

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #280 - Sides A & B

Subject: Quentin L. "Stub" Currey

Cattle Drive from Old Princeton to Winnemucca

Place: Currey Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: October 12, 1990

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

Release Form: No

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen, I'm talking with Stub and Reta Currey at their home on South Buena Vista in Burns on October the 12th, 1990. We're going to be talking about the cattle drive from Old Princeton to Winnemucca that we took in, gosh was it August or July? July, the end of July wasn't it?

STUB CURREY: I think it was the last of July.

PAULINE: Yeah. And Stub, you were born and raised in Harney County?

STUB: No, I was born in Lakeview.

PAULINE: You were born in Lakeview.

STUB: Come to Harney County when I was four years old.

PAULINE: Okay. Who were your parents?

STUB: Nolen and Tina Currey.

PAULINE: Tina, is that T I N A?

STUB: Yeah.

PAULINE: And Nolen, N O L A N?

STUB: Yeah.

PAULINE: Currey.

STUB: Yeah.

PAULINE: Well they, Nolen Currey was the son of a Harney County pioneer, wasn't he?

STUB: Right, his granddad, or my granddad was a scout for the Indians here, in the Indian War.

PAULINE: And was that Montz?

STUB: Montz, yeah.

PAULINE: M O N Z?

STUB: No, M O N T Z.

PAULINE: M O N T Z.

STUB: Yeah. Then dad and his oldest brother, and his mother they were forced up out here at Fort Harney. Then he had a sister too, she was a ---

PAULINE: What was her sister's name?

STUB: Lily.

PAULINE: Lily?

STUB: Yeah. His oldest brother, he was Montz too. So, then they went from here to Lake County. They was over there until I was, oh I guess, I don't know when, they were married, I don't know when. But I was born in --- had a sister born in 1904, and I was born in 1906, then we moved to the South End of Harney County here. Dad took up a homestead on Skull Creek.

PAULINE: On Skull Creek, which is on the Steens Mountain.

STUB: Comes off Steens Mountain on the east side, just below Roaring Springs and that country. On the west side I meant.

PAULINE: On the west side, the Catlow Valley side.

STUB: Yeah, yeah. And we lived there four years, and he went to prove up on it, and they took it away from him, they said it was road land. So, we went over to Andrews then, and he leased a ranch over there.

PAULINE: So, you went to school at Andrews then?

STUB: Andrews, yeah. Then I, go to school until, after I was twelve years old, I would go to school in the winter and buckaroo in the summer for the PLS Company.

PAULINE: How old were you when you first started buckarooing for the PLS Company?

STUB: Twelve years old.

PAULINE: Twelve years old. What were some of your duties at that young age?

STUB: Just riding horseback. Leave early in the morning, and get back late in the afternoon.

Gathering cows, branding calves, everything there was to do horseback. And I worked there for several, oh after I got to be eighteen, nineteen I guess I left there for a while. Then I come, went to -- no I was there until 1924, and then I went to Nevada for a while. Then I come back up here to Burns in 1926. I've been here ever since.

PAULINE: In Burns?

STUB: Yeah, out here at the Island Ranch, for the PLS Company again. That's --- for a couple years, and then I just worked around here and there for awhile. I didn't, wasn't any place steady.

PAULINE: Eventually you ended up working for the Malheur Refuge.

STUB: Yeah, well yeah, in 1957, went to work at the Malheur Refuge. Worked there until '74. ...

(Pause on tape) We went there in 1940. I was still working, by then I was working for the PLS Company again. We were up here in the mountains, I run the cattle out here at the Island for three years. Then they transferred us to Whitehorse, the foreman quit down there. They transferred us down there, and we was there four and a half years. They sold the Whitehorse, and we went over to the Alvord and worked there two years. Then we come back up here and worked for Lloyd Hill out here on the Circle Bar, east of Crane. Then we went to work at the Refuge.

PAULINE: When were you and Reta married?

STUB: 1934.

PAULINE: 1934. Reta, were you from a pioneer family? Were you a schoolteacher? How did you happen to get here?

RETA CURREY: Well, my folks homesteaded in Virginia Valley, Frank Steele. And my mother's name, Edith Creasman before she married Frank Steele. And Creasman's lived out here on the Creasman Lane. Do you know where that is?

PAULINE: I'm not sure.

RETA: It goes to the Island Ranch.

PAULINE: Okay.

STUB: Out there where that telephone or ---

PAULINE: Substation is.

STUB: Substation, turn east there, that's Creasman Lane.

PAULINE: And that was C R E A S ---

RETA: C R E A S M A N. Creasman.

PAULINE: What year were you born?

RETA: 1911.

PAULINE: You're the same age as my mom. Well then, did you go to school at the Island Ranch, or ---

RETA: No, went to school at Virginia Valley until the seventh grade, and my folks bought a place in Union, Oregon. And I went to school there the seventh, and eighth, and freshman and sophomore year. And then I came back to Harney County; I couldn't get Harney County out of my system. And I stayed with Elsie Bennett there in Crane and finished high school. And then I met Stub.

