

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #283 - Side A

Subject: George & Hazel Hatt

Place: Drewsey, Oregon

Date: Summer 1970

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

MARCUS HAINES: This is Marcus Haines interviewing George and Mrs. Hatt, about their experiences here in Harney County back in the early 1900's. So George, I'm going to start out with you here. Would you like to tell us about your experiences in Harney County?

GEORGE HATT: About 1900 I come to Ontario, and I hayed down there. Then once I come up from this Harney County in the general vicinity of Burns, see what there was about the homesteads, and one thing and another. So I got on the stage one morning out to Van Valley, they told me that was a pretty good way to go. And I finally spotted Follyfarm. Well a fellow stopped me there, and he said go up to Anderson Valley. I had to get out on the road. And he said he had a little bunch of books. He said, "I'd like to take you over the mountain." He said, "It won't take you but a couple hours, and if you, you can get there in 24 hours, not going to Alberson."

So I decided to go up there, and I walked, and I walked, and I walked, and never got nowheres. And night come, so I camped out with the books. Next morning why I woke up, I didn't have any books, so I had to hunt up these books. I finally wind up over at Jenkins shearing corrals, where I was going to take them to.

And I went from there to the main ranch, my destination, where my brother was working. Well I got over there, and I worked there for, he needed some hired help, so I

worked there going into summer.

He then told me, he said, "Why don't you take up a homestead?" "Well," I said, "I didn't know much about it, and I didn't like the country." So he decided, he said, "You file on a homestead and prove up on it, improve it, I pay you for your work and your things." And he said, "You can work here for me, and most of the time you can go out to live in the winter." "When summer comes," he said, "why, well when winter comes, well there isn't so much to do, you could live there. In the summer why you could take a team and go up there and take a few cans of beer and have a little lunch ... that way you could prove you had lived on your homestead." (Laughter) So I stayed there and worked for him a couple of years. Well when that time come I went over there to start the ... and ... seemed to be pretty good, and we cleared the land, and cut juniper posts, and fenced it. We didn't have it --- when we got some horses with what little money we had.

We didn't have much money to buy any supplies. But we had to have some freight harness and wagons for the ride over to Charlie Haines to get some supplies.

MARCUS: That was out at The Narrows.

GEORGE: At The Narrows, Oregon, and spent our money. He said, "What else do you need?" "Well," I said, "I need lots of stuff." He said, "I need a well, or a windmill. I need a pump, some ... I need a little water and a freight wagon." And he sold it to me all. He said, "If you can freight it out," he said, "I'll let you have it."

So we got back and went to work and we cleared this land, and got it all cleared. And about 1915 we had it all under cultivation, 303 acres. And we went over to the experiment station and got some ... and we seeded a hundred acres. That year it rained, so we had an exceptional good year. And the very next year it rained, thirty-five bushels to the acre. And we had a wonderful time, but we had an awful time getting thrashers, no,

thrashing machine in the country. And a fellow by the name of Art Wagner, he brought an outfit in there, and he come in there and finally cut it for us. And I think we thrashed five thousand bushels of wheat that year, and about five hundred bushels of rye, and about fifty tons of hay we had. And the next year why we shipped out a carload of wheat. I think the only carload that was ever shipped out of Harney County, that was in October 1916. Well, that's about it.

MARCUS: Well you, where did you haul this freight to, George?

GEORGE: She is out of Crane.

MARCUS: ... train had just gotten into Crane about then, I think it came in, in '16, didn't it?

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: I believe it did. Well then you went ahead then and freighted for Charlie Haines and paid off your ... bill.

GEORGE: Yeah, that was before '16, quite awhile. Before the railroad.

MARCUS: Yeah, I mean after. You talk about you met with your brother ... that was in what was called Adobe Flat, where you were ... called Adobe Flat. ... It was called Adobe Flat. Between Adobe Flat and Anderson Valley. And probably, 1915 was probably the best year you ...

