went to ... They come out and picked him up and took him down to Prineville and put him in jail. And in about a month, old Bill went down and bailed him out.

LENA: He would always do that.

PAUL: That's the truth; he went down and bailed him out.

RICHARD: He didn't want to hurt anybody, just wanted to get his work done.

LENA: He just had ...

PAUL: After he took him away, no more moonshine sold there.

RICHARD: Did you know Ole Nordall?

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: He lives on Swamp Creek, right down ---

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: Nordall.

LENA: Nordall.

RICHARD: Nordall. Well, he was there on Swamp Creek, the Laughlin's, just down the creek

from Laughlin's ...

LENA: I'm sure I didn't know him.

RICHARD: He probably came there after you left there.

LENA: I think so.

PAUL: ...

LENA: Well he might have been, but I wasn't at Swamp Creek after I met Helen's dad. So, you know ---

HELEN: ...

LENA: Huh? ... I never was to Swamp Creek after I was married. I used to go over there and stay with old Ed Laughlin and Wilma, you know, not so much ...

RICHARD: This hit the spot, Helen.

HELEN: Thank you.

RICHARD: Pretty hard to stay awake on the road.

LENA: Well, you don't have too far to go, do you?

RICHARD: Oh, no. You get spoiled in this country --- not spoiled, but you know, you think fifty miles is right next-door.

LENA: Yeah, I know. ... Do you see any deer around the country?

RICHARD: I didn't see any as I came down this morning. I see lots of hunters.

LENA: Oh, yes, lots of hunters. Even up and down that lane that you go through ... that's changed a lot from what it used to be when I was ... Who lives on Alfred Johnson's place?

RICHARD: Well, Pat Cecil bought that land. Pat and his son-in-law, Carl Mayo bought it. And now there is a fellow who works for Mayo lives there. And they've kept it up pretty well.

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: Yeah, you knew Jack. Yeah, Jack lived there for twenty years or more.

LENA: Yeah, we knew Jack.

PAUL: Is he still living there?

RICHARD: No, Jack, Jack kind of retired. He moved over to Drewsey, he and Maria bought a

little place over in Drewsey. They retired over there. Did you know Fred Baker, from Silver Creek?

LENA: No.

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Oh, yeah, all these Bakers are related. I believe he---

LENA: Oh, Don Baker is probably related to ---

RICHARD: Yeah, he is.

LENA: He married one of the ...

RICHARD: And then Tin Gibson married one of ... girls I guess.

LENA: Yes he did, Lulah.

RICHARD: Yeah Lulah, that's right. They sold to George McGee, the fellow who bought Henry Street's place.

LENA: We heard from Cecil one year ...

RICHARD: Oh, from Carl.

LENA: ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: No, not exactly, but I went to school with Chester. I knew Bob.

HELEN: ...

LENA: I don't know, I didn't know her children. I think ... living with her, but I didn't know them.

A long time before they ... to Silver Creek ...

HELEN: Would you like some more Dick, some more cake?

RICHARD: You talked me into it, that's terrific cake.

HELEN: Okay, thank you.

RICHARD: You know I batch during the week.

LENA: Oh, do you?

RICHARD: Yeah, my wife and younger son have a place in town. She teaches in town.

LENA: Oh, does she?

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: Home cooking tastes kind of ---

RICHARD: Home cooking tastes pretty good after my peanut butter sandwiches. (Laughter)

LENA: Yes, I imagine. It seemed funny to go to ... because there was always somebody around there.

RICHARD: Well, the house burned down.

LENA: Did it burn?

RICHARD: Woodie built that house, someone told me in 1904, somewhere back there. And it burned down the year after we bought it.

LENA: Was everything taken out of that ...

RICHARD: Oh, it was horrible even when Mabel was still alive. There hadn't been a bit of paint, or anything ...

LENA: How long did she ...

RICHARD: She lived in one little room there, and then Clyde was upstairs in a room, the place wasn't kept up.

LENA: My Aunt Etta was a good housekeeper, and so was grandmother. ...

PAUL: I guess Clyde got pretty helpless too, didn't he?

RICHARD: Yeah, but he was still trying. He didn't have enough strength to get up out of the chair, he was telling me all the big projects he had on for next week. He was going to do it.