STUB: She cooked for a hay crew, and I was working there, so I thought boy she is a pretty good cook, I'd better hang onto her.

PAULINE: You had the true test of a good wife right there. (Telephone rings) Okay, well Harold Otley, and you and Reta, and I took this trip, we covered it in one day what it took two weeks to cover with the cattle.

STUB: Oh, yeah.

PAULINE: But we that live here in Harney County talk about the PLS Company, and we always know what we're talking about. But someone from outside may not know what PLS ---

STUB: Pacific Livestock Company. It was originally the Miller and Lux. Miller and Lux, and then they changed it to Pacific Livestock Company.

PAULINE: And they ran cattle in Harney County right from the very earliest days.

STUB: Yeah, they had --- old Henry Miller, you know, he could start on his ranches in California

and go straight through to Northern Oregon in a buggy and stay on his property every night. But, and they changed it to the PLS Company in the last there. And then when they split it all up, why it was just kind of a lost name. Nobody knows what the PLS Company is anymore, the younger generation.

PAULINE: Well we picked up; actually, we talked about bringing the cattle into Square Wells, which is on the Island Ranch.

STUB: Yeah, uh huh.

PAULINE: And, but to go from, before the cattle got there, they picked them up from Silvies Valley you said?

STUB: Yeah, yeah, the Agency Ranch, over at the Agency, and Harper.

PAULINE: Which is, which is north and east of Drewsey.

STUB: Yeah. Harper, it's down there, you know where it is, don't you?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

STUB: Yeah, well they had a ranch there, and then they'd go over the Bendire Mountain, I guess. I don't know, I never went through there. Never did know --- but they must have had to go over the Bendire Mountain to the Agency, then across the mountain there to Silvies Valley and down to the Island I guess, that's the way they had to go. That way they could stay on their own property all the time.

PAULINE: And then from Square Wells to Princeton, was that a day's drive?

STUB: Princeton --- oh yeah. Well not a long day, but it was too far to go any further. And then they went from there to Anderson Valley, you know, right at the foot of the Juniper Grade where we started up Juniper Grade. You took a picture of that little Anderson Valley Ranch there.

PAULINE: Okay. So here was --- we started with --- you said Bob Dougall ---

STUB: Yeah, Bob and Grace Dougall run that.

PAULINE: Now are these buildings that the pictures show located, the original place where Old Princeton sat?

STUB: Yeah, this was the original place where Dougall's lived.

PAULINE: That's kind of right at the end of the road there, then it turns.

STUB: Yeah, then it turned and went east, the main road, now they don't go that far down, they turn this --- You want to get over, you want me to get a chair so you can get over here?

PAULINE: I took several pictures there, so --- We took it from every angle there.

STUB: That there is ---

PAULINE: Those are the original buildings?

STUB: That was the original --- the post office was right there.

PAULINE: That was in the --- the post office was here in the main building.

STUB: Yeah, right in the main building. Yeah this was the cook part of it here where they lived right here.

PAULINE: That would have been on the east end.

STUB: Just east, yeah.

PAULINE: By the corrals. We were really lucky we even had some horses in the corral that day we stopped by, made it really look authentic. Now what year was this that you made the cattle drives from --- to Winnemucca?

STUB: Well it had to be about 1920, because --- 1921 maybe. Because after 1924 I quit buckarooing and worked at the Whitehorse Ranch. In the spring of '24, I left there and went to Nevada. Then I worked down there for an outfit east of Winnemucca for, oh a couple three months, and I didn't like it so I left and went back over to Quinn River and worked in haying there. Then broke horses that winter, fall, to work. They sold out and they had to put a team or so on each ranch. So, I broke some horses and they put them on the ranches. And after I got through there, long about the last of November, they transferred me up here to the Island. That was '26.

PAULINE: This is Anderson Valley here?

STUB: Uh huh. Yeah, you can see that. You took a picture of the little Anderson Valley Ranch up there, right up ---

PAULINE: At the top I think. I'm not sure. What does this look --- this is taken back down.

STUB: Yeah, this is taken back down, coming across Adobe Flat, because there is those buttes out

there.

PAULINE: Do you know what those buttes are named?

STUB: No, I don't. Yes, I do too, that is Summit Spring Mountain.

PAULINE: Summer Spring Mountain?

STUB: Summit.

PAULINE: Summit.

STUB: Yeah, Summit Spring Mountain, that's going right straight toward Anderson Valley. And that's it again.

PAULINE: Okay, that's 19-A.

STUB: And here's the old Jim Paul place, you took that. That's in Anderson Valley, and then there is another, yeah here is another one here where you took it right up the canyon there toward the old Anderson Valley Ranch.

PAULINE: Okay, now that's, what number is that? That's 22-A, that's the Anderson Valley Ranch?

STUB: Yeah. That's where Lou Davies lives there now.

PAULINE: Okay.

STUB: And here is where we started up the foot of the Juniper Grade there.

PAULINE: Right near that ---

STUB: Up that Anderson Canyon. There is that sign right at the foot there where it's ---

RETA: He'll put these back in here.

