

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #285 - Sides A/B

Subject: Homer Morrison - With Video

Place: Morrison Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: April 16, 1991

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and I'm with Barbara Lofgren, and we're at the home of Homer Morrison. We will be visiting with him today about his life in Harney County. The date is April 16, 1991. And the transcript will be number 285. After-wards we will be doing a short video on him, which will be stored at the Harney County Library along with the transcript. Okay, Homer can you tell us your full name?

HOMER MORRISON: Homer LeRoy Morrison.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and when and where were you born?

HOMER: Canyon City, Oregon, on November the 25th, 1905.

DOROTHEA: And who were your parents?

HOMER: Tom Morrison and Cora Morrison. My mother's maiden name was Jenkins, Cora Jenkins.

DOROTHEA: And was she one of the Jenkins' around here?

HOMER: No. Well yes, Sam Jenkins, over in the Drewsey country. But none of these Jenkins'.

DOROTHEA: Out in the Diamond area?

HOMER: Yeah, none of them, no.

DOROTHEA: What were your grandparent's names?

HOMER: Well Jenkins would have been my mother's folk's names, and she was born in

Pennsylvania, and they were part Indian. And on my dad's side, my grandmother was born in Ireland, and my granddad was born in Scotland. And that was all I've got on my grand, was just Scotch and Irish. And on my mother's side, I've got Welch, Scotch Irish and Indian.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember what their names were?

HOMER: No, I don't. I have no idea.

DOROTHEA: That's okay. Do you know why your parents came to Harney County? And what date, or what for the first time maybe?

HOMER: Well my mother, her dad died. No, her mother died, and her stepmother and her couldn't get along, and they were living in Chicago at the time, so she come to Oregon because her Uncle Sam Jenkins lived over in the Drewsey country. My dad, his part of it, you see, he was in California. My mother was his second wife.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HOMER: But he lived in California, and he'd heard about up here they needed some horses. So he had a band of, well these grey horses, and grey blue horses are probably out of the bunch that he brought up here years ago. So he come up with those horses, and that was how --- And this Morrison Addition out here is what he homesteaded when he come up here.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

HOMER: So that was back in the '80's. And then my mother, well let's see, my dad's first wife died here, and he had my two half-sisters, they were here. And what was the old editor of the paper down here, you remember?

DOROTHEA: Julian Byrd?

HOMER: Well his mother and dad took my two sisters, and was going to take them, was willing and wanted to take them. Julian and my two sisters were about the same age.

So, but that wouldn't work, so Dad took them back down to his, down to their grandmothers down there. So I never saw them. My oldest sister, I never saw her until after I was married, I was 24, 25 years old. So I went into California and saw her. And my other sister, the youngest sister, she was about --- a lot older than me, she was older than my mother. When my mother died I went and lived with them in Portland and went to school.

Now my mother and dad --- my mother went over to Canyon, and she went to work at the hotel, and Dad went over there. I don't know what, oh he was a stage driver at the time when he went over there, he was driving stagecoach, see. Well they got married over there. Now here's a little coincidence. They had a big fire over there at the time, see.

DOROTHEA: In John Day?

HOMER: Huh?

DOROTHEA: In John Day?

HOMER: In Canyon.

DOROTHEA: Canyon.

HOMER: That was in the '80's, no, hell no, it was in about 19--- well in the early 1900's, it was before I was born. And he lost everything he had in that darn fire, the hotel fire the way it was. So years later, back in 1987, or 1937, my wife divorced me and I went over there and I got in the hotel, and the fire bell rang and Jerry Welch and I went out, and all we had on was pants and slippers. And we run out in the hall, and couldn't get back to our clothes. We lost; I lost everything I had in the same --- In fact my mother's wedding ring dropped right down in the basement where she was married up above. So ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, I'll be darned. Coincidental, yeah, really. What were your sister's names?

HOMER: Violet was the oldest one, and she married a man by the name of Faught, down there. She was --- they were well off. And Mae was the one that come --- she came back up here, and she named me. She married a Steve Laurance over there. He was the clerk, and he was later a Deputy, United States Marshall. But Mae and Violet were my sister's names. And I had a sister Minnie, but she died in infancy, she was younger than me. She ---

DOROTHEA: She was your full sister?

HOMER: Yeah, she was a full sister. And then what happened?

DOROTHEA: Then what happened? Yeah. (Laughter) Okay, you said your dad was a homesteader here in the Morrison Addition?

HOMER: Well he wasn't exactly a homesteader. He come up here with livestock, and he did take out the homestead, all right. Well this Morrison Addition that runs right up the old Indian Camp, and --- I wouldn't call him a homesteader, because I think he was a driving stage even when he had that. But he took it out so he'd have a place for what horses he had. And, you know, have a place to put a, well a house down there. Well it hasn't been too many years ago it was burned, or destroyed, or something, his old homestead house.

BARBARA LOFGREN: I didn't catch when you were born.

HOMER: When was I born? 1905.

BARBARA: 1905. Okay, and then you say you were born in Canyon, and you went to school in Canyon then too?

HOMER: Yeah, I went to school in Canyon up through the eighth, seventh, eighth grade, and then I went to Portland for a couple of years, then come back and finished in Canyon.

BARBARA: And you said that you were married. Who did you marry, and when?

HOMER: I married Lucille Smith from Drewsey. I married her on--- I don't know, '28. I'll say May the 12th, 1928. But I don't remember getting married; they took advantage of

me. I had spotted fever, and I didn't know a damn thing. I went over there and I got married. I mean, I was going to get married anyway. But I don't remember the ceremony at all; I was out of my head. The old China doctor brought me out of it. That spotted fever in those days, if you had it, you just about had it. But I went over there and he brought me out of it, and I was fine.

DOROTHEA: What was the doctor's name, do you remember?

HOMER: Old Doc Hey, Chinese doctor.

DOROTHEA: Doctor --- over in Canyon?

HOMER: Yeah. And see my wife, after we were married --- she had two uncles that were good doctors, ... down in Ontario and Baker. But we went to the Chinese doctor. They never did think that was quite the right thing to do, but I did.

BARBARA: The closest one.

HOMER: Yeah. Yeah, I don't remember getting married at all.

DOROTHEA: And did you have any children? You said you had a daughter?

HOMER: Yeah, I have a daughter. I have a daughter, let's see, she was born in '32. I've got four grandkids, and four great grandkids. I've got a great grandson that graduated out of high school.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you do? A great grandson?

HOMER: A great grandson, yeah.

DOROTHEA: I'll be darned. And do they live around here any place?

HOMER: Oh no, they live in --- There's my sister and Edna. That was my wife, you knew Edna. (Pointing to pictures.)

DOROTHEA: What was your wife's name?

HOMER: Her last name?

DOROTHEA: No, first name.

HOMER: Edna. Or Violet, Violet (looking at a picture) that's Violet, and that's Edna. You probably knew her. She was my wife up here, Edna Cawfield, she was.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

HOMER: Not the Edna Cawfield that lives up here, but ---

DOROTHEA: The other one, yeah.

HOMER: Now here's my granddaughter and grandkids, taken in 1985. (Looking at a photograph.)

DOROTHEA: Oh my goodness, yeah. That's your granddaughter?

HOMER: Yeah, the one behind. She's, (dropped picture). See, he's out of high school, and that little girl, the last time I saw her, I'll tell you, she was something else again. They think I'm full of hell, but they've never seen her.

DOROTHEA: (Laughter) Maybe some of that genes passed on down.

