

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #281 - Sides A & B & C

Subject: Wally Welcome

Place: Harney County Library, Burns, Oregon

Date: March 6, 1991

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, along with Barbara Lofgren, and today we're talking with Wally Welcome at the Harney County Library in Burns, Oregon. Today's date is March 6th, 1991. Following our interview, we will do a short video of Wally, and it will be stored at the Library along with the transcript and cassette tape. The number is 281. Wally, can you tell us your full name?

WALLY WELCOME: Wallace Donegan Welcome.

DOROTHEA: When and where were you born?

WALLY: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: When and where were you born?

WALLY: I was born in 1910 in Burns, on the property I still live on, we live on.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Is that right? Was it your family home?

WALLY: Grandfather, grandfather.

DOROTHEA: What were your parent's names?

WALLY: My mother's name was Ella Frances Donegan. My father's name was Frank Wesley Welcome.

DOROTHEA: And where were your parents born?

WALLY: My mother was born in Jacksonville, in 1878. And my dad was born in Cedarville, California in 1983.

BARBARA: 1883.

WALLY: I mean 1883. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Did your parents ever come to Harney County?

WALLY: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: Did your parents ever come to Harney County?

WALLY: Yes, my father came when my grandfather did. He came up; they came up in 1889 to Burns.

DOROTHEA: And why did they come to Harney County?

WALLY: When did they come --- that was it, 1893.

DOROTHEA: Why.

WALLY: I mean 1889.

DOROTHEA: '89.

BARBARA: What was the reason that your father came to Harney County?

WALLY: Well, it was my grandfather.

BARBARA: I mean grandfather.

WALLY: Well my grandfather was a harness maker and a saddler. And he moved, when he moved west, I mean from, born in Franklin Territory of Pennsylvania. And then after the Civil War, which he served in for four years, why he married Leona Cromwell in LaPrairie, Illinois, and they moved to Colony, Missouri and had some property there. They moved west in 1878 about, to Cedarville, California. And then they, grandfather had a harness shop in Cedarville, and one in Fort Bidwell. And they had a friend that they knew from that area that had come to Burns in 1885, and had a hotel. And he told them it would be a good place for a harness and saddle shop in Burns.

So my grandfather and the oldest son, Henry Welcome, moved up in April 1888,

and looked it over, and went back and moved the family up in August of 1888. And he had his harness shop in the city hall, until he built the building, which started it right away. Completed it in 1889, which is located where the One Stop Service Station is at there.

And he had, have a picture of that with, he and my --- his oldest son Henry Welcome. They had a Welcome Saddle, which he had a patent on that tree, called the Welcome Tree. And it was on a sawhorse in front of, that second picture of, ever taken of Burns Street, which was in 1889.

And so anyway, why then that shop burned down in 1915, and they moved to the Land Office Building, which is on the corner of B and Alvord. And it had been the Land Office Building, and that building; part of it was moved from Harney. And it was a hotel, and it sat on the corner, exactly where the clothing shop was at on the corner of B and Main Street.

BARBARA: So when they came up, was he the only harness maker in Harney County at that time?

WALLY: No, there was another one.

BARBARA: There was another.

WALLY: Yeah, there was another one when he came. I think maybe about the same time. But he was --- I don't know whether he was a saddle maker or not. But they were saddle and harness makers.

BARBARA: So there was enough business to keep them busy, and raise a family.

WALLY: Yeah, busy all the time, yeah.

BARBARA: Well, that's good. So your father was born in California, but he was young then when your grandfather came.

WALLY: Yeah, yeah. My, they had, there was one girl who was the oldest, named

Margaret. And she was the oldest, and my father was the youngest. And the brothers, two of them, Henry and Jake, and they bought out the Grace Drug Store. They had worked for him when they were kids. And then went back to the Chicago School of Pharmacy in Chicago, which is now the University of Chicago.

BARBARA: Oh, for goodness sakes.

WALLY: It was called the Chicago School of Pharmacy then. It took them two years. And they studied just straight pharmacy, you know, no electives. They came back, and my grandfather made them all learn the harness and saddle business. But my father was the only one that followed that trade. And the misses, the girl, Margaret, and her name was Levens. She married Hank Levens in 1889, which was the second marriage after Harney was broke off from Grant County. It was the second marriage, was the record, the second marriage. They had that land, and he had quite a bit of land. He built the, where the Pat Culp Ranch is at. He built that house in 1908. And then he also, they had a settlement out between Harney, I mean between Buchanan and Crane, off to the right, and it was on the plat Welcomeville, named it Welcomeville. And I had that taken off of the records. (Laughter) I mean in, when the development came in, it had served its purpose. It was in the courthouse, but it is no longer there. But it was --- confusion is what it was. And so my dad called his property the Sand Ranch, you know. Never developed it. And the --- that's about it as far as the family is concerned, I guess.

BARBARA: Okay. And your mother then, how did she happen to come to Harney County?

WALLY: Well her brother James J. Donegan was out, came out from Jacksonville. They were born in Jacksonville. My grandfather Donegan went into Jacksonville in 1889. Came from Ireland, walked across, he landed in New York, got down and walked across

the Isthmus of Panama. And then they took a boat up the coast of California, about to where Crescent City, and they came; they were going to gold mine. That was the purpose they came. And then they went into Jacksonville, which is Jacksonville, Oregon.

BARBARA: That's down by Medford, isn't it?

WALLY: See Jackson County, yeah, five miles. And there was all kinds of miners, and there wasn't any blacksmith shop there, and he was a blacksmith. So he opened a blacksmith shop, which was there until he died in 1919.

The Donegan name, that part of it ran out. I mean all were girls, and the boys didn't have any.

BARBARA: No children, so that was the end of the line.

WALLY: They had girls. Didn't have any boys, so the name ran out. They have been back to that county, Loud, Ireland. I haven't, but some of my relatives have.

BARBARA: So your mothers ---

WALLY: My mother was Irish. My grandfather was actually Pennsylvania Dutch, which is German mostly, and Irish. And my grandmother was English and Irish and Dutch.

BARBARA: So when she came here, did she come as a teacher, or did she come to work on a ranch?

WALLY: Who?

BARBARA: Your mother.

WALLY: Oh, my mother came as a teacher.

BARBARA: As a teacher.

WALLY: Her brother, James, Jimmy Donegan had come out and worked for Hanley. And she came out in 1900. And they were married in 1905, my father and mother married in August 16th, 1905.

BARBARA: So she came as a teacher. Did she teach in Burns or one of the little schools?

WALLY: She taught in Burns.

BARBARA: In Burns.

WALLY: Yeah.

BARBARA: High school or elementary?

WALLY: No, no, at the elementary.

BARBARA: Elementary level. Uh huh. So how many years did she teach?

WALLY: Well she came, arrived in 1900, and she taught until 1905. And then after she got married --- before that she had, before she had moved out to Burns she had taught in Jacksonville.

BARBARA: I see.

WALLY: But she, after she --- 1905, after my older sister was born in 1906, why she quit teaching.

BARBARA: Well a lot of times they wouldn't let married women teach, in the early days.

WALLY: Well, this W. W. Sutton I told you about, wanted her to teach. She taught for him. But when he couldn't find anyone ---but she had taught in the grade school here when it was on the site where the Lincoln School is at. That building was built in 1895. And she taught in that until she married my father.

BARBARA: How did they happen to meet?

WALLY: Oh, they met here. Yeah.

BARBARA: At a dance or something like that?

WALLY: Oh, yeah. They met. Well the town was fairly small, but there was quite a bit of activity.

BARBARA: Okay. And so how many brothers and sisters do you have?