HELEN: Who was that?

RICHARD: Clyde ...

HELEN: Oh, yeah.

RICHARD: He was always ---

LENA: When I knew him, he wasn't much of a ...

RICHARD: Well, ...

LENA: Maybe Clyde would ... about housekeeping either.

RICHARD: Well they never would, they wouldn't put water in the house.

LENA: Oh, no.

RICHARD: Wouldn't put electricity in.

LENA: I noticed they wouldn't have water in the house.

RICHARD: Well, they sure didn't have it when I was ---

LENA: He had --- no, he didn't, I take it back. He had a lovely granary.

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: Is it still there?

RICHARD: No, it burned down. Almost everything burned except for the old barn.

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: When the electricity came to this country, why one of the neighbors, George McGee and I went over to see Mrs. Best, and said if you will buy the materials, we'll come over and wire it for you.

LENA: She wouldn't do it.

RICHARD: And she wouldn't do. We wind up putting a little water --- so her final years there, she wouldn't sell it, and finally ... until the day she left, she'd go outside with a pitcher pump and bring the water in, and pack it back out again. There was a privy out there.

LENA: She was really very careful that she kept every nickel that she could have. She sure did. Aunt Etta wasn't that way, she spent a fortune in ... She was a very aggressive woman, a little woman. He worshiped her.

RICHARD: She was the mother of Woodie's children?

PAUL: Uh huh.

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: Yes, she was. She had two girls and a boy. I've seen ... I never will forget he come and got me to go home with him so I'd be company for Ethel. And so, Ethel, she wouldn't mind me and dad, and her dad said I'm going to hit you. And he stopped at that front gate at the place, and Bill ... and he would hit her, and the first thing I knew he was crying like a baby. Chicken hearted. My mother wasn't a bit like her brother, so she'd whip us and if we didn't mind right now, and it wasn't

with a rag, it was a switch. And she'd have us go cut the wood out of ... And my brother, older than I am, hammered the bark on the willow in the spring, you know, ... and he slipped the bark off, and cut the heart, and slipped it back on, so when she whipped us, it would break. (Laughter) If we got naughtier than that ...

... has told more about Uncle Will than I did, but I don't think he could. Barney said he had all of, Wesley talk about him, and he got me to tell him. And he said I knew more about it than he did. But I worked for him and everything, lived around him. ... was down ... a lot, you know after he was fourteen, fifteen ... he worked down at the GI. And he lived up around there and he saw Uncle Will an awful lot.

PAUL: ... one time he was setting on an old horse he called ... Whitey. ... and he was going to put a joke on him. He had a bottle of "high-life" in his hand. And he was standing there talking to Bill, and he rubbed his hand over, or that bottle in his hand over old Whitey. And pretty soon he kicked up a high, and away he went with it. Old Bill a hollering, ... what's the matter with you? He didn't know he ... "high-life" on him.

LENA: I bet he said ...

PAUL: Down the road he went.

HELEN: That was Frank Morgan's uncle or something.

PAUL: Yeah, I think so ... That little quarter horse, a good little horse too, cotton mouthed, but --- We was over at Prineville, a rodeo there, and he couldn't get no ... and that quarter, he led the field for four or five lengths. And then he just bowed up, you know, he ... Anyhow, he decided to go to Paulina, and the guy wanted, the jockey, and Layton said you're too heavy. You'll have to check that saddle ... so you can get down to weight. Well, how are we going to do it? Well he said, I'll belly up there to that manure pile, and stick a stove pipe down ... and stuck the stove pipe in, and ... got drunk and forgot about him. And when somebody thought about him, he was pretty near dead.

RICHARD: You bet.

LENA: Well, the same thing happened over there at ... and Uncle Wood, he used to ride along behind the boys, and then ---

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LENA: ... and when they went out to look about him, he was having a heart attack. They didn't think they would ever bring him to, it was really bad.

RICHARD: Yeah, I'll bet.

HELEN: ...

LENA: Uncle Wood was rough though, awful rough.

RICHARD: Well, he and Laughlin's were partners then, not in the land, but in the cattle?

LENA: In the cattle, cattle.

RICHARD: I see.

