

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #28 - Side A

Subject: Jessie Cecil

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: November 25, 1972

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen and I'm interviewing Jessie Cecil at Burns, on November 25th, 1972. ... Now you said that the Cecil family came to Harney County in ---

JESSIE CECIL: In 1871.

PAULINE: 1871.

JESSIE: Yes. And Mr. Cecil and his brother came up from California, from Sacramento Valley, looking for grass for their cattle, and that's how they came. They found this spring there at Silver Creek.

PAULINE: Well is this now right where Camp Currey was?

JESSIE: Yes, right at Camp Currey, that's where they settled, made a camp and stayed there and came up in the summer. And then they'd go back to California for the winter and they stayed there. PAULINE: What was Mr. Cecil's name? Now this is Pat's dad.

JESSIE: Carroll, C A R R ---

PAULINE: Carroll?

JESSIE: Carroll Cecil.

PAULINE: And what was his brother's name?

JESSIE: His brother's name was Loggan Cecil. I think there is a history, or there is a

book or something or other, someplace or other, there is a little bit about the story, there is a little bit about this in John Scharff's book, Steens Mountain, there is a little bit about it, I think, something.

PAULINE: Yes, there is a little bit about it in several places.

JESSIE: Yes.

PAULINE: That I have run across.

JESSIE: And then they lived there, and had their home there all the rest of the time. Then in about 19---, in 18--- really about 1900 the brothers divided, and Loggan, and Logg stayed in California, took all the property down there, and Carroll took all the property in Oregon. Then of course they just stayed there and raised his family, and lived there.

PAULINE: How many children were there in the family?

JESSIE: There were four; there were four children in Pat's family, two boys and two girls.

PAULINE: Did they always run the cattle, or did they have ---

JESSIE: No, they had horses.

PAULINE: They had horses.

JESSIE: They had horses, and then had mules. And they raised mules and were very large mule raisers for a good many years. They had a great many of them. Then in 18---, in 1900, you know, when the Spanish American War, they sold all the mules then to the government. And then they didn't ever, they raised cattle then. Well they had lots of horses, and then they raised horses and cattle.

PAULINE: Well what, before they sold the mules to the army, what did they use them for? Did they sell them ---

JESSIE: Used them for the workhorses.

PAULINE: For work.

JESSIE: Uh huh, and then they'd sell them, you see. Used lots of them in California on the ranches down there. You see it was so hot, and the mules could stand the heat down there better than the horses could. And they used them down there in their grain fields to harvest. Of course I didn't know too much about that when I came out there. Why they were all, the mules were gone; there were just a few teams left.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

JESSIE: Everything was about gone there in 1915, they sold all of them. But they did have a good many horses at the time I was there. And then of course they got rid of horses, began getting rid of horses then as machinery came in. And we always used horses, used horses on the ranch up until, clear up until, well just the last, just the years since Carl and Jean have been out there.

PAULINE: Maybe I better ... There we go again. Well when you came to Riley, did they call it Riley then?

JESSIE: Yes, it was Riley, but it was clear down --- do you know where the Oakerman place is, down at the end of the valley, clear down there? That's where Riley was then. Yes, it was Riley then for a number of years, I can't remember how many years. And then they did away with Riley. The post office was all closed out, you know how the government does, changed it. And a man up at the other end of the valley, up at our end of the valley, took over the post office, and they renamed it Suntex. And that's when ---

PAULINE: That, I had never heard just how that had happened.

JESSIE: Yes, well they just closed that post office, and wouldn't let us have Riley. Well everyone --- of course, you know, it had been Riley for years, and why they wouldn't, nobody could know. So they made it, that we sent in some name, I remember when we were struggling about getting a name for the place. And finally settled on, I think somebody made it up back in Washington, Suntex. It's a silly name, we always laughed

about it.

PAULINE: Well I've always wondered how that happened to be, Suntex.

JESSIE: Yes. Well they moved the post office up that end, the other end. And it was just a little building off out there near the Cowan Ranch. And the post office, he had a little store and post office there.

