

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #284 - Sides A/B

Subject: Eldon "Cyc" Presley - With Video

Place: Presley Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: April 15, 1991

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, along with Barbara Lofgren, and today we're talking with Eldon "Cyc" Presley at his home in Burns, Oregon. Today's date is April 15, 1991. Following our interview, we will be showing a short video of Cyc, and it will be stored at the library, along with the transcript and cassette tape. The number is 284. Cyc, we'll start --- can you tell us what your full name is?

CYC: Eldon Albert Presley.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

CYC: Bray, California.

DOROTHEA: And when?

CYC: May 15, 1914.

DOROTHEA: What are your parent's names?

CYC: My dad's name was Morgan Presley; my mother is Alice Presley.

BARBARA LOFGREN: And what was her maiden name?

CYC: She was Parker.

BARBARA: Parker.

CYC: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And where did your parents come from?

CYC: My dad was born in Eugene, Oregon. He was raised over in the Drewsey country, and my

mother was born at Lawen. And she married my dad in Drewsey.

DOROTHEA: And what did they do for a living?

CYC: Well, my dad was just a ranch hand, buckaroo, whatever you call it.

BARBARA: And you say he was born in Eugene. What was the reason that they decided to come to Harney County?

CYC: Well, his dad came to Prineville; they came to Prineville. And he died in Prineville, and he is buried in Prineville. And my mother came, his mother came on over with a family over to Drewsey. I don't really know why, but she remarried over there to a guy by the name of Sim Hamilton. And he had a ranch there. My dad was raised on that ranch.

BARBARA: So, he grew up doing ranch chores and that sort of thing?

CYC: Right.

BARBARA: And then did he go to school in Drewsey, did he have his schooling in Drewsey?

CYC: No, I don't know how far he went through school, not very far. My mother did all her school days in Lawen, the old school down there.

DOROTHEA: Did she ever talk about her parents? And since she was born in Lawen, they must have come here earlier. Did she talk about her parents and how they came here and ---?

CYC: Her parents came from Elgin, Oregon. In fact, my great, my granddad, great-granddad was buried in Elgin. And my granddad is buried down there in Lawen. And he died when my mother was only about 6 months old. And they came across from; the Parker family came across from England. And went as missionaries to South Africa, and then from South Africa they came over here and landed in Salt Lake. And from Salt Lake they went to Elgin. And my granddad came down here, they had this open country, you know, homesteads.

DOROTHEA: So that's why he came because of the open country?

CYC: Yeah, right, right.

DOROTHEA: And did they have hard times traveling and buying groceries? And can you remember her talking anything about this?

CYC: Well, I don't know too much about what my grandparents did, but everything was wagon

and team, of course. And my folks went back and forth to California a couple of times in a wagon, team. In fact, I did too. I came back when I was 4 years old, came back here to stay, and we landed in Crane.

BARBARA: I don't suppose you remember any of that trip then at 4 years old?

CYC: I do a little bit.

BARBARA: Do you really?

CYC: Some highlights, I remember.

BARBARA: Then what stands out in your memory then?

CYC: Well, I can remember when we came across some of those grades, they called, one was a Red S Grade someplace between Lovelock and Frenchglen. And we spent a winter at Three-Mile Ranch when I was just a kid. And then we came on down to below, on the other side of the Narrows there and stayed --- when Swift and Company lost all their cattle, you remember, they starved to death. And I can remember when they was floating down that canal just like chips.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

CYC: And I was only 4 years old, but I can still remember that.

BARBARA: And how long did it take to come from California here?

CYC: I don't really know, quite a while. Because we just had two horses and a wagon.

BARBARA: And you came, your family just came by themselves, or were they with another group?

CYC: They had another family, the Oard family.

BARBARA: I see.

CYC: Was with us. They went back and forth to California a couple times.

DOROTHEA: Are there any more children in your family besides you?

CYC: Yes. There is Hilbert is the one next to me, and I have a brother Cleve that is dead, and then I have an older brother Floyd that lives in Days Creek, Oregon.

DOROTHEA: No girls?

CYC: No, all boys, four boys.

DOROTHEA: Where did you attend school?

CYC: All my school days in Crane, clear through high school.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember any of your teachers?

CYC: Oh, yes.

DOROTHEA: Are any of them still around?

CYC: Well, Mrs. --- I don't know whether you remember Mrs. Quier, she was my teacher. She also taught my kids.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she was my teacher too.

CYC: Oh, is that right?

DOROTHEA: Yeah. (Laughter) So --- Alma Quier.

CYC: Yeah right, Alma Quier. I went to 7th and 8th grade to her.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she taught up here in Burns for a while.

NITA PRESLEY: ...

CYC: Then Mrs. Clark. She lives in Baker now. But she --- I don't remember if any of the rest of them are around.

DOROTHEA: Did you have any favorite subjects, or favorite teachers?

CYC: Well, probably Mrs. Clark. And then I had Harvey Wright was our coach, and I really liked him. But the rest of them are just, you know ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: You say a coach, did you play football, or basketball, or track, or ---

CYC: Played basketball and football both.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And did they play against Burns?

CYC: We used to play against Burns, yes.

BARBARA: During Thanksgiving time was it, or before that?

CYC: Well no, I don't think we went into Thanksgiving. It was in the fall of the year.

BARBARA: In the fall. I heard someone say at one time that they had, when Burns and Crane played their football game they had a big dance, and a big cook out, and that sort of thing. Was that

during your high school years?

CYC: I think that was after, I think that was after I --- I graduated in '32, so ---

BARBARA: And 8-man football, or was it 11?

CYC: No, we played 11.

BARBARA: Eleven.

CYC: Yeah, we played Burns.

BARBARA: And who were some of the other schools, Prairie City, or John Day, or ---

CYC: Yeah, we played Prairie City, and we played John Day, and of course Burns. And we didn't play football against Long Creek, but we played basketball against Long Creek.

BARBARA: Who were some of your classmates at that time? Are there any of them still in Burns?

CYC: The ones that graduated with me?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

CYC: Don't believe there is any of them left in Burns.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

CYC: Yeah, they've all moved away.

BARBARA: I see.

CYC: I can't remember any still left here.

BARBARA: And then --- so you boarded, did you board there, or did you live with your family?

CYC: No, I didn't. The dormitory was there before I graduated, but my folks lived there so we didn't live in the dormitory.

BARBARA: I see. And so, you lived right in Crane then?

CYC: Yes, right in Crane.

BARBARA: So, you could walk to school, you didn't have to ride a horse or ---

CYC: Oh yeah, about a quarter of a mile from school.

BARBARA: Oh, I see.

DOROTHEA: Well, let's take an imaginary trip down through Crane. What can you remember the

town being like?

CYC: Well before the railroad came to Burns, it was quite a town. It had at one time three lumberyards, three grocery stores, a bank, a telephone office, two garages. Of course, later, they had a theater there later. And I was trying to think of some of the others. They also had a barbershop and a boot shop.

DOROTHEA: Saloon?

CYC: Well, yeah. Of course, those hotels were kind of saloons during probation, but it wasn't on the QT. (Laughter) They were kind of bootleggers.

DOROTHEA: Talking about bootleggers, that reminds me of some of the stories that you told Denny. Something about having a dog, and he was a good --- had a good nose on him. Can you tell us something about that?

CYC: Yeah. The guy that runs the warehouse there had a dog named Vic; he was one of them Chesapeake Bay dogs. Of course, he was all friends with the kids. But they'd hold dances there in that old Majestic Hall, dance hall, and of course the guys all kept their bottles out in the sagebrush, out behind, you know. And you had to go out, slip out there and get a drink. So, us kids would tell old Vic to go get a bottle. Of course, he could smell them, he'd go around out there, and here he'd come back packing a bottle. Sometimes the guy right behind him. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Did you enjoy some of that while you were in your younger days?

