

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #275 - Sides A & B

Subject: Ollie Heinz - 1990 Pioneer's Day Queen Mother -
With Video

Place: Heinz Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: May 16, 1990

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy with Barbara Lofgren, and we're at the home of Ollie Heinz, who will be our 1990 Pioneer's Day Queen Mother. The date is May 16th, 1990. Ollie can you tell us your full name?

OLLIE HEINZ: Ollie McLean Heinz.

DOROTHEA: What were your parent's names?

OLLIE: My father's name is John McLean.

DOROTHEA: And your mother's name?

OLLIE: Ida Belle Huffman McLean.

DOROTHEA: And where did they come from?

OLLIE: My father came from Scotland.

DOROTHEA: How did he come about coming to Harney County?

OLLIE: Well, I just guess he decided to come over, and see what the United States was like.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Where did he first settle when he got to the United States?

OLLIE: He settled around, I think in the Diamond country.

BARBARA: So, they came directly to Oregon then?

OLLIE: Yes.

BARBARA: I see, okay.

DOROTHEA: Did they bring someone with them, or how did they come?

OLLIE: Well, my mother and father weren't married at that time. They, my mother's first husband was Dalla Turner, when she came to Oregon. And so, my father came over here all by himself from Scotland.

DOROTHEA: And where did your mother come from?

OLLIE: She came from Missouri here.

DOROTHEA: Did they come over to homestead, or how did they come about coming to Harney County?

OLLIE: I just couldn't tell you. I don't know. Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: You don't know. What did your grandparents, or your parents do for a living?

OLLIE: My father always ranched. He had a ranch down at Fields, Oregon, for a long time. And then they sold that and moved up to Andrews, and we still had a ranch and cattle.

DOROTHEA: And did they have a homestead, or how did they get started?

OLLIE: No, we, just a regular ranch.

DOROTHEA: Just a regular ranch.

OLLIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did they work with other people, or all on their own?

OLLIE: No, they were on their own.

DOROTHEA: Well, what can you tell me about your grandparents?

OLLIE: Well, I really can't tell you anything about them, because my grandparents lived in Scotland. And I never did see any of them. I wrote to an aunt for many years until she passed away in Scotland. And as of now I write to a cousin that's still living in Scotland. She will be eighty-seven the 19th of this month.

DOROTHEA: That's great. What did you talk about with your father, and about Scotland? Did he tell you any of his, anything about his childhood?

OLLIE: No, he really didn't. Most of the Scottish people had sheep, and they ran sheep back there. My Uncle Jim had sheep, ran sheep up until the time of his death in Scotland.

DOROTHEA: Did your father run sheep also?

OLLIE: Well, father came to this country when he was still in, I think in his teens. So, he wasn't there very long. Yes, Uncle Bill run sheep in Scotland. And then I had an uncle that came over later from Scotland, and he ran sheep for years in this country, in Harney County. And then he bought my father's ranch, and then he ran the cattle after my father sold out. And then my father went back to herding sheep for a man by the name of Sutherland. And he run sheep on Steens Mountain in the summertime, and then they trailed them to Vale in the wintertime. And they wintered and lambled in the Vale country.

DOROTHEA: Did you do much of the sheep herding yourself when you were a little child?

OLLIE: No, because my father never had sheep after he came here.

DOROTHEA: He never got involved in ---

OLLIE: He had cattle. I used to run the, used to ride the calves for the horses. Get bucked off once in awhile. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did we get down when and where you were born?

OLLIE: I was born at Fields, Oregon.

BARBARA: Fields. And your birth date?

OLLIE: September the 8th, 1908.

BARBARA: And do you have any brothers or sisters?

OLLIE: I have a brother, full brother. He was, he was born here in Burns in 1906, January.

DOROTHEA: And what's his name?

OLLIE: Warren McLean. Then I have two half-brothers, Orland Turner and I think he was born in Missouri. And I have a half-brother Elba Turner, and he was born in Missouri. And a half-sister, her name was, her married name was Mabel Smith.

DOROTHEA: How do you spell McLean?

OLLIE: M c L E A N.

BARBARA: And did you go to school in Fields then?

OLLIE: I went to school at Oroville until I was in the sixth grade, and that's when my father moved

to Andrews and bought the ranch there. And then I finished my grade schooling at Andrews. And then I went to Crane to high school. And while I was going to high school in Crane, I stayed with my half-brother Elba.

DOROTHEA: What was school like in Andrews' area?

OLLIE: Well, it's just like any rural school, I guess, of today. There was, we always had a grand time. Playing all kinds of games, horseshoe, and baseball, and run sheep run, and hide and seek. I don't know whether kids nowadays play any of those things or not.

DOROTHEA: Well, I don't know what run sheep run is, so --- Can you tell us something about that game?

OLLIE: Well, you go, you choose up sides, you have a captain and each one chooses who they want. And you have your line drawn that you're standing behind, and the distance between these two lines, and when the captains hollers from the other side, run sheep run, you've got to run whether you want to or not. And if some of their men catches you, well then you have to go to their side. And whoever gets the most men, why wins.

DOROTHEA: Okay, that sounds like an interesting game. Kind of like that Red Rover.

OLLIE: Yeah, well it's the same thing.

BARBARA: Do you recall the names of any of your teachers?

OLLIE: Oh, I'm sorry I can't. Well just Scheidt, I remember Scheidt in high school.

DOROTHEA: Is that S H.

OLLIE: S C H E I D T.

BARBARA: Then you boarded at Crane then during your high school years?

OLLIE: Oh, I stayed with my half-brother.

BARBARA: Oh, your half-brother, that's right. And when did you meet your husband, and where?

OLLIE: Going to high school.

BARBARA: I see. You were classmates then?

OLLIE: Yes.

