

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #272 - Sides A & B

Subject: Agness Davis Brown Discusses the Poujade Family

With Video

Place: Brown Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: May 7, 1990

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and we're at the home of Agness Brown. We'll be talking about her grandparents the Poujade's. The date is May the 7th, 1990, in Burns, Oregon.

Agness can you tell us your name?

AGNESS BROWN: I'm Agness Davis Brown, the oldest daughter of Charles Davis and Lula Iva (Ivy) Poujade Davis. The oldest granddaughter of Isadore and Jane Poujade.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

AGNESS: I was born on the ranch at, near Harney, three miles east of Harney, and three miles west of Grandpa's place.

DOROTHEA: Was that called Harney at that time?

AGNESS: It was called Harney City at that time.

DOROTHEA: Harney City.

AGNESS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And what year were you born?

AGNESS: I was born in 19 --- November 20th, 1910.

DOROTHEA: Was that the county seat at the time?

AGNESS: I don't think Harney was ever the county seat. I think, they had that war when they swiped the records and brought them from Harney to Burns before I was born I'm sure.

DOROTHEA: A long time.

AGNESS: Yeah, yeah. Because that was --- well that was shortly after it became a county. And see that was in '89. In 1889.

DOROTHEA: Right, right. I'm getting a little bit after --- before your time I should say. Can you tell us some of the history of your grandparents, and why do you suppose they came and settled in Harney County?

AGNESS: Well, Grandpa Poujade, Isadore L., Isadore Lewis Poujade came to Harney County driving cattle for John Devine. He and, I'm not sure, I know one of his brothers, his brother Frank and a half-brother Jim Gribble came in and they drove in these cattle for John Devine. And that was, he always said he came in 1880, but this was the first time he came in was a good deal before that. Because when he came to stay was in 1880. And the boys drove these cattle in, and then they went back to Jacksonville in Southern Oregon.

BARBARA LOFGREN: They drove the cattle from California or from ---

AGNESS: I don't know where they drove those cattle from. All I know is, I have pieced together what Mama told me, and I have a cousin, well we're second cousins, that lives in Jacksonville, and he remembers my great-grandmother, grandpa's mother quite well. He was a boy, oh, up old enough to remember when Grandma died. And she lived down where he did. Now I never --- she never was up here that I know of. But then Grandpa came in, and of course Grandma's family, Jane Miller, was from Jacksonville. And Grandpa had known her there before he came up to here. And he came, after he came in here, he worked for Todhunter and Devine as a --- now that Todhunter is all one word. He worked for Todhunter and Devine as a foreman for several years. I don't know how many years he worked for them. And then he, together with Charlie Jones, in 1886 I think it was, bought 640 acres from Todhunter. And out, what was to become known as the Cow Creek place. And they built a large house out there. In fact, it was built so that Jones lived on one side, and Poujade's lived on the other.

Now Charlie Jones was a half-brother of Jane Miller Poujade. And he married Jane Miller in Baker at her sister's place. That was a sister also, was a full sister of Charlie Jones, and brought

her there. And then they lived, the two families lived in this house until, I don't know, some years later they built a house behind. And that's when they, Uncle Charlie Jones and Aunt Jane Jones, who were Allen Jones and Frankie Jones, who later married Jake Welcome lived. It was in the house behind the big house. But it was a big house. I mean ---

BARBARA: An early day duplex then?

AGNESS: Well it was more than --- the first one was a duplex. Well then you see that, when Aunt Jane and Uncle Charlie moved into their new house that left lots of room. And they were on the main stage route from Ontario into Burns. And the overnight travelers then stayed with --- I said it was a modern, or in that day it was their bed and breakfast house, because the travelers stayed there.

And when I was a kid, oh eight, nine, seven, eight, nine years old, I can remember that there was one room that we didn't go into. Because that was where the travelers stayed. And there was also a stairway that went up to two rooms upstairs on the east side of the house. And there was also a dining room that was off of the dining room, so there was really four rooms in that house, that after Aunt Jane and Uncle Charlie moved out, that Grandma used to take care of the travelers.

And I remember the time she told about someone coming past, and you could imagine with the travelers she had sheets and sheets hanging on the line. And of course, Grandma changed the sheets whenever anybody left. This fellow says, "Lady, you must be awfully dirty with all those sheets." I could remember these big lines that she had out there, why as a kid they looked like they was a mile long to me, you know. And --- but she washed those sheets in the wash boiler, and you know, cooked them in the boiler so that they were good and clean. But that is when they kept the travel. And then ---

BARBARA: So that was a stage stop too?

AGNESS: It was, I don't know exactly as a stage stop. I expect they did stop there. And Mama knew, just read a little note that I just had found, well a couple three years ago, it was in some recipe books, this article that she told about how Grandpa always kept horses ready so that when they sent for the doctor, there was no telephones, and they would ride, they would come past Grandpas and they would ride into Burns to get the doctor. And Grandpa would have a horse

ready, and have some coffee ready and something ready for the doctor to eat as he made his way over to Drewsey or some of these outlying places. And Mama said it always seemed like it was in the middle of the night that the doctor was coming through.

DOROTHEA: Well, it seems like that's when emergencies always arise, in the middle of the night.

AGNESS: Yeah, yeah. But as, in later years, after I was, well --- no, it was before my father --- my father passed away in '23. But, and it was before Grandpa, or before Dad passed away that I can remember staying with Grandma. And if I was especially good, when the mail sack came, see people that lived up the canyon, up Cow Creek Canyon, was too far from the mail line. So, they had their mail put in Grandpa's sack, mail sack. And I can remember it was the one sack on the mail route that had a key in it. It had a little lock, and the postmaster had a key, and Grandpa had a key. And when Grandpa --- in this one room they had this box with little pigeonholes in it, and if I was especially good, I could sort the mail. And I can remember sorting it. And then maybe some of it would stay there for a week or ten days, or longer. But when they had time, they would come into Grandpas and pick up their mail. Now it was not a legal post office. It was just that one neighbor doing something for another. And ---

DOROTHEA: They did a lot in those days.