WALLY: I had an older brother, lost when he was a baby. So I'm the only boy. And I had two sisters, the oldest was Mary who is now, her name is Brady. And the oldest was Eleanor, whose name now is Jenkins. And I had some cousins.

BARBARA: Okay, while you were growing up and going to Burns Grade School, can you remember some of the things that you might have done as a child, in your neighborhoods, or going to school, or something stand out in your memory? Pets, did you have any pets that you ---

WALLY: I remember --- I started to school in 1917, and World War I was on. In fact when World War I was declared on April 1917, I think was on a Thursday. And they had quite a parade up the street. I got a picture of it. And my grandfather played the base drum in it. The volunteers, it showed the pictures, I mean where that, when they enlisted.

And so the activities at that time during World War I in school why we had cloth, and we cut up what they called snips, for to put in pillowcases. I don't know whether they ever got to France or not. (Laughter) But they did it at the Red Cross, and they had it up in the Brown Building, it was upstairs in the Brown Building. Every Friday we would bring our scissors to school and cut out little squares for gun wipes. And then cut them smaller for snips to put in pillows.

But we played war up there, and we used window weights for a bomb, a window weight which weighted the windows down, you know. BARBARA: Oh, uh huh. Did you have any pets when you were a child?

WALLY: Oh yeah, we always had pets, yeah. I had a, different dogs all through my life.

BARBARA: Were there any of your classmates, your friends that have stayed in Burns or Harney County from the time that you went to school?

WALLY: There are some here, uh huh. Hilton Whiting started to school in 1917. And let's see if there are any others --- Agness Brown started. I guess they are the only two --- and Pete Clemens started in the first grade, had Mrs. Houston.

BARBARA: Can you remember any special teacher while you were going to school that kind of stuck in your mind maybe besides Mr. Sutton?

WALLY: Oh, I would say Lula Hayes, she taught the second grade.

BARBARA: That made an impression on you.

WALLY: Started the second grade, and then the school was dismissed in October on account of the flu.

BARBARA: Oh.

WALLY: And it, we didn't get back to school all that year. And started so --- a woman was teaching, that was named Enid Gowan, who was a Cawlfeld. Enid Cawlfeld. She was a good teacher. But in that year then, she didn't go back. And we had Lula Hayes, and she was the best teacher I had in grade school.

BARBARA: You know you say Enid Gowan. She then later moved to Corvallis, right?

WALLY: Yes, they did.

BARBARA: And I had her as a teacher, my first grade teacher.

WALLY: Oh, you did. Yeah. I had her in the second.

BARBARA: I thought that was really unusual. When I was at the museum I noticed her name up there, and discovered that she came from here.

WALLY: Yeah, she was a good teacher.

BARBARA: Yes, really liked her.

WALLY: She was a good teacher. I can remember the story she told us. She said, "Keep your feet out of the isles." She said, "Because when I was at school, a boy had his

foot out in the isle, and a girl come by and stumbled over it and it broke her leg."

BARBARA: Oh dear.

WALLY: She told us that story.

BARBARA: Yeah. And of course you mention W. W. Sutton who was a taskmaster.

WALLY: Oh yeah. I just didn't have any use for him at all. I didn't like him. First off, he was partial. And I --- we disagreed.

BARBARA: A little too rigid for young people probably.

WALLY: Well he had his, I mean one, someone could do something, someone else could do something else the same. I never liked anyone that was partial.

BARBARA: Yeah, right.

WALLY: In school.

BARBARA: Yeah.

WALLY: And we didn't get along. I was the shortest boy in the class. He called me little sawed off Welcome, and that made me mad. (Laughter)

BARBARA: I can imagine, yes.

WALLY: He asked us, he said, "Well," he said, "in the old days they used to rule with the birch." And he said, "Little sawed off Welcome, what do you think would do, that would be now?" And I said, "You would be, they would be fine if he was the one getting whipped."

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

WALLY: He come down off of that desk, and come down and jerked me off on the floor. He jerked me up again. I even had trouble when I was freshman in high school with him. I was going to punch him in the stomach then though. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Okay, so how were your high school days?

WALLY: Great. I liked it. Yeah, we had a fine --- Sutton had no use for athletics or

anything at the time. But he was, as far as teaching, he knew his matter and he was good, and he was thorough. And I didn't mind the homework, you had lots of it. You know he made us measure the height of the flagpole by Pi R Squared, you know.

BARBARA: Made you use your brain.

WALLY: He had, I didn't have, but it was his nature.

BARBARA: In high school did you play baseball or basketball?

WALLY: Yeah, I played baseball, basketball, football, and track. But those were the years that we weren't very good.

BARBARA: So what kind of a record did you have, about 0-20?

WALLY: Well, we had, what had happened one of the best teams, a real good team was Prairie City. And they would get everyone in the John Day Valley and they'd go to school there. But as I say, the one in the high school, the kids were rather mean, you know, and they had trouble.

And they got a D. M. McDade who had just got out of the army, or navy, in World War I. And the principal had left; I mean the one they had, that year with the flu. And the next year was when he got out. But at the mid-term, why the principal resigned, and they hired him. And first, I guess the first day of class, in the room; someone hit him in the back of the head with an eraser.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

WALLY: And there was only four in there, you know, there was only four. And he asked, and they wouldn't, they wouldn't --- I was in grade school then, but we heard about it. And they wouldn't any of them say. So he said, "Alright," he said, "you're going to stay in here, and we're going into the assembly. And that was at that old high school then, that old wooden building built in 1895, which had been the grade school. And so anyway why he

brought them and called an assembly. He brought them in one by one, and he said, "You've got to do your exercises in front of the class." And the stove, supposed to be kind of a furnace, you know, it had --- and he had a pretty good-sized willow back of that. And he said, "You have to bend over, and bend over until I tell you to stop." And about the fourth time, he was just like he was ---

BARBARA: Oh dear.

WALLY: --- hitting with the baseball, in one whack, see. And then he did that in front of the assembly. So then he, he got some discipline, but he was different than Sutton. And he said, "Well, they need some activities in this school, you know." And so he got a baseball team.

And he got a lady to put on an operetta to raise money. And they got, did, and bought some baseball uniforms. And they played Prineville and beat them, you know.

And then he got a football team. And he had worked his way through Bowden, Maine, you know, I mean had played baseball and football, and track. But he didn't know anything about basketball. So he got Nolie Reed to coach basketball, who had played at Oregon State, what he did. And he was strict, but you liked him, you know. I mean he was, had kind of a sardonic humor I guess with it. But he straightened me out. (Laughter) He told me, he said, "I'm going to give you something you've needed for a long time." He said, "Do you know what it is?" I said, "No."

BARBARA: Wrong answer.

WALLY: They were putting the water and sewer in then. It was right in front of that old courthouse there, you know, and it was cold, you know. It was January, and it was cold. And he said, "I don't know whether to whip you or not." But he said, "You go down and watch those men down there." And I went down, and they were picking that rock through

that. "Said don't you come back until you hear the bell." It was cold when I come back. And he said, "What did you think of it?" And I said, "It was pretty cold." He said, "Well that's just exactly what you're going to be doing unless you straighten out." (Laughter)

BARBARA: So he got your attention real fast.

WALLY: Pardon.

BARBARA: He got your attention real fast.

WALLY: Yeah. So I liked him, you know.

BARBARA: Yeah, right.

WALLY: He never held a grudge ---

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: --- against anyone.

BARBARA: Well good.

WALLY: So we'd go down, we would go down when he coached football. He coached baseball, and football, and track, and he coached debate. And got a debate team and took them to Ontario and debated. And taught U.S. History, and Civil Government, and Advanced Algebra, and Solid Geometry.

BARBARA: Boy.

WALLY: All for nothing.