BARBARA: And what was his name?

OLLIE: Bill Heinz.

BARBARA: Bill.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any children?

OLLIE: I have one daughter, and she is married to Bill Mims.

BARBARA: And her name is?

OLLIE: Velda Mims.

DOROTHEA: And how many grandchildren do you have?

OLLIE: I have two. I have one granddaughter, Deanna Mims Atwell, and John Mims.

DOROTHEA: And what do they do for a living?

OLLIE: Deanna works at Ranch & Home, computer work. And John is a senior in high school, and he works at A & A, at NAPA, yeah at NAPA Parts Store.

BARBARA: Where did you live when you were first married then?

OLLIE: Well, we were kind of on the road. In the summertime, we hayed wherever the haying contracts were, and where we could get work. At that time, of course, you were living in a tent all this time. And then early in the spring you would go to California and sheer sheep, and we were still living in a tent. And then in the wintertime, usually fed hay to the stock. But at that time of course we were located at somebody's ranch and lived in a house.

BARBARA: And when were you married?

OLLIE: Oh, gosh, what year did I get married? Yeah, December 1927.

DOROTHEA: Did Bill work with the sheep then besides shearing?

OLLIE: No.

DOROTHEA: He just sheared?

OLLIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: What did his parents do, and who were they?

OLLIE: His parents was John Heinz and Ollie Heinz, well you could put it, Olive. She went by the name of Ollie or Olive, either one. Mostly Ollie.

DOROTHEA: Spelled the same as yours?

OLLIE: Uh huh. And as near as I remember, they lived out at Saddle Butte when Bill was growing up. And I really don't know what they did. I guess they had a little ranch. And then after they moved to town, why he had a poolroom, I guess you would call it, at Crane for a while. And they were more or less retired at that time, after I came into the family.

DOROTHEA: And he had several brothers. Did he have any sisters?

OLLIE: Yes, he had one sister, and she passed away in the year 1918, when the flu, awful flu epidemic was through here.

DOROTHEA: What were some of his brother's names?

OLLIE: Well, there is Wally, and Marion, and Arthur, and Percy, and Grover, and Leslie, and Stella was the girl's name.

DOROTHEA: Chester was who?

OLLIE: Is an uncle.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he was just ---

OLLIE: But his mother died when he was about three or four years old, and Bill's mother raised, practically raised him. Or he lived with them a lot of the time.

DOROTHEA: But he wasn't really a brother?

OLLIE: No, he was an uncle.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I always thought he was one of the brothers too.

OLLIE: Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Did your mother work?

OLLIE: Well, once in awhile she would work. Like when the shearing crew was at Andrews, she always cooked for the shearing crew. Which of course was only a certain length of time, you know, like two or three weeks at a time. And I can't remember of her doing much of anything else. Oh, when I was born, she was running the hotel at Fields. That's where I was born, when she was running it, she and my father. Back in those days, of course it isn't like the hotels now. Because they had, all that went through there was wagons. And so, they, you know, you didn't have very many customers. Only just every so often.

BARBARA: You couldn't make a full living by running a hotel at that time?

OLLIE: No.

BARBARA: And what did you do for entertainment when you were first married? Did you go to dances?

OLLIE: Oh, yes.

BARBARA: Or did you visit neighbors, or ---

OLLIE: Yeah, visit neighbors, and we played cards, and dance was about what all we did. My husband liked to fish and hunt. But I never did care for it, but he always did plenty of that.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember some of your neighbors?

OLLIE: When we lived at Andrews, there was two families of the Currey's that lived close.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember, are they some relation to Eldon Currey?

OLLIE: Eldon Currey's father. And Stub Currey's father and mother.

DOROTHEA: And can you remember some of the things that you did? Did you socialize together, or ---

OLLIE: Oh yes, Stub and Judd and my brother and I, we were together a lot when we were kids. Because we could get up on top of our wood piles and holler back and forth to each other. And we could hear our voices and tell what we were saying. In the wintertime, we used to go out and play in the snow and see who could bury one, each other the most. (Laughter) And the burros would come down into our fields in the fall of the year, and we used to go out and ride them, get bucked off. Of course, I usually tried to pick one that didn't buck. So, I didn't get bucked off as much as the boys did.

DOROTHEA: How did you know which one was going to buck?

OLLIE: Well, the boys tried them out first.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

OLLIE: The ones that didn't buck I got to ride. And they'd go on riding the others.

DOROTHEA: Where did these burros come from, were they wild?

OLLIE: Yeah, they would come in from off of the range somewhere. They'd sneak into our fields.

DOROTHEA: Well, did you go to school with the Currey's then?

OLLIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: So, you got to know them pretty well.

OLLIE: Oh, yes.

DOROTHEA: Did you play cards, or ---

OLLIE: Not much when, well yes, we played cards when we was kids. Not a great lot though.

DOROTHEA: What other kinds of games did you play?

OLLIE: Well, I don't know. We used to play hopscotch, run races, and play ball. Different ones, anti-over, you know catch, and just things like that.

BARBARA: What kind of chores did you have to do as a child?

OLLIE: Milk the cows, feed the chickens, and slop the pigs. Then in the house, I had to do the dishes, and help cook, and of course wash and iron. In the summertime my mother, she worked in the hay fields, so I'd have to get the meals, for the noon meal for the men and for her.

BARBARA: And what did you generally fix for your people on the hay crews? Did you have your large meal at noon then?

OLLIE: Yes. Well, of course back in those days, it was beans, and meat, and potatoes, and usually some kind of fruit. And it was most always dried fruit. We didn't, down in our country we didn't have any fresh fruit.

BARBARA: Fresh fruit, uh huh.

OLLIE: And fresh vegetables like they have here.