AGNESS: Yes, yeah.

BARBARA: And so, did they leave letters then for them to pick up too?

AGNESS: Yes, I imagine they did. I don't remember that part. All I remember is that the letters were there. And I remember Grandpa's old car. He had one of the first old cars in this part of the country. And it had big high wheels. It wasn't like our cars nowadays. And in fact, I've got a picture of it.

DOROTHEA: Were they wooden?

AGNESS: I think they must have been. From the picture you can't really tell. They weren't as high as a buggy wheel, but they were lots higher than a car wheel. And our house burned when, in the spring of 1915, and I can remember that they came in the car, Grandma and Grandpa, and Aunt Ruby and Uncle Wilbur. Now Aunt Ruby and Uncle Wilbur were the two younger children in the

family. And Aunt Ruby always said, "Grandpa really speeded to get there. I saw the speedometer and it was thirty miles an hour." (Laughter) And that probably was as fast as the old car would go. But they went the three miles, you see. That car is one thing I do remember very distinctly. I've often wished that Grandpa hadn't made it into a --- well I think he made a wagon out of it, or a trailer, or something like that. You know, they used it. He took the engine off of it after it got older. And ---

BARBARA: Okay, where did your Grandfather come from? Was he born outside the United States, or where was he born?

AGNESS: My great, great-grandfather John Pierre, Dr. John Pierre Poujade was born in France, and was a doctor in Napoleon's army. And he came --- now I don't know whether he was married before he came to this country. The first places we pick him up is in Ohio. Then he went to New Orleans and his father, or Grandpa's father was born at Natchez, which was the biggest town down there at the time. Don't ask me how to spell Natchez, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: This is in New Orleans?

AGNESS: It's north of New Orleans.

BARBARA: Louisiana.

AGNESS: Louisiana. And then they went back to Ohio, Dr. Pierre Poujade and his family went back there. And then they came, and we've never been able to trace how they got to Oregon. We pick them up at French Prairie at St. Louis, north of Salem. And it was there that Dr. Pierre practiced medicine, and raised his children.

BARBARA: And how many children did they have?

AGNESS: They had four from what I can figure out. And Grandpa Andrew, which was Grandpa Poujade, Isadore Poujade's father, was the fourth of the children, the youngest of the children. And there is a history, or I guess it's more like a daily log that can be obtained of that church. And Theodore's name, Ted, is named a lot in that. And I think there was only one girl in the family. But then --- do I put the scandal on here too?

DOROTHEA: Anything you want on this. (Laughter)

AGNESS: Grand --- Matilda and Andrew, he married, Andrew which was the youngest of Pierre's children, married Matilda Klingler. K L I N G E R*. *(Corrected to K L I N G L E R) And they had Isadore, and Frank, and George.

DOROTHEA: Is Isadore spelled ---

AGNESS: I S A D O R E.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

AGNESS: They had these three boys when they separated and divorced, which was such a scandal that I didn't know any of this until long after Mama was gone.

BARBARA: Oh, goodness.

AGNESS: In fact, Aunt Ruby and Uncle Wilbur Poujade were the only two that were left when we found this out. We were --- now part of the family knew it, but our side of the family didn't.

Grandpa kept it, it was swept under the rug, you know. He didn't want ---

BARBARA: So, did he marry again then?

AGNESS: What?

BARBARA: Did he marry again?

AGNESS: Then --- yeah. Grandma Matilda married a man by the name of Gribble. I'm not sure what his first name was. Anyway, they had three children, Jim, and Eva, and Elizabeth. And then we lose Andrew for a period of years in there. We don't know where he was. But then he married a woman, her name was Mary O'Brien. And they had three daughters, Agnes, and I don't know what the other two girl's names are. But it was through one of those, the grandchildren of one of those daughters that we first begin to find out about this family.

BARBARA: The earlier family.

AGNESS: About this family we didn't know anything about. And then the interesting thing was, Jessie Williams called me one day, and she said, "Agness, there is a nephew of Isadore Poujade down here and he wants to see somebody that's in the family. Could you come down?" And when I went down I said, "Grandpa doesn't have any, he doesn't have any nephews that I knew anything about." And she said, "Well come down and talk to him." So, I went down.

And it was a man by the name of Ralph Lawrence. And he and his wife, and I talked to him, and invited them to come up to the house, real skeptical. I was sure it wasn't any of our family. But I said, "Well, would you like to look at Grandpa's old album?" Well, he was all eyes and ears, you know, he wanted to see everything. And I was flipping through this book, and he said, "Grandma Klock, where did you get her picture?" Well that was Matilda, had married a man by the name of Klock. And nothing had been said. Well, when he looked at that picture, and it was Grandma Klock, I knew that he was the family. And it was through Ralph that I learned about the boys coming in. Grandpa had said that they came in, that he came in, but he never mentioned the others.

And I, Uncle Wilbur is the only one left now of the family. He lives in Albany. He is eighty-two years old, and he lives in Albany. And Lyle, my son Lyle, sees him and he says he is just as sharp as a tack. He would be fun to interview, he really would.

And anyway, why he, I asked him if he'd ever seen Jim Gribble. If he knew --- oh yeah, he said, Jim Gribble used to come to my house when we were kids. And I said, "Did you know he was Grandpa's half brother?" "No." So, none of us have known, see, about this family. That was such a scandal to the family that they just didn't mention it.

And --- but Grandma did take the older boy, take the three boys, and she raised them. And I don't think, well they kept in touch because among Grandpa's pictures was pictures of Agnes and her daughter. I found those among Grandpa's pictures. Didn't know who they were until these people surfaced.

But then of course Grandma and Grandpa lived out there on the ranch all those years. And Grandpa was active as a, oh he was always on the juries, seemed to me like, or the grand jury, or something, you know. And ---

DOROTHEA: Kind of a circuit court type thing?