GEORGE: The best year we ever had in Harney County. Lots of grass and ---

MARCUS: Well George, about that time the land boom was on, people were coming in pretty much, taking up the land. I suppose a year like that was one thing that hurried it up too, wasn't it?

GEORGE: Yes, it did.

MARCUS: You bet. You see Charlie Haines died in May of 1916.

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And the land boom, well he made a profit off of it ...

HAZEL HATT: Well you remember, you ... run horses a long time, with ... too.

MARCUS: You raised horses too?

GEORGE: Yes, we raised horses, and during the war we sold what horses the government wanted, you know. But that particular class, they had to be just right, you know. And a fellow from Texas come up and he bought the balance of our bunch. We sold them all to him. I think two hundred head, a little over two hundred head. And they shipped them to Texas for cutting horses. He didn't want too big a horses. He sold the bigger horses I think before he went to Texas. They wanted a little cheaper horses.

MARCUS: Well George, from then on though, you hit some pretty tough years while you were up there ...

GEORGE: Yeah. ... 1917 got dry, and we didn't do much that year. Well then sheep come in, and they cleaned the grass off so much, so we decided, we bought that ranch over to Drewsey. Then we bought some cattle from ... a few years ago. Before them, we could ... them into a couple hundred head.

And so we bought this Drewsey ... PLS Company. And we had that together, and I brought my brother out the next year. Well then the depression come on, that was awful bad in the country. Nobody had any money. But we got along ... anyhow we ...

MARCUS: Well George, when did you leave the Adobe Flat country and move to Drewsey?

GEORGE: 192---

HAZEL: '28.

GEORGE: '28.

HAZEL: September 1928.

GEORGE: We bought it in July.

MARCUS: You were out of there, according to ... drought we had in the '30's then too. Boy that country really exploded up in there ... Well let's get back and talk about your freighting. How many wranglers did you use George, when you ...

GEORGE: We had two wranglers apiece. When we went up the road, we always take an extra horse or two, and we'd put a ... in. And we once got down to the railroad, why --- they was building the ditch for the dike. What they called the ... ditch. And the fellahs had a contract on that ditch. We called him up, and he come out there when he had three or four horses, and he could buy a few more there. Why we'd phone him down there and he'd come down and get them. And they drove them along the road, or wherever they could, you know, from there. And of course we had this extra horse ... someplace back, if we'd sold too many. The main thing was to get these horses broke, they wasn't worth much unless they were broke ...

And I drove six horses, and my brother always drove eight, he was a little better skinner than I was. We drove a jerk line ... but sometimes these broncos, we'd get one that was pretty old; it would take us an hour or two to hook them up. We had to harness up, we had to ... sometimes. And at night, we had to hobble them out. They couldn't do much ... kind of lay them down; they'd kind of get gentle pretty fast. And we had to pack a little grain along to feed them at noon hour, and in the mornings. ...

MARCUS: What route did you take when you were ---

GEORGE: We come, we went through, we went from Malheur on the homestead through to Barren Valley. Down by the Crowley Ranch, Coyote Wells, Skull Springs, down through there.

MARCUS: Uh huh. You went down Cottonwood there.

GEORGE: Cottonwood, yeah.

MARCUS: Well you came back another route.

GEORGE: No, we came back the same way.

MARCUS: Came back the same way. All right.

GEORGE: Then we'd take about six days off, and seven days in.

MARCUS: Oh, you made it back from there in ten days ...

GEORGE: One day to load up down there.

MARCUS: Uh huh. You didn't have much left out of two weeks then, huh?

GEORGE: No.

MARCUS: For all practical purposes ... unloaded and back, you had spent two weeks.

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: You bet.

HAZEL: Well Daddy did you ever go out loaded with wool?

GEORGE: Yes, we hauled wool out, when the season was on.

MARCUS: Well I imagine that was the tough time too, you got ... didn't you?