BARBARA: That's a lot.

WALLY: He was a principal.

BARBARA: Did you, when you were in high school, play Crane in football, did you?

WALLY: Did I what?

BARBARA: Did you play Crane High School in football?

WALLY: Oh, when I got --- Burns played, in the year that we were freshmen, why not

enough turned out.

BARBARA: I see.

WALLY: And we didn't have any team. And he had to cancel, he had some games scheduled, and there wasn't enough turned out and they canceled it. And so the next year was the same thing. So then he left in 1926, he left, and Phil Baird came out from Corvallis. And that was the first team we had. We didn't --- Before that, McDade here; we'd play East Burns against West Burns. Kids all excited. And we put --- my dad had a shop in, we'd get sheepskin and put them in an old pair of knickerbockers, you know. ... That's what you call ... And we did that, you know, years. But when Baird came, we didn't have anything, you know, and all went over and played Prairie. And Prairie were good, and they beat us 93-0.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's one of those good scores. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Well at least you remembered it.

WALLY: I've got a, they had a fine, they had a --- we did, the coach wasn't any good we had then. We weren't any good either, but neither was he. And they had a well-coached team. They came out, I remember, they came out; their colors were orange and black. Black jersey with orange stripes around them, they all had stripes. And we had some, our colors were purple and gold, but there wasn't enough suits to go around. Some of them had sweatshirts, you know.

BARBARA: When you were in high school, did you do odd jobs then in the summertime? Did you like work out on one of the ranches or something like that?

WALLY: I worked in haying two years. And then in the fall we'd usually, even started that in grade school, we'd usually chop wood and put it in for people, you know, wood. That's

about all there was in that. Or maybe clean sidewalks off of snow or something.

But the first paying job why I worked at the Bell-A one summer. And then the PLS Company the next summer. And that was in the hay field.

BARBARA: And then did you work in one of the grocery stores too?

WALLY: I did in 1924, when I was out of the eighth grade, for Weinsteins. And that store, where it was at then, is where the Elkhorn is at. And they bought the building, which is right across the street, it is right where --- it is closed now, you know. And when that --- they moved across the street. But all in that, why fill vinegar, you know, and cap it with the bottle capper.

BARBARA: Oh yeah.

WALLY: Wash bottles and fill them with that, molasses.

BARBARA: Put the stock out on the shelves?

WALLY: Stock, yeah.

BARBARA: Sweep the floors.

WALLY: Everything, you know. Sort onions.

BARBARA: Oh. A lot of things were just loose rather than packaged.

WALLY: Yeah, whatever, yeah.

BARBARA: Whatever he told you.

WALLY: Whatever they told us to do, we did. We got fifty cents a day; we got fifty cents a day.

BARBARA: Well, that was good pay.

WALLY: Yeah, it was something, you know.

BARBARA: And then when you finished high school, did you go on to college?

WALLY: No, no. I started working in a drug store when I was a junior in high school.

BARBARA: Was that for your uncle?

WALLY: Uh huh. And so I would work after school, and on Saturdays and Sundays. We were open seven days a week.

BARBARA: Oh, my goodness.

WALLY: And go in and sweep the floors, and clean the showcases, everything was under glass. I mean all had glass showcases, and you would have to wash those. Then dust the stock, and worked on the fountain. We made the chocolate syrup.

BARBARA: Oh.

WALLY: I mean you would take chocolate powder, and then sugar solution, and made the chocolate syrup. And buy most of the syrups, they were concentrated, and make them, and dilute them. And the ice cream, they didn't have any Frigidaires then, I mean it was ice fountains. We'd have to take the ice and tap it down with a baseball bat, and around. And you worked all the time. Something to do.

Then I, then when I was in there my uncle let me do some things. I learned how to use a torsion balance, and weigh, and everything. You'd fill capsules, and make powders, chalks they called them. Fill them up, and a lot of people would take them ... paper. Made citrate of magnesia. You made that. You manufactured some things, you know. And most of the prescriptions were, you had to compound them. A few of them were more than, but it got less and less and less. When I got out, why you didn't compound any-thing.

But --- so I stayed out and worked two years. And then I had a few liberty bonds that had been given to me in World War I that I had never cashed. And so I thought well, I'll take pre-med I guess. And my cousin Alfred had gone to Columbia, and he was a fine athlete. And when they found out he was from Burns, they gave him a pair of baseball

pants for him. (Laughter) And the first night they had wind sprints, he was right out in the lead. So he got a suit, you know. And he played on the team, he done the passing and the kicking. And he'd of gone back, he started in pre-med, he was going back, and then he came back, and that summer he was in an auto wreck and he broke his shoulder in September.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

WALLY: And he couldn't play football, so he never went back to school. Never went back. Shipped out on a ship. But ---

BARBARA: So did you like, did you think you were going to like pre-med when you started out?

WALLY: Well the story was on that, when I started, I went down to take pre-med. In my high school, you know, they didn't teach chemistry, and they taught physics. And so my junior year, you would have to be a junior or senior to take either one of them. So I started in physics my junior year, and I threw my knee out of joint in November. And I was out, knocked it clear out of joint. Had a cast, and I didn't get back to school until January. And I had these experiments to make up, you know. Well I should have, you don't realize what you do --- the first thing in high school, I never did study. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Just get by.

WALLY: So I got those --- and VanVerveer was the principal then, W. T. VanVerveer, and he brought the books down when he knew I had dislocated that knee. And --- but I didn't use them. And Leo Roundsville was the physics instructor, and he said, "Well you have to make up these experiments, you know." And I never made them up, so I got an incomplete. And I guess it is still there. (Laughter) So when I went to school, I was going to pre-med, so I went to Columbia. My cousin had gone there and he liked it. And

they had a good, a pretty good pre-med course there. So I, when I went down and the registrar said, "Why you can't take pre-med, you can't take chemistry, you haven't had it in high school." And I said, "That don't make any difference. I haven't had it in high school, you don't have to have it if you go to Oregon State." And he said, "Well this isn't Oregon State," he said, "you can take it if you want to," he said, "but I'll tell you," he said, "that science instructor, that chemistry instructor had fifty-six in the class and he flunked fifty."

BARBARA: Oh dear.

WALLY: And they all had high school chemistry. So I thought, well I don't --- that stopped me. So I thought, well I'll take pre-law. (Laughter) So I did. I took German, and Political Science, German, U. S., or not U.S. History, but History, and Biology, and that was all I guess. But I had to study.

And then I thought well maybe I'll go back. Now your language in pre-med, you had to have two years of German, or French. And most of the information is printed in German instead of French. So I was going to take another year of German.

Well then when I ran out of money, and when I came back why I went to work in the drug store. I had worked in the summer and then during the holidays. And so when I came back, I would still sweep out the floor, you know, do janitor work.

In September 1933, why this gentleman came into the store, and I was sweeping, and he said, "Are you the pharmacist here?" And I said, "No." And he said, "Well this is illegal for you to be --- are you the only one here?" Said, "That is not legal, there has to be a pharmacist here." I said, "Well that's my uncle, he'll be here pretty soon." And he was, and he sacked him pretty good.

Frank S. Ward was the secretary of the State Board of Pharmacy. He is the one that had came out. And so he told me, he said, "They have a junior pharmacy." He said,

"You ought to go take a course and be a junior pharmacist." And so my uncle talked to me, and he said, "Well why don't you transfer and go down to Oregon State?" And it was --- we'll help you out.

In fact that Home Drug was my uncle and my other uncle, the one that had a store in Juntura, and an aunt. Had three stockholders in it. And he said, "Then you go down and take, transfer to Oregon State and take pharmacy and we'll help you out." Which they did. And he said, "See if you can get a job." Well there wasn't any jobs in the depression, you know, there wasn't any jobs in the depression.