AGNESS: He was, well he was always called. Grandpa was one that was always very fair, and very honest. And I remember Grandpa just as the type of a person that you could have given him anything, and he would have kept it for you, and you would have got back just like you gave it to

him, you know. Very honest, and very --- and hard-working people. Just as hard working as they could be.

BARBARA: So, did he ranch and raise cattle and that sort of thing?

AGNESS: Yeah, they had, he lived on the, they lived there on the Cow Creek place until Grandpa died. Grandpa died in '32, ['33] I think it was. And we probably better check some of those dates to be sure. And then after he died, why Grandma moved off the ranch and moved into town here. And Uncle Wilbur was still at home at that time. But of course, all the girls were married. Now there was Ivy, and Lee, and Mary, and Amy Gertrude. Amy died when she was only four. And Floy, and Ruby, and Wilbur.

BARBARA: A big family.

AGNESS: Iva married Charles Davis, who was the son of the first justice of the peace in Harney County. In fact, he was justice of the peace when it was still Grant County. And Lee married Ira, the brother that was just younger than Charlie Davis.

DOROTHEA: Is that I R Y ?

AGNESS: I R A.

DOROTHEA: A I.

AGNESS: Mary married Henry Otley.

BARBARA: Mary Otley, the one that taught at the high school?

AGNESS: That was her mother.

BARBARA: The mother.

AGNESS: Mother-in-law.

BARBARA: Okay.

AGNESS: Mother-in-law. Harold's mother.

BARBARA: Okay, right. One generation too soon. (Laughter)

AGNESS: Yeah. Floy married Cecil Irving, the one that just passed away. Ruby married Harold Nichols.

DOROTHEA: Nichols?

AGNESS: Uh huh. N I C H O L S. And Wilbur is not married.

DOROTHEA: Is that W I L B E R?

AGNESS: W I L B U R.

DOROTHEA: U R.

AGNESS: I don't know what more I can tell you about the family. And of course, they gradually scattered, you know. Of course, Mary lived here all her life. Mom lived here all her life. My dad died in '23. And Uncle Henry died in '74. And Cecil Irving just passed away in February. He was -- and Harold Nichols, of course, is still here.

DOROTHEA: Well, can you tell us some of the work that they did, while you were a child and can remember?

AGNESS: Well, it was more just general ranch work, you know. I mean they raised cattle, and they was --- to me, I mean, I guess it was because I grew up with it that I don't think of it as being anything different than what your dad did on his ranch, you know. And there was a time in there when everybody, I guess all the old-time people raised, had milk cows, milked fifteen, twenty head of cows. And they weren't dairy cows; they were just the old cow that happened to give more milk than the next one. And they, Grandma shipped cream. They had a separator and Grandma separated the milk, or the cream from the milk and she shipped. And Mama had a, when, after, well I was eleven years old or something, we moved out on the Perry place which was next door, the place next to Grandma's. And Mama shipped cream too. But that was little spare chicken feed, you know, that they got in. That was just extra money.

BARBARA: Did they make butter too, or not?

AGNESS: No, I --- not --- and they didn't in the same sense that some of the ladies that lived close to town did. Because the ones that lived close to town could make their butter, collect their eggs, and come to town and peddle them. I bet your mother did, Dorothea.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AGNESS: And I can remember her bringing things to town. But the folks lived out so far.

BARBARA: It was too far to do that.

AGNESS: It was too far. And of course, by that time, by the time they were doing this, Harney was practically non-existent. And at the time in '23, we went to a Fourth of July get together at the Harney Hall and I don't think, there was the old Fred Haines Store still then. But I don't think there was anything else there. And I don't know, I can't remember whether old man Shown was still alive at that time or not. He lived across the street from Fred Haines' house. And whether he was still --- I kind of think he was still alive then. But to a kid, you know, time, it's hard to put time in slots. And I just can't remember.

I remember that when I was about that age, and we'd be up at the ranch, that the people up the canyon would come to visit. And the Hamilton's lived up the other side of the canyon, and their girls would come down to visit with us when we would be out to Grandmas. Lester and Eliza Hamilton lived up on the, well I can't remember, that was the Mahon place. Ira Mahon's dad, and I can't tell you what that man's --- I don't remember what his name was. Twyla could give you that out of the, because he was the first president of the Pioneer Association.

DOROTHEA: Twyla Turner.

AGNESS: Twyla Turner could give you that. Now that's, but Lester and Eliza Hamilton lived up on that place. And then Drinkwater's, but Drinkwater's I don't think were living there. Oh, yes, I guess Drinkwater's did live there when I was a kid. But I don't know which family of Drinkwater's. Of course, there were several families of Drinkwater's. And then on up above that was the Perry place.

And they was a Mrs., now her name was Mahon, but it was a different family of Mahon's. Don't even think it was spelled the same. But she was a sister of Mr. Perry. And when I was a kid, she lived up there and kept house for her brother. And he was a little old man that had owned this house next to Grandpa. And I think we rented, actually Dad rented the place where we were living at that time from this old man Perry. And I'm not sure how to spell that name either. You know some of these names are a little tough.

DOROTHEA: Well did they raise crops, or hay?

AGNESS: Oh, hay, yeah. He had wild hay. Oh, there is one thing that you might be interested in.

When Grandpa moved in there, he said the Indians were here first, and Grandpa was always very good to the Indians. And he always let them go down in his meadow and dig their camas. He said, "That's their food." So, he said, "We want them to have their food." And years later, I was out here in my yard and this old lady came past, and she says, "I know who you are. You're Dory Poujade's granddaughter." And I said, "How did you know that?" She said, "Because I was born in Dory Poujade's barn. He was the only one that would let us come on his place."

BARBARA: That's interesting.