GEORGE: Yeah. I remember one time I went out there and bought a big old gelding, he weighed about seventeen hundred. I think he was --- I think he was sixteen or seventeen years old. And he was so big, and he was so strong, that when I hooked him up in the morning, we'd have to hobble him to get the harness on him. He was so strong that he'd sometimes he would tear it to pieces. Well then when we got him hooked up, why he was just strong enough so he could pull this old wagon off of the road.

The dang thing would lie down ... then the wool tips over. (Laughter) Then we'd have to take the tongue off to, get the horse to pull the wool back up on the, up on the

wagon.

MARCUS: Well you ... Haines was telling us about when, he can remember when these freight wagons would come down the canals, and they come in the evening.

The next day then these fellows would be --- of course you didn't drink, you told me you had a chance to --- you hauled the whiskey because you didn't drink, well you didn't --
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GEORGE: I'd take a drink alone, but not on the road.

MARCUS: You never bored a hole in the barrel and stuck a straw in and ... a little whiskey?

GEORGE: Well, when I hauled whiskey, there was a lot of case goods, we didn't have to do that at all. Well they had it pretty well hid out. But one time they didn't. Down at Skull Springs the sheep shearers they struck them. And they held me up, but it happened to be that I had the poorest whiskey behind. And it wasn't so awful bad ... the wagon. But Charlie, he come back and collected, went down to the shearing camp and he collected every dollar for that good liquor.

MARCUS: ... Well sheep shearers were kind of tough guys around about that time too, weren't they?

GEORGE: Oh, yeah.

MARCUS: They used to kill somebody down there at Riverside once in awhile, the shearing crews. Bill Davis, you know, told me about that.

GEORGE: Jim Johnson, yeah ...

MARCUS: Oh, he did?

GEORGE: Yeah. ... a long time.

MARCUS: Well that was the shearing crew down there that happened ...

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: ... Well going back to this ... canals there, he said the next morning then these fellows would take their leaders and stop the wagons. Pull the wagons on into the loading platform down there.

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: ... had the leaders to pull the ... unload them. Why that was ---

GEORGE: No, we'd pull ours in with the ... leader.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: ... we had a big team of leaders.

MARCUS: How much tonnage or poundage do you suppose you hauled? Mileage, do you have any idea there?

GEORGE: Yeah, we hauled about eleven hundred pounds to a horse.

MARCUS: Eleven hundred pounds to a horse.

GEORGE: ... Sometimes we had some lighter ... pretty hard to get on.

MARCUS: Yeah.

GEORGE: If you had crackers and potato chips ...

MARCUS: ...

GEORGE: But he paid us, why he paid a little extra for that. And liquor, that amounted to quite a little.

HAZEL: Daddy, tell Marcus the episode when you and Hess bought the wild hogs over at Buena Vista was it, and brought them home and fattened them, and he had to trail them to Crane ...

MARCUS: Oh.

GEORGE: ... We had a lot of grain over there at Princeton. We couldn't get no market for

it. And George Parker, he had a big, he had, oh what do you call that, ... over there ...

MARCUS: Grain Camp.

GEORGE: Grain Camp.

MARCUS: Yeah, Grain Camp.

GEORGE: And he had that rented, and he come over one day, and he said, "I have a lot of hogs," he said, "and I don't know what to do with them." I said, "Well we'll sell you some grain." "No," he said, "we don't want them grain, we don't want no grain." But he said, "We'll sell you the hogs." So they finally bought them, I think, for a hundred and fifty of them. And they was mostly pretty big hogs, all the way from seventy-five to two hundred pounds. And we drove them over. And George and his boy ... And George and my brother, they drove them, and I hauled the grain in the wagon, enough to feed them. I didn't think we could drive hogs like that, but you know, we did. One of them laid down, why we'd just let them lay, and catch up with us.

And went up awful good until we got to the Round Barn. But when we got down there, why I hauled some grain down there, and we lost eight or ten. We thought well now we lost them, but we drove home, and we come back and get them. So we spent the night at ... the next morning ... followed them up. We had them all ...

