

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #288 - Sides A & B

Subject: Carl Mayo - With Video

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Date: June 12, 1991

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy along with Barbara Lofgren, and today we're talking with Carl Mayo at the Harney County Library in Burns, Oregon. Today's date is June 12, 1991. Following our interview, we will be doing a short video of Carl, and it will be stored at the library along with the transcript and cassette tape. The number is #288. Okay Carl, can you tell us your full name?

CARL MAYO: Carl Liston Mayo, and Liston was my middle name, was my grandfather's name. And I was born in 1914. And I have lived here since 1935. I worked a couple of years for Edward Hines Lumber Company. Came here originally from Florida. I was born in Northwest Florida, and have brothers and sisters that live there yet, and cousins. And try to get back there about once or twice a year to visit, particularly with my brother, the younger brother.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Could you tell us your parent's names?

CARL: My father's name was Bruce Wallace Mayo. And my mother's name was Dora Ella Hurrey, maiden name.

BARBARA: And how do you spell Hurrey?

CARL: H U R R E Y. Incidentally that was my grandfather that I'm named after. His name was Liston Hurrey.

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

CARL: And I had three brothers and three sisters.

BARBARA: Can you tell us their names?

CARL: Well, is that important?

BARBARA: Well, okay. And you say you worked for Edward Hines when you came here. Is that the reason that you moved from Florida to Oregon? Or, what was the reason that you came?

CARL: Oh, just young and moving around I guess. But anyway, I worked about a year for the C. D. Johnson Lumber Company in Toledo, Oregon. That's about eight miles off the coast at Yaquina Bay. And it rained all --- I remember how it rained all the time there. Particularly all one winter.
(Laughter)

BARBARA: I grew up in the Willamette Valley, so I know all about rain too.

CARL: Yeah. So anyway --- and I married Jean Cecil in 19--- about 1940, I guess. And I --- in partnership with my father-in-law Pat Cecil, and the Cecil's were an old ranch family that came here in 1871, and that was our brand. And our brand was --- well the old Cecil iron was a CC back to back on the ribs. And we took the horse iron which was a 71, we added a bar to it, 71 bar, like they came there in 1871. And they just branded the horses 71, mostly on the jaw early days, and then later on the shoulder. And they were interested in, the two brothers, Carroll and Loge Cecil, and they came from the Sacramento Valley and had a, maintained a ranch down there in connection with the ranch on Silver Creek, kind of the head of Silver Creek where it comes out of the canyon into the valley. And it is a good-sized spring there that they called Indian Spring, and there was no -- it still isn't a well on the headquarters. The stock water and house water all comes from the springs. It's ditched around into the corrals and different places.

And they were interested in raising mules to trail back to California, which they did for a number of years. They would take a wagon and about four mules hitched to it, and a chuck wagon deal, and start out and drive those mules to Grimes, California, on the Sacramento River. And they had --- I've seen the old barns and stuff they had there on that place. And they'd break these mules after they got them down there. The mules would be halter broke and that was all.

And anyway, it is kind of an interesting trip, a long trip really. And the mules, they'd have a bell on one, and that one led the rest of them, and they followed the bell right down the road. Said

they'd never have any trouble with them after the first day or two, they'd just string out and go.

Anyway, they started running cattle later when the horse business kind of went by the wayside. Anyway, I've been ranching there for about fifty-four years I guess now.

BARBARA: So, you started working at the ranch then before you were married?

CARL: No, after I was married, I guess.

BARBARA: After.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us how you met your wife?

CARL: Well, my wife was working for the Bureau of Land Management in the first office that was opened in Burns. And Marvin Klemme was the headman there then. And he comes back to Burns once in awhile. I saw him in the library here a couple years ago, visited with him. He lives in Oklahoma now, is retired of course.

But anyway, so --- I've always been --- we had cattle in Florida, and I was always interested in cattle, and being outdoors. And I like horses, and still do, and still ride.

BARBARA: So, you decided that that was better than working in a lumber mill then, huh?

CARL: Anything is better than that. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Do you have children?

CARL: Yes, I have a daughter and a son. My son is on the ranch. We are partners, and he likes it. He likes the cattle business, and likes to hunt and fish and whatever.

DOROTHEA: What are their names?

CARL: My son's name is Mark. And my daughter's name is Patricia, they call her Patty. She is a registered nurse and lives in McMinnville.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any grandchildren?

CARL: Two grandchildren, Sky Carl Mayo, and Kimberly Mayo, ages 12 and 10.

BARBARA: Is Patty married?

CARL: Yes, Patty is married, and doesn't have any children. She is still, has a very responsible job in the hospital in Salem, one of the hospitals in Salem. She hasn't worked full-time, but the last couple years I guess, she has worked full-time as a nurse.

BARBARA: So, what is the size of your ranch? And can you locate it for us, if someone is listening to this tape, can you tell us where it is located.