BARBARA: Did you have gardens at all in the summertime down there?

OLLIE: No, very small. Just maybe the early stuff. Because we didn't have the water, didn't have enough water to take care of it.

DOROTHEA: Where did you get your water from? Did you have wells or ---

OLLIE: There was one run-off in the spring of the year, and that's all we had from the mountains.

DOROTHEA: That was it.

OLLIE: That irrigated our alfalfa and our meadowland.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember some of the things that you liked to do during the summer?

OLLIE: Well, I don't know, back in my days, raised in my days, the kids were out on the ranch, and you just didn't do much only your chores, and you put in your day doing that.

DOROTHEA: What kind of money did you make? Did you make money for cooking, or were you just ---

OLLIE: Not when I was on the ranch, I didn't. I just did it for my folks. And we didn't get allowances like the kids do now days.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us about the country that you lived in, and the difference between it then and now?

OLLIE: No, I think it's about the same. When you go back down in that country, and it's all just about the same as it is now.

DOROTHEA: When did you move to Burns?

OLLIE: In 1936.

DOROTHEA: And what did you do at that time?

OLLIE: My husband went to work at the mill.

DOROTHEA: Did you work?

OLLIE: Well I didn't for quite awhile. But after we was here a short time, I went to work at the laundry and worked there for, I don't remember how long I worked, not too awful long. A couple of years maybe.

DOROTHEA: What are some of the other jobs that you've had?

OLLIE: Well, I have worked at motels making the beds and cleaning the rooms. And then I worked at the Harney County Health Office for a while. And I worked at the nursing home doing the cooking for a while. And then I went, I went to work for Corbett's, but I don't remember whether that was after I went to work at the nursing home or before. After I think, I worked for Corbett's for several years, Corbett Drug Store. And then I went to the nursing home, that's right. Then I come back from there and went to work at the Home Drug Store. That was for Wally Welcome. And Wally then sold out to Dick Day, and I continued working for Dick Day until I had

a heart attack in December of 1980. I worked for the Home Drug for thirteen years.

DOROTHEA: Did you retire then after that?

OLLIE: I retired after I had my heart attack.

DOROTHEA: And so, what have you done since, then? Did you just travel; have you done much traveling?

OLLIE: No, I haven't done any traveling. I go to Eugene usually once a year to visit my nephew that lives there. And about one week out of the year. And that's about all the traveling that I have done. I really don't care about traveling. I just stay home, and I try to help my daughter. And I raise a little garden every year.

DOROTHEA: Do you do canning?

OLLIE: Yes, I can. I can in the summertime; I can vegetables. And in the fall then when the fruit is on I can that.

DOROTHEA: You enjoy gardening then?

OLLIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember any of the things that happened during your childhood, or growing up, or in your married life that you'd like to share with us that was funny, or exciting?

OLLIE: (Laughter) I can't think of anything. I've always led a pretty calm life.

DOROTHEA: How about growing up? Did you have much illness, or were you pretty healthy, or -
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OLLIE: Oh, I seemed to be pretty healthy all the time. I don't remember of any sick spells other than in 1918, when that flu went around, I was awful sick. All my family was.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about that season when everybody was so sick with the flu? What do you remember the most about it?

OLLIE: Well, we had just bought our ranch at Andrews at that time. And the people that we bought from was still living there. And her family was down with the flu, and then there was my brother, and my father, and I were all sick in bed at the same time. And everybody in the Andrews Valley there was sick. They were just dying like flies. And they didn't even have time to bury

them. And they had an awful time. Winnemucca was our closest doctor that we could get out at that time. And we finally got one doctor out from Winnemucca. But worst, I think the worst of our time was over at that time. Because when he come, why we were past the critical stage. My father was so sick they even had it in the Burns paper that he had passed away.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: That was kind of a shock to the family then, wasn't it?

OLLIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: How did they cure this? What did they use?

OLLIE: Oh, just home remedies.

DOROTHEA: Like what?

OLLIE: Just stay in bed and put stuff on your chest, and keep your bowels open, and take laxatives.

DOROTHEA: Use a little goose grease, huh?

OLLIE: Old goose grease is right. Yeah, lard and turpentine.

DOROTHEA: Well, that was quite a siege when they had that flu. I've heard a lot of people talk about it, so I know that it took a lot of people at that time too. What was the doctor's name, do you remember?

OLLIE: No, I don't.

DOROTHEA: But did he come, how did he come?

OLLIE: He came in a car.

DOROTHEA: In a car. And how often did he come?

OLLIE: Well, he just came that one time.

DOROTHEA: Just one time. He must have made a bunch of house calls.

OLLIE: I imagine he did.

DOROTHEA: What were some of the other things that happened to you during the time you were growing up?

OLLIE: Well, I helped in the hay field when I was quite young. The family did the haying by themselves. And when it come stack time, my mother drove the, what we called the Jim wagon.

That pulled the hay up on top of the --- you put the hay on a net, and then that pulled it up on the stack. And my father did the stacking and my brother and I set net, and I pulled back. I set net and pulled back too. And then we had one man on the buck that would bring the hay into the net. And one day I got the rope under the horse's tail, and he bucked me off. And I got a broken arm from it.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: Did that end your haying that season?

OLLIE: That ended my haying. But the haying had to go on.

BARBARA: Everyone else had to work a little harder and longer then, huh?

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What did they do with you then, did you get to do the dishes and cooking, and ---

OLLIE: Well, I don't remember that I did do very much. You can't do much with one hand.

DOROTHEA: Who did the doctoring then, did your mother?

OLLIE: There was a nurse that lived in our community, and she came and set my arm and put a cast on it.

DOROTHEA: What kind of a cast did you have, like they do today?