And about the only thing in Oregon State --- I mean I liked chemistry. Then I took an advanced quantitative drug analysis from Professor Britt who was in charge of the state drug lab where they did the analyzing for things that come in. And I took advanced quantitative drug analysis from him spring term. That was my junior year.

Well then when I came back my senior year --- when I was on my junior year, why the state board had picked up some citrate magnesia from Fred Meyer. And this Professor Britt ran an assay on it. And they had ran on an assay up there, and they said it runs low in citrates, which was the most expensive thing in it. He made it. So he said, he said, "I don't think there is anything wrong with that assay." He said, "I think it is wrong with the assay." And he said that they had run a gravimetric. And he said, "I think I know what is happening." He said, "I think it is when you're heating that, those citrates are fusing with the crucible, you know. So what I want you to do is add a tenth of normal hydrochloric acid and heat that gently, and then back titrate it with a tenth normal sodium hydroxide, neutralize it and we will calculate the difference, and that will be where we get the citrates." So that's what we did, and it came just out right, you know, that first one just like it should have been. He said, "Run fifty samples of that," which we did, see.

So I enjoyed that, because I made up samples for those taken, national products and drug ... which was a, you know, testing for strychnine and something, or quinine or something, codeine all that, it was interesting courses. And I had taken that advanced quant from him that junior year as an elective. Then when I came back --- he was a part-time teacher, and a director, that they raised him to a full-time instructor. So they said at the--- the national youth administration had allocated some money for it. So the dean, Dean Ziefle said well he is going to pick Leonard Hamner for the job, who was my roommate. And Britt said, "I'm going to pick who I want." And he picked me, so I was lucky, you know. And I got forty cents an hour. That's a lot of money, you know, forty cents an hour. And I got --- so I was fortunate there, through that term.

And you couldn't borrow any money until your senior year, and so that --- got by pretty good, but I still needed a little money to get through. And the thing that I always remember on that, there was a loan fund, while you had to give so many references, you know. And we applied in, I think it was the first of December, right after Thanksgiving, I put our applications in. And then when I --- you had to give these references, and I gave principal, this McDade that I had in high school, was the editor of the Journal of Juniors in Portland. I gave him, and a couple in Burns. And you had to give the banker. And the First National Bank had gone broke, and the Harney County was the only bank left then, you know. And it wasn't this chain bank. And so he, I gave him as a reference. And my loan came right through. I had it before I left.

BARBARA: Oh gosh.

WALLY: It was the only one that came through.

BARBARA: Well great.

WALLY: And when I got back during a vacation, I met Mr. Brown on the street, and he

said, "Well did you get your loan?" I said, "Yes I got my loan, I want to thank you." He said well he sent these pages out to fill out, and he said, "I didn't fill anything out." He said, "I just took it and wrote on it and said if you don't want to loan him the money, we will." And sent it back and signed his name.

BARBARA: Well that is super.

DOROTHEA: We have to pause for a minute Wally.

SIDE B

BARBARA: Okay, we're back on again. You say you started out in pre-med, then you went to pre-law, and then you went to pharmacy. Was pharmacy really something that you thought you wanted to do when you first started out? Or was it just something that you thought well ---

WALLY: No, not particularly. I mean I got to thinking on that pre-law though, that year when I went to Columbia, and I think then there was over twice as many attorneys in Burns then as there are now.

BARBARA: So a job would have been hard to come by here.

WALLY: And very few, most of them were having trouble. I mean---

BARBARA: No business.

WALLY: Yeah, that's right. You know, it was just tough. And I thought well I don't want any of that. And then I exactly didn't know for sure what I would do that year, because I didn't have enough money to go back that next year. And in those depression years, I didn't have enough money to get back. What I had, I had used up that first year.

And then when my uncle, when he came through and he said, "Why don't you go down and see if you can get a job, and let us know." So I went down, but you couldn't get

a job. I went in, the first store I went into was Berman's. I went to all of them. And there wasn't any of them, you couldn't, just didn't get a job.

BARBARA: So when you went off to school you thought that you would be going back to Burns to make your living. You didn't want to live someplace else; you wanted to come back to Burns?

WALLY: Well, on that, I didn't even consider much. I thought I would wait and see if I can get through it, and then decide.

BARBARA: Uh huh, I see.

WALLY: And then when I came back, why then my uncle was tied down. And so I thought well I'll go to work for him. He asked me if I would come back, and I wouldn't think of not going back.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh.

WALLY: Which I did, and glad that I stayed there all that time. But the salaries then, you know, the highest paid --- I got a \$125 a month. And the highest paid, that was one of the highest --- the highest paid job was a \$125 a month, and most of them were \$90.

I was talking to Ellis Mason one time about this, same thing when he went to school, how the salaries were down, which they were.

BARBARA: So you came back and went to work then. How did you happen to meet your wife?

WALLY: Well I met her, she had been here, I had met her. I went to a dance at Hines, and it was over Memorial Day, and it was, wasn't very many there, you know. I mean we went out with another boy, and she was an attractive girl, and I thought I ought to go dance with her. And I did, and asked her if she wanted to go to the show the next night, and she didn't answer me. And I thought, I guess she don't want to go. (Laughter) So

she was ... so I never asked her again, you know. And she was around all that time, and that was in 193---, she came in 1936. But this was over Memorial Day in 1937.

And I had seen her, but I didn't dance with her. Then over the Fourth of July holiday a friend I had, that had worked on the building of the post office --- The girl was from Reno, and she was coming up over the Fourth of July, which she did. And so there was a three days holiday in there. And so we dated, and then she said, "Well why don't you" --- and they called him Ted, his name was Ted Sumner, and she said, "Why don't you two come down to Reno over Labor Day?" And I said, "Well" --- she said, "I'll get you a date down there, someone I want you to meet." And I said, "Well that's fine." Well then, it happened, the way that actually happened because we were in the Pine Room, and Louise Clay, you know her?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

WALLY: She was Louise Williams then. And Fay Smith, who was Fay Richardson, they were both single. We were all down at the Pine Room at a table when, with this Lelia Egli, was her name from Reno. And her mother owned a guesthouse in Reno that kept guests and students. So they --- that was when we decided, they said, "Well why don't you all come down to Reno?" And so we said we would. Well then when it came up, why Louise couldn't go, and Fay said, "Well I'm not going down with three boys." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Not by myself.

WALLY: Neil Smith, and Ted Sumner and me. Said, "I'm not going down with three boys." And I said, "Well" --- And she told me, she said, "You've got to take someone down." Well I said, "Well I've got a date down there." I said, "See this girl has a date for me." She said, "Well you're cancelled, or you won't go." I said, "Well okay, get anyone, I don't care." So she said, "Do you know Dera (Ashe)?" She was a beauty operator, and

she did Fay's hair, you know. And Fay said she, there was a girl down from Portland I chased around with, but I didn't want to take her to Reno. And so anyway why she said, I said, "Well you get someone, get anyone, I don't care who you get." So after she come back, she said, "Do you know Dera?" I said, "Yeah, I know Dera," I said. She said, "We'll get her. Will you go with her?" And I said, "Yeah, I'll go with her." And you know what, well that was it. (Laughter) That's when I fell.

BARBARA: So how many years was it from the first time that you met her until you ended up getting, or dating then?

WALLY: Two and a half years.

BARBARA: Two and a half years.

WALLY: Yeah, I only danced with her, you know --- she was at dances, I wouldn't ask her. She once told me she didn't hear me when I said, "Do you want to go to the show?" She said, "I heard you, but I didn't know you were a woman hater," or something like that. She said, "I wasn't about to ---" That was the best decision I ever made ---

BARBARA: Yeah, you bet.