CARL: Well, we live at the head of the valley as I said, at this spring, and where the Silver Creek comes out of the canyon, into the valley. And we own 26,000 acres of deeded land, which we started out adding to a long time ago. The old timers didn't think you should own much land. Grazing land was free then; free range, and they didn't care much about owning land. But now I always thought that land was very important. We've steadily put that together, as it became available, you know, different people moving away.

BARBARA: Just pick up a little here and there then, as it's available.

CARL: Pick up several sections at a time, sometimes. But anyway, it seems that it is more important maybe now to own grazing land since the grazing looks like it is being reduced on the public land, and more supervision, and interference and whatever. It's just better to own more land now than a number of years ago.

We've, at one time I had a good sized, the UC Ranch in Northern Nevada, eight miles below McDermitt, leased with a partner. And we ran quite a number of cattle there. But it got to be kind of too much to go back and forth, and help problems and whatever. So, cattle prices were pretty good, so one year we, Mark and I went down and stayed about two weeks and got the cattle all together and started to selling them. It was a good year in California, and the price was good, so we came home with a sizeable check that time.

BARBARA: One of the better trips, huh?

CARL: Yeah.

BARBARA: And what ---

CARL: We've ran, it's 2,000 head of cattle several different times, it varies. Now we've sold down quite a lot. But we build back up.

BARBARA: In selling your cattle, how do you go about that? Where is the market you go to, or do they come to your ranches now?

CARL: Well, the buyers come there. We ship some dry cows to sales, and sometimes a few

yearlings. But most of the time the cattle are sold right at the ranch, and weighed there and trucked out.

BARBARA: Can you maybe tell us a little bit --- I understand there was a camp out on the property in that area. Do you know a little bit of that history?

CARL: Well, yes. There was a --- wasn't a fort I guess, it was just a kind of a station. Three or four small buildings there built by the army. And they would kind of camp around there. I really don't know how much they stayed there, but it was a kind of a post where they stopped by, and had some corrals for their horses, and camped there at the spring.

BARBARA: Is there signs still that there was an encampment there?

CARL: Not much left. I can remember when there was some stones still in place, where the cabins were. But they've pretty well all been moved, and whatever, by now.

BARBARA: Did it have a name, do you know?

CARL: Camp Currey.

BARBARA: Camp Currey.

CARL: Was the name, and that's the name of the spring also, I guess, Currey Spring, or Indian Spring.

DOROTHEA: Did they have a war there?

CARL: Well, not really. The Bannock, I think, and maybe some Paiute Indians got together and came through the country. They killed two or three people in Diamond Valley, and came on up the country and kind of by the "P" Ranch, and then on across to Harney Lake and around Malheur Lake, I guess, and Harney Lake. Pete French and his men followed them, and I guess General Howard had instructions to get them back on the reservation.

And the Indians, what we call the battleground, is south of the highway on Silver Creek. The place where the Indians were camped along the creek in the willows at that time. There is no willows there now, but there was. And some of the early older people could remember when there had been willows there.

And they had a, kind of a, I don't know how much of a battle, but anyway the Indians pulled

out in the night and came on up Silver Creek, and General Howard followed them. And I guess Pete French and his buckaroo outfit went back home.

And General Howard followed the Indians to try to get them back on the reservation, which he did I guess. Anyway, they went up into the, was one of the oldest roads up through the timber, going from the upper valley on up the ridge. And they named the ridge, Howard Ridge, which it's called that today. And they went on over that way. And I think some of the settlers left at the ranch. I think just about everybody left there and saddled up and went to Prineville to get away from the Indians.

DOROTHEA: Is there any burial grounds or cemetery plots out there?

CARL: Well, there is a cemetery on Silver Creek, yes. A lot of the, quite a, it's still fenced and kept up. But there is hardly anybody buried there anymore.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us some of the names that's there?

CARL: Well, there is some of the Bakers are buried there. They were early settlers there. And ---

DOROTHEA: Have you heard of some of the earlier settlers in Silver Creek area? Can you tell us who they are?

CARL: Well, the Bakers and the Cecil's were probably the first settlers there. And the Oakerman's had a big two-story house down in the valley from there, and was along the old road that went across to --- well to Prineville, Buck Creek and on to Prineville down Crooked River. That was an early stage road, and the Oakerman's ran the, kept the, I think the stage spent the night there.

And they raised horses, and the Oakerman's were some of the early settlers. And the Shields family --- And Mr. Shields was a county judge, I guess, at one time. Virgil Shields was his son that lived there, and he's been dead a long time now. Vanderpool's were one of the older families too.

DOROTHEA: Are there any present family owners of any of these places yet, or are they all sold to different people?

CARL: No, the ranches have all, in my time, all of them have changed hands. We're the only ranch that's stayed in the same family for over a hundred years now. So, I guess I'm the oldest settler on

Silver Creek now. (Laughter)

BARBARA: When you first moved there, who were some of your neighbors? And what, as a young married person --- who did you socialize with, and what were some of the things that you did other than work all day?