HOMER: Yeah. And then of course I've got to keep talking or I'd show you something else. But anyway, I got back --- Back next to the wall there is a picture of a girl standing there like this (shows gesture). There's my mother in the same pose back there.

DOROTHEA: Pose, it sure is, yeah.

HOMER: And they look an awful lot alike. And I mean she's a great grandmother to this girl.

DOROTHEA: Huh. Well ---

BARBARA: So you say your wife's name was Edna?

HOMER: Yeah. This, second wife, my first wife's name was Lucille.

BARBARA: Lucille?

HOMER: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And then you were married again, so that is where Edna comes from?

HOMER: Yeah, that's where I got the Edna. We were married in, well 1940, and we'd

have still been married if she hadn't died on me. I mean we were just real good, got along fine, and everything.

DOROTHEA: You didn't have any children with her?

HOMER: No. No, we had a big time, might knock each other down once in awhile, but we had a lot of fun. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Well that's good.

DOROTHEA: I think that's the good kind anyway. How old were you when your mother died?

HOMER: Thirteen.

DOROTHEA: Thirteen.

HOMER: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And you say you lived elsewhere then, and finished your schooling?

HOMER: I went to Portland. I went to Portland and finished eighth grade there, and started high school, at Franklin High. And then the next year my sister moved to Montana. No, moved to Idaho, and they wanted to take me, and Dad wouldn't let them. He said, "No, I'm going to keep him." So I stayed and finished high school in Canyon.

DOROTHEA: So you lived with your father part time?

HOMER: Oh yeah. He kept me in the summertime, when I'd go out and go to work some place or other.

DOROTHEA: And you say you worked a lot in the hay fields for the ranchers in the summertime.

HOMER: Yeah, and I did a lot of lambing. I went in the spring, lambing a lot.

DOROTHEA: Who did you do this for?

HOMER: Hmm. Lillard's over here. And what the Sam hill was his brother's name in Izee? I can't think of their names now. But I lamed a lot out in Izee. And then in haying,

well I first started haying after I was just a little past 13, after my mother died, and I finished school. And see she died in November, so I come back up in the fall, or in the summer and went to haying then. I was just between 13 and 14 then. My first haying job. I was driving the derrick, the old derrick horse over there, just one horse, in singletree. So coming back, I'd get down on the single tree, or sit on it. And finally I fell off of it and the single tree hooked and took the seat out of my pants.

Well I went and --- the girls that was cooking down there, they were kids going to high school, I suppose, at that time. But they said, "Give us your pants when you go to bed and we'll fix them for you." So they fixed them. I got up and that whole tail end had been cut out, and a great big old red patch put in. I tell you --- (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Do you remember who that was for? Who were you working for?

HOMER: I was working on the Smyth Ranch. And the Smyth was an Englishman, and had a ranch over in ... That's over in the ... country. But I was --- My uncle, Uncle John Morrison, he was the head guy over there, and he got me, I mean I probably wouldn't have worked any place. But he got me over there, and taught me how to harness a horse, and whatnot. So I was all right after I'd go over there. But Smyth, he was an Englishman. And I don't know whatever happened to him. I never did see him, nobody ever saw him.

DOROTHEA: And then you went to --- Did you go to Portland then right after this, and go to school for a while?

HOMER: No, that was before I was at --- When I went to Portland, was right after my mother died. I mean that was in 1918. She died the 19th of November, and I was down there probably the 21st, 22nd. Because she, I was talking about the flu. And I had the flu, and that's the reason she come over there, she got the flu and died right away. But over there in that John Day and Canyon country, the week that she died, there was seven



of them died. Now you can see it, the flu was really taking them.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HOMER: And so they took me. And when I went to Portland, and we was going to school, and we wore these flu masks, they called them, at the time. I got the one there that I got when I was down when they had this volcano. But we wore them to school.

DOROTHEA: So yeah, so you didn't catch it or, yeah

HOMER: Yeah, uh huh.

BARBARA: And so when you got out of high school then, what did you do?

HOMER: Well, let's see I graduated in 1924, and I went to work for the electric light company over there at the time. Now I'm not going to turn out very honest in this deal either. If you want to hear it, why it'll be a little about on the dishonest side.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Whatever you want to tell us, we'll go along with it. (Laughter)

HOMER: Well, I'll tell it to you. I went to work for the electric light company over there; I was a lineman. And the kid's mother owned it, and the fellow himself was running it. He was a couple years older than me, I guess. Well he decided he wanted to leave some place, so he took off. And in the meantime the fair was going on, and there was this girl come in from the east. Her name was Karen, Trixie they called her, Anita Karen was her name. Well I got to chasing around with her, and when everybody left, why she stayed.

Well I'd go out and collect the light bills, and maybe buy her a pair of shoes or buy her something, and her --- This kid that was working with me, the son of the people that owned it, he'd taken off already with a lot of money that I didn't know about. Well of course when the first of the month come, and I'd went out and I'd collected, and I was taking my wages out I thought --- But it ended up, why they was, oh several hundred dollars short. I was in on it of course, but nothing was ever done. I think she realized that her son was in part of it too. But I lost my job over it. I didn't work for the electric light

company any more.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. That doesn't surprise me a little bit. It sounds maybe like, maybe that might be what happened.

HOMER: Well, and I used to, at that time I used to fight a little bit. I don't mean --- I mean I boxed a little bit. I wasn't no big shot boxer, but then I'd box some and make a little money. So I was staying up at the house with this lady that owned the light company. And she was married to a guy out here in Silvie's Valley, and they was out there. Well this younger brother and I, we was at the house, and bein' how I was running around with this Trixie, why of course there was a bunch of riders and bulldoggers, and what not up there all the time. And the kid that brought his girl in, he didn't like it too well, so he talked to the rest of them, and they just decided that they'd just take the girl and kick me out. This Tuffy Marks, he was sitting up there on the steps, and looking up at the kitchen, see, and he had this 38 revolver. And he was a putting shells in her, and he says, "Go ahead, Homer, they're just going to fight you one at a time." (Laughter) There wasn't any fight at all.

BARBARA: So what was your next job then, after the light company?

HOMER: I can't think just exactly what I did. I went over, I think I went over into the Drewsey country and went to work for Ves Williams on the ranch. Now that was, that was about that time. It's all pretty well --- There was a quite a blow up there in town, and that's when Karen and I left. And my dad found out where I was, and he called up and he says, "Homer," he says, "if you're involved with those girls in any way," he says, "I'm going to send the sheriff after you." He says, "You're not a leaving." So after I --- It didn't amount to that much. It looked like it was going to, but I went over to Drewsey, that's where I went to work for Ves Williams, that was Glenn Sitz's uncle. So I went to work on the ranch. Plowed and lambled, and fooled around and got married, and that was that.

That was in 1928. Now there's ---

BARBARA: So your first wife then was from the Drewsey area?

HOMER: Oh, yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: Okay. And some of the people that you knew over there then was Glenn Sitz, and ---

HOMER: Oh, yeah.

BARBARA: Who were some of the other people that you were friendly with?

HOMER: Oh, heck, I knew the Gearharts, the Sitz, the Williams, the Smiths. I knew pretty near everybody over there. See I'd been going over there off and on with my mother, because over in the Van country, where her uncle was. See every time she'd get a week or so, why we'd go over and visit for a week, and I might stay over there. So, I mean I was acquainted with pretty near everybody over there. I never did like to ride a horse. I liked to drive them and break horses. I broke a lot of horses, but riding them, they broke me. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You weren't a buckaroo then?