PAULINE: Yes. Okay, the Jim Paul place was the Jim Mahon place first.

STUB: Yeah, yeah, uh huh.

PAULINE: And Tom Maupin has that place now.

STUB: Yeah.

PAULINE: Okay. Okay, that's --- here we go on up. Okay here's where I took back --- that's Anderson Valley looking ---

STUB: Looking north.

PAULINE: Looking north. I'm going to give that to you before we get mixed up. Okay, from Princeton, where was your first stop after you left Princeton?

STUB: Juniper ---

PAULINE: Where did you camp the next ---

STUB: Juniper Ranch.

PAULINE: Juniper Ranch. You went clear; you went from Princeton clear over the mountain to Juniper Ranch.

STUB: Clear over the mountain. It's only about fourteen miles.

PAULINE: Okay. It seemed like a lot longer than that, it took us all morning.

STUB: Yeah, it did. Here is one of Tom Maupin's cows.

RETA: Those are sure good pictures.

STUB: Now here we're going up the canyon.

PAULINE: Those stick together.

STUB: Now here is after we got on top up on Burnt Flat.

PAULINE: Okay. Now the old Juniper Grade used to be the county road?

STUB: Yeah, uh huh.

RETA: Can you imagine going across that?

PAULINE: I can't imagine --- they certainly improved it by going around the other way.

STUB: Yeah, that was the South End road.

PAULINE: Do you remember, was the county road still at the time in '21, '22 when you did the cattle drive, it was still the county road?

STUB: Yeah, yeah. And they wouldn't let us go up that canyon, we had to go around that butte I showed you, we had to stay off of, stay out of that canyon, the cattle kicked rocks in the road. Once in awhile they'd sneak down there, and then they'd hear about it. That's those hills out there, from Burnt Flat. Here is Burnt Flat. You see the mud getting deep across that Burnt Flat out there, and those roads would be, every little ways, everybody trying to find a solid place. There would be ruts out there for fifty yards across.

PAULINE: Seems like we saw a few ruts, even today they're doing that a little bit.

STUB: Yeah.

PAULINE: We sure had a good day for pictures.

STUB: We did.

PAULINE: The sky was blue, and the clouds were gorgeous.

STUB: And this was when we started down the grade right over there.

RETA: Going down the grade wasn't very smooth, was it?

PAULINE: No, it wasn't.

STUB: There is some more. Here is where we started down, and Pauline took a picture of the valley from the top.

PAULINE: Yeah. Now in the pictures that Harold has, this is just much prettier.

STUB: Oh.

PAULINE: I got these reprints on a special deal, and they just whipped them through without adjusting the setting I think on the developing, because ---

STUB: There ought to be one somewhere where you got out and took a picture of that rock fence.

PAULINE: Right, I think that's in the next package.

STUB: Oh.

PAULINE: Now we're looking back over Ten Cent Lake in that picture.

STUB: Yeah, yeah.

PAULINE: And I tried to take a picture of the bunchgrass there. All that in there was across Burnt Flats was a crested wheat seeding in there now, but it used to be ---

STUB: Yeah, used to be just grass and a little short sagebrush. There never was very high sagebrush across there.

PAULINE: It probably doesn't get a lot of water down in that.

STUB: No, it's just, storms puts it in there. And then a few little old streams run off the hill there. They had those, then they had those water holes in there now, but they didn't have them then. The water would run out there and just kind of stand on the lakebed until it dried up.

PAULINE: Okay, I hope I've got these in the right order, I think I do. I think we're, 24-A --- okay here. Let me turn this off a minute. We took some pictures of the grass and brush here at the top of the Juniper Ridge before we started down. Is that about what it looked like when you ---

STUB: Yeah.

PAULINE: --- drove the cattle through there?

STUB: Yeah, it's about the same. It hasn't changed much; it's about the same thing. That's a pretty good picture of the grass and rocks there. Here's another picture of Ten Cent Lake, isn't it?

PAULINE: Yeah, that's ---

STUB: Yeah, off the top of the mountain there.

PAULINE: I would have sent those back for --- if I hadn't, I just thought I would use these for reference point. But the color quality isn't really what I'd like it to be. There we are now on the county road, looking back up the grade.

STUB: Yeah, there is that gate that is so doggone hard to shut.

PAULINE: Yeah.

STUB: Going, just leaving Burnt Flat.

PAULINE: Well there aren't any fences and gates to go through when you took a cow through there in the '20's.

STUB: No, no. Used to be a telephone line through there.

PAULINE: Was there?

STUB: Yeah, there was a telephone line went to Andrews. Yeah, no it went to Juniper Ranch, and then there was a telephone line from Winnemucca to Andrews, and then there was a gap in there where there wasn't any.

PAULINE: I think it is amazing that that rock is still there, yeah.

STUB: Yeah, that's where she got out and took a picture of that rock. The rock wall along ---

PAULINE: Rock wall.

STUB: The county put up there.

PAULINE: To hold up the road.

STUB: Yeah. Jap Bennett they said put that up.