LENA: No, I don't think he, I don't think Laughlin had anything to do with that place. But too, I might not know what, maybe Laughlin had the place before Wood did, I don't know. We always called it Uncle Woodie's place. We never knew about Laughlin. I thought Laughlin worked, I know he worked for Wood. Because Uncle Wood must have got the place. I think when Uncle Woodie came there he was ... And my mother hadn't seen him for years and years. So, he come to see her, when she got up to Buck Creek. And he come in there and sat down and talked and ate and Mama thought, who are you. And kept a watching him, and watching him, and she got nervous. He just kept sitting there. And finally, he raised his hand up, and he had this finger off here, and she looked at him and said, "Oh Wood, that's you." ... never seen her for a long time. I think that's when Uncle Wood located there. And he used to be ... I don't know where ... it was. I've heard him say, but I don't remember.

HELEN: Didn't grandma ... come out and see Uncle Will?

LENA: Just a time or two, no doubt, but she came there, she never come there but once.

HELEN: ...

LENA: Huh?

HELEN: ... when I was small.

LENA: Well you were small, no she come to Powell Butte to see you. But she never saw ... until

she come up ... could walk, she was two or three years old.

HELEN: Families just didn't come to see ... very much. ...

LENA: No, they didn't. Maybe his brothers did years before, I don't know. He never knew ... people.

RICHARD: I think Claude or Frank Morgan ...

PAUL: ... when they come up there to Buck Creek in 1914.

HELEN: Oh, I don't remember that.

LENA: What did she say?

RICHARD: One of these people, maybe Sam Boyce said that Bill went back to New York with his brother once. That they took a trip back to New York.

LENA: I think Uncle Will had a little trouble getting over his trouble, with that man. And he was just about to lose his mind.

RICHARD: Oh, really.

LENA: And they took him away for a while. I think he may have went there. But that's the only time I knew Uncle Will to go. But I do know that I was small, but I remember ... in fact Mrs. ... he stayed a lot at ... and I know that he said that he was having trouble. And he went there and got cured of it anyway. He needed treatment.

HELEN: ...

LENA: I know, but --- They made him mad, he was awful mad.

HELEN: ...

LENA: But he didn't get that way very often. You had to do an awful lot of running over to make him mad.

RICHARD: Well, did he ever actually fight anybody else?

LENA: Oh, no.

RICHARD: I don't mean shoot or kill them, just ---

HELEN: No, he wasn't quarrelsome.

LENA: No. The other fellow was in the wrong; he was putting his sheep ...

PAUL: ... went back a half a mile to get the gun. ...

LENA: ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: And then those Fosters moved out ...

HELEN: ...

LENA: But that was right after my dad got there, well it was before my dad moved out there. He didn't have Mama out there anyway.

HELEN: Dick, would you like more coffee?

RICHARD: If you have a little more Helen, I would, I'd appreciate it. Well, can you think of anything else about Bill Brown?

LENA: No, I don't think so. I can't recall anything.

RICHARD: You mentioned on the telephone that there was a book about him.

LENA: Oh, there was a little book --- but I think that --- I think Ruby; I don't know who had this big book. I can't think where I read it. And I read that book, and I said at the time, I said, "Now that is a shame, because too much of that isn't true about Uncle Will." I said, "I know." But I don't know where I read it, and that was a blue backed book.

HELEN: I don't know anything about that one, but I know Aunt Mattie wrote a story about him and sent it to the Oregon Farmer. Oh, it's been years ago. I wonder if you could ---

RICHARD: Well, I'll be in Portland in November, and I was going to go through newspaper files, and I hadn't thought of the Oregon Farmer, but I will.

HELEN: All right. I'd be anxious to read it. I'd imagine it would be quite interesting.

RICHARD: Yeah. Well, I'll see if I can get you a copy.

HELEN: All right.

LENA: I don't think it will be way back on Mattie, because Mattie didn't know Uncle Will too long I don't think.

HELEN: Well I expect...

PAUL: ...

LENA: Well, she could write a good story.

HELEN: Yes, and Uncle Wesley, you know ...

LENA: But somebody, I don't know who has got it. I know they said an honest price for that book. ... stories that they wasn't so. Some of it was all right, but there was parts of it that, of course as I said, maybe they made the story up to sound the way they wanted it to, you know. They do that.