AGNESS: Yeah. So, Grandpa was always very, very nice to the Indians. He said they were there first, you know. They was, I remember this when, that the Indians were there and they were camped out. They used to be, I don't know how high that sagebrush was, but it seemed like trees to me. Because when I'd run out in it, I was lost. And this Indian lady went out, and when she came back she had a baby. She was carrying this baby.

BARBARA: Oh, gosh.

AGNESS: And she'd gone out there in that sagebrush alone and had that baby. And she came back carrying that baby. I was probably, maybe eight, nine years old at the time. And of course, they had things like, they had their own dirt cellars. I don't know whether you girls remember those dirt cellars where they went down, and they dug a hole down in and boarded up around it, and then built up over it, and then threw dirt over it. And it had a sliding door. It was lots of fun to run splinters in your seat sliding down that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I run down that lots of times. Grandpa had one of those.

AGNESS: Yeah, yeah. And I can remember that. There were spiders in there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I hated to go down in there.

AGNESS: And then of course they raised their own pork. And they cured their own pork. And Grandpa had this little place, it was just a frame and he covered it with burlap, you know, burlap sacks and things. And then he had this place where he built his fire, and the smoke from that fire went up through and they cured that meat. It had already been in brine for a certain length of time. I don't know how, what all went through the process. But when he started that smoke process, he

never let the fire go out. He'd get up several times in the night to go out and put --- and he'd go to the neighbors to get apple wood, or all these various woods to give that meat flavor. And they would take the sausage, they'd grind the sausage, and Grandma would take the strips of white cloth, probably sides of sheets or something, and she would sew up these sacks. And they'd be, probably three and a half, four inches across, this piece of meat would. And they would stuff them in these sacks. And those sacks went into the brine and it was cured just like ham. And then you, when you went to use it, you just took it out. And it would keep; it would keep all, you know, just like any of the rest of the meat that was cured in that manner.

And she'd slice that off, and I can see Grandpa sitting there frying the meat while Grandma made the biscuits. And then we'd have gravy and biscuits and this cured meat. And of course, they, then they hung in that cellar along with everything else.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I remember my mom did that too. And our meat hung down in that cellar along with the vegetables of the garden that she had raised, you know.

AGNESS: Yeah. And your potatoes, every, two or three times in the winter you had to go down and get all the ---

DOROTHEA: Rotten ones.

AGNESS: Well, the rotten ones, and all the shoots off of them.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah, right.

AGNESS: Yeah, you had to go ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and de-eye them, or whatever they called them.

AGNESS: Yeah. And we used to --- oh, I hated that. Because there was spiders down there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and we put our carrots down in kind of a deep box, and it was all full of sand.

AGNESS: Well, yeah.

DOROTHEA: I hated to dig in that.

AGNESS: Grandpa had a special place where turnips and carrots and things went. And then the potatoes went at the end of the bin, and then hanging, dangling from, that you dodged when you went through it. I didn't have to dodge, but the older, grown people did. The hams and the other

meat hanging up. And I don't know how they kept mice out of that place. Maybe they couldn't get to it because it was dangling from a string.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

AGNESS: Probably.

DOROTHEA: I think there was mice in it, because I remember some of the times we'd get carrots that had chewings on it. Now whether they were moles or ---

AGNESS: I think the worst scolding I ever got, is I left the storehouse door open one time. And you didn't let --- because they went to the railhead to bring in their flour, and sugar, and stuff, and it went in the storeroom. And that was mouse proof, if a kid didn't leave the door open.

DOROTHEA: You didn't want daylight in that cellar either.

AGNESS: Oh, no. And they didn't want daylight in the storage, in the storeroom. That storeroom was --- and you didn't go in it during the heat of the day.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

AGNESS: You went in the morning, early morning and got your stuff, and you didn't go back.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

AGNESS: But it was a different life, it was a slower life, slower paced. But they depended on one another. And of course, there was good times when we'd all go to Grandmas for Thanksgiving. And they talk about going to Grandmas for Thanksgiving, and that's what we always did.

DOROTHEA: That's over the hill and through the woods, huh?

AGNESS: They'd have this big long table, and we were all around that big long table at Thanksgiving time. And Grandma would raise the turkey. I can remember going out there and helping her feed those little turkeys so that we would have at least one of them live to Thanksgiving. Sometimes they didn't raise very many of them. They kind of died easy.

DOROTHEA: Did they run their turkeys up in the hills?

AGNESS: No, no. They had their cattle up in the hills. And Grandpa had a, what they called a timber claim. Now I don't know whether that, I've never seen the deed to that. I don't know whether that was a land grant claim that he had with the timber on it, or --- I've never gone to the

courthouse and looked up on that. I've just never thought about it. But he had this timber claim that he would go up and make his wood for the winter.

And he wasn't above, sort of telling kids something to keep them busy. He had Aunt Ruby and my brother Ian and I ride all one summer for a cow that I don't think existed. But we sure spent the summer. We were occupied all summer long. We hunted for that old cow. And we rode for --- they didn't want us to go to the timber claim where they were making wood. They didn't want any kids up there because they thought the falling trees and things, it was dangerous.

BARBARA: Dangerous.

AGNESS: So, they let us ride. And Aunt Ruby and I, they wouldn't let me have a horse, so I rode with Aunt Ruby. And Ian had his horse, and we rode all one summer for that cow. We never found her. I was grown before I realized probably there wasn't a spotted cow like Grandpa described. She was going to have a calf, and we were supposed to bring her in before somebody branded that slick-haired calf.