PAULINE: And then later on they changed it back.

JESSIE: And then later, then they changed back when the Maccombers came, and they changed it back. Well they did away with Suntex and changed it back to Riley. I was awfully tickled when they changed it back to Riley. Because it always seemed more natural to me, that's what it was when I went out there.

PAULINE: Well that's interesting. I've often wondered how it got the --- I just supposed maybe they had two post offices at one time.

JESSIE: Uh huh. And Riley, see the Riley and Hardin Ranch, you know, down by the Double O, they owned the Double O. They came out here, so there was a man named Riley, that it was named after.

PAULINE: Well how big of a community did you have then?

JESSIE: Well we didn't have any community. We just had --- it was five miles, I had to go to five miles to get the mail. And we didn't even get the mail up at our place, six miles. It was six miles down to the Best place, where the Cowans live now. And it had, we just had the mail three times a week when I was first married, I first went out there. I used to ride down horseback, or hitch up a horse and go in a buggy.

PAULINE: How were the roads?

JESSIE: Well we just went through the, I just went through the fields and the sagebrush. And there was a road, the main road from Prineville to, went right around the head of the spring and across the creek right there, just above our house. And so there was a main

road through there, and we come through that way.

Then soon after I was married that road, someway or other, they were able to buy that land through there and --- and it was, I don't know just exactly where it was, but they were able to get that and fence, make the fence up. And then the road came right down the hill from Prineville, and straight down the valley then, clear down to the, to where the Cowans are. And then the road went through that lane, and into Burns that way. And then we just kept that old road as our own private road.

PAULINE: Well they've changed that quite a bit ---

JESSIE: Oh yes, it's been changed two or three times. And when Judge Craddock was here, when Jean and Carl moved down there, it was flooded, so --- And there were two bridges you had to cross, there was the Silver Creek branch stopped there, and they had to, had two bridges. Well those bridges were always in trouble, you know, I mean had to be kept up. So then when Judge Craddock came we went all over, past the field, we came down through the fields, you see, and it would be muddy and bad down there. So they graded that up then, and the present road is very nice now, it's much better.

PAULINE: And you probably did most of your shopping in Burns?

JESSIE: In Burns, yes. Yes, the first year or two I was married I hardly went to town because the road was so bad. And we didn't ever get into town very often. I always had a car; they had a car on the ranch. But we'd have about six blowouts between Burns ---

PAULINE: Oh dear.

JESSIE: --- and the ranch. You know the roads are bad, rocks and everything. So we didn't get down very often. My home was Portland, and of course I, as far as any shopping besides groceries, I never bought anything in Burns. I always got every-thing I got --- when my Mother was home, I just --- my mother would send me things from Portland. We could send down there.

PAULINE: Do you remember, of course I imagine living in Portland that ---

JESSIE: Pardon?

PAULINE: I imagine living in Portland that you saw your first car when you were quite small.

JESSIE: Oh yes.

PAULINE: But do you remember the first car you rode in?

JESSIE: Yes, the first car I rode in was when I was in college in Eugene. It was a car and --- I went out and went riding in this car, and the thing broke down. We got stuck, and I was supposed to be back at a certain time, about 4 o'clock, and we didn't get back until about 6. You always had to think --- it always broke down, you know, every time you rode in a car.

But we always had a car on the ranch. Pat's father was interested in cars, and liked cars, so we always, there was always a car there. But I never did, I never did, I can't drive yet, I never did learn to drive. I wasn't interested. At the time I could have, might have started to drive, Jean could drive. Of course she learned immediately.

PAULINE: Well of course.

JESSIE: And so as soon as she was able to, so I never did pay much attention to cars, just so I could get someplace.

PAULINE: I've been asking different, everyone I talked to about this, because I think it's interesting the different reactions I get.

JESSIE: Yes.

PAULINE: And I interviewed a man the other day who never learned to drive.

JESSIE: The idea --- I didn't suppose there was ever a man.