PAULINE: Jack Bennett or ---

STUB: Jap.

PAULINE: Jap. J A P. How does he fit in with the Bennett's that are still here today? Ellis Bennett and ---

STUB: They were a different --- no relation.

PAULINE: They were a different Bennett.

RETA: From Virginia Valley.

STUB: They were from Virginia Valley; they had homesteads out there. There is another picture of Ten Cent Lake.

PAULINE: Well, the clouds were so pretty that day.

RETA: Beautiful.

PAULINE: Well that shows the rock wall, and the road come down. That was really steep that, coming down on the east side of the Steens there.

STUB: Oh, you bet. They used to come down there with twelve horses and three wagons, but I don't know how they made all the turns, but they did.

PAULINE: Was it closed in the wintertime? Could you get through there in the wintertime?

STUB: Oh, you could always get through. It would sometime take you two or three days to go up through there. But you could always get through in time, it just took time. I know the winter of '24, when that hotel burned down there, they were having a dance.

PAULINE: At Andrews?

STUB: Yeah, at Andrews. Hotel burned down and Lloyd Sweeney got burned awful bad getting his boy out of the fire. I think they was three days getting a doctor in there. They finally wound up bringing him in a horseback.

PAULINE: There is my buttercups there at --- And that's Juniper Lake.

STUB: Yeah.

PAULINE: Well how many head of cattle were in the drive?

STUB: Well generally by the time they'd get to the South End down there at Fields, or at Whitehorse, go on past there, they would have around a thousand head, maybe twelve hundred or something like that.

PAULINE: They just start gathering at the north end and pick up cattle as they ---

STUB: Well, everybody would have what beef they wanted, the company whatever, the division -- - had the old cows and steers and stuff like that that they had to get rid of, why then they'd put them in that drive. And they was pretty near all old cows. Here is Juniper Ranch.

PAULINE: And the Juniper Ranch was a PLS Company Ranch originally?

STUB: Yeah, yeah, uh huh.

PAULINE: Yeah, and I've forgotten the name of the lady that lives there now.

STUB: Pollock.

PAULINE: Is Pollock. Vivian Pollock.

STUB: Vivian Pollock, yeah.

PAULINE: Now that's on the east side of Steens, and we just ---

STUB: Yeah, here is Squaw Creek right there.

PAULINE: Squaw Creek or Skull Creek?

STUB: Squaw Creek.

PAULINE: Squaw Creek.

STUB: This is Squaw Creek coming down right here.

PAULINE: Right there.

STUB: What little water that comes out of it. It's an awful short creek, it don't last very long.

PAULINE: This package we pick up here with the Juniper Ranch again, and then go onto the Tudor barn. Did you remember the Tudors when they lived down there?

STUB: Oh yeah. Yeah, where that barn is, the Tudors had a little store there and post office for a while. That's where the Alberson's Store, or the Alberson Post Office was moved about a dozen times.

PAULINE: But it was originally at the Tudor ---

STUB: No, it was originally below, and then I don't know how come they moved up --- Tudor had it up there, had a little store there.

PAULINE: That's T U D E R (corrected to T U D O R). And that was Alice Johnston's ---

STUB: First husband's brother.

PAULINE: First husband's brother.

STUB: Yeah, that was Hugh Tudor down there, and this was Luth. Luth was her husband.

RETA: These are sure good pictures.

PAULINE: I'm pleased.

STUB: Here is some more of Juniper Lake. Buttercups.

PAULINE: Now the trip was worth it that day, just to get the picture of the buttercups.

STUB: There is a picture of a lot of buttercups there. This was taken looking back up at the Juniper Ranch from the lake where we ate our lunch there.

PAULINE: This is the one I have enlarged.

STUB: This one here?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

STUB: Well, there is a lot of them there.

PAULINE: Well, I think it was this one. I actually think it was this one. Yeah. Because I think there is more mountains in that, in the one I had enlarged.

STUB: You can see the Juniper Ranch back there. There is the little schoolhouse where --- just below the lake.

PAULINE: Okay, let me see that, because I --- that's the schoolhouse, that's 13-A. Because that's one that I couldn't remember what was.

STUB: Right below Juniper Lake there. There it is again.

PAULINE: Okay.

STUB: Now here is the Tudor barn. That was originally put up for a lambing shed. He run sheep, old Hugh Tudor did. He put that up for a lambing shed.

RETA: Where is that?

PAULINE: Well, he was quite a fan of racehorses too, wasn't he, Mr. Tudor, liked to racehorses?

STUB: I don't know, maybe he was. I don't know whether he was or not. After he left there, they went over east of there and bought that ranch from the PLS Company had, they called it Crooked Creek Ranch. Crooked Creek Ranch, it's right south of the Burns Junction right there on the highway.

PAULINE: Well, I remember Alice telling me that she loved to ride.

STUB: Yeah, she used to ride racehorses herself. Every Fourth of July she always rode in a race or two. She had a ---

PAULINE: Well that barn was all made of stone and ---

STUB: Adobe.