HOMER: No. The Gearharts lived off a ways from where we were, where I was when I was over there visiting. Then the Davis's was down on the left side, see. Well I'd always go down to the Davis's. And one day the Davis kids come up to the house, and they said, "Let's go down to the Gearharts." So that was fine. We got down there a little ways and they said, "Race!" And away we went. Well my horse was used to going to Davis's, so he went to Davis's and I went on off, I went on off up the road to Gearharts. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Now is that who Glenn was married to, was a Gearhart?

HOMER: Yes. And they all called me brother, and I called them the Gearhart sisters. I mean it was just one big family. The Gearharts and the Davis's. And then when they got older, well of course some of them got ... When I was over there as a kid, why we just

had a lot of fun. You know, just --- I was at that time maybe 10 or 11 years old, and the oldest one would have been 13 or 14. It was just a bunch of kids. Except Vic Cleveland, I think he was older, he was older than any of us, Vic was. But he would still play with us, you know.

DOROTHEA: Well I think the kids in those days enjoyed their, each other's company more than they do today. We're too sophisticated now, or something.

HOMER: Well, you know, when I was playing football for the team over in John Day, and we'd play Burns, I was playing on the Canyon team, well we'd come over here and scatter around and stay with the different kids, play the next day, and that night they'd have a big dance and have a big time. And then we'd go home the next day. Well heck, you knew all the players, and when you come to play, you wasn't mad at them. You wasn't a trying to do something, you was a playing and having fun.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. You said you played a lot of basketball, and you said you played with Glenn Sitz. Did you do this after you got out of school?

HOMER: Yeah, Glenn and I played together after we got out of school, yeah.

DOROTHEA: So it was more or less a town team?

HOMER: Yes, it was the Drewsey team, is what it was. It was a town team.

DOROTHEA: Were you among the Drewsey people when it got the nickname of "Gouge Eye"?

HOMER: Not really, no. I was there, but I --- I say I was there with my mother, maybe I was 5 or 6 years old, something I guess.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I know the Drewsey people don't like to be reminded that it was once called Gouge Eye, but --- And I really don't know how it got that name. I've heard several stories.

HOMER: Well I think the main thing --- It was quite a town to, whenever they had a

dance they'd have a fight, see.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HOMER: Well they called it Gouge Eye. Of course anything, any-thing was fair. I don't know if anybody got their eyes gouged out, but then ---

DOROTHEA: I didn't hear about that either, but I know they ---

HOMER: But it was a fighting town, and they just called it Gouge Eye.

DOROTHEA: Did you play both basketball and football as a town team, or ---

HOMER: I did, yes.

BARBARA: Baseball?

HOMER: In high school I did. I was on a town team here in Burns, just one game is all.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember some of the players?

HOMER: Oh, Spot Clauson is the only one I can remember, and the only reason I remember him --- I'd come over here when they built the mill, see. And I was, that was when it was, when they was building the mill. And there was a lot of these outsiders come in, and I didn't know them at all. But they got this football team up and I went out for it, and I got on it. And this Spot Clauson, I can remember him, because the first kickoff, he run out and fumbled the ball and Bend got it and they scored, and that's the only score they got through the whole game. That was the only score we got too. (Laughter) But then we played a good game, and if he hadn't of fumbled the ball, why it could either ended up a tie, or if could have got a good run, why we might have scored. But anyway, we didn't, and he fumbled, and we lost.

BARBARA: I know that Glenn always enjoyed baseball. Did you play baseball over there in Drewsey?

HOMER: No, I didn't. Baseball was too little; I couldn't hang on to it. No, I didn't. I enjoy watching baseball, but play it, no I never did.

BARBARA: And so after, when you were in Drewsey then, where did you go from there?

HOMER: Well, let's see. Lucille and I, we, I taught school a year over there.

BARBARA: Oh, you did?

HOMER: Yeah. And then we come from there over here, when they was building the mill. And Lucille, we took her down to Monmouth. She was going to finish school, and then she could get a life certificate, you know. But she didn't want to, so she come back, so we took off. We didn't --- When they built the mill, we didn't, neither one of us wanted to stay here. We had no interest in it, we didn't want to stay and work in the mill. So our first trip, we went down here at Frenchglen. And I forget --- people by the name of Miller had it then I think. So we worked, we didn't work too long, because there were seven cows, and I had to milk them, and I sure didn't like to milk cows. So we got in the Ford and took off and went back over to Drewsey, and decided we'd fruit tramp. So we put in a season fruit tramping. We went to The Dalles and we picked peas, and cherries. I sewed sacks on a combine, and she helped cook for the crew. We went on down to Grand Island and picked tomatoes. At Aurora we picked hops. I worked kiln, dried hops, she picked hops. Around Medford, I picked pears. Then we hit California, down to my sister's place and picked grapes, and prunes on her place. So we put in a season of fruit tramping. And we had a lot of fun there too. Then I come back.

Her dad died, and Lois, my daughter, was born down there in California. So my daughter and her come back, Lois and Lucille. And I stayed down there for, oh maybe a month or so, and then I was thinking maybe they'd come back down there with --- the set up was it was better for me to come here, so I come up here. And, well I went to work, let's see, they was building that road over Stinkingwater. Just a --- It hadn't been built yet; I mean they was building it. So I went to work there driving truck for them.

And let's see, yeah, I worked there and then I got on with the Babler Brothers. So I

followed them, driving truck with them. And Lucille and Lois and I was with them all the time. And we went a season with them. We started here, went over down to Jewell on the coast, come back over to Long Creek, and ended up over there in Long Creek country. We surfaced the road up around Mount Hood and Government Camp, and up in there, and worked all through there. And by that time I went to work for Lillard's, and then Lucille decided that she'd had enough of this running around. And she'd had enough of Homer too, so she got a divorce, and that took care of that. And like I told you, we had a joint account. And I didn't figure, I just figured well, I'll go to the bank and get a couple of hundred bucks, because that'll do me, and then I'll go over to Canyon. Well I went to the bank, and I didn't have a damn nickel, she'd taken it all out, see. So I went over to Canyon anyway. That's when the fire happened, and I lost all of it. So I started from scratch.

DOROTHEA: Started all over again.

HOMER: So we went there. And when they built the hall, I went to work with the stonemasons and building that new hall over there. Then I come over here and helped them put the top story on the old Welcome Hotel, or the Arrowhead. The old Arrowhead Hotel, I put the top story on that. Then while I got to fooling around there, why I got to fooling around with Edna, and we got married. And then we went back to California. We was down there, let's see, that was up until '42. Then I went into the service, was in there for three years, one month, and twelve days.

DOROTHEA: What part of the service were you in?

HOMER: I was in the Air Force, Army Air Force. There was no Air Force. I was an instructor on a B-29, a central fire control. Then when we come home, I got out of the service, and went to work for Bennett down here at the garage. And that's when Dick and Roy and I bought the old Three Flags Station, was down there in the Safeway parking lot,

used to be. So we bought that, and we had Pontiac and Cadillac, and GMC truck franchise. Well, it was right after the war, and hell, there was not a Chinaman's chance of getting a car. You could get all kinds of orders, see. Well it just wasn't there for the three of us. So Roy knew more about mechanics than either one of us, so he bought us out.

And then, I don't know, oh I guess I worked out at the Wolverine Sawmill for a while. Well then I come up, and from then on I was in the service stations, owning or working from then on until now.