MARCUS: You got them all in, huh?

GEORGE: Well we fattened them up, we had a lot of grain, we ground it and we soaked it and ---

About that time the hog market wasn't any good, and Jim went down, we ... But we got them fattened, we drove them to Crane and just shipped them to Portland.

MARCUS: Charlie Chapman told me that when he was with a buckaroo outfit over at the Alvord, there was ...

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: They drove a bunch of hogs from there to Winnemucca.

GEORGE: Oh, they did?

MARCUS: Uh huh. And he said that they ... just about the break of day. You probably had ... and when you got up ... they'd poke along until the sun was getting hot, and they'd lay down. And he said they were just as easy ... easier than cattle. You didn't have to night herd them.

GEORGE: You have to have a lot of patience.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, I imagine that pigs got to know a few ... buckaroos.

GEORGE: And that's forty miles from, you know, from there to the Grain Camp about.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: And we ... and went back.

MARCUS: Oh.

GEORGE: That's a fact.

MARCUS: Gosh, I didn't know the hogs would go home like that.

GEORGE: ... I was just wondering ... We got as far as Rye Smyth. Rye Smyth told me about it. And he sent word to George ... He said they was out here about a week after, ten days I guess.

MARCUS: Well, I'll be darned. They ...

GEORGE: That don't seem possible.

MARCUS: No, no, it sure isn't. Well Mrs. Hatt, why don't you tell us about your experiences here in Harney County here now. Then we'll go back and talk about these places and ... all these places. You told me a good story about your first experience in Burns after you came from New York, here just a little while ago.

HAZEL: Well yes, and my parents and two brothers and I left; we left New York State early part of April in 1910. And my dad was coming out here, he thought he --- he had a couple of schoolmates here, and one had taken up on a homestead in Sunset Valley. Big opportunity. So my dad come out here and thought, well he'd pick money off of the sagebrush too.

And we landed in Salem; we came by train, and then came to Vale, and then by stagecoach from Vale into Burns, Oregon. And oh what a night drive over that, no, it got real cold and the ---GEORGE: ... oh no, not Stinkingwater.

MARCUS: Be Bendire, would it be Bendire Mountain?

HAZEL: The stage lady at Vale went out and bought a brand new cotton blanket, because she seen we wasn't dressed to be warm enough to go over that Bendire Mountain.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

HAZEL: Well sure enough it wasn't. It was cold, so Mother and I and my younger brother --- Dad just wrapped us up in that blanket. And the middle seat --- the stage driver and another passenger up, and then my dad and my older brother was in the back seat. And I think Dad had his hands full keeping us all awake and from falling off.

And then we stopped midnight to change horses. Well there I got my first astonishment. The man lived in the hayloft, and here the horses, right here in the same building.

MARCUS: Oh.

HAZEL: Oh ... Well then we, then stopped here at the old Stallard place for breakfast. ... And oh, we just looked awful, we was tired and all. But anyway, we ate our breakfast there, and I suppose it was Mrs. Stallard, Velfa Richardson's mother come in and asked

us, did we want mush for breakfast? Why no, we kids didn't want mush.

MARCUS: Yeah. Wanted a ...

HAZEL: No. Well mush back east was a cornmeal mush, and we eat it at supptime.

MARCUS: Oh.

HAZEL: But the stage driver said yes, he would take some. And she brought it in, a bowl of ... rolled oat cereal. Well we kids loved that, but we didn't know it as mush. Anyway we got our breakfast and got on our way again and stopped at ... Buchanan's for our lunch at noon. And then we got into Burns about five o'clock that night, and registered at the Burns Hotel.

That was our first view of Burns. ... the windmills. Oh, windmills, windmills. And then of course was our experiences of learning what two bits and four bits was. And what a hack was, different from a democrat wagon ... And red beans, we kids wouldn't eat red beans, because we thought they were dirty.