PAULINE: Well I was just ---

JESSIE: Living now, do you?

PAULINE: But he said well, there was always someone when he'd go to town, there was someone else in the family to drive, and so he just never learned how.

JESSIE: I know. Pat's father started in to teach me to drive one time. I never, Pat and I never, Pat would never have the patience to ever have taught me. But his dad started in one time to teach me, and we went down in the meadow and just rode around. Went round and around, you know. Well I got so I could shift gears, and I could steer it, and I could do, and I tried a time or two to, when we'd go down to go to Burns, you know. Pat would let me drive for a little ways. And then he'd just get so impatient. So finally I, and it was a family car, you see, everybody used it, everybody in the family. And if anything happened, why then Granddad would always say, now who did this, and who did this?

So I said to Pat once, "Well when we have a car of our own, then I'll learn to drive." Well we didn't ever have one. By the time we moved into town, why he was gone so much, that I never had a car to drive anyway. And so I just never did. If I'd been, you know, if I had just been mechanically inclined perhaps, I would just have insisted and learned to drive. But I didn't care anything about it.

PAULINE: Well that's interesting.

JESSIE: I never did learn to drive a car.

PAULINE: Well let me see here, if we should go from here --- Of course your children went to school ---

JESSIE: Well I taught Jean until she was ready for the fourth grade, at home. I just kept her at home and taught her. And then when Mark, or when Jim came along why Jean was in high school. So I moved into, that's when I moved into town, and when Jimmy started to school, to grade school. So I didn't teach him at home at all. But I did teach Jean, and she just got along fine. Was an honor student all of her life, so she got a good start.

PAULINE: Did she go to school part of the time ---

JESSIE: Now I moved in, and then afterwards she was ready, she went her first year in school she was in with her grandmother in Seattle. My mother had moved to Seattle after Pat and I were married, they moved up there, and lived up there the rest of, until my father died. And so Jean stayed up there one winter and went to school, her first year, in the fourth grade. And then I was just so miserable, so lonesome, that year she was gone, I said never again. So then I came in and got an apartment in Burns and she started into school here then. And I substituted all through the years, all the time she was in school.

PAULINE: Well I didn't know that.

JESSIE: You didn't know that?

PAULINE: ... teacher.

JESSIE: Oh yes, I taught school. I substituted to Mr. Dan McVey, what was his --- Dan McVey --- was the principal of the Burns High School at the time. And he was a friend of Pat's. And so one of the teachers was going away. There were no substitutes in town, you know, hardly. There just wasn't anybody to call on. And he came over and he said, "Now you're a college graduate, and so, I need a teacher over here, and you better come over and substitute." So Jean Klobucher was the first one I ever substituted. She was going to, she had promised, she was married in the summer, and she promised Frank that she would go with him if he had to take trips, or anything. And Mr. McDade --- Danny McDade, Danny McDade. She had promised him that she would go with him when he took any trips. He was here building that railroad, you know, up to Seneca. So I substituted first for her, in English. And she had another class too, I substituted for her.

Well then pretty soon there was another teacher off. And then along about Christmas there was a teacher out from then, and I substituted for her clear to the end of the year. I did about, was just a steady teacher over there for about six months. This

teacher resigned about Christmas time. And I taught there, taught over there. And then I used to substitute all the time, I substituted for practically everybody there. Well then in the meantime when I had the time, I could substitute up at the grade school too. Even Mr. Sutton went away and I was the principal once.

PAULINE: Oh, that would be good duty.

JESSIE: So I substituted in every grade. The only one I didn't like, I substituted once for a Donegan girl, Frances Donegan, she was a primary teacher. I didn't like that room. All I did was take off, and put on overshoes.

PAULINE: Yeah, that sounds like primary.

JESSIE: And wrap them up, you know, and get them out. Oh dear, so I didn't like primary. But I liked all the other grades. But I substituted all the time Jean was in grade school, all the rest of her time.