RICHARD: To sell books, yeah. ... do that. Well, there was one article in the Oregon Historical Quarterly about ten or fifteen years ago, that I recall seeing. But I don't recall what it said. And I'm like you; I'd kind of like to see all the facts out, you know, so the true story is ---

LENA: Yeah, I don't go along with that adding on or taking off. I don't ---

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: You bet.

HELEN: Yeah.

LENA: I don't like that putting on and taking off they don't know about.

HELEN: I just wasn't around him all that much.

LENA: Well, maybe the people that wrote the book never knew him at all.

RICHARD: That's very possible.

LENA: Could be, could be. And then somebody find something about him, make a better story out of it. I know that they say that when you write a story, you put it together, you don't know just exactly how you should word it, or place it, or add to it and take off.

RICHARD: Well, you have straightened me out on a lot of things tonight that I thought was fact. I had heard that it was a fact that Bill Brown charged people to stay there.

LENA: Oh no, he never did.

RICHARD: Oh, I always heard that.

LENA: He never did. If Bill Brown was alive, and you would come over there and wanted something out of his store, or even come ... and stay all night, you would be welcome. You could eat at the table. If I was a cooking, I wouldn't charge you anything, and he wouldn't either. No sir, he never charged anybody. If I had charged them for cooking and for staying, I would have had a

lot more money than I had.

RICHARD: ... ranch.

LENA: I would have had more than thirty-five dollars a month, I assure you.

HELEN: When I raked hay for him ...

LENA: I should have had Uncle Will pay me for the hour, by the hour. I should have had him pay me by the hour and then I could give part of it back to him. No ... probably wasn't very good for him. And Uncle Will he ... and he offered me half of everything he had if I would ... So, he was a pretty fair person. And he liked me. He couldn't hardly help but like us kids. He lived right there close to all of us, you know. ...

PAUL: ... haying time. He had Lee Moore come in, and Charlie ... He had Charlie, thought he was going to drive. Old Bill came, and daggone it ... anymore. So that made Charlie mad, and he quit, and he just went home. ... When quitting time come that night, well of course ... dad quit. And old Bill kept right on ... right up until dark. So, the next time dad thought well I'll stay as long as that old guy does. So, he worked right along till, finally Bill said, "Daggone it we better quit, it's getting dark." ... And Bill said, "Daggone it," said, "you're working him hard enough, pretty snorty. You got to take that snort out of him." Dad told him, "You'll have to give me a better horse than old ... if you want me to take it out of him. He's a better horse than ..." "Daggone it ... daggone it, let him snort." (Laughter) ... was his top horse.

LENA: He worked his horses, and if they didn't go along like he wanted them to, he'd put a nail in a stick and jab them.

RICHARD: Oh, really?

HELEN: That's about the only ornery thing he ...

RICHARD: Yeah, that sounds, that's the first ---

HELEN: It doesn't sound true, right.

RICHARD: No, it doesn't fit with the rest of it.

HELEN: No.

LENA: It was true, he'd do that.

PAUL: He was hard on horses.

LENA: He was hard on horses. He expected them to work. ... go all night and all day, and then ... put a sack of grain down there, and let them eat out of that and founder the horses ...

RICHARD: Well, his horses worked about as hard as he worked his cook I think. (Laughter)

PAUL: ... he'd just throw a sack of rye, and then take his jackknife and rip it open ...

LENA: He killed one horse that way.

PAUL: Yeah, but he didn't kill old ... out of rye. He killed two workhorses ... he gave them a sack of rye, ... work horses, you know, they just ate too much and killed both of them.

LENA: He used to have those chickens, and he'd take a great big water bucket in each hand, and he'd start from the hen house up to the road where it starts to go around the hill, and he'd scatter wheat around there, and they was eating, laying everyplace. And he took to dipping chickens for lice. He took some salt and I don't know what else and put on those chickens. And he dipped them so bad, he dipped them in coal oil ... killed them. They died right on the roost. And ... give them too much.

PAUL: ...

LENA: That's when he told me about his hat, and he used that Dutch Cleanser. I said, "Uncle Will, you can't do that ..."