DOROTHEA: I imagine that the poaching and the stealing was pretty ---

AGNESS: Well, I remember the story he told on Fred Haines. They were up, and they had --- all the neighbors had gone together and they had bunched in the cattle, and were sorting them out. And here was a calf; Grandpa had a cow that had a calf that had Fred Haines' brand on it. Of course, Fred was kind of notorious for going out, and if he saw a slick-haired calf he'd just put his brand on it. That year he hadn't got out and got his slick-haired calves picked up before they had the round up. And he said, "Dory, how did your cow happen to steal my calf?" And Grandpa says, "I don't know," but he says, "I know what you do about it." He threw the calf down and vented the brand, and put his brand on it, and Fred Haines didn't say anything. (Laughter)

But that was, I mean that was common practice I guess among, it wasn't just Fred Haines. I mean there was a lot of them did that. If your cow didn't drop her calf while they were still at the ranch, and you got the calf branded before they went out on the range, if somebody went through and they saw a calf without a brand on it, and they could bring it in before you got it in the fall, well they had another calf.

DOROTHEA: Did they eat mostly beef, or did they eat a lot of birds and ---

AGNESS: I don't think, I can't remember Grandma --- they had a pigeon loft, and Grandma loved the pigeons. I can remember the pigeon loft. But that's the only birds, other than chicken. They ate lots of chickens, because we all liked chicken. I think it; it wasn't that it was a staple. I remember the ham and the pork, and the meat like that as much as I do the beef, as a kid.

Of course, maybe, who knows, maybe that's what I liked. And maybe, because I loved to go in the kitchen when they were fixing. Because Grandpa, here sat Grandpa on the edge of the wood box frying the cured meat, whether it was the ham or this sausage, or whatever it was. And here was Grandma over on the other corner making biscuits. She had one of those big black pans, and she'd make that full of biscuits. And I can see her turning, and putting that in the oven. Grandpa feeding wood to the old wood stove. And putting a little pan that they always heated with syrup so we could have syrup to put on these hot biscuits.

And Grandma turning back, and by the time those biscuits came out of the oven; she would have six pies ready to go in the oven. I can --- those just came off of that table like an assembly line. And they would be dried apple, and they would be apples if they was apples that they could get. Or whatever, you know.

DOROTHEA: How did they get their vegetables and, besides raising ---

AGNESS: They raised a lot of things.

DOROTHEA: Did they raise their own fruit?

AGNESS: Yeah, well they had, there was several apple trees and things in Grandma's back yard. And then, of course, there was the Rector place over on the east side of the valley. And I think everybody in the valley got apples from the Rector place, Joe Rector's place. And I do have a good picture that Dot Davis gave me from, with Joe Rector in it. And that was one outing that everybody in the valley went to, was the picnic at the old Rector place. But that's where the apple orchard was. It was, I think it's the place that Howard Miller eventually had, out on the east side of the valley. I'm not sure. I couldn't be positive which place it was now. But I know that there was lots of big apple trees in the yard.

And then there was another place that had apples, was the James place, which was up above Harney, up Rattlesnake. They had apples up there. And of course, they was always chokecherries, and there was always gooseberries, and they always raised currants. So that was the fruit they had. And then of course they raised, they always had their potatoes and root crops, you know.

DOROTHEA: What else did they do with the chokecherries besides make jell or ---

AGNESS: Jelly and jam is all that I can remember doing with chokecherries.

DOROTHEA: You could never make a pie with them, or anything like that?

AGNESS: No, because they were all seeds, you know. Now gooseberries, we made gooseberry pie. And Grandma had some raspberry plants at one time out there. Because I can remember having raspberry pie out there.

They --- and they made ice cream, we had ice cream in the summer, because in the winter when the ice was thick --- you got a red light on, does that mean anything?

DOROTHEA: It means we have to change tape pretty quick.

BARBARA: Have to turn it over.

AGNESS: You want me to stop?

DOROTHEA: Go ahead for a little bit.

AGNESS: When, in the winter, they would go up, there was a pond up at the upper field and they'd go up and cut this ice. And Grandpa had, this was after, long after Aunt Jane, or Uncle --- Uncle Charlie died young, and Allen and Frankie and Aunt Jane moved away from the ranch.

And Grandpa took one of these big rooms and he filled it with sawdust. And they would, well he filled the walls with sawdust first, and he fixed an icehouse. And he would go in there and bring in this ice, these big chunks of ice, and we always, all of us got to go to Grandmas when they cut ice. And they'd fill this, and put the sawdust on top of the ice and they kept it, even the door was all insulated and everything. And I can remember having ice cream out there at Grandmas in August from this ice that they had stored.

DOROTHEA: That's a long time.

AGNESS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Let's stop for a while while we turn this over.

SIDE B

AGNESS: It was the first place, then the next place was the James place, and I have no idea who that was. They had apples, their apples were huge. They were like four inches across.

DOROTHEA: Is this is, as you go up the Harney road as you drive it today?

AGNESS: Yes. Yeah, that, the, as you go up Rattlesnake, you go up the same road that we went up when I was a kid. And the James place, the first place you came to was the Thompson's. Was the one that, I can't think what Thompson it was. Anyway, it was Rose Thompson and ---

DOROTHEA: Bill.

AGNESS: Bill. Bill and Rose Thompson. And then the next place was the James place. And they had a big orchard.

But, now another interesting thing that Grandma used to do, is she would, every year when the huckleberries came on, she would load Mama, and Aunt Mary, and Aunt Lee in a wagon with her fruit jars packed in hay, and they'd take off and go for two weeks over to --- on Dixie Mountain or Dooley Mountain, one of those, over there toward Baker and pick huckleberries and can them. And the, her sister Elizabeth Lew and, well I guess it was just Elizabeth and her kids would come from Baker down in their wagons. And the sisters would, there that, and the kids would have to pick huckleberries in the morning. Then in the afternoon they were allowed to play. And Mama said that was the highlight of the year. Because, and the women, the two women would do this every year if there was any huckleberries. Aunt Libby would let Mama know, or Grandma know if there was huckleberries. And Mama said that was really fun. Because Grandpa would run the ranch and take care of the little kids, and the three older girls and Grandma would take the wagon. And Mama said she can remember tying a tree on the back of the wagon to go down Canyon Grade.

BARBARA: Oh my, brave souls.