OLLIE: Just like they do today. Or I suppose, I don't know. It was gauze and you put water on it. And then it --- I know they used to do it, but maybe they do that different now, I don't know. I still have the mark from it; see how that bone sticks out there?

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to ask; if you healed any better in those days than you do now. Because you don't heal so good anymore.

BARBARA: Do you remember the first automobile that you rode in?

OLLIE: No sir, I just can't remember that. I can remember our first car, but I can't remember what year it was. It was way back.

DOROTHEA: Was it a pleasure to drive in a car in that time?

OLLIE: Oh yes, that was great. Of course, all of us kids that was raised on a ranch, we loved our horses, you know. And we'd just as soon be on a horse's back a riding some place.

DOROTHEA: Well, it took quite awhile to get places still, didn't it? The roads were so terrible.

OLLIE: Oh, yes. You didn't have any roads at all; they were just like cow trails over in that country. And even coming to Burns, when I lived there, we didn't have any good roads. Now they're all paved, you know, from here clear to --- clear through now.

DOROTHEA: Where was your closest grocery store?

OLLIE: Well, Andrews and Fields both had grocery stores.

DOROTHEA: And do you remember who ran the stores?

OLLIE: Yes, Marjorie Shull, Marjorie Smyth Shull's father and uncle owned them both. And they were, at the time that I was at Fields, they had a gentleman run their store there. McCarty I think was his name. And then of course when I moved up to Andrews, why Marjorie's dad and uncle run the store there.

DOROTHEA: And what was his name? Smyth, but what?

OLLIE: John --- I think his name was John Smyth. I can't remember for sure what their name was.

DOROTHEA: And they had both the stores in Fields and Andrews?

OLLIE: And the latter part of the time I was down there, why Marjorie's folks moved from Andrews, they sold out in Andrews to Felix Urizar. And they moved to, then they moved back down to Fields, and then they run the store at Fields themselves.

DOROTHEA: Well, did Felix Urizar; did he run the store then?

OLLIE: No, he had the hotel, and I can't remember who had the store.

BARBARA: How long did it take you to come to Burns in those days? And how often would you make the trip to Burns?

OLLIE: Oh, maybe once a year. And it would take; it would take the biggest part of the day to come to Burns. Especially if it was in the wintertime or something, when the roads were, you know, bad. And you had to come up over Steens Mountain there, and of course the road was just terrible. And the old cars didn't go like they do now days, and you'd go a little ways and somebody would have to run along behind it, and chuck a rock under the wheel because they would get hot and have to stop. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: So, it consequently took a long time. Did you, how did you get your gas?

OLLIE: Well, the stations at the store had the gas. Just, you know, a pump right there at the store.

DOROTHEA: Was that quite a new ordeal when they brought in automobiles and gasoline?

OLLIE: Well, I think so.

DOROTHEA: Of course, I imagine they had a few of them before you grew up.

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: But I would think that when a gas station was quite a big experience.

OLLIE: Well, you think of a gas station, there is nobody down there even to this day that has, what we call here in Burns, just a gas station. They are all just connected with the stores. Whoever runs the store has the pump, and pumps gas.

BARBARA: Pretty much the post office, groceries, and gas station all in one.

OLLIE: All together. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How did you get your mail?

OLLIE: Well, it run from ---

DOROTHEA: On a stage?

OLLIE: On a stage line, a car, yeah. It would come to Andrews, and then the mail was distributed there into sacks. And everybody, every family had a mailbox out on the road, and the sack, and they would throw it in there as they come by.

DOROTHEA: How long did it take to get a letter from Burns?

OLLIE: Well, I think, I can't remember how many days the stage run. We got it real often though. It come through real fast.

DOROTHEA: It come through faster probably than it does today.

OLLIE: It did for a fact. You take the people out in Drewsey that is complaining about not getting letters. We got our mail in Andrews faster than that.

DOROTHEA: Well, I think they have to go so far to get so --- such a short distance anymore that they have to go clear to Boise in order to get a letter to Drewsey.

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So, I think that's what's part of the problem.

OLLIE: It doesn't seem fair.

BARBARA: And when did you have your daughter, and where were you living at that time?

OLLIE: I was living here in Burns. In 1942.

BARBARA: What do you do for entertainment now? Do you go to the Senior Center, or ---

OLLIE: Oh, once in a great while I go for dinner, for lunch. But not very often. I don't know, I keep fairly busy. I go down to my daughters a couple of times a week and help her with her work, while she's at work. I do up some of her work. And I read a lot, and then I have my TV, and watch soap operas, you know. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Of course.

DOROTHEA: Do you go to the Senior Center much?

OLLIE: No, hardly at all. Just once in a great while. For lunch, and then oh, I go once in awhile for their, if they have some type of entertainment, somebody that has their entertainments down there, and things like that.

DOROTHEA: What are some of the organizations that you've belonged to?

OLLIE: Well, I belonged to the Rebekah Lodge for a while. And I belonged to the Grange. I was real active in Grange. Did a lot of work in Grange. I was home ec. chairman at the time that we won the Sears Roebuck Foundation prize. And we always had a lot to do out there. By the time we kept the hall cleaned and painted, and cleaned up all the time, and we worked out there a lot.

DOROTHEA: How many offices did you go through at the Grange?

OLLIE: I think I was just in two.

DOROTHEA: Did you go to many of the dances that was held out there?

OLLIE: Oh yes, everyone.

DOROTHEA: Every single one.

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: You like dancing?

OLLIE: That's my only joy.

DOROTHEA: Where did you learn to dance?

OLLIE: Oh, gee, that was so far back, I can't even remember.

DOROTHEA: Well, you must have done dancing as a child then?