WALLY: --- was that Reno trip. Got down there, you know, and that was, that was the best thing that ever happened to me.

BARBARA: So it just clicked then, huh?

WALLY: Pardon.

BARBARA: It just clicked.

WALLY: Yeah, I'll say we clicked. I clicked anyway.

BARBARA: So then how long did you date then when you got back to Burns before you got married?

WALLY: We dated all the time. Yeah we'd go to shows and dances. Then --- well we had

a little thing. She --- it was my fault. We had a little --- we went to a football --- Oregon State, Washington State to see a game. And I had my cousin, was going to school there. And the boy she was going with, he had those tickets. She went, and we got another couple boys, and myself, the three of us went, which was fine, you know.

And so then we had, this Fay Richardson was in Portland, who had gone to Reno. And she was working at the U. S. National Bank in Portland, she and Genevieve Williams. And so we had it planned out after that game we'd go up to Portland. And we did. That just about ended my career! (Laughter) That's how I found out she was pretty independent. But she ... we had a little discussion. She said, "Well I'm going to take the bus back to Burns." That was a little dismay, but I thought by golly I don't want to lose her. So that was that. Never had another date, and we dated --- see that was over Armistice Day, November 11th. Well then as soon as we got back from that, and I had some dates in between, but not anything steady. I think maybe one date or two to the show or something, with another girl. But I told her, I said, "I'd hate to think I'd ever lose you." That's just what I told her. That was the best decision I ever made. She is a wonderful girl.

BARBARA: So when was it that you finally ended up getting married?

WALLY: We got married, that was over this November. And then we got back, I asked her to marry me two days later.

DOROTHEA: You didn't waste any time.

WALLY: Oh, no. So we set it up for August the 8th of 1941. And then I was, we had to register for the draft in 1940, you know, and I had a low order number. And, but the volunteers were taking them up.

Well then in June of 1941, they deferred those over twenty-eight. And I was over

twenty-eight. And so then we set a date to get married on, we did, got married August 8th.

BARBARA: So where did you get married, in a church, or someone's home?

WALLY: Married in Burns, yeah, in a church, yeah.

BARBARA: In a church, uh huh. And did you get to take a honeymoon?

WALLY: Yeah, we went to Reno.

BARBARA: Went to Reno.

WALLY: Yeah, that's where we met, that's where we met when we went back.

BARBARA: Well that's good.

WALLY: Went to those places we'd gone to on the tour.

BARBARA: And you talk about the military. Did you serve in the military then finally?

WALLY: Yeah.

BARBARA: And, in the army?

WALLY: Yeah, my military at Oregon State, I didn't get along with Sergeant Woodbury. (Laughter) You know, that was that year when I went down, when I transferred down my first year.

BARBARA: Right.

WALLY: Well everyone said there is not going to be any wars, you know, and the military was considered a joke. And you would have to wear those suits, you know, and so, those uniforms.

Well when I transferred down, why then my courses --- Ziefle set this course up for me. I said, "I want to take this in three years." And he gave me, he said --- I said, "I hadn't had any chemistry." And he gave me a couple courses, two years of chemistry were requisites for it, and I hadn't had any. I got D's in those, but I passed them, but it

was tough see.

And so that was, that was at Oregon State, of that one year, that year I made it. But I got on probation. And Gilfillan was the head of the, or on the, when they call you in. You couldn't count that many credits that I had taken, see. And they looked my record over, which I had had up there, and it was a good record. And he said, "There are either two things," he said, "either it's tougher down here, or you're not studying."

But anyway I, it was a bad year. I think I studied, I never got to bed before three in the morning, you know. Had those labs all day. And I had my electives up there, so I didn't need --- and I was taking straight science. And all of them labs, and they occupied all your day, and had to start studying at night.

BARBARA: So were you then in the army? Was it the army that you were in, that you served in when you went into the military?

WALLY: Yeah, uh huh.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: Yeah, I told them I wanted in. Well I was, had a low order number, they deferred over, all those over twenty-eight, and we didn't have any children. And I was 1-A, and they kept enlisted men, take it off. Well then when Pearl Harbor came, then at 28th of June they deferred, got deferred. Then when Pearl Harbor hit, I went right back into 1-A. So I went in the army.

BARBARA: So where did you take your training?

WALLY: Well I went to Fort Douglas, Utah; I mean is where I got --- I told them I didn't want in the medical corp. I said, "I want in chemical warfare." And so I didn't, so I didn't know, you know, so they shipped me out of there to Camp Livingston, or I mean to Camp Barkley, Texas. And there was a lot of conscientious

objectors, I mean in that bunch I got into there. I mean they were, that was the worst part of the army I had was at Camp Barkley, I mean it really was. I mean it was just, they were those conscientious objectors and they were, they treated you, they didn't treat you like men, you know, see.

But when I got to Camp Livingston it was just the opposite, in Louisiana. After I had that basic training, they said you can't be assigned until you had your basic training, and that was eleven weeks. Twenty-five mile hikes, and forced marches, and fitness of all kinds.

And went to Camp Livingston, they had formed a gas treatment battalion, and I got in the 91st Medical Gas Treatment Battalion at Camp Livingston, Louisiana. And was there until '43, then we went to England. And they hadn't used gas at Kaserine Pass in Africa, so they didn't know whether they would use gas, you know, when they went to France or not.

So they said well you will have to be medics. It all depends, if you have this gas, it depends on what they use. So that's what we did. We went to England in '43, and went into France in June of '44, up through Northern France and Belgium. And wound up --- which was the Russian zone. Russians moved in, we moved out. They put up the hammer and sickle, and six kilometers from Buchenwald Concentration Camp, the most horrible thing. I've got some pictures of it, bodies, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

WALLY: The reason we got on to that, we went out of action the last of April, and then we were resting. And there was a 620 clearing company that was supposed to be taking care of those. And they had taken over a Nazi Youth School, and it was a three-story building that went right on around. And they had a bombproof basement in it. And they

had this 620 clearing company, I mean that commander, that colonel that got shanghaied, I mean it was a horrible thing. Those --- they had mixed everything in that. There was diphtheria, scarlet fever, scabies, syphilis, gonorrhoea, I mean in that. And then some of them had any water

--- well we got, we were resting.

And this 91st, we never functioned, only as a battalion once. We, this platoons, or companies, and pick us up and send us, that's where we went. Well that's how we got down into that. And then we'd --- a horrible thing. I mean we got it all cleaned up, and got them.

And so then the Russians moved in, you know, they occupied that area. And so we stayed, we stayed, that was --- the VE Day was the 8th of May, and we got down there on the 1st of May. And then the Russians were there. I didn't like them, you know. They raided the --- see one on a bicycle they would knock the German off of it and take the bicycle. And they raided the places. And the Americans didn't do that. I've got some pictures when they moved in, some place, you know, we took.

But we couldn't get out of that, you know, and we cleared those out. And they kept, the VD, the rate went way up, way up on that VD rate.

And you'd have to draw, and then you'd take --- and gonorrhoea --- penicillin was working real well then, you know. The organism where you'd give them five shots would clear the gonorrhoea up, and sixty for syphilis. It would be right around the clock, they didn't have it, they didn't have those sustained where they released it. You'd have to make it up. It would come in a powder, you know, with some of them were damp you'd knock it off and then with saline and dilute it with that, and shoot them with it. And give them their sixty shots for syphilis.