AGNESS: And I don't think many woman now days would have the courage to start out with three little girls in a wagon and a team of horses to go that far. But they went every year, Mama said.

And when they, they had their cook stove, their camp stoves, you know, and they would can what they picked in the morning, they would can that afternoon. And then they'd be ready to, they'd all pick the next morning, and then that afternoon they'd can again. And then when they get ready to go home, they packed all these down in the hay in the back of the wagon, and go home with them.

And ---

DOROTHEA: The canned goods.

AGNESS: Huckleberry pie, they had huckleberry pie. And huckleberry jelly, and huckleberry everything, you know.

BARBARA: Syrup and everything else.

AGNESS: Yeah, everything.

DOROTHEA: They did this all on a cook stove, I mean a camp stove?

AGNESS: Camp stove, yeah. I imagine, probably that Aunt Libby brought the camp stove, because Baker was close, comparatively speaking, see, to what Grandma had to go. But Mama grew up very close to the Lew girls and Kelley children over there in Baker, because that once a year, see, kept the family together. Elizabeth Lew was the oldest I think of the Jones children.

DOROTHEA: How long did it take them to do this?

AGNESS: I, they went for about two weeks I think, every summer. Now I never heard her ever mention Aunt Jane Jones a going. Of course, I guess, probably Uncle Charlie --- Mama wasn't that old when Uncle Charlie died. So probably they, you know, I just don't remember Mama mentioning it.

DOROTHEA: That would be quite an excursion.

AGNESS: Yes, it was. It was kind of fun.

DOROTHEA: If the road was like it is today, as you go over that, to the Dooley Mountain, my goodness sakes ---

AGNESS: Well, the worst was down Canyon Mountain, I can remember that. Straight down! And you, well when you went over it with a Ford car, was what my first experience over Dooley Mountain, was down in a Ford car. And Dad tied a tree on the back and drug it.

DOROTHEA: How did he get back up it?

AGNESS: I don't know, we must have come up, because we came home.

DOROTHEA: I read so many of these articles about the Ford cars, drove them up backwards because the motor wouldn't run or something.

AGNESS: Well your power, see it would be like a front wheel drive, when you got the wheels on the back. I can't remember that part. I do remember the tree, because that was ---

DOROTHEA: That was their brakes.

AGNESS: That was their brakes, that was their brakes. And, and they made an excursion out of going up after the chokecherries, and things like that.

Now I don't remember them eating wild meat, like venison and things. They probably did, but I don't remember it. I can't remember us ever, and I don't remember them having wild ducks and geese and stuff like that.

DOROTHEA: Well that was what I was wondering when they came, was the wildlife pretty plentiful?

AGNESS: It was plentiful when I was a kid.

DOROTHEA: Was it?

AGNESS: So, yeah. Well, they were permitted to, I was in college when they were still allowed to, when they went hunting to kill two deer. So, I'm sure that had they wanted to get wild animals, you know, wild meat --- but they had their own cows, you know. So, I don't think that they ever used ---

BARBARA: Why go out there and spend all your time stalking something when you may not find it, and you have your own cow to butcher.

AGNESS: Well, I don't think that they liked it, you know. It was more ---

DOROTHEA: Well then, I come by that naturally, because I don't like it.

AGNESS: And of course, they had their own farm equipment, and they put up the hay with the old slides, the old-fashioned slide that everybody ---

DOROTHEA: Did you do a lot of neighboring at that time, and sharing work?

AGNESS: It was more when they came; they stayed for two or three days, in those days. I can remember being at Grandmas and they would stay for two or three days when somebody came. And you didn't just go for overnight, or you didn't just go and then go home. Now three miles, we could have gone out to Grandmas in the morning, and home in the evening. But I think we pretty near always went and stayed for a day or two when we went. Turned the calves with the cows so that the calves milked the cows, and you just went.

And I can remember Eichners and people that lived out there close to Grandma coming and staying for a couple, three days. Of course, they lived six, seven miles, or maybe ten miles away. And they did, I think in the wintertime they did. I think more going into Harney to dances and things was more what everybody did, rather than --- and I can remember, now I can't remember Grandpa and Grandma ever going to dances. All the kids did. But I --- they probably, when they was younger they did.

DOROTHEA: Well, you mentioned that the house was kind of used as a bed and board.

AGNESS: Bed and breakfast type thing.

DOROTHEA: Bed and breakfast, whatever you want to call. Do you remember her cooking for several people?

AGNESS: Oh, Grandma, yeah, she always. And Grandma always had food. If you went, there was always something cooked. And if you went to her house the first thing she said, well did you have lunch, I mean did you have dinner or did you have supper? Because it wasn't lunch in those days.

And if a poor starving cowboy came by, past, you went in and built a fire and you cooked him a meal. And he might eat the last that you had, and you might have to start over to cook for supper. Well, I remember this one fellow that came, and Grandma went in and chopped up all the potatoes and heated them up that we had planned for dinner that night --- or for supper. And we had a kettle of beans, and we heated all that up and put it on the table and he just ate, and ate, and ate. And when he got through he pushed back and he said, "Well about slicked you out Mam." Put his hat and coat on and left.

DOROTHEA: Didn't they pay for anything like that?

AGNESS: Oh, I think when they kept the travel they did, but this was years and years later.

Mama's note, that little note that I just found said it was two bits a head for horses, and they stabled them in the barn and gave them all the hay they could eat. And two bits a meal, and two bits for the bed. If you stayed all night it was two bits for your bed. And I don't know, I suppose that they probably slept two in a bed. You know if they came in, and there wasn't any more space.

BARBARA: Well, I'm curious to know how did travelers going through know that this was a place to stop?

AGNESS: I have no idea.

BARBARA: I mean that would be curious if you're traveling across the country, I mean, do you just stop at anyone's home to stay?

AGNESS: Well, probably when, they probably stayed in, someplace near Drewsey, or someplace, you know. Or they may have stayed at Buchanan. Or they may have talked to somebody that was coming the other way, you know. I think it was all word of mouth, as far as I know.