OLLIE: Oh yes, Mother used to take us kids to all the dances, even at Andrews. I danced before, by the time I was in school, before I went to school, I guess. I loved to dance. That's the only pleasure I think I've ever had in life, is dancing.

BARBARA: Did your husband enjoy it as much as you?

OLLIE: Oh, yes.

BARBARA: Oh, that's good.

OLLIE: Oh yeah, we went to, we always went to all the dances. When I was in high school, we went to dances. Almost every Saturday night, they had a dance in Crane. And after we were married, we took in all of them, every place that we could possibly go, we went. And I've always danced a lot.

DOROTHEA: Did you go to show houses, and enjoy movies?

OLLIE: We never went to too many movies because we didn't, at the time I was in high school, Burns was the closest movie. And we didn't come to Burns very often.

DOROTHEA: Didn't they have a movie house down in Crane?

OLLIE: They got that in there about the time that I was through school.

BARBARA: Was your husband in the same class as you in high school?

OLLIE: No, I was a year in the lead of him.

BARBARA: I see. So, did you work on your family's ranch then before you got married, until he got out of school?

OLLIE: Well, he never did graduate, he left school then.

BARBARA: I see. What were some of the things that your husband was involved with? You say he worked at the mill after you moved into town.

OLLIE: Well, he belonged to the Odd Fellows and the Grange. He was active in that.

DOROTHEA: Did you play many cards?

OLLIE: And he bowled. After we moved to Burns, we played quite a bit of cards of evenings with

friends. Go to their house, or they'd come to our house.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us some of the summer enjoyments that you had, like did you have picnics, and what did they do for entertainment?

OLLIE: Well, we'd go on picnics once in awhile, but not a great lot. My husband liked to fish so well that he used to go fishing an awful lot in the summertime. And I didn't care about it, so I just stayed home and done my housework.

DOROTHEA: Well, it seemed to me like the Grange used to have picnics, and Easter hunts, and things like this.

OLLIE: Well, just once a year they'd have a picnic.

DOROTHEA: Oh, did they?

OLLIE: Yeah, uh huh. Of course, we would do an awful lot of work out at the Grange hall, and we'd have potluck then, and everybody get together.

DOROTHEA: Did you work on the election boards?

OLLIE: No, I've never worked on the election board.

DOROTHEA: How about school boards?

OLLIE: No.

DOROTHEA: Not that either.

OLLIE: Yeah, I worked with Girl Scouts. When my daughter was in high school, or in school, grade school.

DOROTHEA: What was, did you go up to the camps with her?

OLLIE: Yes, I did. Uh huh. Went to the camps.

DOROTHEA: What did you do on the, at the Girl Scout Camp?

OLLIE: Well, they usually had crafts, and then we'd take walks to see what they could find in the vicinity that we were in. And then they'd come back and report, you know, what they'd seen, and what they'd done, and what they'd found on their walks. And then we'd have all kinds of crafts. And then of an evening we'd have campfires and all circle around that and sing songs.

DOROTHEA: How many years did you work with the Girl Scouts?

OLLIE: Gosh, I don't remember. Must have been three or four anyway.

DOROTHEA: Did you work with Pauline Reed then?

OLLIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And Azalea Graves?

OLLIE: Yeah. They're still going.

DOROTHEA: Well, I think Pauline has finally retired. I think she is ---

OLLIE: Oh, is she going to quit?

DOROTHEA: I think she is eighty-five years old and going to retire finally.

OLLIE: She isn't that old.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she is. She is five years younger than Daddy, and Daddy is going to be eighty-nine. So, she'll be eighty-four I guess, or she just turned eighty-four. So, yeah, she is, she is older than you think she is. Well did you teach your daughter to cook?

OLLIE: Yeah, she seemed to just automatically pick it up. And she is a wonderful cook.

DOROTHEA: Some things just come natural, I think.

OLLIE: Well, that could be.

BARBARA: Did you learn to do handwork, and crocheting, and knitting, and embroidery, and that sort of thing?

OLLIE: I crocheted and embroidered an awful lot in my life. And I did up until a couple of years ago. I, well I've made an awful lot of afghans since I've retired. And, but last year I didn't do very much, I guess I must have gotten lazy. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Well, I guess you're entitled, as you get older. Do whatever you please.

OLLIE: Now I was thinking about getting back to it though.

DOROTHEA: If you were to change anything in your life, what would you change?

OLLIE: Gosh, I don't know what I would change. No doubt there would be a few things, but I can't think of anything right now.

DOROTHEA: Well, I was just wondering if you'd liked to have done something different. Let's pause for a little while we turn the tape over.

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: Is there something that happened during your childhood that you'd like to share with us?

OLLIE: Well, let's see, when I was in the eighth grade, my mother took seriously ill. She had a lump that grew under her ear, and we came to Burns to the doctor to see what it was. And he lanced it, and thought that he could tell her what it was. But after he lanced it, he said he couldn't, and that she had better go out to a doctor, by the name of Dr. Phy at the Hot Lakes. And so, she went out there, and it was cancer. And of course, by the doctor lancing it here, that just put it in her blood stream, and it just went all through her body, the cancer did. And she was at the hot springs, that's down, where is that, down near, well you go to Ontario and on out. I can't think where it is.

DOROTHEA: Riverside, or ---

OLLIE: No, it's farther out than that. And they called it the Hot Spring Hospital. And she was there for a while, and the doctor wrote to my father and told him that there was nothing they could do for her, because the cancer was all through her body. And we brought her home, and we had a registered nurse that came out to the ranch and just stayed there day and night and took care of her.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember the name of the nurse?

OLLIE: No, I don't.

DOROTHEA: So, what --- did this bring quite an inconvenience to you? Did you have to take care of the family then?