CYC: No, we didn't drink it, we never drank it. We usually, the kids sold it to some of those other guys, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

CYC: We was kind of bootleggers too. And then once in awhile they'd have a raid on the town, and they'd get wind ahead of time that the pro-eyes were coming, so they'd take all their --- you know, the bootleggers would take gallon jugs, and five gallon kegs out in the sagebrush and hide them. And them old roads, you know, Model-T's go down them, and us kids would go out there and follow those roads, you know, and you could see where somebody would go out afoot, and you might go out there and pick up a gallon jug of booze. And we'd bring it back to town and sell it. I

won't mention the guy's name, I did before, but I don't think I'd better. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You say with all their stores that were in Crane at that time, what kind of a population are you talking about?

CYC: Oh, I don't really know how the population was there. But there was quite a few people live there then. Of course, all the mail, and cattle and everything was shipped out of there, you know. And Burns run a stage down there to pick up the mail, and passengers. Jim Hackney, I remember him; he used to run the stage down there.

DOROTHEA: I don't know whether you ever remember my grandfather or not, but Paul Howes used to run the stage down there too. I think that was a little, probably in your earlier days. I think it was in 1916-18, something like that.

CYC: Yeah, he was probably before Hackney, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Because he run a stage down in that area too, from Burns to Crane, and Crane to Burns.

CYC: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Were there a lot of houses around the town proper, or were they mostly out in the ranches or ---

CYC: Yeah, there was. No, there was a lot of houses --- I think you put a picture of Crane in the early days in the Centennial Book. Didn't I see you presented one in there? That picture was taken by my dad off of the hill.

DOROTHEA: Was it?

CYC: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I can't ---

CYC: I recognized it when you put it in there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I don't know whether --- that was through Pauline, is what I did, all of the stuff.

CYC: But it had a lot of houses there. Of course, that picture didn't cover all of them.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

NITA: Do you want to turn that clock off?

CYC: Too late now.

DOROTHEA: It's okay.

BARBARA: We'll know what time we're working, won't we? So, a lot of people then that just lived around there perhaps worked in the stores then, besides people that had ranches?

CYC: Well, people that lived there, probably. Most of them lived and worked there. But of course, there was a lot of ranches out around there too, lots of homesteads. There was a lot of houses out in that valley that is gone now.

BARBARA: And so what year did you graduate from high school then?

CYC: 1932.

BARBARA: '32. And can you remember some of the other things maybe that happened to you during your high school years that --- coming and going to school, or things that happened in the classroom, or perhaps an interesting program that you had at school, or ---

CYC: Well, I'm trying to think if there was anything that was really, had highlights of being important.

BARBARA: Or jobs that you did, did you work while you were in high school?

CYC: Oh, yeah. Way back when I was real young, we used to go out and hay every summer, you know. And of course, they didn't pay very much wages, but --- I remember one time I worked for a \$1 a day. And ---

BARBARA: Who were some of the people you worked for?

CYC: Oh, worked for Jimmy Oard, and he's the one that had the Buchanan Station. He had a ranch out there, the old Oard Ranch. And Venators, down there as the old Venator Ranch, which, when old Phen was still alive. And, I don't remember whether you remember him or not, Phen Venator.

BARBARA: No.

CYC: Well that's the old man. And of course, I worked for Francis then, that's the boy. And of course, Mrs. Voegtly, you know, the old lady Eunice Voegtly, she was Phen's daughter.

BARBARA: Oh.

CYC: But I worked for Harry Carey down below Venator too. And that's all; this was all hay field jobs. Then I did some hay field jobs and threshing out there at the old grain camp.

DOROTHEA: I understand you worked at the Ford Garage that was in Crane too.

CYC: Yes, yes, I worked there.

DOROTHEA: How old were you then?

CYC: I went to work there when I was 18, and worked there 3 or 4 years. Then I came to Burns and went to work for Archie McGowan in 1936.

DOROTHEA: Now this was a business or Arch McGowan's at the same time?

CYC: It was at one time. Burns Garage at Crane was a subsidiary of the Burns Garage here. But when I worked there it was owned by Marvin Curry. He'd bought it from the Burns Garage.

DOROTHEA: So, it didn't always belong to Arch McGowan the whole time it was there?

CYC: No, no.

DOROTHEA: How many years did it, was it in business?

CYC: Well that garage was in business --- when did that garage burn down, Nita?

NITA: When I was in high school. I don't remember what year.

CYC: It burnt down in '37 or '38; I think that was the end of the garage.

DOROTHEA: They didn't have any more then?

CYC: No.

BARBARA: So, what did you do when you worked in the garage?

CYC: Well I, when I worked for Marvin, and I worked for Delos Clark, the principal, because he bought it from Marvin before I left there. And I just practically run it, that's what I did. Kept the books and everything.

BARBARA: Oh, uh huh.

CYC: And of course, Clark was the principal the last year, and he was still up at the high school. And of course, I was out of school, and I run it for him.

DOROTHEA: How old were you when you drove your first car, and what kind of a car was it?

CYC: About 12. A Model-T.

DOROTHEA: Is there something about these cars that you could tell us that was interesting?

CYC: Did you ever drive a Model-T?

DOROTHEA: No, I didn't. I've had --- I've seen them.

CYC: They were quite an automobile. They had three pedals on the floor, one for low, one for reverse, and one was brake. And they also had a lever on the side, was what they called the Rocky Mountain Emergency Brake. It didn't work very good, but it was there. And the transmission on those things were something like, you might say, the fore runner of the automatic now, because it had a whole pile of disks in there, and with bands on them, and that's the way these automatics work, more or less.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Well how many of those did you drive? I mean how many cars did you drive?

CYC: Well, a lot of them.

DOROTHEA: Just as they graduated up, you just graduated with them?

CYC: Yeah, until they went into the Model-A.

DOROTHEA: And what was the year that the Ford business went in out at Crane?

CYC: Oh, I couldn't tell you the, exactly the year. But way back, in fact it was there when I was just a kid, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Did your folks have a car?

CYC: Yeah, a Model-T.

BARBARA: Did they sell a lot of cars out there, really?

CYC: Well, I --- of course Archie McGowan was the dealer, you know, and he was selling the cars. And of course, later Marvin Curry was selling Plymouths in that same facility.

BARBARA: You talk about a garage --- so what kind of mechanic work would have to be done on these cars?

CYC: Well they did everything, overhauling, servicing, yeah.

BARBARA: Did they break down a lot?

CYC: Yeah, quite a bit. Of course, those days they had just a pit you drove over. You did all the work down in a hole, you know. The cars straddled this pit.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Well, I suppose the roads weren't very good at that time, so it was hard on cars then too, I suppose.

CYC: Oh yeah, hard on tires. And you used to go down in a Model-T on those rough roads, and you'd have more flats than you'd think about.

DOROTHEA: I know we've talked to some people that had driven from Burns to Bend, and it might take them a week to get there, and they would have 14 to 20 tires that they had to repair.

CYC: Flat tires.

DOROTHEA: So, you always packed your repairs, and pump, and the whole works.

CYC: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you drive any that had just hard rubber tires?

CYC: No, but my dad had a Model-T truck that had rear, rear hard rubber tires. The fronts were pneumatic, but the rear ones were hard rubber.

DOROTHEA: Daddy used to have one that he fed with, and it was like that, and I can remember that one. That's the first time I drove, I was about 4 years old, drove right through the fence. Daddy kept saying, "Turn, turn, turn," so I did, right into the fence. (Laughter) Have you been married long? I should ask you first who did you marry?

CYC: Juanita Cockrell, in 1939. And I'm still married to her.

DOROTHEA: And how did you meet?