And then when, and then I was on the school board, you see. And so when Mr. Slater came, why --- and I was on the school board when he came, and he wanted me to substitute, because he knew I had substituted some, you know, quite a bit. And he wanted me to substitute. And I said, "No, I've got a baby now, I've got ---" Jim was, that was --- I had substituted for ten years. And then when Jim came along why I said, "No, I'm through substituting any-more." I went once or twice, but I quit. But I always enjoyed it, I liked it.

I taught two years before I was married, when I graduated at the University. I taught in The Dalles, then I taught in Portland one year. So I had some teaching experience. Oh yes, I belonged to the teachers, the retired teachers.

PAULINE: That's good. I think that's a good occupation ...

JESSIE: I think it's very nice.

PAULINE: In the wintertime out at Silver Creek did you try to come in at all, or did you

just ---

JESSIE: No, very seldom every came in.

PAULINE: ... supplies ...

JESSIE: Well we came in; we were very close friends of Dr. Griffith's. And Dr. Griffith ... And I remember we came in for Thanksgiving once with them. But we didn't come in too much in the wintertime, I didn't. We'd stay out there.

But, you know, we used to, we used to have a dance about every month down at the big old hall down at Riley, where the post office was. And we always, we always went to the dances. Go and stay all night, take our supper, and stay all night. And then wait until it got light before we come home. Sometimes we went on a sled, and sometimes we went in buggy. We very seldom drove the car; we could usually take a team to go there.

PAULINE: Probably be much easier than ---

JESSIE: What?

PAULINE: It would be much easier than mess with the car.

JESSIE: Yes, it was.

PAULINE: Did local people play for the dance? Can you remember who ...

JESSIE: Yes, we used to. And I'll tell you we had, I'll tell you who used to come out there and play, it was Jim Fellows. And Ethel Haines, do you ever remember Ethel Haines? Do you ever remember Ethel, heard about her?

PAULINE: I've heard her name mentioned.

JESSIE: She was Charlie Haines daughter. And they used to come out there and play. We used to have some music sometimes. Usually have to get music from outside. And they'd come from all over. People would be, they'd be people from all around, the GI Ranch, you know, and all around out here in the country. Always had lots of fun. I loved to dance, and so did Pat, we just always did lots of dancing.

PAULINE: I've heard someone, I don't even remember who, was telling me that they hired a buggy or a sleigh and come from Burns out to the dances there.

JESSIE: Uh huh. Sometimes there would be a few from Burns. I remember one time; Mr. McConnell brought Mary McConnell, his daughter, and came out for one of the dances. And there were, there used to be some very interesting --- The Lister boys, the three Lister boys would come over from, they would be feeding over at the GI, you know, and then they'd come in for the dance. And I remember Mary was quite interested in that youngest one, of the Lister boys. She, I think she came two or three times out there for the dances. Her dad brought her out. But I never did, I didn't know too many people in Burns, of course, until I came in here for the children in school.

PAULINE: Well tell me again, you mentioned this Frank that was in charge of building the railroad into Seneca.

JESSIE: Oh, Frank Klobucher.

PAULINE: Yes.

JESSIE: Oh yes.

PAULINE: How did you spell his last name? How would you ---

JESSIE: K L O B U C H E R. He was the engineer, and was with the Herrick Lumber Company, you see, first.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

JESSIE: And he married Jean Cook.

PAULINE: Well I have a little bit of information about when they did build the railroad, but this name I didn't have. That's good.

JESSIE: Uh huh. Well he was the engineer.

PAULINE: We've got the librarian coming.

JESSIE: Huh?

PAULINE: I think the librarians are coming.

JESSIE: Is she?

PAULINE: Yeah. When did you get electricity at Riley?

JESSIE: After I left. After we were out there, just about, oh it was just when these people came in here.

PAULINE: When the REA came in?

JESSIE: Yeah, was just when the REA. No, we just had, you see I just had stoves in the house, and we had a big fireplace. And then we had those, what do you call them, light plants.

PAULINE: Oh yeah.