HELEN: You know, Helen Landers' husband had a book that had a picture of Uncle Will in it when he was a young man.

LENA: Who did?

HELEN: Helen Landers' husband John.

LENA: Oh, did he?

HELEN: And I suppose when they split up, that John took that book.

LENA: I used to have a picture of Uncle Will too. And I haven't got that anymore. We had a lot of stuff burn up. I lost a lot of pictures in the fire.

RICHARD: Helen is a Walters.

HELEN: She is?

RICHARD: Yeah.

HELEN: Red's girl.

RICHARD: Yeah.

HELEN: I don't suppose she has that book; because they split up ... told me he was a fine-looking man.

LENA: I wonder how he got it?

HELEN: I don't know Mom ...

LENA: He got it someplace, because nobody knew him out in this country.

HELEN: ...

LENA: He had one woman followed him to the Gap when he was herding sheep to get him ... And she stayed a few days, didn't she? And Uncle Will just kept a herding sheep, kept a herding sheep ...

RICHARD: Yeah. When he did, as I gather when he did, I use the word chase after a woman; I don't mean, you know, anything bad. But it seemed like it was always a young girl. I mean it was always a young girl that he wanted.

LENA: Well, he'd go to these entertainments, and the only one that I know of is this Shields girl.

RICHARD: Uh huh.

HELEN: Myra.

LENA: Myra.

RICHARD: Myra Shields.

LENA: Yeah. That's the only one.

PAUL: And there was one of those Sturgess girls.

LENA: Well, I guess he did.

PAUL: And the Cecil's. ...

LENA: Well, Vivian.

PAUL: One of them I know.

RICHARD: Well, were they young at the time?

PAUL: Yeah.

LENA: No, Cecil's ...

PAUL: ...

LENA: Shields girl was too, she was only about sixteen.

RICHARD: That's what I heard.

LENA: But the Cecil girl was older.

PAUL: They made up a song about her. Bill gave her a watch, and said she took it, and she took it and threw it on the floor. And Bill said I'm mighty certain she don't love me anymore. (Laughter)

HELEN: Oh, my.

LENA: I never ...

RICHARD: Do you know any of the words to that song?

PAUL: No, I don't.

RICHARD: There have been several people that told me about it, but I can't find the words to it.

PAUL: Well, that's all I knew of it.

LENA: Probably that's all there was to it.

PAUL: No, I think it was quite a song. ...

RICHARD: Well, Frank Morgan thought he had the whole thing, but I guess he hasn't. But everybody quotes ... she took it and she threw it on the floor.

PAUL: Bill said I'm mighty certain she don't love me anymore.

LENA: No, anyway Mrs. Cecil took it.

RICHARD: Now that would be Carroll's wife. Mrs. Carroll Cecil.

LENA: Yeah, Carroll.

RICHARD: Carroll.

LENA: Yeah, Carroll's wife, the mother of Homer and Pat.

RICHARD: Pat and Lucille, was that the ones?

PAUL: No, it was Pat's sister.

LENA: Louise.

PAUL: Pat's sister was the one that he was stuck on.

LENA: Oh, yes, but the mother wanted her to get him, but she ... Said that if she didn't want it, she'd wear it.

RICHARD: I guess the mother thought it would be a good catch for her daughter.

PAUL: Yeah.

LENA: Sure, she did. Would have been too. ...

RICHARD: Yeah.

HELEN: ... You worked for Mrs. Carroll, Mr. Carroll Cecil.

LENA: Yeah, we worked for them one winter.

PAUL: Fed cattle up there.

LENA: Oh, he was a nice person to work for too. He was a good man, awful good man.

PAUL: He was a ... he had a piece of beef hanging up in ... we got through eating, he said, "Are you full?" I said, "Yeah, I'm full." Well he said, "That's just as good as if you ate in the Waldorf Hotel in New York. As long as you're full, that's all that matters."

LENA: He was a nice man to work for, easy to work for.

RICHARD: Well, his grandson-in-law, that would be Pat's daughter's husband. And now his son, Carl Mayo is the man, and then their son Mark is with them on the ranch. They are fine people. They are just the best people you could ask to neighbor with.

LENA: Did she ever marry again after Pat died?

RICHARD: No. No, she is still alive; she is ninety now I guess.