CYC: Well, she was going to school down there, and of course I knew that Cockrell family ever since she was just little. And of course, here brothers, I --- you know, ran around with them quite a bit. Of course, she just grew up a little bit more, and I was a little bit older than her, but she finally got up old enough that I took notice.

DOROTHEA: The age didn't make any difference.

BARBARA: You thought it was all right to make a date then?

CYC: Yeah, right.

BARBARA: And so, what did you do during your courting times? Did you go to dances and things like that?

CYC: Oh yeah, quite a few dances. And of course, in '36 I came up here and went to work up here in the Ford Garage here, and she lived down there. And they had that old, we called it the galloping goose passenger train. I don't know whether you --- just two cars, diesel, one was a baggage and one was a passenger. Well, weekends she used to ride, she had a pass on it because her dad was a section foreman on the railroad and she could ride for nothing. So, she'd come up here on weekends, and I'd meet her. And of course, her brother lived here, in fact two brothers lived here. And then I'd take her back on the weekends.

BARBARA: So, what else did you do? Did you go to movies and things like that?

CYC: Oh yes, we went to movies, dances.

DOROTHEA: I don't think many of the mothers used to work outside the home. Did your mother work?

CYC: No, just in the home.

DOROTHEA: How about your wife?

CYC: She's never worked out either.

DOROTHEA: She never worked either.

BARBARA: And so, when did you finally get married?

CYC: Well, we got married on May the 13th, 1939.

BARBARA: '39. So how many years was that then that you courted her?

CYC: Oh, a couple years.

BARBARA: A couple years. Okay. And did you get married in a church, or in the family home, or ---

CYC: No, we got married in Idaho with a Justice of the Peace. Her folks and my folks went over, we all went over together.

BARBARA: And did you get to take a honeymoon?

CYC: Just a weekend.

BARBARA: Just the weekend.

CYC: That's all old Archie McGowan would let me off. (Laughter)

BARBARA: And you're lucky to have that, huh?

CYC: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Where did you make your home then when you came back?

CYC: Right here.

DOROTHEA: In Burns?

CYC: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And you have children?

CYC: Yeah, four, two boys and two girls.

DOROTHEA: And what's their names?

CYC: Well, the oldest one is Rod Presley, and Denny Presley. And then I have two girls Sharon (Showers) and Linda (Schmidt).

DOROTHEA: And where do they live?

CYC: Rod and Denny both live here. And Sharon lives in Elko, Nevada, and Linda lives in Denver, Colorado.

DOROTHEA: How many grandchildren do you have then?

CYC: We've got 9 grandchildren, and I don't know how many great grandchildren. Quite a few.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you have great grandchildren too?

CYC: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember some of the things that you enjoyed doing with your kids?

CYC: Mostly hunting and fishing, I think.

DOROTHEA: They're still pretty avid fishers and ---

CYC: Yeah, they're still at that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well, that's always been a good hobby for young people. And did you take overnight camping trips, or was it mostly just days?

CYC: Oh yes. No, we used to take ... In the early days, when the kids was young, they'd let them out of school, you know, more or less than they do now. They don't hardly let them out anymore. But we used to go up there and stay a week the first of deer season. And the kids stayed with us.

BARBARA: Did they all like to hunt too? Were they pretty much outdoor kids too?

CYC: Oh yes. Well, the boys are real avid hunters. Of course, the girls aren't, but ---

BARBARA: And what did you do then with your girls?

CYC: They went along until they got old enough, you know, that they didn't want to go up anymore.

BARBARA: Interested in boys.

CYC: Yeah, right. That changes the picture.

BARBARA: Were you able to travel with your family then on vacations? Did you go outside of the Harney County area at all?

CYC: Oh yes, we took a trip back to Yellowstone one time with them. And I was trying to think of some of the other longer trips.

BARBARA: I notice on your wall that you have a lot of arrowhead collections. Did you go out with your kids and collect arrowheads?

CYC: Yes, we've done that. Of course, this arrowhead collection here is --- the bulk of it used to belong to my brother.

DOROTHEA: You can't collect rocks and arrowheads like you used to.

CYC: No, they get a little upset about it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, they're pretty though. There is really a pretty collection there.

CYC: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: You spent most of your time working in Burns. You owned a gas station, or garage, or whatever you want to call it.

CYC: I run the Richfield Service Station for 33 years.

DOROTHEA: And how ---

BARBARA: Excuse me. Did you start this just after you worked for Archie McGowan here in

town then?

CYC: Yes, I worked for Archie McGowan, Archie McGowan and Ray Weeks later, 12 years.

Then I moved up there in 1948, and retired at that service station. Of course, Denny took it over after I left, and he run it 3 or 4 years.

BARBARA: What made you decide to go into the service station business from the Ford Garage?

CYC: Just wanted to better myself. Which didn't happen.

DOROTHEA: You were quite an avid car person. Can you tell us some of the things that you've done, built? Cars that you have built, and how they ran, and things like this.

CYC: Well, about the only cars that I built was Model-T bugs we called them.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about that?

CYC: We stripped them down and put a body on them, of our own design, we called them "bugs".

I don't know whether you've seen some of the pictures or not, but ---

DOROTHEA: No, I don't think I have.

CYC: Denny has got some of them. But anyway, there is no windshield, just a, well just a homemade body. We called them "bugs".

DOROTHEA: We used to have a man that worked for us, and he drove around and around in a circle, and he ground our grain for us, and that's what his looked like.

CYC: Is that right?

DOROTHEA: No windshield, and it had a rumble seat, and kids --- oh it was a big thrill for us to ride in the back seat of that thing, you know, and go around and around in circles. I don't know where we were going, but I guess it was thrilling.

CYC: Threshing the grain anyway, huh?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it was grinding that grain. Can you tell us something about maybe some of the trips that you took when you were driving these older cars?

CYC: Well you didn't take --- older cars you didn't go very far, you know. You might go to Juntura, or someplace like that, but you didn't get too far away because they weren't too reliable.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CYC: And the roads weren't that good either.

DOROTHEA: And they didn't travel very fast, so ---

CYC: No. Right.

BARBARA: What were some of the experiences that you had in running a business in Burns?

CYC: I don't know, I don't really know what I can tell you about that. Just routine.

BARBARA: Just hard work everyday, huh?

CYC: Yeah, right. Lots of hours and ---

BARBARA: When you work for yourself, you have to put them in or it doesn't get done, huh?

CYC: That's right. And they say if you want to make money, you just trade hours for money.

DOROTHEA: Did you have the service station during the war when they were having gas --- you had to have stamps to buy gas and sugar, and this kind of thing?

CYC: No, no, no that was ---

DOROTHEA: That was earlier?

CYC: No, no that was World War II. I didn't have a service station then.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember something about those days?

CYC: Yeah, I was working for, well Archie. Well, actually Archie McGowan, Ray Weeks. And you had to have stamps for gasoline, and you also had to have priority for tires.

DOROTHEA: I know that gasoline and rubber tires were part of it.

CYC: And you had to have a real good reason before you could even buy a new tire. They just --- and they come out with those war tires, they called them S-3's and boy they were terrible. They were made out of synthetic rubber, or whatever you call them, and they wasn't very well developed, that synthetic rubber then.

BARBARA: Did your kids have pets while they were growing up? Did you have animals around the yard?

CYC: Yeah, they had dogs, and a few rabbits, but that's about all the pets they had.

NITA: Pigeons.

CYC: Yeah, Denny was quite a pigeon owner. He was always ---

DOROTHEA: Does he still have pigeons?

CYC: Well, he did up until after he was married.

DOROTHEA: Did he?

CYC: Yeah, he had quite a few pigeons until after he was married.

DOROTHEA: Because I know they're starting to race pigeons now, and they've got a group going. I was just wondering maybe if he was in that too.