OLLIE: Well, I stayed with my father. And I was twelve years old, and so I continued to go to school and just stayed on at the ranch and did the cooking, because I was used to it. Of course, Dad did a lot of it, and Dad always helped with the washing.

BARBARA: Kind of a modern dad then.

OLLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: A lot of men in those days wouldn't help out around the house at all. I mean those were women's chores, and they didn't help out.

OLLIE: Well, he did, he did everything around the house, along with me. And we made out all

right. And then, of course then that following year, you see, Dad sold out, and that was the year that I went to high school, the next year. And each summer I would go home, and back to this same place, because my uncle had bought it. And I did the cooking for him during the summertime, and during his hay seasons.

DOROTHEA: When your father sold out, what did he do?

OLLIE: He went to work for Sutherland and herded his sheep.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's right.

VELDA MIMS: Tell her about the mules.

OLLIE: One, the last summer that I was home, my brother had gotten married, and he and his wife were there too, at my uncle's place. So, I didn't have to do the cooking, she did the cooking.

But I had to go to the hay field and work. So, my uncle put me on a rake with a couple of old ornery mules that he had had in his sheep camp as pack, as the pack mules. And I was raking, and all of a sudden, they decided to run away with me. So, they started running, and I figured that my only chance --- I was afraid to stay on because I had heard of so many times horses running with the rake, that you can get knocked off the seat and get under those teeth and really get hurt. And so, I thought well, my only chance is to jump and get off this rake. So, I got the mules to going in a circle, which give me a wide space to jump out of. And I jumped off the rake and just set down on one line and kept them going in circles until they decided to quit running. And so we went, I went to the house and I refused to drive the mules anymore.

And my uncle said, well he would rake the next day. So, he got on the rake and they run away with him the next day. And I don't know how he got them stopped, or what he did, but anyway he came to the house, and of course he was an old Scotchman, and he says, "I'll be darned, he says if I will drive those mules anymore." (Laughter)

So that was left up to my brother then. He said, "Well, I can drive those old ornery mules, I'm not afraid of them." So, he took the mules the next day and went out to the field and went to rake and this was on the third day, and the mules run away with them, with him. And he stayed with them, but he got knocked off the seat and down under the rake, and they run for a long ways

with him under that rake with those teeth a jabbing him and over the bumps, and one thing and another. And he was well bruised and scratched up by the time he got out. Finally, the rake hit a bump hard enough that it tripped itself and let him out.

BARBARA: Goodness.

DOROTHEA: That's the only way you could get loose in those days.

OLLIE: You know all about this, don't you?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Those were ornery mules.

OLLIE: So, the mules were put out to pasture. There wasn't anybody else to drive them.

BARBARA: Time to bring in the horses, huh?

DOROTHEA: Third time was the charm. The third time meant, oh boy, we get loose. But the modern-day equipment was almost as bad. We were down raking one day, and we were using a jeep to pull the side delivery rake. And we, I'm saying four or five of us kids, about eight, nine, and twelve, and fourteen. And the nine-year-old fell out. And we raked her right up in that side delivery rake.

BARBARA: Oh, gosh.

DOROTHEA: So, it's just about as dangerous with the new equipment. Oh, we laugh about it today, but it wasn't very funny at that time.

OLLIE: Yeah. No.

DOROTHEA: It scared us to death.

OLLIE: I'll bet.

DOROTHEA: Of course, I mean you're so excited as kids that you don't know how to stop. And so, we just kept a raking her, you know. She just kept going around in circles. And so --- but yeah, we raked her right up with the rake. It's quite an experience to go through. Can you tell us some of the other funny things that happened? What we'll call funny.

OLLIE: Well, I think that's about the funniest that I know of.

DOROTHEA: Velda, can you remember anything that she ---

VELDA: Just her working, and working, and working.

DOROTHEA: That's all you remember is work.

VELDA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you do much sewing for Velda?

OLLIE: Oh yes, I made all of Velda's clothes when she was little.

DOROTHEA: Did you like to sew?

OLLIE: Yes, I did.

DOROTHEA: So that kept you busy?

OLLIE: Yes.

BARBARA: Did you have an old treadle machine?

OLLIE: That's right, old treadle machine.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Was it your mother's or it was one ---

OLLIE: No, it was one that I had gotten.

DOROTHEA: That you had gotten. How did you get started sewing?

OLLIE: Oh, the first dress that I ever made, I didn't know how to cut it out, and I don't remember --
- Mama wouldn't help me for some reason. So, I got it all laid out on the floor, and my dad come in
and he told me how to cut it out. Well, you just cut a round circle here for this, and then you cut
down this way, and this way. That was the dress.

DOROTHEA: And it worked?

OLLIE: And it worked.

DOROTHEA: What kind of a dress was it for, a dance or school?

OLLIE: Oh, no, just an old dress to wear around home.

VELDA: And she can still just look at something and lay it on an old piece of white paper and
decide to cut it this way, and it's wonderful.

DOROTHEA: So, you make your own designs, then?

OLLIE: I made all of Velda's patterns. I never did buy a pattern. I would look at the catalogue at

what kind of a dress I wanted to make for her, and I would make it.

DOROTHEA: Well, that's a knack.

VELDA: I've never been able to understand how she could do it.

DOROTHEA: It didn't come natural for you, huh?

VELDA: Not very easy, I need a pattern.

DOROTHEA: I need a pattern too.

OLLIE: Well, I cut a pattern out of a piece of paper, but then I never bought a pattern. I just do the trimming like the picture in the catalogue that I liked, and things.

DOROTHEA: Well, that is a knack, 'cause it doesn't come naturally.

OLLIE: No.

BARBARA: Did you have a lot of fabrics to choose from in the stores here?

OLLIE: Oh, yeah. Uh huh. Yeah, there was always lots to choose from.