DOROTHEA: Did you own the Union Station before McDannel bought it, or ---

HOMER: No, no I didn't. I worked there before he bought it. I was working for Rusty Cockrell.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Rusty had that then?

HOMER: Yeah, they had it. No, when I was --- Yeah, I told you about Tom and I, when I was working for Tom Bailey, and went to the school board meeting. I don't know if that's on here or not. Don't make any difference, I guess.

DOROTHEA: No.

BARBARA: That's not on there, that was before we turned it on.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, if you want to tell it again, it's interesting.

HOMER: I don't care. I just about got it, we just about got all we need haven't we?

DOROTHEA: No, we've got a ways to go yet.

HOMER: Oh, we have? Well ---

DOROTHEA: We've just barely got started.

HOMER: Wow!

DOROTHEA: We've got lots of stories we can listen to.

HOMER: Well I've got lots of them, but some of them, like that beef story, I don't want to tell that on ---



DOROTHEA: Okay, we won't put that on there, but probably you could tell about the school.

HOMER: Okay, we was, I was over at Long Creek working on construction, and Fox Valley, putting the road through. And Tom Bailey come over and brought these Jacks and Jennys and studs and whatnot to take down to Weed Lake. And he needed somebody to go with him. Well I was, had about all --- At that time, on construction, I was driving four horses, I was harnessing them, I was feeding them, I was taking care of them all the time, on a fresno deal, see. There was no trucks there, all horses, and fresnos, and plows, and so I had all of that I wanted.

So I got on with Tom, and we started out. Well like I said, I knew all the bootleggers in Grant County, and when we headed across the Harney County line, well Tom knew them all, so we did all right. Then we ended up down at Weed Lake, I think it was. And they was having this meeting at Catlow Valley, for a school board. And Tom's sister-in-law was the one they wanted for a teacher. But a lot of them didn't want her. And Tom told me, he says, "We'll fix you up, and you go down and tell them you're from ..." He introduced me, and I went down and I was from Salem, taking out, had my notebook and everything, was figuring out how these rural school boards functioned. So I got it all, and by the time I got through scribbling down what I wanted, why the school board meeting was over, and this woman was hired as teacher, and everybody was happy, except the people that didn't want her.

Then, I don't know, of course a lot of people --- Tom wasn't too well liked down there. He was an ornery son-of-a-gun, but he was big hearted as heck. So we stopped going through there. I don't know, I think it was Jenkins, but I'm not sure about this. And we needed --- it was right at noon, and I said, "Well, there's a place, let's go water these things. They need water." "No," he says, "I don't think we can, you go and ask them." So

I went up and I says, "Can we water these Jacks and Jennys?" He says, "Who's are they?" And I said, "They are Tom Baileys." Says, "You water them and get them right out of here." Says, "Don't stay here a minute, just get them some water and go on about your business." And Tom was, he thought he was pretty lucky to even get them watered.

And I thought, well what the heck, all these people are eating and they didn't ask us to eat. Then I found out Tom wasn't too well liked. In fact when Tom --- like one time he says, "Homer," he says, "if you want some good wages," he says, "we can go up and steal that, those mules up there." And I think it was Jenkins'. He says, "They got a span of mules that are good," and he says, "we can get them down into Nevada in no time, and sell them for three hundred bucks," and he says, "I'll split it with you." And I said, "No, you don't, I don't want any of that." (Laughter)

But then that was the time --- well it's down here when we went to Henderson's and lost all the, they took all the stock away. That isn't on here is it? Okay, after I'd been there at Tom's for a while, getting ready --- This Henderson come in, and Tom, and they asked me if I wanted to go home, and I said, "Sure." So I got, and they took me up to The Narrows. That night when we went to bed, there was, oh, I don't know, there was three or four Jacks out there, and maybe a dozen head of cattle, and a lot of chickens, and sheep, and you know, just a family deals. I got up in the morning and there wasn't a bit of stock around there anyplace, not even a chicken. And I never asked anything about it. I just thought well they probably all out someplace. Tom says, "Well I'll take you home, to Burns, and you can go home." And he took me to Burns, and we got there. He says, "Well now," he says, "you can --- the depot is, or catch the stage right down here." He says, "Are you acquainted in Burns?" And I told him the kids I knew, and then I mentioned Vic Cozad, and that was the sad part. I never lost Tom from then on, or he never lost me either, because at that time Vic Cozad was the District Attorney. So I later

found out that they was going to --- I can't think of the old boy's name that was foreclosing on them. But anyway, he was going out the next day and pick up all this stock that they had gathered in for him, see. And he went out there was no stock.

DOROTHEA: It had all disappeared, huh?

HOMER: Yeah, it had all disappeared.

DOROTHEA: Well you said you worked with the CC Camp too. Can you tell us something about that?

HOMER: Yeah. Well I told you about getting on as cook. I guess I didn't tell that.

DOROTHEA: You didn't tell it on the tape. Yeah, we've got to get that on.

HOMER: Well, okay. Morgan Timms called me out at Drewsey, and told my mother-in-law that he wanted me to come into town and go to work for him in the CC. He said Forest Service, and she said CC. So I come into town and went up to the courthouse, and joined the CC. Got out to the Camp at Murderers Creek that night. It was late at night, but we didn't get hardly anything, I don't know what we got, maybe some cookies and coffee. But anyway, we didn't get any meal. The next morning they wanted to know if they had anybody that could cook. And this Swede, he poked me, he says, "Come on Homer, damn it, we'll get to eat anyway." So we did, we went to cooking. He was first cook on one shift, and I was the first cook on the other. And we stayed that way all through the time we was in the CC's.

And Morgan Timms saw me out there cooking and wanted to know what the hell are you doing out here? And I told him, and he said he meant for me to come in to the Forest Service. So, and well, Roy, or little Shorty Heinz, Roy Heinz, was one of the cooks on that deal.

When we got ready to move from Murderers Creek, why the mess sergeant of the outfit --- they had just started, and we was in the army, is what we was in. And there was

an old army sergeant, mess sergeant --- well Lucille had the baby up there, little Lois. And we had a tent that was out there, and this mess sergeant he says, "Where's your home?" And I told him it was over in Drewsey. He says, "Can you take one of these trucks, we'll furnish the driver, and we'll take you over there to visit." So we got in the truck the next morning and took off, and when we got over there why they started --- Hell, they had a hundred pounds of beans, and a hundred pounds of coffee, and a hundred pounds of sugar, and cases of this, and cases of that, and took it off to --- This old mess sergeant, see, he put her out. Got away with it, but anyway, it was nothing to me. So I said, "Okay." Well my mother-in-law at that time is --- They was just going to get ready to come in for that construction deal in two or three months. But anyway, why hell, she had all that stuff, and then so she took in some borders. And hell she had all that stuff, you know, that had come out of the CC Camp. Now I don't think that there is anybody alive yet that is going to ---

DOROTHEA: To prosecute you? (Laughter)

HOMER: It don't make any difference, but that's what happened. Then, well let's see. I don't know of anything else in particular.

BARBARA: So while you were working in the service stations and things, who were some of the people that you worked with?

HOMER: Oh, Olivia Withers was one of our customers. And Doc Campbell, down here was a customer of mine, and several of them. And now, if I could think of this woman's name, she was the health nurse out of Seneca. An awful nice girl, I mean, they showed me the fishing holes out there to go fishing in and where nobody else was. But they'd come in, or she'd come in to gas up, and they were pretty busy, and I never pulled the nozzle out, see. And she took off and pulled the hose all off, and I jumped up and just gave her hell. It was my fault.