CYC: No, he's not in that now. But he used to really like birds.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CYC: You want to know what kind of bird is out here, he can tell you.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, he's quite an avid painter too. So, I really --- he's got a lot of talent.

BARBARA: Well, what are some of the things that you and Nita did when you were first married for entertainment? Did you go out to the Altnow Ranch or something and go swimming, or things like that?

CYC: Oh yes. Yes, we used to go to the Altnow Ranch quite a bit and go swimming. Of course, that was her sister, you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh, Mabel.

DOROTHEA: And can you remember some of the fun that you had out there?

BARBARA: Some antics that were pulled on one another, or jokes, or ---

CYC: Well, I can't remember any that I can recall. Of course, there was some, I suppose, but I just don't recall any.

DOROTHEA: Well, we visited with Joe and Mabel and they told us a few things, and some about the big hats that was worn.

CYC: Oh yeah. Well I can remember one thing. We had a boat, you know, and we think --- you think you were water skiing, but you got a big long foot wide plank, you know, and tie it behind the boat and get to going pretty fast, and then stand up on the thing, you know. You thought you was really skiing, to go wide with a long board. Didn't ride it too good either.

DOROTHEA: What are some of the organizations that you belong to?

CYC: Oh, I belong to the Masonic Blue Lodge, Scottish Rites, and Shrine, the Shriners. And then I belong to the Elks Lodge, belong to the Eastern Star. And I did belong to the Kiwanis, but I dropped it here just about 6 months ago. Had to get rid of some of them, I just belonged to too many.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you can keep yourself pretty well entertained, that's for sure. What kind of offices did you hold?

CYC: I went clear through the Masonic Lodge, in all the offices.

DOROTHEA: And what kind of a --- where does this leave you when you go through all the chairs in that?

CYC: Well you go through the chairs in the Blue Lodge, which is the one here, and you get to be the Master of the Lodge, that's the last station.

DOROTHEA: That's your last one. My grandfather was a 32nd Mason, and I never understood this, so ---

CYC: Well, that's Shrine.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's Shrine?

CYC: Well no. Yeah, Shrine. You've got to be a 32nd before you can belong to the Shrine.

DOROTHEA: Oh. So, okay. What kind of activities do you keep yourself busy with?

CYC: Oh, mostly fishing and hunting, and gardening.

DOROTHEA: Do you raise a big garden?

CYC: Yeah, every year. Too much, usually.

DOROTHEA: Why don't you bring some down to the Fair?

CYC: Oh, I don't know. My wife tells me that too, but I don't.

DOROTHEA: We always are looking for new people down there.

NITA: I canned 138 quarts of green beans one year.

BARBARA: 138 quarts, my goodness. That's a lot of --- how many bushes of beans did you have?

CYC: That's a lot of them to pick, I'll tell you.

BARBARA: Oh, my goodness.

DOROTHEA: What do you do to keep yourself busy? You do a lot of things yet, but I mean you're retired. And do you have any special hobbies, or ---

CYC: Oh, just normal things. I do some fishing and hunting, and bowling, and just the odd chores around the place. These guys when they retire say they don't know what to do with themselves. I never find any time to --- I don't know how they ever had time to work. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Your day is still full, huh?

CYC: Yeah, right. I always have something to do. Like this project out here now, ... that water line. And of course, they've got --- when they get through you got a lot of straightening up to do, lots of it.

DOROTHEA: Grass to replant.

CYC: Yeah, right. Lots of dirt to move.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us maybe things --- how are children affected today by the difference in their lives, compared to ours of the earlier days?

CYC: Well, I think the kids today have more pressure on them, I'm sure of that. And they got all this dope, and stuff we didn't have those days. We never heard of kids using dope in those days, when I was a kid. Just wasn't.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CYC: Just more peer pressure now.

DOROTHEA: We probably drank a little bit more beer than they do today maybe, but do you think this is going to affect the system in politics later on?

CYC: Well, I don't see how it could help but affect it. It seems like a lot of the kids are against the system. I don't know, it's just certain groups of them are.

DOROTHEA: Is there a lot of --- do you see a lot of destruction going around the city now that didn't used to happen?

CYC: There is, there is more destruction. I don't know, they don't seem to have any --- not all the kids, just a certain group of them do this, but they don't seem to have any respect for other people's property for some reason or other.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: When you had your own business did you ever have trouble with vandalism, or thefts, or ---

CYC: No, not very much. This thing has happened since, I don't know, it seems to me like. I don't know. Kids breaking windows out, and --- That instance they went around with these wrist rockets, you know, and shot signs out, and windows out.

DOROTHEA: Well, I'm kind of running out of questions here, I'm having a problem. So, can you just give us a talk, and tell us something about maybe your childhood, and some of the neighbors and friends that you had. And what you did to keep yourselves busy and entertained?

CYC: Well, it seemed like we always could keep ourselves entertained doing something, I don't know. It was either, if you wasn't working, fishing, or hunting, or arrowhead hunting, or whatever. That's when I was younger.

BARBARA: Make up games?

CYC: Oh yes, made up games. Played baseball, you know, amongst ourselves. But I don't say, those days it seemed like you could keep yourself entertained without too much trouble.

DOROTHEA: Did you have tree houses, or anything like that?

CYC: No, I don't think we ever built any tree houses.

DOROTHEA: Did you have --- were there trees around?

CYC: Oh yeah, well trees that grewed, poplar trees.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

CYC: Of course, there wasn't any pine timber around Crane.

DOROTHEA: No, no, but I mean, you know, around were there trees?

CYC: Yeah. Mostly poplar trees.

DOROTHEA: Did you come to town very often when you were a kid?

CYC: You mean to Burns?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CYC: Yeah, quite often, we used to come up to the picture shows.

DOROTHEA: Were --- was Burns about the same size as Crane at that time, or was Crane bigger?

CYC: Well, no I think Burns was bigger than Crane. But of course, way back before the early days, I don't suppose there was much difference because Burns wasn't very big either. But see the railroad came to Crane in '16, and it started growing from there.

DOROTHEA: What, it come to Burns in '29, '24?

CYC: '24, I think.

DOROTHEA: '24. Did you go on the little trip that they took this last, oh a year or so ago?

CYC: No, I didn't.

DOROTHEA: I understand that was kind of interesting.

CYC: Yeah, I heard it was, but I didn't go on it though.

DOROTHEA: I don't know if they are going to keep this train track in here or not. I think there is a lot of pro and con about that. Bob Smith, I don't know whether he's going to work for us to keep that in, but they don't have much things to haul. They don't have many, you know, it's not, it doesn't, isn't working like it used to.

CYC: No, they don't have enough lumber.

DOROTHEA: Huh uh.

BARBARA: What were some of the things that Nita did while you, in your early-married life --- You had your children, and I suppose that kept her busy, huh?

CYC: Well yeah, she had four kids, that kept her pretty much busy. And I was busy working, and of course the bulk of raising the family was hers. And she led a Boy Scout group for I don't know how many years, several.

BARBARA: 4-H and Little League Ball, or ---

CYC: No, I didn't get into that.

NITA: Cub Scouts.

CYC: Cub Scouts.

BARBARA: Just Cub Scouts. And what, with the girls, you teach them how to cook and that sort of thing, or were they into organized ---

CYC: I don't think they got into cooking; I think mostly craftwork and stuff like that.

NITA: I had sewing classes and stuff like that.

CYC: Sewing classes and craftwork.

DOROTHEA: Would you like to come and join us and talk about some of your childhood, and your life?

NITA: My life really isn't very interesting.

DOROTHEA: Well, we could get it down on here though, because we've probably got something that ---

NITA: I really don't have very much of anything to say. I was 3 years old when I came to Crane. We came on the railroad; my dad was section foreman. And came in a car house, and lived in a car house while we built the section house at Lawen. And then we moved down there quite a while. I was in the third grade when we came back to Crane.