JESSIE: Light plants, we had those. We had those pretty early. They were quite, made quite good light too. I mean they worked pretty well, when they worked. You probably had them too?

PAULINE: Yeah, well they had them down at Lawen.

JESSIE: Yes. Well, we didn't, I didn't ever have any electricity.

PAULINE: What about telephone service?

JESSIE: Always had a telephone. Had the --- the people owned the line from Burns to, out to, out clear up to our ranch. And they maintained it, they had to keep it up, you know; keep it going all the time. So we always had a telephone connection between here and Burns, between the ranch and Burns. Sometimes it wasn't very good, but you could usually get a message through.

I remember one time the children got, ate some poisoned wheat when they were little. And we had to get the doctor real fast. See now this is an interesting thing. When they had the flu epidemic out there in 1918, there were five people down at once. And I was the only one that was up and around. And the doctors, you know, and the nurses,

we couldn't get a nurse out there. And we, Dr. Saurman you see was here, Dr. Saurman then, and he came out there once and looked at all these people. Then I had to call him, call into him everyday and tell him, you know, how they were all getting along. And then after everybody else got up and around, down I came. Then they got a nurse for me.

PAULINE: You deserved a nurse by the time you ---

JESSIE: And we had Indians working out there, you know, and of course the first time anybody got sick, we thought they could, you know, Pat got down, he was just real bad. And so we thought they would take care of, you know, do the chores and bring us milk and take care of the wood and get that in. Say, they just disappeared like this.

PAULINE: And there you were.

JESSIE: They were scared of the disease, you know, any sickness or anything like that. So we just didn't have any, we really had a bad time during that epidemic. It came in April, it was late in the year, after every --- The bad time was in the fall. Pat had been down to Eugene, to the officers training camp, and was going --- and was called up the first of December, he was to go to Fort Knox and report the 1st of November. Well of course the Armistice came in the fall, you see, the 11th of December. Well all that bad epidemic was in the fall, you see. And several of the boys who had been in Eugene, and in Pat's training camp, died in that epidemic at Fort Knox. And there wasn't anybody to take care of them, you see. So we didn't get it until spring, we didn't get, I think it was in March and April that we had it.

PAULINE: Well so many people have told me about these. And I guess it was just really bad.

JESSIE: It was really terrible. Oh, it was awful. There was just people --- Jean was real sick too. She was a little thing, and I never will forget it, she was just so sick. But I got her up, and all well, and Pat too. I had the two there, and then there were three men down at

the ranch who had it. But, and I just made it fine, I didn't think I was --- and one morning I got up and I looked in the glass and I thought, my I look awful funny. I don't think I'm quite myself. Oh, I was tired, you know, too. The telephone was down at the ranch; I'd go down to see how they were. I had to see, and then doctor, he would tell me things to do, you know, what I was supposed to do. So that was really one of the hardest, one of the greatest ordeals I had in my young married life.

PAULINE: Well so many people have told me that they just really didn't know what to do -
--

JESSIE: We didn't.

PAULINE: --- for it anyway.

JESSIE: That's it, they didn't know. And they had --- Pat was very sick, he was just really sick. And I had it just afterwards, then I just had a plural pneumonia too, you know, afterwards. Just had everything happen. But I had a good nurse, just really, Ada Allen. I don't know whether you ever heard of her. She was a character here in town, and a wonderful nurse, just a splendid nurse. But she came out there, and got me clear through. Dr. Saurman sent her out.

PAULINE: Then what happened when the kids ate the poisoned wheat?

JESSIE: Oh, yes. Well then I had to use the, that was another time I had to use the telephone you see, and the doctor told me just exactly what to do, you see. And so then it was --- the three children, my two nephews and Jean. Oh dear! We had to get them to throwing up, you see. I mean we had to give them stuff. We really had quite a time with that. Oh, they were all right, probably hadn't eaten as much as they thought they had.

PAULINE: Well I can remember when I was just little, this was one of the first lectures I can remember getting, was not to eat the grain out of the, that had been treated, you know.