DOROTHEA: Was that, that Corinne, or Corin? Or?

HOMER: I don't know. She's a heavysset girl, a nice good-looking woman. I don't know, she's, they left, and I think they're up in the Pendleton area now.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think that's who that was, I can't think of her name.

HOMER: But anyway, so I gave her the devil. Well she got even with me, don't think she didn't. She looked awful bad, awful sad there for a minute or two. And another time, I went down early in the morning and we was busy as the devil, and so I went down, it was about, oh maybe 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning to help. And the rest of them went, after they had been there for a while, and I was there by myself till it was probably 5 or 6 o'clock. And here come all these people in cars, and here come this big Cadillac, and drove up. They looked, and stopped, and backed out, and here come this woman, hell she was dressed to the nines. Then she started to wiping the windshields, and doing all kinds of stuff. And so everybody left, and then she drove up and gassed up, paid me and she says, "Here's a dollar tip for the service I got." She says, "I've always wanted to work in a gas station." And she took off. (Laughter) Yeah, and you see a lot of things.

I worked in the service station, and of course now this is a little different. I worked in the service station for Jay Blair, right across from the Pine Room, see? Well I worked nights. I worked from, till he come to work in the morning at 8 o'clock, I'd be there all night. I'm not going to --- You'd be surprised at the people that you'd see a car come up there and stop, see. In the morning everybody was drunk, and here was this car was all by itself. And then along, just before daylight or just after, some-body would come slipping up, and get in there, and away they'd go. But there was a lot of that at that time. Whether it's still a going or not, I don't know. But you'd see very strange things. People that you know good and well didn't belong with that person, there they was though.

DOROTHEA: You'd, like the little mouse in the corner, huh?

HOMER: Yeah. I'll say this, though, if a person ever wants to blackmail anybody, why get a job where you can watch something like that. And the first thing you know, you'll have a whole carload of people that you can blackmail. (Laughter) In my blackmailed part, I guess this can go on there.

I was back in high school days, and now, part of my high school, I come back up my freshman year in Canyon, see. And I worked at the hotel there. I would fry cook in the morning, and then in the evenings too, and wait tables, but I'd go to school. And then another kid and I, Buford VanEilers, and we got out spending money and plenty to eat, and boarding room, and what not. But anyway this Ed Campbell, he come up one time and he says, "Homer, can I use your room?" And I said, "Yeah, go ahead." And I never thought much about it; well in fact I never thought any-thing about it. And I wanted something out of the room, and I went up and opened the door and Ed wasn't alone in there, at all, so I just run back out, you know, and got out. So after that I'd see Ed, and I'd say, "Ed, I want to go to the dance tonight, I need a dollar." Growl, growl, growl. (Laughter) And so I blackmailed Ed, see.

DOROTHEA: Well, Homer you can rest a little bit while we turn this tape over. See we've used one side already.

HOMER: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

SIDE B

HOMER: ... a year, see, I retired in 1970. And I've been retired for what, 21 years I guess.

DOROTHEA: Well let's go on with, there's a clipping here that we are looking at and it says, "The Burns Chamber of Commerce has selected Homer Morrison as Citizen of the

Month for October." Can you tell us maybe how you got that? Chosen as citizen of the month?

HOMER: I don't know. I mean Hank Dickerson was at the bank at the time, and Hale Baird, and Diaz, and them. They would have their meetings, just talking, they'd pick somebody out, and I just happened to be picked, that's all. I mean, it was no ---

DOROTHEA: Did you belong to the Chamber then?

HOMER: No, no.

DOROTHEA: It says you worked; you served on the City Council for six and a half years.

HOMER: Yeah, I did.

DOROTHEA: And what did you do on the City Council?

HOMER: Got everybody mad at me.

DOROTHEA: Besides that?

BARBARA: I think just being on the City Council will do that.

HOMER: Yeah.

BARBARA: What were some of the things that happened in your time?

HOMER: Yeah. Well I helped get the Safeway Store where it is. I mean that was just, there was no big deals at the time. I helped get that culvert under the highway out there by the cemetery, that goes by the A and J (\*Editor's note: I think he means the A and W, or RJ's Restaurant) so it didn't wash A and J out. I worked like the devil to get that done. But otherwise it was just pretty much the same all the time. When I went on the council, there was Cork Corbett, and Judge White and I. We're kind of, go around together. And people figured that, you know, we'd stick together, and we did all through the deal. I mean we were pretty much, we didn't go out of our way to be ornery or anything, but ---

DOROTHEA: Was this Dale White?

HOMER: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Was he Judge then, or Mayor?

HOMER: No, he was on the City Council.

DOROTHEA: City Council.

HOMER: And later he become Mayor, and I was on the council. But then I had to give up the council. I had to quite the council. Edna got in such shape, and I had to --- I couldn't be away from her nights. And I worked down here at the station, and I could come up here every hour or two, and see how she was. But, you know, it was just, so I had to quit the council. But there was nothing, no big deal that I can think of.

The only deal at the landfill, I worked and got this landfill started up at the cemetery. And of course, they got mad at me, and wouldn't, didn't like it. But the idea of it was that they wouldn't do any business up there at the landfill when there was a funeral, see. And eventually they would have this cavern all filled up, and they would have more spots, space for the cemetery. But the sea gulls got the best of me. They got to flying around over the people down here, and they didn't approve of that at all.

DOROTHEA: Well they do have a new section up there. Is that where you're talking about?

HOMER: No, no it was just, well right back of the Chapel, you know that little ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

HOMER: Well we was filling that up. We would have had that all filled up and leveled off up there where the Masons is, and leveled off. That would have all been leveled off.

DOROTHEA: It also says here that you were Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. Now what does this consist of?

HOMER: Police and fire departments. And that's it; I mean I was Chairman for the Fire Department and the Police Department.

DOROTHEA: Did you work on these departments also?



HOMER: Oh, yes.

DOROTHEA: A volunteer?

HOMER: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did you work with the ambulance?

HOMER: No, no, the ambulance wasn't all that big a deal then. Diaz had the ambulance, and he just about had it by himself, you know. I mean it wasn't all that big a deal. I don't think if somebody had said paramedic, they'd have thought you was talking about a parrot someplace, some kind of a bird. They didn't know what a paramedic was, at all.

DOROTHEA: Well, and that's I think when they did it for free. And now they charge you lots of money too, so ---

HOMER: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: There is a lot of difference in today, and that day. And you were, you belonged to the American Legion.

HOMER: Yeah, I still do.

DOROTHEA: How many posts have you served there?

HOMER: Oh let's see, in American Legion I've been Commander, and District Vice Commander, and National Member of the Board of Americanism, the State Americanism Board. And I'm Adjutant now. I've been a member for 47 years, I guess. Ever since we got out of the service, 47 years I think.

DOROTHEA: And you also belonged to the National Guard reserve here in Burns. With some of the people, Baird probably was one of them.

HOMER: Yeah, Baird was the captain at the time. And Julio Urizar, and you know, Jett Blackburn, young Jett Blackburn down here. I can't think of all the names. That was back probably in the '60's.

DOROTHEA: And what was your, what command, or what area did you work in there?

HOMER: I was a master sergeant. I was, had a platoon, I was a platoon leader.

DOROTHEA: Did you do any cooking in the Guard?

HOMER: No, no.

DOROTHEA: Who was the cook?

HOMER: I know them, but I can't tell you. This Reed that's a barber, he was a cook in there.

DOROTHEA: Wally?