But we finally got out to the ... in Sunset Valley and stayed there. And of course I finished ... there. My folks in the mean time bought the homestead over around ... area, Windy Point.

And most of my summers were spent around helping hay people cook. I wasn't skilled in any other occupation. I helped cook and then finished my schooling.

And the year of, the summer of 1914, I was visiting a school teacher in Adobe Flat, and she and I went down one afternoon and visited with ... Hatt's wife ... Well she wasn't very well ... and she wanted their girl to help with the cooking that summer. And Mavis said, "Well I bet you can get a job there." Which I did. And so I was to go in a few days. I went back to meet with her on ... to my home. And Mr. ... picked me up and put me, because I had a place ... in June sometime.

And well the day we visited her first, and she walked part way home with us ... Hatt did. And she got to teasing me; George was way down the hill working someplace. And she said, "Hazel Hatt, don't that sound kind of good." (Laughter) Well I was farther from my ...

MARCUS: Sounded kind of good to you.

HAZEL: I had lots of boyfriends and I wasn't thinking that way at all. But I worked for her; well I suppose six weeks or so. Because I had promised this Mrs. Nash, she was ill in Juntura at the time, Mr. Hanley had established her with a restaurant and boarding rooms in Juntura when the railroad was being built there. And I had promised to come down and help her cook part of that summer. So when I left the Hatt's there, why Laura Hill went over and helped cook through the ... I went to Juntura.

Well that following November, Miss Amelia ... was a schoolteacher up at ... and she boarded with us. And here come this woman, particular ... going to be a dance at Harriman. And here --- and we had ... that Bill Brandt from Princeton and his wife were there spending the evening. And mother and I were in the kitchen preparing supper.

And here come Willy, and he come to the door. Well Dad answered the door of course, and here he was with a team and a buggy, and all dressed up fit to kill.

MARCUS: (Laughter) Well this is George Hatt you're talking about here.

HAZEL: Yeah. And ---

MARCUS: He was really on a courting ... wasn't he?

HAZEL: Of course Dad went out and helped him put up his team, and asked him to come in. And they came in through, into the kitchen door first, and this Amelia Choate and our company was in the front room, because I was helping mother in the kitchen prepare the dinner. Of course I didn't know him, I'd seen him at dances many times, and stood there

visiting, pass the time of day, and chatting.

Pretty soon he says, "Would you like to go to the dance at Harriman?" Oh I says, "Mamma, can I?" She said, "Gosh I guess you can." And so we got the dinner on the table, and got everybody seated, and I dashed upstairs to get ready. Well I kept wondering, and wondering why didn't Amelia come up to get dressed. Because I felt he had come to take her to the dance, because she was the neighbor over at their homestead. And I got dressed and come down, ready to go, and oh, and we took off. He never said a word; it wasn't her he wanted to take.

MARCUS: ... at all.

HAZEL: And the poor school teacher, it hurt her feelings a tiny bit, because I think she was ... George too. But that was the beginning of our going together in 1914. And we went together five years.

MARCUS: Oh.

HAZEL: The war was coming on, and he didn't want to, we didn't want to marry when the war was on, he thought he might have to go. Then he just had a cabin. I guess he felt he couldn't take a wife into a cabin. So he had to build a new home.

And then after --- and then in 1918, my parents went to the Mann Lake Ranch to work ... brothers and sister. And I come back, and they went to the Whitehorse, and I came back and worked at the Mann Lake Ranch that summer. And ... Clark run it.

And I overheard a conversation he said one day, he says, "I didn't think that girl could cook. I thought she was too young." He said, "I didn't think she could cook, but boy she can." He said, "She really fooled me." And that was the times when we had to use so many substitutes, flour, and ... sugar, and such as that. Got along just fine.