LENA: Is she?

RICHARD: Yeah, Jessie.

LENA: Yeah.

RICHARD: What was her name, Bybee [Bibee], or something? It was something like that.

HELEN: I don't know.

LENA: I've forgotten her name now.

HELEN: ...

RICHARD: Well she was over here a couple of weeks ago.

LENA: Was she?

RICHARD: I saw her.

LENA: She came when Henry died, I know that. No, that was the ...

HELEN: Her daughter.

LENA: Her daughter.

RICHARD: Oh Jean, yeah.

LENA: ... she said, "I know you don't know me," but she says, "I came to see you anyway." I studied her out, I said, "I didn't know you."

PAUL: That Pat Cecil was a good man to ...

RICHARD: Was he?

PAUL: ...

RICHARD: By golly these old timers are amazing.

PAUL: ...

LENA: He used to have lots of horses, Cecil did.

RICHARD: Well, he started here in the horse business, didn't he? Carroll and his brother, or Carroll and his brother, didn't he start in the horse business when he came?

LENA: I don't know.

HELEN: Did they have horses, Paul?

PAUL: Huh?

HELEN: Did they have horses, Cecil's? Did they start with horses when they came here?

LENA: I think they always run cattle and horses first.

PAUL: Yeah, Cecil's had horses.

LENA: And Billy Jacobs and Charlie Lord were partners. Billy Jacobs was Mrs. Cecil's brother-in-law.

HELEN: ...

LENA: ...

HELEN: They're still around Burns ...

RICHARD: They're in Drewsey.

HELEN: Oh, they're in Drewsey.

RICHARD: Yeah, there was a Joe Lillard.

LENA: Yeah Joe Lillard was Grace Lillard's son.

RICHARD: Oh, uh huh.

LENA: And he went to school with me too.

RICHARD: Oh, is that right?

LENA: Uh huh. I was quite a little older than Joe, ... come over there and went to school.

RICHARD: Well, he has been gone for fifteen, twenty years.

LENA: Yeah, I know when he passed away. There was Billy Jacobs
... Bedell children.

RICHARD: Oh, uh huh.

LENA: And then Bedell used to live there at Silver Creek too.

HELEN: Now Bedell was Mrs. Cecil's brother, wasn't he?

LENA: Bedell, yeah. Bedell was ---

RICHARD: Mrs. Carroll Cecil's brother.

HELEN: ...

LENA: Bedell was Mrs. Carroll Cecil's father and mother.

PAUL: Well, there was Billy Bedell, was her brother.

LENA: Well, Billy Bedell was a brother of the ...

HELEN: He used to work for Uncle Will, didn't he?

LENA: Uncle Will ...

PAUL: When we worked at Twelvemile, he used to come up there ---

LENA: Oh, that man.

PAUL: ... a bunch of beans and bacon.

LENA: Uncle Will did cook.

PAUL: ... get out of here before old Bill comes. ... old horse, and go back down home, Twelvemile, right in his own cabin.

LENA: He used to come ... the Harrises and the Bedell's were related. And he ---

PAUL: ... twenty years in the pen ...

LENA: One of them stole his wife, so he killed a man and he went to jail for it for twenty-five years, and he come back and he was --- Uncle Will ... and he come there one night and he stayed there at the house. He had one of those real crazy ... And I was going to work the next morning ... And I had a lot of beautiful flowers up there in the nursery, and I give him another room. I didn't want him in there, on account of them. And he went in there and raised every window and froze them, every one.

RICHARD: You mentioned Emmett Stafford.

LENA: Uh huh.

RICHARD: Yeah, I knew Emmett, now that you mention it. He had a little homestead up there.

LENA: Some place.

RICHARD: Up on, it was either Twelvemile or Long Hollow.

PAUL: Yeah.

RICHARD: And then Barney bought it from him. Grant Barney bought it from him.

LENA: And he bought the Bradford place too, didn't he?

HELEN: Emmett Stafford, Paul.

RICHARD: Emmett Stafford.

PAUL: Stafford, yeah. Well I think they ---

HELEN: A different Stafford?

PAUL: No. It was Emmett Stafford. But I think it was ...

RICHARD: No, Rick wound up with the neighboring place.