BARBARA: Of course, people sewed a lot more years ago, I think. Because you didn't have the money to buy ready-made clothes.

OLLIE: I think so. That's right.

BARBARA: They didn't have the right sizes to bring in, or whatever.

OLLIE: And of course, in my life, after my married life, I have still done an awful lot of cooking. Always cooked for hay crews. And when we were shearing sheep one time in California, we went to one place, and we got there and there wasn't any cookhouse or any cook to do the cooking. So Currey was the name, he wasn't related to these Currey's here, was the name of the boss that had the shearing crew. And they just stretched --- we was in a place that had kind of, well trees, but they were low trees. Kind of like a little park or something. And they just stretched tarps from one tree to the other tree, tied them out. And that was the shelter over the top of me, and that's what I had to cook on. And we just used what people, there was two other families there, and myself, women. And used their camp stoves and my camp stove and that's what I had to cook on, just gas camp stoves for the shearing crew while we were in this one place.

DOROTHEA: How did you get your groceries?

OLLIE: We were close to town, and the boss went to town and bought the groceries.

DOROTHEA: So, did you eat regular, I mean just like we do today? Just ---

OLLIE: Yeah, just like we do today, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Steak and --- What kind of meat did you eat? Regular beef or ---

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Pork, not sheep.

OLLIE: No. Sheep, shear sheep, shearers don't like to eat sheep. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Probably right.

DOROTHEA: Sheep raisers don't like to eat sheep either, do they?

OLLIE: I don't know, don't you like to eat sheep?

DOROTHEA: No.

OLLIE: Ronald McLean, my nephew raised sheep, and he always ate sheep.

DOROTHEA: Well, some people like it.

OLLIE: Of course, they, I mean just a few on their ranch. He wasn't a sheep man, he had cattle.

But then he always had a certain amount of sheep, and that's what they always killed.

DOROTHEA: We ate chicken and pig, but not much sheep. We didn't like our sheep. We liked to raise them and that, but we didn't like to eat them.

OLLIE: Yeah.

VELDA: I think they had a lot more boiled meat back in those days.

DOROTHEA: How did you prepare your meat?

OLLIE: Oh, it was an awful lot like Velda said, boiled.

BARBARA: Did you can meat too?

OLLIE: No.

DOROTHEA: Did you, how different did you fix it, so it wasn't the same thing everyday?

OLLIE: Well, it was either a roast or boiled. That was about all you could do. And then once in awhile you had the steak. But I don't know, when I was raised up, people didn't think that they had to have something different every day.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

OLLIE: We just had our boiled meat and enjoyed it. And thought that it was all right.

DOROTHEA: That's how come I ate so many cornbread and beans, maybe.

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Cornbread and beans, cornbread and beans ---

OLLIE: Every day.

DOROTHEA: Every day. And it seemed like if you didn't have beans with it, you had honey or syrup to go with it, so ---

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That was your cornbread, cornbread and biscuit. Did the Indians work around out there very much?

OLLIE: Not where I was raised.

DOROTHEA: Not where you were?

OLLIE: No Indians, huh uh.

DOROTHEA: None at all? So, you didn't have any experience with the Indians?

OLLIE: Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: How much older are your brothers and sisters than you are? Warren, you said, was two years ---

OLLIE: Warren is two years older than I am. And I don't know, I'd have to figure it out, the others.

DOROTHEA: They're quite a lot older?

OLLIE: They're quite a lot older. Yeah. In fact, I've got nieces that's older than I am. My half-sister ---

DOROTHEA: What are some of the niece's names?

OLLIE: Opal McCrae, and Dorothy Presley, she was Cleve's wife, you knew her didn't you?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

VELDA: And Helen.

OLLIE: And Helen.

DOROTHEA: Helen?

OLLIE: Dickenson. You want their married names?

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah. And they were --- and what was their maiden names?

OLLIE: Turner.

DOROTHEA: Turner.

VELDA: And then there is Juanita.

DOROTHEA: Juanita.

VELDA: Juanita Reed, she is Uncle Orland's daughter.

OLLIE: She was a Turner too. This is R E E ---

DOROTHEA: Just R E E D.

OLLIE: Uh huh. R E E D.

DOROTHEA: Are you some relation to John?

OLLIE: Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Just different?

OLLIE: Uh huh. Let's see, is that all the nieces? And then the nephews is Delmar McLean, and Ronald McLean, and John McLean, and Keith McLean, and Charles Turner, and ---

VELDA: Charles.

OLLIE: Yeah, he goes by the name of Bud. And Don Turner.

DOROTHEA: Don Turner is about my age, isn't he?

VELDA: Well ---

DOROTHEA: Something like that. I think I went to school with Don Turner. Just a couple years younger than me. You've got quite a big family.

BARBARA: You've got a lot of relatives to keep you entertained then, don't you?

OLLIE: Yeah. Let's see, we haven't gotten Margaret in there. Margaret is my niece, she was a Smith, her mother was a Turner.

DOROTHEA: Is that M Y T H ? Smyth.

OLLIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well, what are you going to do for your, being Queen Mother? Have you got your stuff all prepared for this?

OLLIE: I hope so.

BARBARA: It's going to be a pretty exciting day for you, isn't it?

OLLIE: I didn't want to take it. I thought it was too much work, and everybody talked me into it.

DOROTHEA: I think it's a lot of work for the kids.

OLLIE: It's a lot of work for the kids. And Mama, she hasn't got a history mind, I can't remember anything.

DOROTHEA: Well, you can get a copy of this and kind of put it all together. The President is going to be Glenn Sitz, and we interviewed him last week. And I talked to him this morning, and he was asking who was going to be the Queen Mother. And I said, "You mean you don't know?" And he said, "No." So --- And then when I mentioned your name, he didn't know who you were, so

OLLIE: Well, he knows me when he sees me. He always speaks to me.