JESSIE: Uh huh. Well it was out in the garage, in a sack, back in the corner, you know. And of course they was kids, they just had to get into everything.

PAULINE: Well things really haven't changed much along those lines.

JESSIE: No, that's right, not for children, no they really haven't. They're just about the same. You see Jean had, Penny had two boy cousins, two cousins, and they came out and stayed all summer. And so then the three of them --- they had shetland, Granddad bought shetland ponies for the three of them, and they had their ponies. And of course they just would, they were just all ... just having a wondering time, and lots of fun with those ponies.

PAULINE: Were there much, did you have much problem with rattlesnakes around the house?

JESSIE: Oh well, I killed many a one. But I, you know, you just got rid of, you know, you did. At first I was terribly scared, you know, and I would yell when I would see one. And then somebody would come a running, get rid of it. And then I got so I could manage myself. Got rid of them myself. There wasn't always somebody around to do it. One time, one of the biggest scares I had, and of course we had outside toilets, and I heard Patty, or it was Jean, Jean just yelling and whooping out there. She was out in the bathroom, or out in the toilet and she heard a rattlesnake just out the door, you know. So I got out there and got rid of the old snake. There were, we always had quite a few of them around every summer.

PAULINE: Uh huh, well I thought that area probably would be a good place for them.

JESSIE: Yes, well there were always some around.

PAULINE: Did you have much problem with rabid coyotes? Some people told me that they ---

JESSIE: Well they had a big drive, and had the rabbits, there were --- and it killed a lot of

them just the year before Pat and I were married. He had some pictures, I remember, with the big drive that they had out there. So they, well there were a big, a good many some seasons. We didn't have the big problem that they had had, because they had this big drive.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well I know the Rye Grass area out here, the rabbits were just ---

JESSIE: Oh, they were terrible.

PAULINE: Oh, they were ---

JESSIE: They were out there too. And there were a good many of them, but we ... They didn't have any drives or have any --- There were quite a few, you see there were quite a few homesteads around in our area, but one by one they left after, you know, they just couldn't make it.

PAULINE: Well this is what, I understood that the area between Burns clear across the desert was ---

JESSIE: It was, clear to Bend, you know, there were homesteads. When I first came out here, there was just homesteads just all the way across.

PAULINE: I just can't, I can't feature.

JESSIE: You just can't imagine, you can't imagine it. When we came over the other day, I was just thinking how all those houses used to be, and there would be a few trees, you know, people would plant a few trees, and stayed there four or five years. The carpenter who built Pat's and my house had a homestead. He had quite a little bit of money, he had been a carpenter in Seattle, and he had quite a bit of money. And he came down; he had a homestead clear over by the Glass Buttes. And he would walk clear, he would come over Monday morning to work on our house, and go back, and go home Friday night to see how his family was getting along, you know.

PAULINE: Well that's a good 30 miles or so, isn't it?

JESSIE: What?

PAULINE: Isn't that about 30 miles, or is it quite that far?

JESSIE: Oh, it's, I can't remember how many miles. No, it isn't that, I don't believe it is quite 30, more like 25. Could be 20 miles that he would walk. My he was a beautiful, he was a beautiful carpenter. He built our old house, it's right there in the same spot. Have you been out to Jean's?

PAULINE: No, I haven't.

JESSIE: Well it's right where her house is, it was smaller. But they used the same stones that we had for our fireplace and the foundation, as for their house when they built it. But he was a fine carpenter. And then the man who did the painting and fixed the windows, did the windows in, Mr. Hall, he lived just out there, just when you come down the hill to the Gap, at the Gap Ranch, you know. Right over to the right, right there on the hill. And he come clear in, he'd come in that far. Not many of them had any-thing to get around in much either, you know. Some of them had an old horse. But Mr. ... the carpenter, didn't even have anything, he walked back and forth.