PAUL: Oh.

RICHARD: And then Barney got the Rick place. And then Barney, back in the middle '60's I guess, no back in the late '50's, before he got married. He bought Stafford's place too.

LENA: I heard that too.

PAUL: He herded sheep for Bill for years.

RICHARD: Yeah, that's right. And then Emmett came down and he lived with Barney for a year. But those two old bachelors couldn't get along together, and so Emmett moved over to Prineville. Yeah, I remember it now.

PAUL: He was over ... one night. And a rabid coyote bit him right through the nose, Stafford. He had to take the shots for rabies.

RICHARD: Take the shots.

HELEN: Yeah, the way Uncle Will herded sheep around all over the country, I never heard any stories about him using that ... I wonder why. But there was lots of rabid coyotes. And I never heard of Uncle Will ever meeting up with one.

PAUL: No.

LENA: Well, I know that Uncle Will kept a lot of strychnine around; he didn't have to be bothered with them with his sheep.

HELEN: ...

LENA: You know ever so often he went out and put the bait out, you know.

HELEN: ...

LENA: I don't know how he did it, but someway.

RICHARD: Yeah. I always heard he carried the strychnine and raisins in his pocket.

LENA: I know they always say that, but if the truth ... I don't know that he did. He always had raisins in there. Probably in this pocket he had this bottle of strychnine. Because he used to buy it in a little box like that, and he just took a bottle out. They always say that, and I always say, "Yeah I guess so." But truthfully, to tell the truth I don't know that he ever did such a thing.

RICHARD: Well, it doesn't make sense.

LENA: No, because you know that much strychnine would take him after awhile.

RICHARD: Sure.

LENA: Because when Helen had double pneumonia, she had pneumonia twice, and that, was when

she got double pneumonia. And we was living in Bend, we had just moved down there ... And my sister had lost her husband, so ... And she got pneumonia, when she did, I went to town to get some groceries, and I didn't realize it, that she was as sick as she was. Then she had the flu, because she had went out on Halloween down at the Warner's, and she was staying there and going to school, and Halloween ... and they was out at night, which they never did at home, you know, and got pneumonia. So, we took her down there, and had to have the doctor, and when I come back, they had a doctor and then two nurses in my home. And ... I couldn't even do any ... in the bedroom because they said she was so low. That they was afraid, and they fed her strychnine right at the last. So I know Uncle Will didn't --- They can say that ...

HELEN: Did Herman ... ever work for Uncle Will? Herman ... did he ever work for Uncle Will?

PAUL: No.

LENA: ... but I don't think he ever worked there.

HELEN: He worked on the GI Ranch ...

LENA: Yeah, they ...

RICHARD: No, I've never heard that name.

LENA: They run the place. Did he have a homestead?

PAUL: Yeah.

LENA: That's what I was thinking. He is down there someplace around there; I don't know just where he was.

PAUL: ...

LENA: Yeah, the ... place. ... and there was another bunch there, I can't think of their names. I never knew the other ... I seen him once. I can't think what their name was. They didn't stay very long, they froze out.

PAUL: ... yeah, it's all in alfalfa now.

HELEN: Oh, it is?

RICHARD: Oh, down by the GI?

PAUL: Yeah.

RICHARD: Yeah.

PAUL: The ... the old folks, John and Bill.

LENA: And they lived over at Hampton Butte. I had a homestead there when I was ... and I didn't know where the homestead ... so I give him my half of what we had at Powell Butte, and I filed on a homestead. Built that little square house that is up there, close to the ... And that man that ... they say he tore that house down and built another one, and put the same kind of a roof on it that I had on mine. I don't know.

RICHARD: I've got a plane, and I fly over that country a lot.

LENA: Do you?

RICHARD: Yeah.

LENA: Used to be lots of deer in there. I'd like to see the place, but I guess ...

PAUL: ... road to get in there anymore.

LENA: I don't think you could.

RICHARD: Well, maybe I better go on home.

HELEN: We enjoyed having you.

RICHARD: Well, I have certainly enjoyed every minute of this.

LENA: I ... looked forward to it.

RICHARD: Are you going to be up here long?

LENA: No, I think I'll go home ---

(END OF TAPE)

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