PAULINE: Adobe, and it sort of melted away now.

STUB: Yeah, it sure did.

PAULINE: The stone corners are all that's ---

STUB: All that's left.

PAULINE: Well we talked about Bird Canyon and Trail Creek.

STUB: Yeah, that was right above Mann Lake.

PAULINE: Okay.

STUB: Yeah, they used to call it ---

PAULINE: I don't ---

STUB: When I went down there the last time and went to work for Pogue there at the Alvord, I kept a hearing them talk about Trail Creek, Trail Creek. I didn't know where Trail Creek was, but I wasn't going to ask. I was raised there, so I thought I had better keep still. Finally, I found out it was Bird Canyon.

PAULINE: Now did we take a picture of that?

STUB: No, I don't think we did.

PAULINE: Okay.

STUB: It was right above ---

PAULINE: I had better make a note of that, no picture.

STUB: There is our chauffeur.

RETA: Yeah.

PAULINE: I made a note about the wind blowing down there. You were telling a story about how hard the wind blew down there.

STUB: Oh boy, you can sure say that again. It sure ---

RETA: Especially at Mann Lake.

STUB: Yeah. At the Alvord too. One morning we was staying at Mann Lake, and I would go to Alvord every morning. Just went into the office to make out some papers. The carpenter came in, and he said, "When did you get here?" I said, "Oh, about fifteen minutes ago." He said, "Did you see the big shed?" I said, "I guess so, come right by it." He said, "It's not there anymore." It had blew it down after I left, and it had been there for, oh I don't know how many years. Big old juniper posts in the ground, and it just lifted them out and took them over across the road and piled them up in a pile over there, south of the road. If I had been fifteen minutes later I'd have probably have met that coming up the road. I don't know --- where is this?

PAULINE: Okay, I think that is Serrano Point.

STUB: Oh yeah, that's Serrano Point.

PAULINE: Serrano Point. But I've got a note here that there is a tree at Mirandi Station. I think there is one picture there that has --- did we get a picture of Mirandi Station? I need to ---

STUB: You did, I know you got out and took it.

PAULINE: But I can't remember just which one it was.

RETA: I don't think it's that one.

PAULINE: It's not there.

STUB: This is still Serrano Point here.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

STUB: Yeah, you got out and took a picture of that old tree.

PAULINE: That's Serrano Point there.

STUB: Yeah, so ---

PAULINE: Now let me look here and see if --- these were Serrano Point I think.

STUB: Gosh that old adobe ---

PAULINE: Mirandi Station comes before Serrano Point, right?

STUB: Yeah, yeah.

PAULINE: Okay, let me look at those again and see if I can figure out here, because I need to make a note if we can --- here is the desert. Mirandi Station is after the Tudor barn.

STUB: Yeah. It's before you get to the Alvord, before you get to Mosquito Creek.

PAULINE: Now this is old Alberson?

STUB: Yeah, yeah. Well it should be the next picture below this, no it would be Mann Lake, you took a picture of Mann Lake I thought.

PAULINE: I thought I did too. I thought I took a picture of everything there was to take a picture of.

STUB: I thought you took a picture of the Mann Lake Ranch from the road up there.

PAULINE: Okay, is this Mann Lake Ranch from the road?

STUB: Yeah, yeah, this is it.

PAULINE: Okay. Well, where is Miranda Station from there?

STUB: It's right south of that.

PAULINE: South of there. Okay.

STUB: About six, seven, or eight miles.

PAULINE: Stick these back in there. Maybe I should make a note of this on here, that this is Mann Lake so I know what we're doing here. Okay. Now I've got the pictures of you and Harold. Miranda Station --- there, that must be Miranda Station.

STUB: That's it, yeah, right there, that's where the road turns, goes west. That's that old tree.

PAULINE: Okay, then we went across the Alvord Desert to Serrano Point here. Okay. So, the first night we went, it would have been from Princeton to Juniper Lake Ranch.

STUB: Juniper Ranch, yeah. Next to Mann Lake.

PAULINE: And then you went to Mann Lake. Now about how far is it from Juniper Ranch to Mann Lake?

STUB: Juniper Ranch, ten miles.

PAULINE: So that was a short day's drive.

STUB: Short drive, short drive.

PAULINE: But there was water, so ---

STUB: Well, there was no water until Mosquito; Mosquito Creek was right there, ten, twelve --- right where that Miranda Lane is. It's just south of there, field there. But after they leased the Alvord, why then they'd stay at the Alvord, it was about three or four miles farther. And they'd stay there for a day or two to gather the cattle up, to get their cattle all gathered up there, put them together to start them on and then they'd go to Serrano Point.

PAULINE: Okay.

STUB: Then from there to Trout Creek.

PAULINE: Okay. Well, I think that's this set right here. These are at Serrano Point again. I don't have an envelope to put those in. Those are the slides that I had to get prints made.

STUB: Yeah, that's still Serrano Point.

RETA: That's sure a good picture.

PAULINE: That one, I like that picture. I think I'll get that one blown up too. We got some good pictures of that adobe house.