DOROTHEA: Well, I imagine he knows you.

OLLIE: I went to school with his wife.

DOROTHEA: I imagine he knows you, just the name wasn't familiar.

OLLIE: Yeah, the name wasn't familiar.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

OLLIE: How old is Glenn?

DOROTHEA: He was born in 1907. He'll be eighty-three the 30th of June. So, he'll go through his chair before he turns eighty-three. But he will be eighty-three. So, he's quite, you know, but he's a husky ---

OLLIE: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Feisty little man. (Laughter) He's going to go to Denver to a graduation on the 2nd of June, so I hope he'll get back in time for this. So, I don't know, he didn't say when he was coming back. I hope he knows when this date is. Is this the 8th of June, is this when it's going to

be?

OLLIE: Ninth.

DOROTHEA: Ninth. I like to go to those, but I'm not going to be here this year. Well, what all does it take, do you have to plan the program, or what all do you have to do?

OLLIE: Yeah, you have to plan your own program.

DOROTHEA: With the other family?

OLLIE: No, you do your own, and they do theirs.

DOROTHEA: Oh. And do you furnish the dinner, or ---

OLLIE: It's all potluck.

DOROTHEA: Fix the dinner. It's potluck. And how long does this last?

OLLIE: Well, they eat at; they start at, about nine o'clock in the morning, registering the pioneers. And they have their lunch at twelve o'clock, and the program starts at one. And however, you never know for sure how long it's going to take. Because everybody is different, everybody has different lengths of programs. But I've tried to keep mine down, because I know from experience that people get tired and bored. So, we've tried to keep our history short, and our program short.

DOROTHEA: So, you more or less have everything written down that you want to do.

OLLIE: Yeah, we have our history wrote down now. And I think Velda just about finished up the program today, getting people to do entertaining things. We didn't get what we wanted, really.

What I wanted was to carry out the Scotch theme, because I'm so much Scotch. And we wanted bagpipes and the girls to dance the Highland Fling. Well, there is nobody here that does the bagpipes. And the Highland Fling girls wouldn't do it because they've already separated.

VELDA: They kind of disbanded.

OLLIE: Disbanded, they turned their uniforms back.

VELDA: They weren't going to do it again.

BARBARA: After a years doing it all, I suppose they're kind of tired. They've performed a lot.

VELDA: Yeah, I guess so.

OLLIE: But we said if we could, if just one of them would do it.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say, if you could just get one.

OLLIE: Well, that's what we asked for was just one, because that stage wouldn't take them all anyway. And we just asked for the one, but they wouldn't do it. But we got one woman that can sing Scotch songs, in the Scotch brogue.

DOROTHEA: Well good.

OLLIE: So, we're pleased with that.

DOROTHEA: And then the Sitzs, they plan their own program too.

OLLIE: And they plan their own program too.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I've never stayed for the program.

OLLIE: Oh, you haven't?

DOROTHEA: So, I've never known how this works. No, I just go in and register. And I'm always in such a big rush it seems like; I've never gotten to stay for a program. It seems like that's the weekend my sister always come over. And she didn't do it, so I'd run in and rush and sign up real quick, and rush back home so she wouldn't know. (Laughter) Because she says, "I'm not going to do that."

OLLIE: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And she's, I mean you know, she's been here since she was born. So ---

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: She wasn't born here, but she's been here since 1940, she is forty years old. You know she's got forty years on it. So --- Well what else do they, after you give your program then what do you do? Do they have dances or ---

OLLIE: Just go home. And then they start dancing about eight.

DOROTHEA: Oh, do they?

OLLIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they kind of close down for a while?

OLLIE: Yeah, they close down.

BARBARA: They have their evening meal some place else, and then come back for the evening?

OLLIE: Yeah, you're on your own after the dinner down there, and you're on your own. You just go eat wherever you want to.

DOROTHEA: Do they have quite a variety of food?

OLLIE: Oh gosh. Haven't you been to these potlucks now?

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah, I've been to potlucks.

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: But I've never been to the ---

OLLIE: There is gobs of food.

DOROTHEA: I know there are hundreds of people there.

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: People, if you want to see somebody you haven't seen for a long time, you want to go to one of these.

OLLIE: That's the reason a lot of people go, because they see people that they never see ---

DOROTHEA: They come from all over the state too. Come back home.

OLLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well, do you have your dance partner picked out for the evening dance then?

OLLIE: No.

BARBARA: Well, you better find someone to dance with.

OLLIE: As much as I love to dance, you know, that old heart put a stop to all that.

DOROTHEA: I laughed at Glenn when he was describing, he loves to dance and --- He said, but he really liked the old way of dancing.

OLLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: This one, he said, where you get a --- what did he call it, a hammer lock a holding your girl or something. I laughed at him; it was quite comical.

VELDA: He wanted to hold that girl, in other words.

DOROTHEA: Right. And he'd start telling about the swimming suits, because they had a swimming pool, or a hot spring, or something up there. He said there was a lot of material.

(Laughter)

OLLIE: In comparison to what they are now days.

DOROTHEA: You bet, you bet. You know there is hardly anything to them anymore. Strings!

OLLIE: And they are not as bad here as they are --- have you watched them on TV? I'll swear to goodness, I don't know how they wear them. Doesn't even cover up the holes.

BARBARA: That's for sure.

DOROTHEA: They sure don't waste much material, that's for sure.

Well Ollie, why don't we go ahead and do a video now on you. We'll kind of refresh ourselves on some of this. And we'd like to thank you and congratulate you for being chosen as the Queen Mother, and wish you a good and happy day.

OLLIE: Thank you.

(END OF TAPE)

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