HOMER: Wally Reed, yeah. And that's the only one I know. But I can't think of their names, so help me.

DOROTHEA: I know Laird Holyfield was in there about that time too.

HOMER: Who?

DOROTHEA: Laird Holyfield.

HOMER: Oh yeah, Laird was in there.

DOROTHEA: Was he in the motor ---

HOMER: I think he was one of the truck drivers, I think.

DOROTHEA: The truck drivers?

HOMER: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I thought maybe he might have cooked or something.

HOMER: Well he could have, I don't remember him cooking at all.

DOROTHEA: I can't remember who the cook was. I think probably that's about when George Salberg got his start too, wasn't it? About in that time?

HOMER: Yeah, he just started in there then. Yeah.

BARBARA: In your married life, what did you and your wife do for fun? Did you go to dances, or card parties, or ---

HOMER: Oh yeah, we danced. And well I pretty much --- And we liked to go out and

take a damn tent and go out and fish a little bit. We'd go to these parks, and the one that, our favorite one was the one where you take off out of Silvie's there, and start over toward Drewsey, you know that, what's the name of the little park up there?

DOROTHEA: Is it Rock Springs?

HOMER: Rock Springs Park. That was our favorite. We used to like to go up there. I'd run off down to Calamity Creek and catch a bunch of fish and bring them up in no time at all.

DOROTHEA: That's a nice little private, off the road place.

HOMER: Yeah. You could go up there and get a deer, you know. You could pretty well, when the season wasn't over, you could pretty well wait and pick out one that you knew was a good fat deer, and you didn't have to mess ---

And now fishing, I like to fish. But I don't want any part of a lake, or anything like that. I like to go into a creek where you can fight the willows and the mosquitos, and all that kind of stuff. Maybe catch fish from that long up to that long, you know. (Hand gestures.) And now, I used to go fishing up in Logan Valley, there's a creek up there called Bosenberg Creek. And I used to catch a lot of nice fish. Sometimes I'd just fish with my 22. I'd go off up Bosenberg, and there was a lot of grouse up there. So you could take that damn 22 and pick off three or four nice grouse, and come home, you know.

DOROTHEA: I know you like to do a little bit of hunting, and you've hunted on my dad's place.

HOMER: Yeah, bird hunting. I wasn't no great antelope, deer. Wasn't --- Now I can tell you a story on antelope too. Edna and I went out one time, decided we wanted an antelope. So we went up here, what's this hill outside of Hines?

DOROTHEA: Sagehen.

HOMER: Sagehen. And we used to turn off to the left and go out towards the Double O, and always could get you an antelope, and pick the one you wanted. This time we decided we'd go down over into the valley and get us something to drink, beer or something. So we went down and bought us a six-pack of beer, and we come back. And when we come back there was a state cop sitting there looking out. He could see the whole thing, you know. If we hadn't gone, if we hadn't gone down to get us a little beer, why we would have had the state cop out there taking our antelope away from us.

So I've been lucky that way. I'm not, I shouldn't, I don't know. I never wasted any meat, if we killed a deer or something, you know, we'd always bring it home. Then my mother-in-law, if we couldn't do a little poaching, why she wasn't happy. God, she liked to go out and poach. "There's a deer over there, there's a deer over there."

DOROTHEA: You know some people like to do that. I don't enjoy that much, but a lot of people like to do that. I was always too scared, I guess. But I know you used to come out to the place where I live now, and do a lot of sage rat hunting.

HOMER: Yeah, I used to shoot a lot of sage rats. Now I don't think I could shoot one. I mean I could hit it, but I couldn't--- there's no way I could shoot a quail. Those little devils, they come up here and come around, you know, and ---

DOROTHEA: You feed them.

HOMER: Well I don't --- They come to my, in here a lot, and they get gravel out of there, see. But there's no way that I could shoot a quail now. Even I'd have a hard time eating one, I think, if somebody else shot it.

DOROTHEA: Well, you know, I don't think that the sage rats are as plentiful as they used to be either.

HOMER: No.

DOROTHEA: I mean there's a lot of them, but, you know, you used to go out and sit, say,

about oh about a month from now, and sit and pick off the old sage rats by the pound. And you just don't see them that much any more.

HOMER: I saw a man killed once, too. No, I'll take that back, I didn't see him killed. I was --- I think it was before I started to school, I couldn't have been --- I don't remember going to school, I think maybe it was six or seven, five or six years old. And I was over at Canyon City, and there where the Episcopal Church is, then next to that was a restaurant at that time. Well my mother was in the restaurant visiting with the people, and I was out in the street. The street at that time was dust and dirt. You could get real dusty and dirty, see. So I was out there playing and having a big time, and I heard something. Heard these shots, and I whirled around, I guess I whirled around. Anyway, I looked around, and there was this guy dropped down, and this guy shot. And the guy that did the shootings name was Anderson. And the guy that got killed was Barnes. You know these Barnes that used to live here?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HOMER: Well he was this Barnes' brother. But anyway, now, here's the part that I thought --- The shooting happened over here on this side of the street, and if I was to get on a witness stand today, I'd swear that the shooting happened over here on this side of the street. (The opposite side.) I know, as well as I'm sitting here, that it happened in front of the drug store. But instead of that, it happened over in front of the, the grocery store. Now there you are.

Another man one time, this was in bootlegging days, and I was --- I was out of school, I think, maybe not. But I was probably seventeen or eighteen years old. And we was taking this drink, and this guy stepped up and says, "I'll take that." And the kid that was drinking says, "You can have it," and hit him along side of the head, and he just dropped like that. (Snap of fingers.) Well he went to the hospital, and eventually he come

out of it all right. So they was going to arrest the fellow that hit him. He said it was a red headed fellow. Well it just so happened, and I'm not going to name any names, but there was five of us there, and four of us was red headed. So thee was no way that they could - -- But the man died, so then they was a trying to find out who did it. Well the kid that did it, he all of a sudden, I mean in later years he got nervous, and he went in the service during the first World War, or the Second World War. And he come back, and I never saw him, they tell me he was just a nervous wreck, I mean. And he died of shell shock, or probably part of that was killing the guy. We never thought much about it until the guy died. Then when the guy died, well we all kind of thought a little bit about it. But this old kid, and this guy says, "I'll take that." He said, "Alright you can have it," and he just hit him along side of the head like that ---

DOROTHEA: Sometimes that, you know, just a little tiny ---

HOMER: It did it, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Clint's hit animals like that. And was not expecting the slightest thing to happen, and they've just dropped.

HOMER: Yeah. That's like that --- No, I'm not going to say any thing about that. Now let's see ---

BARBARA: Have you done much traveling since you retired?

HOMER: Not really what you'd call --- I went up to the Worlds Fair up in Canada, and had a good time. I went up with a group. I mean I went over to Boise and got into this tourist group, and we went up there. It was good, and we saw a lot. Then we went over on to Victoria and the Islands. And went through all, a lot of stuff there. It's a regular old England when you get over there. And I've went to, oh, back to Denver three or four times to see my daughter and grandkids. And I, but not what you'd call real travel. I thought, or planned on taking one of those tourist trips that goes back East through

Washington D. C., and that way, but I couldn't stand it. I mean, now there is a certain amount of walking that you are going to do, if you want to enjoy the trip. And hell, if I walk from here (the couch) out to the fence and back and pick my paper up, I've got to sit down and rest, and that's no kidding. I mean I can't breathe; I'm just not in the best of shape any more. But then what?