BARBARA: They didn't have any sign outside saying that travelers were welcome, or anything like that.

AGNESS: No, no, no. And well ---

DOROTHEA: Well, Harney really isn't a main traveled route. How did they come about going in that direction?

AGNESS: Oh, that was at one time. That wagon road came, and it came down that canyon out by Buchanan. And it came past Grandpas, which was about a half a mile north of where the present road is. The road came through there, and it came along the foothills.

BARBARA: Just all went along the edge of the mountains there.

AGNESS: Yeah, along the foothills there. And it came over where the Price Wither's place was. Came past Price Withers' house, down, there was a lane ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's pretty close to ---

AGNESS: It came down that lane where, in front of Price Withers' house, and the old Joe Clark

place, and down past where Jasper Davis' corner, and they turned then and went into Harney. And, but there always was that lane. Now the lane didn't go on down, didn't go south from that turn until I guess they put through that, the highway, the present-day highway. Because there was a turn right at Grandpa Davis' corner. And we went past that, and on out.

BARBARA: Are there any of the old buildings around that area now?

AGNESS: They took down; Temples took down the house where Grandpa Poujade --- and I haven't been out, I don't know whether there are any barns or anything out there. The old Wither's house is still standing.

And Seth Bower's place was south of Grandpa's. And it's one of the pictures that Tuning paints a lot. He'll tell you it isn't, but it is. And it was, later Jack Withers and Lillian Withers lived out there. And that old house is still standing. And I think the Drinkwater house, and I know the old, well the one where Lester Hamilton lived, the old Mahon house, I think that's still standing.

They, see as you went up the canyon, you went up on one side, there was one creek came down on one side. And then one creek came down on the other side, and the Mahon's lived up one side, and the Drinkwater's and Perry's lived up the other side. And ---

BARBARA: So, there is a, there still is a road then that you can drive up that direction.

AGNESS: Oh yeah, I think that you can still, well I'm sure people --- Frank Smiths live, Bonnie Smith ---

DOROTHEA: Jack Smith.

AGNESS: Yeah Jack's, Jack's folks lived up in the old Mahon house. And I don't know who has that now. Maybe, I don't know, Jack could tell you who has that place. And then on the other side, of course, was the, the first one was the Drinkwater place. And I don't know who had that later, in later years. And then you went on up, and that was the Perry place was above that. Then you went clear on up, and there were two old Irishmen had a place up there, way up there. And I don't remember, I can't remember their names. But those were the neighbors that Grandma and Grandpa neighbored with mostly, you know. Mahon's and ---

DOROTHEA: You mentioned in your tape with Denny, something about having some of the old

timers come up and sit on the porch, or a bench out back and drink ---

AGNESS: That, well that was when, after, years later when Dad moved us to the old Luig place.

That was at the Luig place. Yeah that wasn't at Grandmas out there.

DOROTHEA: So, they didn't have a bunch of the old people set, I mean they didn't ---

AGNESS: No, no. And those were just the old, old man Locher and old Jim Lumsden. I think the reason I remembered them because they always patted me on the head. I didn't like that. But I just don't think of anything more that, you know, as far as Grandma and Grandpa are concerned. They were all ---

BARBARA: So where did your Grandmother come from?

AGNESS: Grandma came from Jacksonville too.

BARBARA: Jacksonville.

AGNESS: Uh huh. They, originally her family, the Jones --- well Grandma Miller, Grandma Poujade's mother was, had moved to Iowa. And she married Jones in Iowa, and had these five kids. And then he died, and she married William Miller back there, in the same locality. And then they came out here, and then they, her, the Miller, four Miller kids were born out in Jackson County. But that's where --- of course Grandpa Poujade grew up in Jackson County. So that's where they had met.

And Grandma never talked about her family. And we have never, we haven't been able to trace back too much on her family. I don't believe, if Poujade hadn't been an unusual name, we'd probably had as much on that.

And there is one interesting thing that Mama always told about that history of Harney, Grant, Baker, and Malheur County, you know. Mama said that this man came and wanted, and for twenty-five dollars he would put your name and a story about you in this book. Well, Grandma Poujade thought that was outlandish to pay twenty-five dollars to put your name in a book. And she raised so much ruckus about it that --- at that time her mother was living with them, Mary Miller was living with her. So, she gave them twenty-five dollars and she got her name in the book. And I can, you've got that in the library anyway, that book. And that's this article here. And well I

said, "Mom, how did they, what did they do to get their picture in there? Why did some people have pictures, and some not?" She said, "Well if you paid them fifty dollars you got a quarter page picture." I mean there was four pictures on a page along with yours, and then you got your little story besides. But if you was really in the money, you paid them a hundred dollars and you got your picture on a page all by yourself. She said, "That is the way they paid for that book." Instead of selling the books, you know, depending on the sale of the books to get them to bring in a profit, they charged ---

BARBARA: They made their money first.

AGNESS: Yeah, they paid the money first and they got the book for the twenty-five dollars, they got their name in there, and a story, and the book. And for fifty dollars they got the picture on the quarter page picture, and the story, and the book. But for a hundred dollars, you got a full page.

BARBARA: So, you knew who was rich and who wasn't quite so rich.

AGNESS: Yeah, you knew. You looked through the book and you knew who had the money. But Mother always thought that was kind of, she got quite a kick out of it. Because Grandma Poujade thought that was so ridiculous to pay twenty-five dollars to get your ---

BARBARA: Well at that time, I'm sure it was a lot of money for something like that.

DOROTHEA: It was a lot of money.

AGNESS: Well, it was a lot of money, it was a lot. And the, I don't know whether the census over here shows it, I'd like to go over it. One of these days I'm going to go look it up to see what the census showed that these people --- because there was a time in that --- and the censuses are now being released where you had to tell the census man how much money you had. I mean you didn't just say between a hundred thousand or whatever they might say now days, and something else.