BARBARA: You say car house, is that just a regular car on a train?

NITA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Oh, okay.

NITA: And old section house at Crane was made out of a big old caboose. They even had the windows up above, still. The rest was boxcars put together, and of course it leaked when it rained, and the mice got in. It was one of those things. And we never had lights all the time I was in high school, electric lights. We had kerosene lamps. And we had cold water, but we didn't have any bathroom or anything like that. Had cold water. And we had ice; Dad brought ice in every morning from the icehouse. And our coal was furnished. And my mother was very industrious, she had a cow, and pigs, and chickens, and a garden. So she was almost --- They came from Oklahoma, the folks did when they came out.

DOROTHEA: What were their names?

NITA: Andrew and Mae Cockrell. And they had ---

BARBARA: And how many brothers and sisters do you have? We know Mabel, but ---

NITA: I have 5. I have --- one of them is dead ... is dead. And I have Everett "Rusty", and of

course Mabel, and two younger brothers, Bob and Jerry.

BARBARA: And so, you had your early years of schooling then at Lawen, and then you went to Crane. Or did you go all to Crane?

NITA: I was in the third grade when I came to Crane.

BARBARA: When you came to Crane.

NITA: So, I just had two years at Lawen.

BARBARA: Was it a boarding school yet then, or did you go back and forth to school?

NITA: No, the folks moved, see.

BARBARA: Oh, they moved out to Crane then?

NITA: Yeah, that's when --- yeah.

BARBARA: Okay.

NITA: That's when we lived in the big old house.

DOROTHEA: What did you do to entertain yourselves as kids?

NITA: Oh, we had bikes. And of course, the swimming pool was out there. There was a swimming pool there, which they have now ... And in the summer, we'd go out there on our bikes all the time and go swimming. And when, oh when there were rabbits, you know, that you could get five cents an ear, we'd go out and my little brothers would shoot rabbits, and we'd go buy pop, and go buy ---

BARBARA: Great.

NITA: But we did a lot of bike riding. And oh, we climbed that old, those old hills. Jumped over the snakes, and a few things like that.

BARBARA: Oh.

DOROTHEA: I remember when the rabbits were pretty plentiful, and we did a lot of that. And I saw in the paper the other day where somebody got a fine, ticket, or something like that because they had shot a rabbit out of season. I didn't know they had a season on jackrabbits.

CYC: Do they have a season on jackrabbits?

DOROTHEA: Apparently, because they shot a rabbit out of season. And what kind of a rabbit is

there that you can shoot out of season?

CYC: Maybe they was shooting without a hunting license. You can't shoot a rabbit without a hunting license.

DOROTHEA: Well I mean this was, they got a fine for shooting a rabbit out of season.

CYC: I never heard of that. Boy!

BARBARA: Where did your brothers and sisters end up living then, are they around here?

NITA: Oh, Mabel is, and she is the only one. The rest are --- Rusty lives over at Lakeview. And my one younger brother lives in Utah, and the other one in California.

BARBARA: So, I suppose you spend a lot of time then with Mabel, running back and forth to Drewsey visiting her, did you?

NITA: Oh, we went quite a bit. Yeah, in the summertime I'd go over there. The Hatts lived over there, and the girls went to school with me. And I'd go over and stay with them, and we'd go over and swim. I learned to swim with them.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember some of the little pranks that you used to pull at the swimming hole?

NITA: Not really. I don't remember too many pranks.

CYC: Probably was some, but you forgot.

NITA: I wouldn't be surprised.

DOROTHEA: Let's pause for a moment and turn this tape over.

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: Cyc, can you tell us something about some of the organizations that you belong to, and what maybe you have done that is kind of special.

CYC: Well one thing that I figured was kind of outstanding was when I was Master of the Lodge; we acquired the Malheur Cave which we hold meetings once a year down there, every year now. Have since 1939. And we held meetings down there for quite a while before we acquired it. You know, just hold meetings inside the cave. Once a year, invite everybody from the State of Oregon

that was a Mason, and have a big cookout.

DOROTHEA: How did you come about getting that?

CYC: We acquired the Malheur Cave through adverse taxes, they were delinquent. And so, we went and filed for it, and beings we were using the cave, and we acquired it through adverse taxes.

DOROTHEA: So, you more or less, the lodge more or less owns the cave?

CYC: They do own it.

DOROTHEA: They do own it.

CYC: Yeah, right.

DOROTHEA: So how do you keep this? Do you have much vandalism going on? How do you keep this up?

CYC: We got bleachers built back inside the cave so we can have, you know, tile meeting. And we've had people go down there and burn our bleachers up. You know, get back in there and build a fire and cut the boards up. And then we've got a kitchen, shack over in the, just over from the cave in that draw there that belongs to that Norman Ranches now. But we have the use of it. And we have a cook shack over there. And of course, they all go down there, and that's where they cook a little bit. Seal that thing up, and the people tear into it. Nothing in it, but they shot holes in it.

DOROTHEA: Is it --- how did you start going down there in the first place?

CYC: Well when, Charlie Loggan was probably the instigator. He decided to have meetings down there once a year, and go down and have a get together, and have lodge and third degree inside the cave which is, you know, kind of a pre-historic kind of a deal, and that's how it started. And they never did quit, even during the war; they went down there and held meetings, even during the war, World War II.

DOROTHEA: I'm an old Harney County person that has never been to the caves. Can you tell us something about the caves?

CYC: Well, the cave in the early days before, I remember when I was just a kid it was kind of barricaded up in front, you know, rocked up. The story is the Indians had a big battle and they kind of went back in there and kind of shored up the front. But now we've --- used to be lot of artifacts

right at the mouth of the cave. People dug and re-dug, and dug again, you know, but now they don't do that anymore. But we've cleared it out now, and you can drive a car inside that cave now.

DOROTHEA: How far is it back into it?

CYC: Probably go back a quarter of mile, or maybe a little over, between a quarter and a half a mile. And then there's a lake back there, water.

DOROTHEA: Is it dark?

CYC: Oh yes, ink black.

DOROTHEA: What did you use for lights?

CYC: Well you used to use torches a long time ago. And now, of course, if you want to get clear back to water you use gasoline lanterns. And of course, the --- when we have tile lodge down there we have electric lights strung back.

DOROTHEA: Do you use a plant?

CYC: Yeah, power plant.

DOROTHEA: Power plant. How many people, and from where do they all come?

CYC: Well we have people from Idaho, California, Washington, and we've even had people clear from Australia and a few other places that has showed up there. Just happened to be here, I guess. But they show up down there.

DOROTHEA: Is this an invitation only thing, or how did they hear about it?

CYC: No. Well it's just; we send out notices every year, you know, we're going to have it, and what time we're going to have it. It's usually a week before Labor Day, weekend before Labor Day. And they notify these other lodges, and of course the other lodges, kind of a word of mouth. And during the, what you call Victory Days, during, after World War II, we had, that's the biggest one we had. We probably had 500 people there then.

BARBARA: This --- I've not been to the cave either, so it's hard to imagine how big this is, if you can get that many people in there.

CYC: Oh, it's big.

BARBARA: It really is.

CYC: Yeah. It's half or three-quarter of a mile long, all told. Of course, part of it is under water, you know.

BARBARA: And about how wide is it? Is it wide at the entrance, and gets smaller, or the other way around?

CYC: Where the lodge room is, where we hold the lodge, it's probably 50 feet wide. But there is some places wider than that.

DOROTHEA: Now can anybody go down and see this, or do you have to have a special invite to go down? I mean, you know, if I were to want to go down and see it, do I have to find somebody to take me there, or ---

CYC: No, no, you can go.

DOROTHEA: I can just go and see it?