And I always had my grandmother's habit of humming with my work. And one

evening I was humming and setting the table. And Mrs. Clark come out, and she said, "Hazel, are you homesick?" I said, "No." Well she said, "You were kind of humming." Well I said, "No." I said, "Was I humming?" I said, "I don't remember ..."

Anyway, that fall we came back and my parents moved, had moved into Crane. And of course I still kept company with George. But he got a pass and pleaded ...

MARCUS: Still ...

HAZEL: A lot of my other boyfriends said, "Why don't you get rid of him and go with somebody that will take the freight ..."

MARCUS: George ...

HAZEL: And so when they lived in Crane that winter, he had his house all built. And he wasn't ready to get married then, I guess. So, I think he wanted to live in the house himself for a while.

And then ... spring, about in March, my folks and I, we went off to Ontario. And my dad went to work there. I had applied for work as a clerk in a store there. In the meantime here comes a letter from George Hatt. And he said, "I think I'm needing a cook."

MARCUS: Well let's stop right there, I don't want to lose any of it. (Pause in tape) Start over with this proposal bussiness here.

HAZEL: Oh yes, well this was in Nampa, because my folks stayed in Ontario a little while, then moved into Nampa. My dad was working for a man ... was with them, wanting to get a job in a clerk store, as a clerk. And here come this letter from George Hatt saying he thought he needed a cook, now!

So then of course I proceeded to make dates and things, and corresponded back with him. And decided on May the 28th, and that was suitable for him, and he wrote back

he would contact this Mr. and Mrs. Nelson to stand up with us ... Nelson. And I made preparations for marriage.

And my folks couldn't come up, so I came to Crane on the train. And my older brother met me there, as he was working still here in Harney County for the Hill boys of Spokane. And he took me off to our old homestead where we stayed the night. Spent, well we went the evening up to Mr. and Mrs. ... on the hill.

And I ... into Burns. "Oh," she says, "I've been wanting to go to Burns to visit my niece." "Well," I said, "... if you could go with us." Well, so we left there. It did get out that we were going to Burns to be married, I was. And Mrs. ... well I guess I better not go then. Well I insisted that she did still go, which we did.

And George came in the night, and the next morning all ready. And she helped me to get dressed, and as I said ... And left her off at her nieces, out of Burns, and then we went on in.

I got a room at the Levens Hotel, I don't know where he ... And later then Mr. and Mrs. Nelson came to the hotel. And then I had to give this, the transaction of the homestead. Relinquishing the one homestead up on the hill, and filing on another homestead during George Hatt's homestead, see, before noon. And by that time it was noon, and we met then again at the hotel, and we thought we had better go out to dinner.

And we went down to this other hotel ... beyond the Levens. And out on the, got out on the ... and on there, he said to me, "I can't find no minister today." He said, "I think they're all gone." And my brother began to giggle and laugh. He said, "My goodness," he said, "you're counting your love affairs right out here on the street."

Well like I said we got to this hotel, went into the lobby, and then into the dining area. And the meal was served family style at a big long table. And there sat Reverend

Baird, Reverend Baird he was. And ...

MARCUS: I never heard of him.

HAZEL: And I said to George, I said, "There is a minister." I said, "Shall I, I know him," I said, "shall I talk to him?" "No," George says, "I'll talk to him myself."

Well Reverend Baird finished his eating before we did, and he got up and went out to the lobby. And we finished, and when we got out to the lobby, why I think maybe the minister had stepped out and George went out to, to find him I guess. Anyway he found him and asked him. And he became very pleased, and just very happy to think that he was going to perform that little ceremony. Well George didn't get back, and didn't get back. And we had made plans for the Levens Hotel parlor, but the minister didn't know it. And he wanted to know if I'd like to be married in the parlors of this hotel where we was eating. And I said, "Yes." And the couple sitting in there --- and he said, "Do you want them in there?" I says, "No, I would rather they wouldn't be." So he asked them to leave.