STUB: Yeah, you sure did.

PAULINE: Now we should be looking off --- that was after we left Serrano Point. Where did we -- we went on down to Fields didn't we, and had lunch?

STUB: Yeah, yeah this is --- well this is taken at Serrano, you took this right out across the desert from Serrano Point.

PAULINE: Okay, let me mark that. Because I --- this pack right here I'm real confused as to ---

RETA: Where is that?

STUB: I don't know. I don't know where that is, I don't remember.

PAULINE: Okay. Well, we went to Miranda Station. Let's talk about Miranda Station here for just a minute before we go on. You said Frank Park ---

STUB: Clark. No, that Miranda Station?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

STUB: I don't --- who, that was there before my time, whether it was running; it was never running after I, we went over there. But who run it I don't know, but it was a stage stop and a freight team stop, stop for freight teams. And they called it Miranda Station, and who run it I don't know. Then from there that lane, from there on they called it Miranda Lane, and now they call it Mosquito Creek Lane.

PAULINE: But the cattle went from there then to Serrano Point.

STUB: To Alvord, go the Alvord.

PAULINE: To the Alvord.

STUB: Yeah. It's just four miles from there on up to the Alvord.

PAULINE: Well, I wrote down here that Frank Park built the barn at the Alvord.

STUB: No, Clerf.

PAULINE: Clerf.

STUB: C L E R F.

PAULINE: Okay. Pickup bounced right there, and by writing went kind of went kaput.

STUB: Yeah, Frank Clerf. He built that barn. He owned that ranch there, and he had sheep, and him and my uncle were a ranch foreman there. And they went to, he fired, he and this Basco was herding sheep for him got in a row, and he fired him. He was gone two or three days, come back and burnt the barn down. Burned up some horses. So, he built this other one, that was 1915. I was just a kid, but down there at Andrews I remember hearing them talk about it.

RETA: That's Mann Lake.

STUB: Huh?

RETA: That's Mann Lake.

STUB: Nope.

RETA: Must be.

STUB: Nope.

PAULINE: You told a story right along about there about a tub. I've got a note here to ask you to tell the tub story.

STUB: We was taking cattle from the Alvord to Mann Lake, or Alvord to Serrano Point. We was going down the edge of the desert, and they wasn't going too good, and we was kind of wanting to play a little. So, one of the boys found an old tub and he tied his mecate on it, and he lassoed a cow with the other end of it. So, she brought things to life, she went down through the cows and went right up to the buckaroo boss. He caught her and took the tub off, or helped take it off. Came back and told Ross, he said, "I told you to throw that tub away." He said, "I did throw it away, I haven't got it." It was on that old cow.

PAULINE: It was a washtub?

STUB: Yeah, just a little old wash tub. This is Trout Creek here; this is a picture of the house at Trout Creek.

PAULINE: Okay, that's the house at Trout Creek. Let me mark that.

STUB: This is the mouth at Trout Creek. There is the mouth of Trout Creek. This must be going across the valley there toward Trout Creek. I don't know where that is.

PAULINE: I think that's after we left, maybe going on ---

STUB: Might have been, yeah.

PAULINE: I'm not sure either. This was, it was starting to get dark, and we were all getting tired, and I'm kind of hazy as to what ---

STUB: This must have been taken before we was heading down toward the Dufurrena Ranch.

PAULINE: You said the dancing was a pretty good activity for the young folks in those days.

STUB: Oh yeah, there at Andrews.

PAULINE: At Andrews.

STUB: Yeah. All you had to do was holler dance, and the kids come out of the brush around there just like rats. They'd be twenty, twenty-five kids all around there. There is the Trout Creek Ranch.

PAULINE: Let me mark that one too.

STUB: This must be the, around the valley there, out around Trout Creek.

PAULINE: I've got some notes here, the Trout Creek Canyon, and took some pictures south, and back to the canyon of Trout Creek. The gap at Trout Creek, and the Stella Calderwood place.

STUB: Yeah, this must be some of those here.

PAULINE: Yeah. And the meadow camp.

STUB: Yeah, this is across the valley there, we took it --- Now this here, I think this is going south, that's not too good a road. I think that's the way we went. That's going south toward the Dufurrena place, I think.

PAULINE: According to my notes, we're right on target there then.

STUB: No this, I don't know, this must be in the same country there somewhere. I don't remember where we ---

PAULINE: We stopped at the Dufurrena place, and then we sort of just went on into Winnemucca, and we traced our steps the next morning coming back.

STUB: Yeah, back, yeah.

PAULINE: So, this picture now is the ---

STUB: This is there at the company ranch in Winnemucca.

PAULINE: Which is right down town Winnemucca now.

STUB: Yeah. We was out there looking at that meadow they had covered up with dirt.

PAULINE: It looked like they were going to build a shopping center or something there.

STUB: Yeah, or something there. And here is a picture of Winnemucca, Winnemucca Mountain, Winnemucca Butte.

PAULINE: By the time he left ---

STUB: This is Cane Springs here I think, maybe not.