CYC: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I don't have ---

BARBARA: You don't have to get permission from the Masonic's?

DOROTHEA: --- I mean because it belongs to you --- that's what I was going to say.

CYC: No, you don't have to have permission.

DOROTHEA: It isn't, I mean you don't keep it sealed or locked up or anything?

CYC: No, no, it's wide open.

DOROTHEA: What is the lake like? Is it cold water, or ---?

CYC: Oh, it's cold, yeah. It's spring water.

NITA: It's probably --- isn't it a river?

CYC: No, no.

NITA: Oh, I thought probably it was.

CYC: No, it's spring fed, and it's under, you know, and you can take a boat and go way back on water.

DOROTHEA: Have you done this?

CYC: Oh yes, lots of times. And it's so clear that you think it is only 3 or 4 feet deep, and you can

reach down with your paddle and you can't even touch the bottom.

BARBARA: That's kind of spooky then, isn't it?

CYC: Yeah, it is.

DOROTHEA: Is it dark too? I mean where the lake is?

CYC: Oh yes. If you didn't have a lantern you couldn't see your hand before your face.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it's all-dark.

CYC: Oh yes. When you go around the first turn down there, you can go back a little ways, which is probably a 100 yards, then you make a turn to the right and then from there on it is inky black.

DOROTHEA: It's black.

CYC: That's right.

DOROTHEA: I'm kind of spooky of that kind of stuff.

CYC: Well, you know, if you've got a lantern there's no problem. But you talk about black, you think well you can put your hand before your face and you can see it, but you can't see nothing without a light.

DOROTHEA: Huh. That's darker than dark.

CYC: Yes, it is.

DOROTHEA: That's inky.

NITA: You can walk into it. Some of those caves out in the desert, you have to go down --- when we first went in we went down on ropes.

CYC: Not this one though.

NITA: No, not that one.

DOROTHEA: Some day I'd like to go see it. I've never been there.

CYC: Yeah, you should.

BARBARA: I understand that Ellen Benedict did some research in the Malheur --- in the cave, about little fishes, and different things that they thought were in there. Do you know anything about that?

CYC: I've never seen any fish in that water. I think it is too dark, I don't think anything could live

in it.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say; they would be blind or something.

CYC: They'd have to have a little light, you just can't --- nothing will grow where it is inky black.

DOROTHEA: I can't imagine it being that black. There must not be a hole in the ground at all.

CYC: No, there isn't. Once you go around that turn, that's it.

BARBARA: Does it go down, or is it pretty level?

CYC: No, it's pretty level.

BARBARA: Is it pretty level?

CYC: It's gradual down till you hit the water.

DOROTHEA: You said something about you thought maybe the Indians used it. How did you ever discover it?

CYC: Well, of course the pioneers a long time ago discovered it. I don't remember who the first guy that saw it. But my folks, when they were young, knew it was there.

DOROTHEA: So, its been there a long time.

CYC: A long time, and people knew it was there for a long time.

DOROTHEA: It wasn't something that somebody dug. It was ---

CYC: No, no, no.

DOROTHEA: It's a natural ---

CYC: It's actually, had been a lava tube, you know, that's where most of those caves are.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about the Crane country? Are there a lot of lava caves, and diamond caves, and anything down there, coal caves, whatever?

CYC: Not right around Crane, just the Malheur Cave. And then further out towards Rome there is a lot of lava tube caves out there too, long ones.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Nita, have you been in the cave with Cyc?

NITA: Oh yes. I've been in the cave when I was kid. Had to crawl into a hole to get in.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: That's when they had the rocks barricaded it up.

CYC: Yeah, barricaded the front.

DOROTHEA: What do you suppose the Indians might have used that for, a house or to hide, or ---

CYC: I think they had that Indian War, I can't help but think that --- maybe it was the Bannock Indian War or whatever.

NITA: That was a good source of water in there. The water is good, so they would have had protection, and water both.

DOROTHEA: And big enough it would have held quite a few people.

CYC: Yeah. Of course, the legend of the Malheur Cave, I don't know whether you've ever read that or not, but it tells about the Indians having a fight with the Bannocks, or whatever, and they went back in there and barricaded it up, and to get away from the other Indians. There is quite a legend about it. I have it some place.

DOROTHEA: I don't know anything about it. I've never been there, and I always said, someday I'm going to go. But I just don't know anything about it, and haven't heard too many people talk about it really.

CYC: I'll dig you up that Legend of the Malheur Cave. I don't know where it is right now. The, one year they had that on the back of the Masonic Apron, we wore those paper aprons. They had the Legend of the Malheur Cave on the back of it. I think I've still got it.

DOROTHEA: That would be interesting, and nice to store, really. I mean, it's not something that is secret, or ---

CYC: No, no, no.

DOROTHEA: It's a regular --- So it would be nice to have, because like I said I've never heard about it, and it would be interesting to find out.

CYC: I'll get that legend for you. I can't get it for you right this minute, but ---

DOROTHEA: No, well that's fine. One of these days just drop it up at the library, that way we'd have it.

CYC: Okay. Are you sure they don't have it up there already?

DOROTHEA: I've never seen it. I don't know, Peggy might know. But I've never seen it.

CYC: I'll ask her, and if she don't have it, I'll get it.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: Well, we could ask her when we go back too, and let you know then.

DOROTHEA: Nita, can you think of anything else with your family that you kind of had fun doing? Did you, how did you entertain yourselves as kids, and did you play lots of games? Where did you learn to cook?

NITA: I learned to cook after I was married.

BARBARA: You experimented on Cyc, did you?

NITA: Yeah. Well my mother was always the cook, and she really prided herself on cooking. She didn't want you in her kitchen messing around.

BARBARA: Oh.

DOROTHEA: You were one of the lucky girls, huh? I got to do lots of cooking, and dishes.

NITA: Well dishes, yes, I got to do dishes.

DOROTHEA: You got to do dishes. She did let you in the kitchen then, huh?

NITA: I was allowed that. She was always a great bread maker. I just --- everything like that. And after I was married --- and the kids would always talk about Grandma's biscuits, and oh boy Grandma's was the best. And I could make them and they wouldn't like them, so I got so I wouldn't make any biscuits. And I never do yet. I like the ones you buy out of the store.

DOROTHEA: My son gives me a lot of hassle about, "Mom, why do you keep buying those things, I can make biscuits better than that." Well, you know, I'm lazy, I like those quick things.

NITA: Well Sharon got the recipe from Grandma once. She came home, and we were gone someplace, and she made biscuits. And I guess they didn't turn out very good, and Denny gave her such a bad time. Because he said when you dropped them on the floor they bounced. (Laughter) So she would never make them anymore either.

DOROTHEA: I don't know whether you guys remember Mrs. Wright, she used to teach school.

CYC: I remember her.

DOROTHEA: And her husband Claude lived out in the Narrows, or Princeton, or someplace.

CYC: Princeton area.

DOROTHEA: Well, I guess she used to bake biscuits all the time, and when Weston first got married, well he asked his wife, that's what we have for breakfast. And I guess that's the kind of biscuits she --- he dropped them on the floor and they bounced and embarrassed her to death.

CYC: Oh boy.

DOROTHEA: And I had never baked him another biscuit, if I had been there. But his mother made sourdough biscuits that were absolutely delicious, and I guess he thought all girls should be able to cook biscuits. But ---

BARBARA: Well, if your mother never allowed you in the kitchen, then did she teach you how to sew?

NITA: She didn't sew either.

BARBARA: Oh, uh huh.

NITA: She had an old sewing machine, but she sewed very little. She gardened and cooked.

BARBARA: What did she have you doing as chores then as a child, if you didn't help in the kitchen other than doing dishes? What were you responsible for doing?

NITA: Oh, we got to weed in the garden.

BARBARA: That was real lucky, wasn't it?