And George finally --- or didn't come in. Well my brother says, "I think I had better go out and see if I can find him." Well while my brother was out hunting for George, here George came. Well then we had to wait until my brother showed up. And finally he came in and we got together, and Reverend Baird performed a nice little ceremony, that this couple standing up, and my brother there too.

And my brother was, when he, giggly type, he didn't laugh, but he said he would like to.

(Tape interruption) Well they had ... and of course ... time to eat some lunch then again. And we were going to stay in town all night, and thought Mr. and Mrs. Nelson would. But come to find out, they couldn't stay all night. So we went to a, there was a

little Chinese Restaurant, and it was so nice. It wasn't a heavy dinner, just a lunch. And ... and picked up the salt shaker and just ... put a lot of salt in George's coffee. George didn't see it.

And after they had to go, George said, "Well if they have to go home," he said, "we'd just as well go on too." So we did. We went on and left Burns, and stopped at my folks' homestead and got the rest of my luggage, and some of the things there that I was to have. And went on to his place that night.

MARCUS: It's out at Adobe Flat there.

HAZEL: In Adobe Flat. My brother of course, he --- I don't know whether he went back to the ... I believe he ... he went back to ...

MARCUS: Well you lived many years up there, in fact about eleven years. It was 1919 you were married.

HAZEL: Yeah, we lived up ---

MARCUS: And then you moved from there in 1928.

HAZEL: Yeah we lived at Princeton from 1919, to the fall of 1928, when we moved to the Drewsey country.

MARCUS: Moved to Drewsey over here.

HAZEL: Uh huh. And our children was started in school in Crane. GEORGE: We still get ...

MARCUS: Uh huh.

HAZEL: And then it's all I've known. Life at Drewsey then, a big hay ranch, and with cattle. ... your chores ... this and that. You're a busy person.

MARCUS: Probably busy all the time. There is no question about that. You've seen quite a change in Drewsey; you folks too, haven't you?

HAZEL: Oh my, yes.

MARCUS: You bet.

GEORGE: We have a lot of help on that ranch ...

HAZEL: See I had, we had no, there was no modern conveniences here in this country then.

MARCUS: No, no.

HAZEL: ...

MARCUS: No, no.

GEORGE: ...

MARCUS: Is it still standing, George?

GEORGE: ...

MARCUS: You bought that from the PLS Company, didn't you? What did they call it? What was the ...

GEORGE: The Otis Ranch.

MARCUS: Otis Ranch, uh huh.

GEORGE: You still run through that when ... the mail comes that way. I guess they don't anymore. That was the oldest ranch ...

MARCUS: ... back there quite a ways. You bet.

HAZEL: But the company was --- they weren't going bankrupt, but they had to sell out.

GEORGE: They was just about bankrupt there.

MARCUS: Yeah, I think it was about the same difference. They were really moving land there. I bought the ... field. You might know where that is, out there at Crowley there in 1934 for three dollars an acre.

GEORGE: Oh, you did.

MARCUS: Yeah. But ... you ... for the three dollars an acre, but you didn't have no three dollars. That was the ...

GEORGE: I could have bought that for twenty-five cents on the dollar.

MARCUS: Yes.

GEORGE: I didn't have the money.

MARCUS: You didn't have the twenty-five cents. That was the stickler then. Well George, if you will tell me the story about the ... again, why we will call it good here.

GEORGE: Well ...

MARCUS: Well we'll decide ... up there at Anderson Valley, we was talking about Mule there, and the Anderson Valley Post Office.

GEORGE: Well I went to work at Mule, and at that time, why Mule, the road to Burns from ... valley it run around ... and over to Burns. And later on why Harriman built there. I don't remember exactly what year. The railroad was, of course the railroad point there, but it never materialized. So Albritton he built down to, close to Saddle Butte, and called it Albritton. And the old Burns road was just about halfway between Albritton and Harriman.

MARCUS: Well Crowley was hardly on the map at that time.

GEORGE: They wasn't on the map at all ...

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well you came through Princeton and ... on your way to ... from up in your country.