RETA: Well it's part of this mountain, Stub.

PAULINE: Yeah. It's right there. I think that was right there at Winnemucca.

STUB: Right there, yeah.

PAULINE: So, by the time you left Old Princeton and got into Winnemucca you'd been on the road about fourteen days.

STUB: Something like that, yeah.

PAULINE: And traveled about ten, to fifteen miles. What was a really long drive?

STUB: Yeah. Well the longest drive I think was from Dufurrena's, I'll have to look, I think from Dufurrena's. I don't think I told you this, but I think they stayed all night at Granite Creek after they left Dufurrena's. Then the next day was quite a drive from there to Quinn River.

PAULINE: And how far was that?

STUB: Must have been twenty miles, anyway. This is taken ---

PAULINE: How many people did you have on the drive?

STUB: About seven or eight generally.

PAULINE: Seven or eight riders. And then somebody with a cook---

STUB: Yeah, a cook and a fellow with the horses, a rango they called him, saddle horses.

PAULINE: Would the cook wagon go on ahead?

STUB: Yeah. Yeah, they'd go on ahead. Generally, about noon he'd stop someplace, at noon, have lunch. Eat a little dinner and then go on for another, ride maybe until four, three or four o'clock.

PAULINE: So, the cook got up and got you fed breakfast, and then broke camp and headed out before you left camp.

STUB: Well, we generally had the cattle going before he'd get to going. But he'd come through the cattle before we'd go very far. Eldon is coming to pick up the garbage. (Doorbell rings)

SIDE B

PAULINE: Okay.

RETA: Pauline, this is where we saw that snake right down ---

PAULINE: That's where we saw the snake.

STUB: There is the snake.

PAULINE: Yeah, there he is. I got a good picture of him. Let's kind of back up here a little bit and

get on the tape, I can't remember where we were when Eldon came to get the garbage, but just to catch back up so we don't miss part. When you left Winnemucca, when we left Winnemucca we took pictures of the Paradise Valley area.

STUB: Yeah, you took one picture out there; I wasn't sure where Sand Wells was.

PAULINE: Yeah, and that was one stop. And then we've got the picture of the Paradise Station barn. And then there was the creek, what was the name of the creek that we stopped and took a picture of? Where the cows were and ---

STUB: Over there at Cane Springs.

PAULINE: Cane Springs, okay.

STUB: Cane Springs.

PAULINE: Okay. And then from there we went out across the desert there, just headed for Sodhouse.

STUB: Yeah.

PAULINE: And that's where the, there was some buildings left. What, was Sodhouse a freight station?

STUB: Yeah, it was just a little ranch there. But it sure didn't look like much when we was there.

PAULINE: Well we saw this, probably a bull snake.

STUB: Yeah, it is.

PAULINE: And he was cleaning out a gopher hole. He had run his head down in there, and he would kind of turn his head and just bring out a hole scoop full of dirt and dump it, and go back in and get another scoop full.

STUB: He was a pretty long snake.

PAULINE: He was a big snake.

RETA: He didn't pay any attention to us.

PAULINE: Didn't pay any attention to us at all. Reta and I stood there and watched him for quite a little while, and I took pictures. And he was just busy, evidently digging in that hole. Now I would imagine that it was a gopher hole already built.

STUB: Yeah, it probably was. Might have been a gopher down in there.

PAULINE: Might have been.

STUB: He was going after him.

RETA: He probably run him in there and he filled the hole with dirt, the gopher did.

PAULINE: The gopher probably, that's probably what; yeah, I think maybe you've got the right idea.

STUB: Where was this taken?

PAULINE: Well that was taken there on the highway after we left Quinn River. We haven't got any pictures of Quinn River yet, do we?

STUB: No. Yeah, we're getting into them right now.

PAULINE: Okay. Road sign there.

STUB: Here it is here.

PAULINE: There is Quinn River. Let me mark that one so I'll make sure --- Okay. Now can you tell me a little bit about the Quinn River Ranch? This is in Nevada.

STUB: Yeah, it's in Nevada. But it was just an old PLS Company ranch; it had been there for years and years. But they're sure letting it go to pot now. The buildings looked awful. It used to be the headquarters for one of the main outfits in Nevada, buckaroo outfits. They had two outfits, they run two wagons, one was at Black Rock, and the other one was at Quinn River wagon.

PAULINE: Here we are at Quinn River. Do you remember the willow corrals?

STUB: Oh, yeah, you bet. This is up on the, where we went up on the hill there. Yeah we branded five hundred head of steers in there one fall.

PAULINE: Well, it's the biggest willow corral I have ever seen.

STUB: Yeah, it's been there a long time too. There it is there too. We just put a bunch of steers in there and built a fire right in the middle of the corral and when we run out of steers then we'd go get some more.

PAULINE: Five hundred head you branded, you said?

STUB: Yeah. They sent us from the Whitehorse outfit down there to brand those steers. Never

did know why, they had a buckaroo outfit down there. But they never, they sent us from Whitehorse down there to brand those steers.