And then the first thing you would do was a dark field, and that would get it for the, see then they had what they called a --- there is two tests, Washerman and a Kahn, and a Kahn. But a Kahn test would have to be sent to a lab, and it would take two days to find the result. But on a dark field, you could take a smear on that dark field and know that it's a spirochete, that syphilis would show right up on, on that spirochete. And the gonococcus, I mean under a microscope, it would be, it was a diplococcus. They would look like two buckshot's, you know, put together in clusters around. So he separated on that, but that was ---

We got in there, then we didn't get out of there until the 4th of July, out of that deal.

BARBARA: So then you got to come back to the United States then?

WALLY: No, no. The war wasn't over in Japan yet, so they screened everyone out. You had to have 85 points to get out, and I had 79. I didn't have any children. (Laughter) You know they'd show, you had 79 points. And so they put us, started screening out like number of points.

And I remember, I remember when they dropped the bomb, and I was glad they dropped it too. Because we didn't know what we ---there was more training, you know, doing more training. And we didn't know, you never knew where you were going. And we didn't know until VJ Day, and then we found out from VJ Day that --- what was going to happen to us.

Originally when they were screening those in, we were going home, you know, and we were going home. And then we were going to Hawaii and train. And then they were going to invade Honshu, Japan, in December. So I mean when they dropped that bomb, why that just settled everything. And as I say, I was glad they dropped it.

BARBARA: You wanted to get home.

WALLY: But I remember, I think Caldwell, Doc Caldwell on the energy, when they dropped that --- some of those kids said, "Well I don't believe anything could be that terrible." So I said, "I don't know." I said back in, Caldwell, the professor I took when they discovered heavy water down in the University of California, which had two isotopes of hydrogen. I mean water is H₂O, but heavy water is H₂, small 2 at the top of the top of the hydrogen atom, then the O, and then that's heavy water. And that's what they, the bomb, put in the bomb see. I mean if they released that for energy --- well I remember when Caldwell gave that lecture, he gave us a lecture on that.

And someone, I don't remember, said, "Oh, I don't think you could take, really have that much damage at it." He said, "They have those figures, and those figures were more exact than the census of Corvallis," you know. "They can do it," he said, "those are more exact than Corvallis." And they were, you know, see. I mean as it turned out. But ---

BARBARA: So when did you finally get to come home again?

WALLY: Well then we got, my father had got a cancer, and I would have got home a little earlier alright, but after --- they --- We had this screening, you know, after that, and more training for Japan.

Well then finally when this colonel said, well he said, "If you guys don't know anything now, you're not going to learn it with this advanced training period. So, some of you can go on pass, and half of you have to stay here."

So I went down into Austria, and Berchtesgaden. I wanted to get to Dresden to get Dera some China, like some of them got, but I didn't make that. But then, as I say, they were keeping in physical shape. But we weren't doing anything else much. And half of us were going on pass.

And I went back to Holland, and went back to Belgium where we got chased out of

the Battle of the Bulge then. The Germans surrounded us.

And so I went back, you know, to different places. And I had some pretty good friends in Holland, you know, from the --- they billowed us with different people, you know.

So I enjoyed that part of it.

DOROTHEA: What did Dera do while you were in the service?

WALLY: Well when I went to Livingston, you know, they said don't bring your wives down to Camp Barkley, you know. Because you're not going to get out. I mean you had two passes is all. And that Barkley, got into that, that 57th --- Just as an example, I couldn't believe it, I had never bumped into anything like that. When, the first thing when we left Fort Douglas to, on the train to Camp Barkley, and got into Barkley, and we took two days to get down there on the train. Well then the train wreck out of San Angelo, Texas. And I was in the back coach of the cars. They shuttled troops in that all the way down. And it jarred me; it didn't knock me out of my seat or anything. But we were two days there before we got out. And then we went down, that's when we transferred to Livingston.

We got to Livingston, but I was going to tell you that Barkley, that first time when you dump yourself, we got a sign that was chow. They had twelve, seated us six on a side. And they had a plate, then not coffee, you had a bowl. Bowls like that on top of the --- to drink your coffee out of. So we turned over the bowls, you know. And they had a corporal, acting, mess sergeant, you know, and turned the bowls over. He said, "Who told you to turn those bowls over?"

BARBARA: Oh dear.

WALLY: He said, "You will turn those bowls over when I say let's eat. And when I say let's eat, those bowls will sound like one bowl." And he made us wait about five minutes, pretty soon he said, "Let's eat." He turned over, and back, and he said, "You dirty

bastards," just like that. "Well what do you think I'm talking for up here," he said, "I'm not hungry, I'm not hungry." And he said, "Let's eat." Well then, you know, it was quiet. Well I thought, well what's this, you know, I had never bumped into anything like that in my life. And you know as a corporal, that Barkley was, that 57th, just that one company was a bad one. They weren't all like that.

And so anyway why I wasn't in too good a shape, physically, and that sergeant said, "Well you guys will have it pretty easy here until we start the training period next week." Well we started the training period next week, and you went double-time every place you went, you know. So we took a six-mile hike with a strip pack the first day, and then the next day we took a twelve-mile hike with the full field pack. And a full field, you know, and you had to carry your entrenching tool, and your blankets, and your shelter half's, and your pegs, and your tent. You were carrying about forty pounds. And so he took us on that twelve-mile hike, and had some double time in it.

First thing that happened though, on that one with the strip pack I got a blister on my foot from it. And so I showed it to the sergeant and told him how it happened. Well he said, "Go down and see the, in the hut, and see the first sergeant," he said. "Oh," he said, "your feet will get tough, take a hike." And I took it. Well I took it, and I walked, I made it. But some of them weren't making it, and they put --- that's what they called --- I remember that guy, that lieutenant, first lieutenant, he set a record in the mile at the University of California, Albert Lawrence. Well he was the lieutenant. And he said, "Get these men altogether in the back here," and then the main one went. They were probably a quarter of a mile ahead of us when we got in. Well I noticed they took our names. Said, "Get the names of those guys." And I got my name --- I just got in and got my pack off, and I had to report to the company office. Well I went on KP. And then this sergeant in

the hut heard about it, he got me off.

Well then I had got an infection in my foot. So, you know, it was just quick. So they took me over, I walked, took me over to the health service. And the doctor looked at it, and he said, "Well you will have limited duty, you know, for you." And so that meant fireguard, and latrine duty. Scrubbed the --- that was my duty. So I had that, that was at Barkley. I was glad to get out of that.

BARBARA: So was Dera then working at the beauty shop ---

WALLY: Dera was home, and she owned a shop, see, and she owned it, a beauty shop.

BARBARA: I see.

WALLY: Then when I got to Louisiana, I sent for her.

BARBARA: I see.

WALLY: And at Alexandria there were Camp Livingston, you know, about forty thousand troops there. Camp Clayburn, about the same number of troops. Esler Field, Alexandria Air Base, there is about eighty thousand troops in that area, and the town just wasn't big enough to support that many, you know, I mean in Louisiana.

So first place that Dera, and you couldn't find --- the only reason that I got, we went over a week before and I found a place in a wooden hotel, you know. And this one fellow had found a better place, and he said I got --- and I got it, so I took the reservation and sent, phoned her up, she came down. But cockroaches running, you know, all over.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

WALLY: And Dera, anyway why Dera got a job, she did beauty work. She got a job right off of the bat. And so we stayed there. The man's name was Lawrence, and I remember he was a great big fat fellow. It was hot then, you know, and he'd set out and fan him-self on the porch. And he said, "Yes sir, Dewey Long was the greatest man Louisiana ever

had." (Laughter)

So we started hunting for apartments, you know. And finally we bumped into one, Dera did, from someone she was doing her hair. And they didn't rent to students. So they said, she was telling them, she thought maybe she might have to go back. And they said, well she said, "We'll rent you our own." And so they did. And so we rented a room from them.