BARBARA: So what have you --- you say you retired in 1970?

HOMER: 1970, I think so.

BARBARA: What have you done to keep yourself busy these last twenty years or so?

HOMER: Well three of those years, or four of them, I still kept on working, until I could, worked out, you know. And then of course Maxine and I, we'd travel off weekends. We'd go down to Eugene, or out on the coast, or Portland, or else go out this other way. And we worked, I worked in the kitchen at the Elks, and she worked out in the front end of it, waiting tables, you know. So we did a lot of that stuff. I mean we did volunteer work at the Elks, and ---

DOROTHEA: This is Maxine Shaw, and she is pretty active with the Senior Center, as you are too.

HOMER: Yeah. She's a --- well, she's, not now. I mean she's ---

DOROTHEA: No, she has been.

HOMER: She has been. And now out at the Senior Center now, I --- Well I shotgun for them, and then I help with the meals on wheels twice a week. And I do quite a lot down there. If I don't have to do any walking, or anything, you know.

DOROTHEA: Have you been on the board of directors, or served on that?

HOMER: Yeah, I am. I'm on the advisory board, and have been ever since they had an advisory board. I'm on the transportation committee too. And yes, and that keeps you busy too, gives you something to do. It might not keep you busy, but you've got some-

thing to do.

DOROTHEA: This Measure 5 is going to bother a lot of you seniors. Is it going to upset your end of it, or ---

HOMER: I don't think it's going to right away. We've got the budget --- we got, we just went over the budget. Well, I was down there last Tuesday, I guess it was, or Monday, and it's pretty well under control. Really, I don't think --- Oh, it's going to bother some, yes, but what, we got one help. Well, some of the guys, the ones that took over after Phyllis retired, they didn't get our grants. So we come up --- let's see, I guess maybe that's nobody's business.

DOROTHEA: No, we probably hadn't better discuss that. I know that you come up short a little bit.

HOMER: Well, it's all right.

DOROTHEA: But most of your time is spent volunteering, so probably you're one of the ones that it won't affect too much.

HOMER: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I understand that there's a few that's probably going to loose their jobs, which ---

HOMER: Well, the help on this --- Jean is retiring, you see.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HOMER: And they're not going to get anybody to take her place. Well thee is \$18,000, and we lost \$18,000 in grants on two of them, on one of the guys that was in there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Well now this is Jean Rines? Is that what her name is?

HOMER: Yeah, yeah, now she is retiring. So what they'll probably do is each day that they need a bus driver, they'll probably take some of the staff out, see. But probably they won't, they won't really need that, except on meal days. Now see they've got the three



girls that are doing, going around doing the house cleaning. And they can take a bus if they have to. Two of them have got chauffeurs licenses. One of them is getting one. So they'll be in a position to take the bus.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say. They have to have a chauffeur's license in order to drive those.

HOMER: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: About how many hours do you spent as a volunteer there?

HOMER: Who, me?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HOMER: Oh, not too many. Maybe three or four hours a day, on Tuesdays, or on Wednesdays and Fridays. Maybe three or four hours a day. And now like today, I didn't, but on lots of Tuesdays I'll have Jean pick me up, and I'll go get a haircut, then that afternoon, well I'll put in a couple three hours with her then, picking up people and whatnot.

DOROTHEA: So you help people get back and forth to get their groceries and medicines, and this too?

HOMER: Yeah. And all I do is just get out and hold the dealy-bobs so they can get in and out of the truck. If they've got to do any running around, why Jean or Nadine will do that. But I'll stay there and see that they get in the --- I help the old folks. DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And this is Nadine Lissman? We have to have everybody's names, and I know who they are so --- This is Nadine Lissman, right?

HOMER: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Well I'm about with you, I'm about run out of conversation, and we do want to do a little short video. Is there anything, Barbara, that you can think that maybe we should back up on, and get again, or ---

HOMER: No, I can't think of anything. I got, oh, I can tell you one little --- When we

owned the Three Flags Station down here, why at one fair why everybody was starting to grow a beard, you know. Well there at the station why we had the beards growing, not too big, but beards. And this car come in from outside, I don't know where they were from, they wasn't --- They said, "What's going on here, you folks having a fair or something?" And I said, "No," I says, "this is the House of David Station." And they dropped down like this, you know (with hand gestures, and chin) and you just can't believe how they changed from laughing and having a big time to thinking they'd done something awful. And that Dick Clark, he was back of the door, and he couldn't hold it. He had to get out of there, he was laughing so. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's right, I was going to ask you what Dick's last name was, because I couldn't remember. So that was Dick Clark and Roy Johnson, and yourself in the Three Flags Station?

HOMER: Yeah, yeah. Roy, he took care of the mechanics part, and Dick, he was in the books, and I took care of the service end of it, and the tires. Then we hired --- now, we hired a couple of mechanics, Jack Shiley up here.

But anyway, if we went hunting, Roy and Shiley and I --- Well I was real smart, I knew this Stinkingwater, you know. Hell I'd been on it a herding sheep, and I knew it real good. And we had, it was right after the war, so we had a regular war jeep. So we took off and it was getting dark, and I said, "We'll go up here and here and around," and away we went. Getting dark, and we stopped. Next morning I said, "By gosh, there's other people coming up here, isn't there?" And we'd heard a car go by. We walked about as far as from here to the fence, and looked, and there was the highway right there.

DOROTHEA: (Laughter) You knew the country real well!

HOMER: Yeah, I knew the country real well. And I thought if we was --- We ended up down by the Lamb Ranch. If we had drove another fifty feet we would have rolled over on

the highway. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Your life has been a pretty busy, hectic, fun sort of a life. Is there anything that maybe you wanted to do, that you never ever got to?

HOMER: I can't think of anything right off hand. No.

DOROTHEA: So you're pretty happy with everything that you've done, and pretty content with your life as it is?

HOMER: Yeah, I've got no complaints. I've had a lot of fun.

BARBARA: Well what do you look forward to doing in the next few years? Anything special?

HOMER: Well no, I'll probably read the paper and work crossword puzzles, and go to the Senior Center. That'll be about it. And now, let's see, maybe once a month or so why there is a group of us, there is Jean Rines and her husband, Lissman and her mother, and Mel Mortenson and his wife, and Maxine and I, we get together and go down to the Pine Room for dinner. Oh probably once a month, well it used to be whoever had a birthday, and finally it ended up --- Let's see, Jean and Bill, and Nadine and Nadine's mother, and Maxine, and what's his name, then Ruth.

DOROTHEA: Mel Mortenson.

HOMER: Come in so that their birthdays all come about the same, and it stuck Lissman and I for all the birthdays. So we quit that. We paid that, and then we just laughed. But now, why we just go down Dutch.

DOROTHEA: Go Dutch. Doesn't hurt the pocket book that bad.

HOMER: We was doing fine until we come up with that many birthdays all at once, and Nadine and I got stuck for them.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that took care of that week's groceries.

HOMER: Yeah. We used to, before the lottery got here, why I would send money over to

Colorado, over at my daughters, and get tickets. That's how the thing started. So we was saving tickets until we'd get enough to all go down and have dinner, see. Well it took quite awhile to save tickets. But, and funny thing on that, it was the scrape off. We, none of us lost any money to speak of, we, some of us made money. But we was pretty lucky on those. And then Jean and I, we started in when the lottery opened up here. Every week we got five dollars worth, and we found out that wasn't paying off, so we don't do that anymore.

DOROTHEA: That didn't work here, huh.