NITA: We always had to go out every evening and get the cow. Because they turned it out --- Other than that I don't think we did much.

CYC: Talk about weeding in the garden, I was weeding the garden out here, and Rod was just a small kid, you know. I don't know how old he was, but big enough to know what I was doing. But anyway, I was out there pulling weeds, you know, and went to work, and come back in the afternoon, had beans up about that high (an inch). Anyhow, he was weeding my garden, he pulled all the beans.

BARBARA: Oh no. Well, you didn't have to can a hundred and some quarts of beans that year then, huh?

NITA: Kids, you never know what's going to happen.

BARBARA: Isn't that the truth.

NITA: Especially with Denny. Cyc was painting the roof once, and he had green paint all down here, and we had a great big old fuzzy cat. And I looked out, and just in time to see him dip that cat in that green paint.

CYC: Five-gallon bucket of green shingle paint.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

NITA: We got down and cleaned the cat all off, and it lived. You know, it was a surprise. But it ran around the neighborhood for a long time, green.

CYC: Green.

DOROTHEA: A green cat, huh?

NITA: ... one day, she was standing out there talking to me, and she saw that cat, and she just stopped. And she said, "Oh, a green cat, a green cat."

BARBARA: Oh dear.

NITA: But with Denny, you never knew what was going to happen.

BARBARA: Always a good one for thinking up some little thing to do, huh?

NITA: I don't think he thought a lot of times, he just did it.

BARBARA: Just did it.

DOROTHEA: Just did it.

BARBARA: Just reacted, huh?

NITA: Yeah, he used to be coloring in his color book, and pretty soon he was just going right up the wall.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

NITA: He wasn't very old, he went in and got my lipstick and wrote all over the bathroom. And I came in there and saw it, and so I started hunting for him and couldn't find him anywhere, no place.

So, I had everybody out in town looking for him. It finally dawned on me, well maybe, so I went there and looked in his closet, and he was sitting back in the corner with his teddy bear asleep.

BARBARA: Oh dear. He knew he'd done wrong, he'd better hide, huh, and take his teddy bear.

Well did you know at an early age that he had artistic abilities then for drawing?

NITA: Oh yes, he was real good. He never, like other kids like draw stick houses or something, he never did it. He drew this when he was about 4 years old.

BARBARA: That's really good.

NITA: ... He drew that one when he was in high school.

CYC: Even the wheels over there has motion in them, you know.

BARBARA: Yeah. You can just feel it moving. It's ---

NITA: ... just throw that away. But I let a lot of things get away that he did when he was young. Shouldn't have.

BARBARA: It's hard to save everything though, isn't it?

NITA: Oh, heavens yes. I mean you couldn't.

BARBARA: Right.

DOROTHEA: Except me, I have everything. All my kids' toys, and all my kids' clothes, I still have. My grandkids have gone up through the years with them, you know, so I still have it all.

BARBARA: Well that's really good though, I mean at an early age that he would show the tendency for doing arty things.

NITA: And he worked with clay, he was real good with clay. Once he made a nativity set, and he rolled the little grass. And then when he got through he just went like this.

DOROTHEA: That was the end of it.

NITA: And then he went into monkeys, and he was getting pretty good sized then. And I went in there once, and he had taken all of his clothes off the hangers and he had monkeys hanging on the hangers, tails in the hands. I said, "Okay, get the monkeys down, get the clothes ---"

BARBARA: Oh, that's quite an imagination though, really.

NITA: This isn't relative to anything, but we woke up one night, and we had linoleum on the floor, and I could hear something. I woke Cyc up and I said, "What does that sound like to you?" And he said, "It sounds like something running up and down the hall." So, I got up and he had some baby

ducks, he and this other kid had gone out and caught baby ducks. And they were running up and down the hall. So, I said, "You get those ducks out of here." "Well," he said, "Mom, it's cold out there, I got them and put them in because it was cold." And I said, "I don't care," I said, "you get them out of here, and tomorrow you take those back." I said, "It's against the law to have wild ducks."

DOROTHEA: Sounds like Denny was your entertainer.

NITA: More or less.

BARBARA: Oh dear. Does he ever sell any of his art work now?

CYC: Don't think he sold anything.

NITA: I don't think he's ever sold anything.

DOROTHEA: Rhonda has one like that, I don't ---

NITA: Yeah, he had some prints made.

DOROTHEA: Some prints made of those. I love that one.

BARBARA: I see he does a lot of Indian things. Was there a reason that he got into the Indian type thing, do you know?

NITA: I don't know, he just started those not too long ago.

DOROTHEA: How long has he been painting on those skins?

NITA: Just a short time.

DOROTHEA: Where does he get the skins?

NITA: Well, he makes some of them out of --- he started with what?

CYC: Well, he started with ---

NITA: Deer hide, I think.

CYC: --- pigskin, pigskin, and then he got some deer hides. I think that's pigskin there. Then he bought some deer hides, tanned deer hide from this Country Store or More down here.

NITA: He said some --- he didn't like those because they stretched. They were too hard to paint on because they stretched. But he just started this not very long ago. In fact, I think, the Castle they had asked him to paint a picture for some friends of theirs in Portland, and they wanted something

different. So, he thought that up, and so they sent it. And so that was the first one he made.

DOROTHEA: Well, I know he writes a lot of verses, now like I see with that.

NITA: Yeah, well he brought that down for me for Christmas one day I think. He'd done it that morning.

CYC: That's an old cabin, that's the old Lucas cabin in the bottom of Stinkingwater Canyon.

DOROTHEA: Oh, is it?

CYC: Uh huh.

NITA: Yeah, and now it's falling apart.

CYC: It's still there, but it's a ---

DOROTHEA: Parts of it are still there.

CYC: Well it's been --- most of the walls are still there, the roof is gone. But ---

DOROTHEA: That's like they say, a lot of these towns like Harriman, and a lot of these older towns that's all that is left of them too, is just some boards. But he always does these verses. Does he just come up with those out of his head?

NITA: Yeah, he writes.

DOROTHEA: A lot of that?

NITA: He hardly ever buys a card.

CYC: Well, you know, if you've been in the Castle, he's got them square nails above that, he's got versus on them square nails, about the square nails. I don't think he wrote any, no he didn't write any. That's the old Clark cabin down here at Crane Creek.

DOROTHEA: And he's been to all these places, so he knows what they look like. Does he do a lot of photography work too?

CYC: Yes. A lot of it is, he's got a lot of photography work in the Castle.

NITA: All those pictures in the back ---

CYC: In that banquet room is all his.

DOROTHEA: I knew those, the arrowheads and things was all his collection. Does he collect bottles and things like this too?

CYC: You see that collection of bottles in the Castle?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, in the Castle, that's his?

CYC: That's his.

DOROTHEA: That's his? Oh, my goodness.

NITA: Somebody wanted to buy them, or he ---

CYC: And that arrowhead collection in the hallway is his.

NITA: And he collected coins when he was just a kid. He's got all the Indian heads.

BARBARA: Are any of your other children interested in this type of thing too?

NITA: No, they don't seem to be.

CYC: Well, Rod collects arrowheads.

NITA: Yeah, he does arrowheads, but that's about all. And Linda has been real interested in going back and finding out about the family.

BARBARA: Genealogy work?

NITA: Yeah, she took all the old pictures and everything back to ... And his family came from England, so when we were over there the last time when they lived there, why she took us --- when we went up, and was driving all through the country in Scotland, wasn't it?

CYC: No, it was still in England.

NITA: We were still in England. And she had found out where some of the ancestors had had their shop. And so, we went there and then when we got back we looked at the map, and there was a little place called Presley. And we hadn't been too far, but we hadn't seen it before that.

BARBARA: Oh, for heavens sakes.