They said this man had three hundred dollars, and this one had six hundred dollars, and that one had nine hundred dollars. And if they was wealthy, they might have a thousand, you know. And I've never checked over here to see whether that is over here, you know, in any of the census. I don't know whether they have brought any of those censuses back here, and whether you can see them here. I don't know.

DOROTHEA: I don't know either.

AGNESS: But that is one ---

BARBARA: Is that part they wouldn't make public though? Because ---

AGNESS: Oh yeah, yeah, that's still, because they have to be seventy years before they release them.

BARBARA: I see.

AGNESS: And when they release them, they are public, anybody can see them. And they can see anything that is there.

And Grandma stayed out there on the ranch until Grandpa died and then after he died why --

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BARBARA: And what year was it that he died?

AGNESS: '32 or '33*. That I'll have to look up for you. *('33 is correct date.)

BARBARA: And about how old was he at that time?

AGNESS: I think he was seventy-eight.

BARBARA: Well, he had a pretty long life then for that time.

AGNESS: Pierre was the one that lived a long time. He was eighty-nine.

BARBARA: Oh my.

AGNESS: He was born in 1790, and lived to be eighty-nine, which they didn't do that in those days, you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Well maybe being a doctor, he took better care of himself, and didn't have the physical labor that some of the ranchers, you know, had to do.

AGNESS: I think in those days, it didn't make any difference. He probably had, he probably got less sleep and did more work maybe than the normal person. Because there weren't many doctors. See at the time, he went into the Willamette Valley there just weren't very many.

BARBARA: Your time wasn't your own.

AGNESS: No, no.

BARBARA: Then your grandmother moved into Harney, or where?

AGNESS: No, she moved into Burns.

BARBARA: Moved into Burns. I see.

AGNESS: Yeah, after Grandpa died why she moved into Burns.

BARBARA: They sold; she sold the ranch at that time?

AGNESS: Yeah. Grandpa had left it to be divided with each child to getting a certain amount.

BARBARA: There weren't any children that wanted to continue ranching, or ---

AGNESS: Well, to divide it up, they couldn't divide it up very well. You see to divide the ranch up into forty-acre plots; nobody can do anything with forty acres, even in those days. So, the only way to divide it was to sell it.

BARBARA: I see.

AGNESS: And so, that's what they did. I think Uncle Wilbur moved in with Grandma. Of course, all the other kids were away from home by that time anyway.

DOROTHEA: What kind of change has taken place in the Harney Valley, compared to what it looked like when your grandparents lived there?

AGNESS: I ---

DOROTHEA: Were there a lot of people, homesteads there compared to what there is now?

AGNESS: Well, there was, they had little schools around, little schoolhouses around, you know. And I can't, you know, really as far as the ranches I think they were very similar to what they are now. I can't remember that there is much change in the size of the ranches.

I know that there used to be a little schoolhouse between Cow Creek and Buchanan. It was called the Cow Creek School. And then when they were so few pupils, Grandma fixed up a room in her house, because they could maintain the school there. And then when, finally Mrs. Wallace was the last teacher out there. And when she went to the South End to teach, I don't, I guess they started bringing the kids into Burns then, or into Harney. I think they took them to Harney first. And then the school at Harney eventually closed down, and they started bringing them into Burns then. And I have, the only place you could find those records would be in the courthouse, those records would show it in the courthouse. And I, it's something that, all I remember is that Grandma

had this school, this one room fixed up for school. And there was probably six or seven kids that went to school there. And Mrs. Wallace lived with Grandma, and taught school out there.

DOROTHEA: Was there ever a grocery store there?

AGNESS: No. No, you went in, if you wanted groceries you went into Harney. And at one time there was quite a, Harney was quite a little town. And of course, it had a lot more stores, and was a lot bigger than Burns at the time that, really at the time they divided the county.

DOROTHEA: That's the store ---

AGNESS: The store that ---

DOROTHEA: --- that Fred Haines run?

AGNESS: Yeah. The store that --- and then across the street was, Bowers had a store. And I think Johnny Loggan had a store. And there was a blacksmith shop. And I think that there was even an old hotel like thing there at one time. And then of course there was a dance hall. That's the part I can really remember, because it was there. Well of course, there was the school and the church. They had a church there, and a school. And they were the last two good structures that I remember coming down. And that was --- oh, I was grown. I had probably had, I had probably been married quite awhile before those two buildings came down in Harney.

DOROTHEA: Where was Fred Haines' store?

AGNESS: Well, was that the Fred Haines house that just burned at Harney?

DOROTHEA: I don't know.

AGNESS: I don't know. Something just burned there. And the house that's been there, well it was there a year ago, that house was the old Fred Haines house. And it faced east. And Fred Haines' house, or store, just made sort of an "L". It was back a ways, but sort of an "L" on what was a street that went east and west. And it was on the south side of the street on this corner. And the street went in front of his house and made a, and then along side of his store. Had a big old high sidewalk in front of it. I can remember that part.

I don't remember, Lela Sitz is the only one that I know that could give you a good story on Harney, and what was there. Because Lela is a good deal older than I am. And her mind is clear, so

she could tell you. And she went out there, see, when --- it was her grandfather's store out there.

DOROTHEA: That's Johnny Loggan.

AGNESS: Johnny was her father.

DOROTHEA: Father, oh, okay.

AGNESS: Now, Grandpa was the justice of the peace there up at, I think almost until the time he died. He died in 1915, Grandpa Davis did. And --- but that's about all I remember about Harney. I think we ought to leave that really, to another session.

DOROTHEA: Well Agness, I think probably this has given us quite a lot of information. And you're getting a little tired, so let's close this off and do a little video.

AGNESS: Get pictures of my brother and sister?

DOROTHEA: Yes, we'll include them in the family picture. So, thank you a lot for spending the afternoon with us.

(END OF TAPE) b1