HOMER: Well, I don't know. Maybe something else will pop by.

DOROTHEA: Well do you have any hobbies? Do you have any hobbies?

HOMER: I don't know what you'd call a hobby. Hobby, I can't now go fishing. I work the crossword puzzles, don't know whether that's a hobby or not, it could be.

BARBARA: Sure.

DOROTHEA: Sure.

HOMER: And another thing, it might be a hobby is, well if I'd see suspenders, buying suspenders. I like suspenders, just look around. Oh, you are hooked up aren't you?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HOMER: Go around, just go over there and look around the door, and bring that, lift that off the coat hook --- Bring it and you can see what I mean.

BARBARA: You've got a whole bunch of them, huh?

HOMER: Yeah. But I, and I wear them all. I don't wear them all at once, but then I wear them. Let's see, hobbies? And like I said, fishing. I had to admit I can't do that anymore.

DOROTHEA: Do you play bingo down at the center much?

HOMER: Not anymore, no, no. We used to.

DOROTHEA: Play cards?

HOMER: No, I don't. I used to play cards quite a lot. But I haven't played cards for years. I used to run poker game for old George down there.

DOROTHEA: At the Pine Room?

HOMER: No, George Cawfield, he had a pool hall there next to the bank, you know, years ago.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

HOMER: And every once in awhile I'd run his poker game for him. Did you know that little fellow they called "Racehorse Jack?"

DOROTHEA: No.

HOMER: He worked for a --- Well, anyway he worked down at the South End, and he took care of the horses for Joe Fine. He worked for Joe Fine. And I was running this poker game, and I was honest. I mean I was, I never jobbed anybody in a poker game. And things wasn't a going right, and pretty soon he grabbed a couple of beer bottles and broke them like that, (smashing across the bar) and stuck them up at me, and I got out of there. He said that I was running the game crooked, so somebody, who else, I don't know, there was somebody standing there, that run it once in awhile. He took over, so I went outside. And Babe Gibson and I was talking. And I said, "That old fool," I said, "he'd have killed somebody." "Yes," he said, "he would." And about that time he come out the door and he had his knife out, and Babe, you know, was kind of a rough guy himself. But he backed us both up in the corner and told us what he thought about us, with his knife. So when he left, I told Babe, I said, "He'd of killed both of us if we'd have tried anything." And he said, "I think he would."

But later, oh three or four days after that, why we met him on the street, or I did, and he told me, he says, "Homer," he says, "I was mad," and he says, "it wasn't your fault, and it wasn't Babe's fault," he said. "I was just loosing money and wanted to blame

somebody, and ---"

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's a gambler, a bad gambler.

HOMER: Yeah, yeah. And Dick Clark and I run the bingo game there at the Elks when it first started, years ago. All we had was a little old round cage about that big around (hand gestures) and wooden balls. We'd have to roll that thing around until one fell out. But we had a lot of fun at that too.

I'm not going to say who these was either, but at one time we was up to the bar, and I was talking to this lady. And her and I was the same age, and we've known each other since we was five or six years old. And this big red barn out here in Silvie's Valley, why her folks had it, see. And we got to talking and laughing about playing in that big red barn. Well hell, we was kids, about ten or eleven years old, and maybe half a dozen of us there. And her husband says, "What was you doing out in that ---" And he got mad, and he never talked to me till that day. He's dead now, but he wouldn't say a word to me. He got mad because ten or eleven year old kids was out playing in the barn.

DOROTHEA: She's still alive though, so ---

HOMER: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I know who you are talking about.

HOMER: Yeah, her and I, she's on oxygen now.

DOROTHEA: Oh, is she?

HOMER: Yeah, she can't --- Her and I used to, I'd take her to dances. If Maxine was gone or something, I'd take her. Her and I used to go to the bingo games too, you know. Yeah, it's a --- Yeah. And another one, now is your ---

DOROTHEA: No, we've still got a little ways here.

HOMER: Okay. This is at the bingo game too. Now these people are both here. Yeah, I don't, yeah, it's all right. This woman and Edna were pretty good friends. Who's going to

hear all this stuff?

DOROTHEA: Anybody that wants to listen to it.

HOMER: Well, they were real good friends, I think. And we were playing bingo, and I come down and sit next to Edna, and this lady she came over and she was sitting on my lap, and about that time her husband looked, and he got mad. Hell, it was a long time before he would talk to me. He talks to me now though, and everything is fine and dandy. But he got mad there for a while. So, you see, you got to be careful, you do things that are just nothing to it, but the husband thinks everything is all wrong.

DOROTHEA: Well, let's see, I was going to ask you about --- Let's go way back when your folks first came here, and they worked at the Sod House, what did they do?

HOMER: Well I think my dad run the --- Now, I can't, I think he was kind of the foreman there. He worked for old Bill Hanley. He had the Sod House down --- Here's something, I can remember this much about it. I can see my mother throwing a knife. But what happened, they had a garden out there, and this damn pig come in and my mother threw this knife. She was a doing something and she threw, and she hit it just right so it killed the pig. The pig just dropped like that. Well from what they said they didn't scald it at that time, they didn't have time. But they did butcher it and they skinned it. Now I never saw this, I don't remember this, I've been told about it. So that happened.

DOROTHEA: Well pigs are easy to kill. You've just got to get them right on the temple, and they're just real simple to kill, but ---

HOMER: I thought that the way they talked, the knife probably worked through with their eye somehow, I don't know. I didn't, I can remember seeing her throw the knife, but that's all. I don't know anything about ---

DOROTHEA: And that was in 1928 when you came back then?

HOMER: Oh, you mean down there then?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HOMER: Oh, that was along about 1909, 1910, yeah. Yeah, I was just a kid then. Old Bill Hanley, he owned --- I can remember him driving. He'd, like I can remember this though, and hell, he never held the lines was dragging down, it's a wonder the horses didn't step on them. And then years later when we come over, old Bill and my folks, they were good friends. And Bill come through Canyon and he had an automobile and a chauffeur. And he stopped there at the, our place. And we was supposed to come over here and play football, and we were trying to locate people that had cars, and their folks. So Bill, old Bill says take my chauffeur and car and take a bunch. So we did. I mean his chauffeur brought a bunch of us over here for football.

DOROTHEA: He lived over there at that time?

HOMER: Bill Hanley? No, no he lived here. I think ---

DOROTHEA: Just here?

HOMER: I think he lived over there on the corner, I think. Now I don't know. But see, now that was, oh that was in the early '20's. And Bill hadn't died yet, because he was over there, so I guess --- And I don't know when he died.

DOROTHEA: I don't remember dates very well.

HOMER: But see that's the old Hanley place over there on the corner that Harvey Lehr has got.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Well, let's stop now and get you a video. We've been here almost two hours, believe it or not, so we want to, don't want to take up all your afternoon.

HOMER: I told them, I told them, I says, "There's no way I can run that thing for an hour and a half." And Jean says, "If you get loose on some of the things you know, you'll be up there all day." Well, she might be right. (Laughter) There are some things that I wouldn't dare tell.



DOROTHEA: But we can get a video, and we'll go back over some of this again, and get some of your ---

HOMER: Oh, we don't need a video.

DOROTHEA: Well, we just want a short video. You don't mind getting your picture taken, do you?

HOMER: Well, I'm not too overly enthused about it.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you're not very photogenic?

BARBARA: I promise it won't hurt.

DOROTHEA: Well, we thank you for the time you have spent with us, and now we'll go to the video.

HOMER: Okay.

(END OF TAPE)

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