CYC: My great granddad run the brickyard in Salem, in the real early days. That's where the fair grounds are now.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CYC: Do you know what that would be worth now?

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

BARBARA: Hindsight, huh?

CYC: Yeah. That was my great granddad. He's buried in Brownsville.

NITA: Weavers. He was saying that there wasn't anybody alive that, it was, Weaver is a classmate of yours, Howard Weaver.

CYC: Well what about him?

NITA: Well you told her awhile ago that ---

CYC: Well I said, like she said, around here.

NITA: Oh.

CYC: He don't live here.

DOROTHEA: When you played the ball games, did you play with anybody that is still around here, from Burns?

CYC: Nobody that lives here in Burns.

DOROTHEA: Nobody, huh?

CYC: No, I'm about the only one. The rest of them have moved away.

DOROTHEA: Well how did you stay here?

CYC: I don't know, stubborn I guess. (Laughter)

NITA: Now how about the Smyth's?

CYC: He don't live here. He lives in Ontario.

NITA: Isn't there one of them that lives here?

CYC: Nope.

NITA: Currey?

CYC: Currey?

NITA: Yeah, doesn't one of the Curreys live here, the older ones?

CYC: I never played ball with Currey's.

NITA: Oh, okay.

CYC: They were behind me.

NITA: I thought they were in the school about the same time.

CYC: Nope. I never went to school with Currey's at all.

NITA: Stub Currey?

CYC: No, Stub didn't go to school, not with me.

NITA: Oh, okay.

DOROTHEA: Now how are you related to the Turners?

CYC: Not related to them at all.

DOROTHEA: You're not?

CYC: Huh uh.

NITA: His brother married a Turner.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see.

NITA: Cleve, the one that's dead.

CYC: Cleve that married Dorothy Turner. But she, actually, outside of marriage she was no relation to me.

DOROTHEA: Because I thought somebody said something about, oh maybe it was that you were running some moonlight, or something for --- moonlighting or something for Elby Turner.

CYC: Well, sold him, that's what I was going to say, I wouldn't mention any names; we used to sell him booze.

DOROTHEA: Moonshine.

CYC: We used to find them gallon jugs out there and we'd sell them to him for \$5 a gallon. Yeah, \$5 was quite a bit of money in those days.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say, he wanted his booze. Yeah, work for a \$1 a day and sell the booze. Better do that for a living.

CYC: Oh, we didn't get too much of it, but it happened.

DOROTHEA: Well I knew I had heard about the Turners, and I knew that ---

NITA: They lived down there.

CYC: They lived right next door to us, actually.

DOROTHEA: And I thought that they were related to you.

CYC: No, my brother that is dead married a Turner.

DOROTHEA: Let's see now, if they were related to you or if, you know, then that would make you related to Ollie Heinz, and somehow or other there ---

CYC: Well no, Ollie Heinz married my cousin, Bill Heinz.

DOROTHEA: Bill Heinz.

CYC: Is my cousin.

DOROTHEA: Well, now see I knew there was a relation in there, but I didn't know how it come about.

CYC: And Terry, my nephew, Terry Presley, you know him?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CYC: Okay, his grandparents were Turners on his mother's side.

DOROTHEA: Okay, yeah, okay now Donna, Donna is Terry's ---

CYC: Sister.

DOROTHEA: Sister.

CYC: And her grandparents were Turners.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CYC: But no relation to me.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, okay. So that's why I got to thinking, now how are you related to Turners. I knew there must be a connection there somehow. Well, can you think of any other funny stories that we could share, or experiences that you have had in maybe your retired life, or your time working at the station that you would like to share with us?

CYC: Well, the only thing I can say is that after we retired we, my daughter was in the Philippines, and we went to the Philippines, Clark Air Base for a month. And then they went from there to Germany, and we went over there twice to Germany, a month one time, and six weeks another time.

BARBARA: Oh, that's great.

CYC: They was at, I was trying to think of the air base.

NITA: Ramstein.

CYC: Ramstein Air Base. And then they moved to England, to Upper Hayford Air Field, and we

went over there to our granddaughters wedding, which was last year.

DOROTHEA: So, you've done some pretty nice traveling.

CYC: Yeah, and then we went; while we was there we went up into Scotland. And of course, visited my ancestor's town of Kingdom, Kingdon, not "dom", Kingdon.

NITA: Well actually when we were in Germany on the two trips, we went to a lot of countries up there. I think we must have went to 8, 9 countries.

CYC: Oh, well, we've been in France, and Switzerland, Austria, and Italy. And we even went to the Isle of Capri.

NITA: Well that's Italy, honey.

CYC: I know it. And of course, we was in the town of Pompeii, them ruins you know, they dug up.

DOROTHEA: What the --- How are they different from our life style? Are they as modern as we are, or are they a little bit behind us, or ahead of us, or ---

CYC: They are behind us.

DOROTHEA: Are they?

CYC: Especially England, terrible, behind us.

DOROTHEA: And what are the, what's the money like over there? Is it more expensive for them to live than it does us, or ---?

CYC: Well I know when we went to Italy; our dollar was worth 1400 of theirs. Which was 1400 lira to one of our dollars. But to get enough money to go on one of them trips, you had a whole suitcase full of money, pretty near it. My daughter and I went down to the exchange there at Ramstein Air Base, and we was going to be gone 9 days to Italy. There was their family and us, and we figured how much liars we was going to have to have on the trip. Of course, we went on the bus, which was the military bus, on a chartered trip.

BARBARA: On a tour?

CYC: Yeah. And we come back; we had a million and a half liars.

NITA: They were fighting over who had more money. Finally, Linda said, "Dad, you know this is

probably about a dollars worth, just take it." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Did you bring any of that home with you?

CYC: Oh, just a few coins.

DOROTHEA: A few coins.

NITA: We went into Hungary and Czechoslovakia when they were still a --- we had to have special Visas to go in. And she worked quite a while to get them. Going across the border, of course, we have to --- a load, and they take, go through all your stuff. Climb back in the busses and be sure you're ---

CYC: We also went into Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

NITA: Oh honey, I just said that.

CYC: Oh, I didn't hear you.

NITA: And we went into East Germany. We went through to Berlin on the military train on one trip. And then we went through the Wall, in a bus thing, into East Germany. And we shopped over there a little bit.

DOROTHEA: Well, I heard on TV last night where the East Germans are really having a hard time of it now. And the West Germans are so well off compared --- I wonder if there is a little bit of animosity towards each other that way.

CYC: Well ---

NITA: Well, the West Germans wanted them in there to start with, but then when they came in and started taking over their jobs, and of course housing is very, very --- The land there is so valuable, like the house the kids lived in, this policeman had built it and he said it cost him about five times as much for that land as it did to build the house on it. So, it's real expensive. And of course, when they're all coming in and wanting jobs, and houses, and everything, then I could see where it was going to work out not too well.

BARBARA: A lot of readjustments for everyone.

NITA: You betcha.

CYC: I think a lot of the East German people went back, because they weren't too happy, you

know, those things was kind of crowded.

NITA: Well especially if they had a house or a home to go to.

DOROTHEA: Was that somebody at the door?

BARBARA: Yes.

CYC: This door? We've got a doorbell.

DOROTHEA: Whoops.

CYC: Whoops. Oh, excuse me. (Microphone)

DOROTHEA: I grabbed it.

CYC: I forgot I had that on. Oh, it's Terry in the back ---

DOROTHEA: Well Cyc, if there isn't anything more that you'd like to talk with us about, then we will stop now and do a little video which will be stored with this tape at the library. And we would like to thank you for the enjoyable afternoon, and hope we haven't taken up too much of your time.

CYC: No. Probably after you leave, I'll probably think of a lot of things.

DOROTHEA: That's the way it usually happens.

BARBARA: That always happens.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. And thank you again.

(END OF TAPE)

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