PAULINE: Well this was about 19---

JESSIE: 1916 --- 1915 and '16. Pat and I were married in July, in 1915. And they built the house that summer and we moved in about December, I think it was, we moved in. I stayed down at the ranch house all summer, and then we moved into our house. No, we didn't move into next spring, until the spring because I made a trip to Portland in March on the bus, Pat took me down to the store and I made a trip to Portland to buy our furniture, to buy our stuff, all my kitchen things. And I spent the winter, mother sent me books, and I had books, and I picked out, I knew everything I was going to get when I --- All of my kitchen things, and all of my dishes, and all the, the stove and tables, bed, everything, the furniture I want. We had a brand new little house, which was nice.

PAULINE: Yes, that's a good way to start out.

JESSIE: Yes it was, it was nice. And I, we lived in it just as long as I was out there. But I began going in, see, when Jean was in the fourth grade and would stay during the week. Then we would go home Friday evening. Pat would come and get us and take us out Friday evening. But when Jimmy was ready to go, Jean was in high school, and it was such a nuisance to move with two back and forth, so we got a house, and rented a house. And I moved in, moved into a house. So then we'd go out in the summertime then.

Finally Pat, you know, during the '30's when the depression came along everything was so bad, he started working for the North-west Livestock PCA, and so then I moved into ... he was gone so much. I just moved in, because the children were in school. There was no use for me to be sitting out there all alone, and I had to be with them in school anyway. So that's when we came into town then.

Then he retired, when he --- after Jean and Carl then were married, and moved out there. Well then I just stayed in town of course.

PAULINE: Is Carl; is the Mayo family an old family in Harney County?

JESSIE: No, no, the Mayo family, he's from Florida. You see Carl and Dick, Dick Mayo came out to --- they had worked in a pine mill, I think, in Florida. And there wasn't anymore work out there, so they move into --- they just came on west looking, just young fellows, you know, looking for work in a pine mill. And that's how they got to Burns.

PAULINE: That's how they happened to come. I didn't know, I hadn't seen their name in anything, you know, the older things that I had read.

JESSIE: Uh huh, that's how they --- Yes, uh huh. Well their folks, their people all live in Florida. They're all from Florida. Jean and Carl have been married, let's see, their anniversary is Tuesday and they will have been married 33 years. Doesn't seem possible.

PAULINE: I know, I ---

JESSIE: How old are you Pauline?

PAULINE: Well I'm 34.

JESSIE: 34.

PAULINE: And we celebrated our 15th anniversary here a couple of weeks ago.

JESSIE: Uh huh, it doesn't seem possible.

PAULINE: It doesn't seem ---

JESSIE: Just think, I lived out here 53 years, 53 years. Pat and I were married 53 years, he died. And then I left the next year after he died. Well I was --- I had been raised in Portland, and after Pat was gone, why Harney County was, you know, I just --- He was Harney County for me, and I just really didn't feel that I could stay here and have any kind of a life. And I had so many old, my college friends --- see I went four years to University, and my college, I had so many of them in Portland. And in fact there were three of us who were in college together who live at Terwilliger Plaza, where I moved. So that's the reason I moved down there.

PAULINE: Well that's good. And I like Portland.

JESSIE: Well I love Portland; I've always loved Portland. And we went to Portland so much. My folks lived down there, you see, and Pat's mother and sisters live there. And so it was just natural when we went anywhere, when we'd go, we always went to Portland. So it's, I love it, I like it. And I'm just really glad that I'm there. Jean and Carl come down; often I get to see them. And then it easy to, I fly down to Jimmy's, he lives in the Los Angeles area, you see, he's clear down there. So its just worked out fine. I'm very happy.

I love to come back, because I have such dear friends here. Went this morning, went down to Lois Voegtly's, she had a coffee, and I saw so many women that I'm so

interested in. Gen, for instance.

PAULINE: Yes.

JESSIE: I've always been so fond of her.

PAULINE: Oh, she's ---

JESSIE: She's such a ---

PAULINE: One of my favorite people.

JESSIE: I know, I know it.

PAULINE: She's been awfully good to me.