GEORGE: Well ... it was about a mile off of the road.

MARCUS: Oh, it was off the road a ways. And was there much of a community there, George? Or just a store and this blacksmith you were telling me about.

GEORGE: There was cabins all over the whole country out there ... There was a blacksmith shop, and a store, and a post office, and that was about the size of it.

HAZEL: Out by a little cabin ...

MARCUS: And ... they were great horse people, weren't they? They had big ...

GEORGE: ... Had an awful time there. But he got better all the time. We sold him quite a few of them ... horses he did have in there. ... It wasn't hard to ... But he got by there, and ... He done quite a business. Of course when Crane come, why business kind of slipped. He just spent a lot of money, and ... farming, and it's awful alkali, and didn't do very good.

MARCUS: He didn't have much to work on down there, did he?

GEORGE: No, he didn't.

MARCUS: No, he really didn't. But ---

HAZEL: Did you know that ... there at Windy Point?

MARCUS: Yes, I remember a little ...

HAZEL: They were quite a couple.

MARCUS: Yes, must have been.

HAZEL: They really were.

MARCUS: Because they were related to Mrs. Powell, weren't they, Mrs. ---

HAZEL: Yeah, uh huh.

MARCUS: Family knew them quite well. She speaks of --- Augusta, wasn't that her name?

HAZEL: Yeah ...

GEORGE: And Nina.

MARCUS: And Nina, yeah.

HAZEL: And Nina. Of course they have all passed away now, I guess.

MARCUS: I'll tell you a couple more that were kind of working there, and that was the

Armstrong girls. You ... my father's place was. ... and you remember ...

GEORGE: Oh yes.

HAZEL: Oh yes.

MARCUS: He lived near to my dad there. You know they cleared that country off and tried to start farming in there again here this last ... last fifteen years. But I think that has all fell through ... my dad's place then. And Tony's old place was all cleared. And I drove down in there, oh six or seven years ago, and they changed things around and I hardly knew where I was at.

GEORGE: Well I loaned ... five hundred dollars on that place.

MARCUS: Oh, did you?

GEORGE: Well he told me he was going to ... a fence, but he never did.

MARCUS: Did you ever get him to pay ... five hundred dollars?

GEORGE: He never, no he couldn't pay.

MARCUS: He couldn't pay you, so you lost it.

HAZEL: And then Daddy, there was that fellow by the name of Brooks that lived, well opposite of the point ... you loaned him five hundred dollars too. But you did take his fence eventually, didn't you?

GEORGE: I guess ...

MARCUS: You had to roll it up though to get it probably.

GEORGE: Yes.

MARCUS: My gosh you get five hundred dollars worth of fence pretty quick now. But back in those days, it didn't pay off much of a bill I wouldn't think. ...

GEORGE: ... we just couldn't make it.

MARCUS: No, hit the dry years there, and ...

GEORGE: Fred Haines bought a lot there around Harney for ten dollars an acre.

MARCUS: ...

GEORGE: Some of it is ...

MARCUS: Well my gosh, that's ... Fred's old house is still standing there at Harney.

GEORGE: Yeah. I thought maybe that I would drive out by there and see what it looked like.

MARCUS: And that's all there is left. I was in there last fall.

GEORGE: Last time I was out there ...

MARCUS: ... all gone. ...

HAZEL: Well I've been to Harney to dances.

MARCUS: I'll bet you have, I'll bet you have.

HAZEL: ... Howard family.

GEORGE: ... them guys, they were tough.

MARCUS: You bet they were tough. You had to be about half-tough to exist in those days, George. There is no fooling about it, ... you had to be. Well by golly, I'll close this off, I'm sure I got it this time. Well thanks a lot folks.

HAZEL: ...

MARCUS: Well it's ...

HAZEL: There is lots of episodes along the way, but you can't get them all in.

MARCUS: Well sure, that's right. Well I'm going to ...

(END OF TAPE)

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