But another place that we stayed --- the only other place that we stayed, when we got that one place, this lady, the same thing, Dera found her, so she rented a room to us. And that was fine, a nice room, nice place. And when we got in, she set down the law. She said, "There is no parties, no loud noises, no smoking, no drinking. It will be fifty cents if you use the iron, you know." We took it, see. Well then we were in there a week. Well this one Sunday night, and pretty soon here a heck of an argument, we heard it over in there. This couple, their name was Watson's that rented us the place. And we were paying forty dollars, you know. And so this, pretty soon this young --- knocked at the door, she was probably twenty-three or four, and she said, "How did you get in this room?" We said, "Well the Watson's rented us that." She said, "I told them when I rented this house, there would be no one else, I mean in this house." And she kicked them out, you know, see.

BARBARA: Oh.

WALLY: And she said, well I said, "Well I paid forty dollars in advance." And she said, "Well you can stay, you know, you can stay the month." In the meantime Dera found another place and we stayed there from there out.

And that was in, Pineville was right across the Red River from Alexandria. That's about the center part of the state. And we had, lived in Pineville. And most of the

businesses were in Alexandria. I think there were two --- the thing that amazed me on that, I think there were two buildings, you know, in that whole town. Alexandria was probably a town of thirty thousand, that had --- in hot weather, that had any cool ---

BARBARA: Air conditioning?

WALLY: Yeah. One of them was the Trailways Bus Depot, and the other one was the Bentley Hotel. That and the Hotel Coffee Shop. That was the only two places, you know, the rest were hot. And those places were hot and --- I remember Dera and I were eating in this one place, you know, I mean we had to eat up at the counter, and this Negro waitress wiped her brow with ... we got up and left. (Laughter)

BARBARA: So when you then had to go overseas, then did Dera come back to Burns ---

WALLY: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: --- and stay then while you were overseas?

WALLY: Yeah. She went to Portland.

BARBARA: Oh.

WALLY: She went back, come back to Burns, and then she went to Portland and worked in the Townhouse in Portland until I got out.

BARBARA: And so you got back to Burns in 1945 then?

WALLY: I got back, yeah; I got back on October the 31st of 1945. Yeah, uh huh.

BARBARA: And then did Dera come back and open up her own shop here again?

WALLY: No, Dera came back before, when Dera moved back to Burns in, oh about a month before I got out, and she came back to Burns. She and Marie Stahl, Marie Stahl is a sister of --- they owned it together, and they sold their equipment, sold their shop.

BARBARA: I see.

WALLY: And she never owned another one. She worked part-time in shops, you know.

BARBARA: So when you got back to Burns then, did you then go back to work for your uncles again in the drug store?

WALLY: Yeah, I took, yeah ---

BARBARA: Took a little time off first, did you?

WALLY: Yeah, I took a month off after I got back and went over and visited my relatives in Boise, and then came back.

BARBARA: Then did you start to raise your family then?

WALLY: Yeah. I got back --- Dera had one friend, I mean she said --- she would swear every other word, I mean, but just as good as you could be, a person. That was just her diction, you know. And she found out, she said, "You must have did it the first night."

(Laughter)

BARBARA: Some people are just that way.

WALLY: So she ---

BARBARA: So you have three daughters is it?

WALLY: Three daughters, lost one boy.

BARBARA: Oh I see.

WALLY: At birth. Uh huh.

BARBARA: And what are your daughter's names?

WALLY: Oldest one name is Mary Lurie, and the second one is Lou Anne, and the third one is Weslie Clare.

BARBARA: And where are they now?

WALLY: Well Lurie is in the library at the University of Washington, where she has been for twenty years now, I guess. And Lou Anne is a teacher, and taught in Seattle, but is now teaching in Scio. They moved to Scio because they wanted to get out of Seattle.

BARBARA: Out of the city, huh?

WALLY: Yeah. And they bought eight acres up on Rogers Mountain Loop, which is about two miles from Scio. And an orchard up there and stuff, but they don't use it. But they got a horse and two sheep, and --- (Laughter)

BARBARA: And Weslie is here in Burns?

WALLY: She is in Burns, yeah. She was in Seattle awhile, in Ashland awhile.

BARBARA: And do you have any grandchildren?

WALLY: We have one, uh huh. One boy.

DOROTHEA: And his name is?

WALLY: Ryan.

DOROTHEA: Ryan.

WALLY: Uh huh.

BARBARA: I have a grandson Ryan also.

WALLY: Oh, have you?

BARBARA: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And what is he --- which girl does he belong to?

WALLY: Who is that?

DOROTHEA: What girl does he belong to? Lurie or Lorie, or ---

WALLY: Belongs to Lou Anne.

DOROTHEA: Lou Anne.

WALLY: Yeah, Ryan does, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you belong to any organizations during your school years, or early-married life?

WALLY: Not any school, I didn't belong to any in school at all. I didn't have time. And ---

DOROTHEA: We're going to have to change tapes.

SIDE C

BARBARA: Did you belong to Toastmasters, and things like that?

WALLY: Yeah, that was the only type, yeah.

BARBARA: Okay. I might ask you if you have done any traveling for fun since ---

WALLY: For what?

BARBARA: For fun, just traveling around for fun?

WALLY: Oh, well we took, when Dera --- can't travel, you know, much. It bothers her, hurts her, see. She has had two hips replaced, two knees replaced, and had a Richardson implant where the femur, when she broke her leg, so she can't --- I mean it is painful for her to travel. We did --- the last time we went to Mississippi where all her relatives are, she couldn't get out of bed for three days. We flew from, went to Boise and flew down, and she said I don't want --- and she doesn't like to. Getting in and out of a car hurts her, you know. I mean those joints are freeze, they freeze see. And those --- and then she can't get her arms only so far back now, those joints are gone.

And --- but she improvises. But she doesn't sleep well, you know. I mean she hurts, it wakes her up, and has to turn on the other side and sleep. And she goes to bed, oh early, maybe nine or ten at night. I go about two-thirty in the morning. But you know, but she sleeps until ten or eleven in the morning, because she wakes up, and goes back to sleep.

BARBARA: So what do you do for entertainment? Or how do you fill your time?

WALLY: Always busy. Just ---

BARBARA: You worked then until about what, 1976 or so when you retired?

WALLY: '74.

BARBARA: '74.

WALLY: Yeah, uh huh.

BARBARA: And during that time then, after you got back from the service you worked for your uncles. And then did you buy the drug store yourself? Did you become the owner?

WALLY: I bought, yeah I bought that in, I bought the store in 1974.

BARBARA: Or you retired in '74.

WALLY: Huh?

BARBARA: You retired in '74.

WALLY: Oh yeah, I retired. Yeah, I bought it in '58, 1958.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did Dera work at the store any time?

WALLY: Yeah, Dera quit, then we put in a fountain lunch. I mean a lunch counter with it. And that was before Dera come down with arthritis. And we had, served one, a noon meal was all. Just a noon lunch. Dera liked to cook. And then she, she wouldn't quit until I quit, so ---

BARBARA: So you retired in '74 then, huh?

WALLY: Yeah, I probably would still have been working I imagine. She wouldn't quit. Said I'm not going --- but I knew I had to quit too, you know. But ---

BARBARA: So what are some of the things that you did with your girls while they were growing up? Are there some special things that you did as a family?

WALLY: No, we didn't do much, we played card games or something, you know, like Liverpool Rummy or something, you know. Liverpool Rummy. And then we didn't do very much. And then after we retired, I mean why we ---

BARBARA: The girls were grown then.

WALLY: Grown. Uh huh.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: But they got, we were a pretty knit family, three, you know. I mean the girls got along good, real good.

BARBARA: Good.