JESSIE: Well that's wonderful. I've always loved her too. I always felt that it was my, just standing pat, that ever got Mr. Slater here. I was chairman of the board the year that he came. And so he called up from Pocatello, that's where they were living at the time, and I told him well we needed a principal, and we were interested. And he said, "Well I'll come over." And I said, well, we said, he said he could come over on a Saturday. This was in the summertime, you see, and I was only the, only one of the members available. So I came up, Pat and I came in, and we met him up at the school and talked to him. Pat just, oh Pat liked him too. And I did, we just thought he was just really a fine man.

And then there was a local man who was trying, who wanted to be, who was trying to be, get the principal. And I said, "Well I thought we needed a change." Really to just get a local man --- it was better for the schools to have him, and I think he has been a fine principal.

PAULINE: Well he was.

JESSIE: And we had, and then we had Gen. I think we've just been real fortunate.

PAULINE: Yeah, Mr. Slater and I started school up here together.

JESSIE: Yes.

PAULINE: I was in first grade the year that he started.

JESSIE: So you just went ---

PAULINE: So yeah, I always say we started to school together.

JESSIE: Uh huh, I know.

PAULINE: Well can you think of anything else that ---

JESSIE: Well I don't know. I just, I don't know that, I can't think of anything special. I don't know the kind of things that you wonder about, want to put in anything like that.

PAULINE: Did you have quite a large hay crew in the summertime to cook for?

JESSIE: Well I never did cook. You see I never had to cook for the --- We always had a cook down at the ranch house. And I, we were up in our little house; I was up in my house. And just, oh once in awhile I would help out. Or I would, you know, if the cook left or something happened, why I have cooked for --- but not for any length of time or any time. Once my sister came out here, and we went to the --- they were haying at the Warm Springs, down at the lower ranch. And I cooked for a crew down there, but that was the only time. I never did have a hay crew and have to, and have the hired man and have to cook for him. Because they always stayed at the ranch house.

And Pat, I always cooked his meals, of course, and the children. But as far as just really managing --- I couldn't do the things that, I don't do the things now --- I never kept the books or did anything. Jean does all the business for the ranch, she keeps all the books and does everything, and all of that. I never did anything about the ranch. Pat was the ---

PAULINE: ... this is me. Allan keeps the books, and of course I have the ---

JESSIE: He does all the buying, never did the buying for the ranch, or did anything. Jean does, buys all the food. I mean she ... through the, for everything like that. And I never did any of that, just never did it. Pat just went ahead and did it.

And his mother was there, you see his mother and father were there part of the

time, they lived there. And she was at the ranch house, you see, they lived down there. So I just never did do any of that. I kept my own house. And we had plenty to do. I had to make all my own bread, churn my own butter, take care of the milk and cream. And everything we had, I had to do, I had to make. And I always, you know, we --- I picked wild currents and made lots of jelly, and I made lots of wild --- used the things that we had. And so I really just had plenty to do with my own housework and my two children.

PAULINE: Well that is plenty.

JESSIE: Yes, that's right.

PAULINE: You know, people don't realize today, we just go to the grocery store and buy this or that.

JESSIE: And I had to do my own washing. You see I had to do my own washing. And when I was first married I had to do it with a tub and a washboard, you see, and things like that. And that was all new to me, and I didn't know how to cook either. I had never learned to cook.

But the first year I was down to the ranch house, and they had an awful good cook down there. So I just used to sit and watch her, you know, and found out a lot of things from her.

I never paid any attention to it. Mother was home and liked to cook and took care of things. I just never did it. And I loved it in Eastern Oregon. I've always, I've really always been very, I was always very happy here. And I thought it was a nice place to raise children too. It is a nice place.

PAULINE: Did you meet Pat at the University?

JESSIE: At the University of Oregon, yes.

PAULINE: Uh huh, you both went there four years?

JESSIE: Yes.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

JESSIE: Yes, but I didn't meet him until my senior year. Isn't that funny. I had met his sister, I knew her. But I didn't know him very ---

(END OF TAPE)

-pb-

bl