PAULINE: Well, those willow corrals were really sturdy and lasted a long time.

STUB: Oh, yeah, they lasted for years and years. And the longer they was there, the better they got, as long as the posts didn't rot off.

PAULINE: I like that one.

STUB: Yeah, there is where you took the sign, the picture of the sign.

PAULINE: Yeah, we were headed back out across the desert again.

STUB: Yeah, going toward Denio.

PAULINE: Pretty desolate old country. It was a long way between water holes ---

STUB: You bet.

PAULINE: --- out in that part.

RETA: Would you sleep out on the ground?

STUB: Yeah. If it was storming, why they had a big tent they'd set up. And they had a kind of a stove like, built like a funnel. They just set down and had a stovepipe go up through it. And gee they could sure warm that old tent up pretty quick. I don't know whether I told you this or not. We stayed all night, one night we stayed there, the night we stayed at the Dufurrena's, and then I come back from there, I never went on. The cook didn't have a watch, no time, and the buckaroo boss would call him of a morning. Snow on the ground, clear and cold, everybody got breakfast, hollered breakfast, and everybody got up. One old fellow by the name of Jim Winters come out, and he said where is the morning star? Everybody looked around, and the buckaroo boss looked at his watch, and it was about twelve-thirty then. It was twenty minutes after eleven, and he thought it was five minutes to four when he called him. (Laughter) That old cook, I'll tell you he was a little bit on the fight.

PAULINE: But he had breakfast all ready for you.

STUB: He had breakfast ready. We all got up, but we all went back to bed, it was too dark to start the cattle, you couldn't start the cattle.

PAULINE: Did you go ahead and eat, or did you just go back to bed?

STUB: I think we just went back to bed, I don't remember.

RETA: This is out there ---

PAULINE: That's over there on the, coming around the Catlow side of the Steens.

RETA: Yeah.

STUB: He was a Dutchman, maybe you have heard of him, Billy Bruckwilder.

PAULINE: That was the cook?

STUB: Yeah.

PAULINE: Billy Bruckwilder.

STUB: Bruckwilder. Yeah, he had a place there, he died. Dorothy Voegtly took care of him for a long time before he died. He said, "By Jesus, you will get the next breakfast." So, the buckaroo boss had to get the next breakfast. So, he got him mad, and he wanted me to go on with them, wanted me to cook the rest of the way to Winnemucca. I said, "No way, I'm not going to cook." So, I turned around and went home. Went back to the Alvord, Whitehorse. So, he had to keep him. He was going to fire him, and let me cook, make me cook the rest of the way.

RETA: You made different arrangements.

STUB: I wasn't about to cook. They would have killed me. I wouldn't have had to get up; they'd have killed me about the second meal. (Laughter)

RETA: He's a pretty good cook.

STUB: We had to all go back to bed and then get up again.

PAULINE: Well, when you got the cattle to Winnemucca they were put on a train there?

STUB: Yeah, put in the stockyards, then put on the train and then headed to California.

PAULINE: About the time you were doing this for the PLS Company, that was about the last ones then that the PLS Company made. They started to break the ranches up.

STUB: Well, they started to break the ranches up around '24 in Nevada. I can't remember when, I guess they started about; it was a little later than that before they broke them up in Oregon. But it was about '24, when they sold those ranches out in Nevada, and I was breaking those horses to go to

the other ranches, that was in '24. And then they sent me up here. No, that was '26, because I went down there in '24. So '26 they transferred me from there up here after I broke those horses.

PAULINE: Well, it was a pretty good trip. It was a fun day to do it. I don't know whether I would want to take two weeks to make that trip or not.

RETA: Two days was nice, wasn't it?

PAULINE: Yeah, two days was nice. Well, you know we really actually covered the ground in one day. Took us two days to take the pictures, because we run out of light.

RETA: Oh, I sure enjoyed that.

PAULINE: Oh, I did too. That was --- well going over Juniper Ridge I think for me was the high point.

RETA: Me too.

PAULINE: I had never been in that country at all, and that was---

RETA: That was sure something. I just couldn't imagine a car, or a team going up and down that mountain.

PAULINE: Pretty steep grade.

STUB: Yeah, it was pretty steep, rocky and rough, snowed up, snowed and muddy. It had just about everything wrong with it, that old grade did.

PAULINE: Well, I'm going to get these pictures into an album and get some labels put on them. And I'll get the transcript of the tape typed up, and then I'll bring it down and we'll go over it again to make sure that we got it all unscrambled right.

STUB: Okay.

PAULINE: But that was really helpful. I did fine until I got to that one section there between the Trout Creek Ranch and the Dufurrena's.

STUB: Oh.

PAULINE: I couldn't remember, I was totally lost then, from then on out.

STUB: Well, I wasn't too well acquainted with that down there, because they always sent me back at the Dufurrena Ranch. That's about as far as I ever got to go. They just loaned me out there for a

few days from the Whitehorse outfit.

PAULINE: Well thank you for your time.

STUB: Well that's okay. Our time don't amount to much. It's awful ---

(END OF TAPE)

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