WALLY: And ---

BARBARA: So you did mostly things around, just within your family, and around home rather than traveling places.

WALLY: Yeah, yeah. Well I don't ---

BARBARA: You couldn't take the time off from the store to go very far.

WALLY: Not very far, no.

BARBARA: Have special things at Christmas, or Fourth of July picnics, or things like that?

WALLY: Well Christmas was always a, was a big year. Because we'd always have, oh maybe one or two relatives or ---

BARBARA: Family come in.

WALLY: Such as Thanksgiving, or special occasions or something. But she had, Dera had --- her mother died when she was about five years old. And her stepmother, she didn't get along with her stepmother after she come out here.

BARBARA: I see. So what were some of the things that you did then after you retired? Was Dera kind of hurting then so you didn't do any traveling after you retired?

WALLY: No, the only traveling that the two of us did together was those trips to Mississippi.

BARBARA: Your family reunions.

WALLY: Then we'd go when the girls, all three of them up in Seattle awhile, we'd go up there. Probably in the, well when the weather was good. Usually in June and September, October. Go twice a year. And they all were, three in Seattle. But then, but we didn't do much other together, the family, except maybe play cards or something.

DOROTHEA: Did your girls all attend college?

WALLY: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So they all have an education.

BARBARA: So what do you do now to fill your time? Do you read a lot, or ---

WALLY: Yeah, I read. I don't ---

BARBARA: Follow sports; go to sporting events at the high school and things?

WALLY: Yeah, I used to. Oh after I retired, you know, I would go to Boise and watch the kids play football, you know. I'd go over to all the games. I wouldn't drive; I'd just get on the bus and go over.

BARBARA: Right.

WALLY: When they had the bus, and come back. But I saw Boise State, and one of them was playing for Boise State. When I went through high school. And then, there is a family; my sister is the one that has the family. My nephew had eleven children, and he's got, my sister has forty-eight, I believe mixed grandchildren. I can't keep track of them.

BARBARA: Too many.

WALLY: That's a fact. I mean you get to the house, and they are the nicest family you could ever find. Everyone helped the other one, you know. They took care, that was responsible for them. And Hugh, that was my nephew, I mean that built a pretty good-sized house, you know. Now they are all gone, you know. But one of them lives in Weiser. One of them is principal at Weiser I guess. And they are scattered.

But when I retired, that's, I retired I got around the country some, you know, quite a bit. But Dera doesn't. As I say that traveling bothered her.

BARBARA: It's just not convenient to do that.

WALLY: I go to a different spot I hadn't been. I went up around the mountains, went all over the Steens, and all around up in the

BARBARA: The Historical Society used to take bus tours around, didn't they, years ago?

WALLY: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: Have you ever thought of writing anything about the history of Harney County? Have you ever considered doing that?

WALLY: Oh, I was going to do that, you know, I was going to do that when I retired. And I did, I came up, I went all through these Times-Herald files the first year I retired. Then I made a few notes. But then, I did that about a year and a half, all I did that, on that. But I like history, I like history, you know, of --- And I like people better than I like towns.

BARBARA: Yeah that's true, that's true.

WALLY: I really do. I mean to go into a town, it's the same. Everything looks alike, I mean. Same Safeway, are alike, they are just alike.

BARBARA: That's right.

WALLY: And not much --- I like kind of quaint towns, you know. I like Virginia City, you know, and Idaho City. Idaho City, have you ever been there?

DOROTHEA: I've never been there, no. I've never been to Virginia City either.

WALLY: Virginia City, you know, and Idaho City is that quaint place. I like those places, the way they are.

BARBARA: So you keep your days filled nevertheless, now.

WALLY: Pardon?

BARBARA: You keep your days filled.

WALLY: Yeah, I do, yeah. Well I get out in, I try and do all the yard work to keep in shape. I don't --- and weeds I pull them, so I have to bend over. And I don't, I bend over, you know, to pull them, I pull them up. Mow the lawn. And I do that for exercise. You get some exercise, and different kind. And I walk some. Used to get up and out in the mountains quite a bit, you know. I like the mountains. But not much anymore.

BARBARA: Well you have had a full life, haven't you? A lot of interesting things, met lots of interesting people I suppose in your store.

WALLY: Yeah, its, I enjoyed it. I can look back, I've enjoyed it.

BARBARA: Looking back, do you think you would have rather been a doctor or lawyer after working in the drug store?

WALLY: No.

BARBARA: You were happy with it after you got started.

WALLY: No I don't. I don't think so. I think that, I wouldn't like to be --- I wouldn't like the drug store now. I mean, I wouldn't be a bit interested in it. I mean I couldn't be in a cage filling prescriptions all the time. I mean I wouldn't like that. The store you had, you know, people ---

BARBARA: Different things to do.

WALLY: And I couldn't --- When I retired I had chances to relieve. When I made a retirement, I said, "I'll do no relief for anyone unless they can't possibly find a pharmacist in Eastern Oregon to relieve them. If you can't, then I will, or if they are sick."

BARBARA: Some emergency, huh?

WALLY: Then I will, but otherwise, don't ask me, you know. Don't phone me, because

the answer is going to be no.

BARBARA: I retire, I retire.

WALLY: Yeah. I've kept my license up, but I think I'll quit this year though. I've decided I don't think I will --- I just enjoyed to keep up. I read to keep up on the --- by reading the journals which --- and so forth. I don't want to get mentally stagnant in it either. But ---

BARBARA: Well, is there anything else that we haven't talked about today that you might like to add to have in your little history here?

WALLY: Oh, I don't have much ---

BARBARA: Some little stories?

WALLY: Not much history, I mean. But ---

DOROTHEA: Can you think of any stories that you used to share with some of the people that came into the store, like some of the older people?

WALLY: Oh ---

DOROTHEA: You probably remembered Jim Lumsden. He was quite a character.

WALLY: Yeah, I had a lot of chances to with some of them, you know, when they would come into --- even locally in the county. One of them which I regret was Tebo. You've heard of Tebo?

BARBARA: Yes.

WALLY: Had a wonderful chance to talk to him, but I wasn't interested, the years when he was alive. He died in 1937. When he retired he moved into Burns. He come down to the drug store everyday. He knew my uncle real well. I had, I could have asked him, but I wasn't particularly interested then, you know. And another one was Morris Fitzgerald, and he came back a couple Pioneer Days. And then he had come back before that when they had the squatters on the lake, on the meander line of the lake. And that was in 1931.

He come in the store a lot, around. And I had a lot of opportunities to gather a lot of information, which I wasn't interested in doing.

BARBARA: I think most young people are that way.

WALLY: And then you get old.

BARBARA: We don't realize it until we get old.

DOROTHEA: Yeah I think this is part of the problem with our young ages, is we're not interested in the history until we get older.

WALLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And then it interests us.

WALLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: We wished that we had left, you know, a lot of those stories in our memory and been able to share them with our kids now.

WALLY: Yeah. Oh I know some, you know, but I didn't --- I was interested in other things. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Like all good young men.

WALLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well if you can't think of anything else Wally, well thank you for visiting with us today. And we've really enjoyed your stories.

WALLY: Well I'm sorry that I don't have more to contribute to you.

DOROTHEA: Well this is great, what we have heard has been really interesting.

WALLY: I mean there is --- the stories that I hear, you know, around about, you've heard all those Harney County stories. You know Tebo, and all those. And there is no use repeating those.

DOROTHEA: Well we'll close off this then, and we'll do our little video. We'd like to get a

video now, and put you on some tape.

WALLY: Oh, golly. I thought this was going to be all.

BARBARA: We want your picture too.

WALLY: Well ---

BARBARA: Thank you very much.

WALLY: Okay.

(END OF TAPE)

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