CARL: Well, we used to have dances. Not every Saturday night, but probably a couple times a month we'd have a dance. At different times we had pretty good musicians, and some would come from Burns out and play. And we'd all have a good time.

BARBARA: Was this in the different people's homes, or did you meet at the grange, or a school?

CARL: No, at the grange hall, and then the schoolhouse later when the grange hall burned down, or something. Had the dances in the school, at the schoolhouse.

BARBARA: And who were some of the people that came at that time?

CARL: My daughter and son both went to grade school out there.

DOROTHEA: Is this at Silver Creek, they had a school there?

CARL: Still have a school there.

DOROTHEA: Are there --- how many kids are in the schools now?

CARL: Sixth, up to the sixth grade I think now. And ---

DOROTHEA: Then when they get in the sixth ---

CARL: There is about fifteen kids go to school there I guess now. Been about that many, twelve to fifteen all the time.

DOROTHEA: Where do they go to school after they get in the sixth grade? Do they have a bus come and get them or ---?

CARL: Well, they kind of did away with the bus. They've got to furnish their own transportation. My daughter went through the eighth grade there. But then, since then they've just gone, I think, to sixth grade now. The way I understand it anyway. Mark only went through the sixth grade there, and then he came to Burns to finish. Finish high school, grade school and high school.

BARBARA: Did you have a place in town then, or did you go back and forth every day?

CARL: Well when Patty rode --- we had a, there was a bus when my daughter went to high school,

and she came home every night, and was kind of her choice. But when Mark was in high school, why we built a duplex in Burns, and my wife's mother and father lived in one part of it. We kept that during his high school, and then sold it after that.

BARBARA: What were some of the other things that you did other than go to dances? Did you get together for card parties and things like that?

CARL: Some of that, card parties. I personally never cared much for cards myself. But they did play cards some.

BARBARA: And did you do much traveling?

CARL: We used to come to Burns to dances too. And social things.

BARBARA: Did you take your family to Florida then; a couple times a year when they were young?

CARL: Yes. One trip.

DOROTHEA: Did you drive or fly?

CARL: Went on the train.

DOROTHEA: Went on the train, didn't do either, you went on the train. How was the trip on the train?

CARL: Very good. We had a compartment, and that was when my daughter was young.

BARBARA: What were some of the things that you did with your kids as they were growing up? Did you hunt and fish or ---?

CARL: Yeah. Things like that. Outdoor things. We used to picnic some on Sunday, and go up in the timber and have a picnic.

BARBARA: Did they help out on the ranch? Did they have chores to do?

CARL: Yes. They --- my daughter was a --- liked horses and rode quite a lot. Maybe too much. I know since she left the ranch she has never even owned a horse. Lived in the country too, and could have had horses. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Maybe she had her fill, huh? Went to the city.

CARL: Took it all out of her, I guess.

DOROTHEA: Did the kids belong to 4-H, or any school activities?

CARL: No, our kids didn't. Some of the kids did. My grandkids both have 4-H lambs. Kimmy has lambs, and Sky has a steer every year.

BARBARA: Well, it is good for kids to have responsibilities.

CARL: Incidentally, my grandson is pretty interested in rodeoing. He's going to rodeo this summer, which I don't care that much about. But he is very competitive, and doing real well.

BARBARA: Wants to take a shot at it, huh?

CARL: Yeah.

BARBARA: And how many men did you have to have on your ranch to help out?

CARL: Oh, about four most of the time.

DOROTHEA: Did they live right ---

CARL: More during haying.

DOROTHEA: Did they live right there, or did they have their own homes, or ---

CARL: Yeah, we had a ranch house, and a bunk house, and another house four miles down the valley that we had a couple live there.

DOROTHEA: So, you had steady help sometimes with their families living there?

CARL: Yeah, we had three different men that worked for us long periods of time, like twenty years, fifteen years, like that. Very loyal men.

BARBARA: Well, you must have been an okay boss then, or they wouldn't have said so long.

CARL: Well. I always thought I was. (Laughter) I think that's kind of a poor way to abuse anybody that is working for you.

BARBARA: How do you think ranching has changed from the time that you started there in the late '30's and now?

CARL: Well, it has changed quite a lot. We've got a lot better roads, and we use trucks, and gooseneck trailers, whatever, to get around. We used to get up in the dark, have breakfast in the dark, and a lot of times get home in the dark. Ride seventy-five, eighty miles, probably. But ---

BARBARA: Kind of hard on the old body, isn't it?

CARL: Kind of hard on horses too.

DOROTHEA: Some of the interesting things about ranching is cattle. Can you tell us something about price changes in the time that you have been ranching?

CARL: Well, it's steadily; I guess you could say steadily the prices are steadily going up. I can remember when we used to sell yearling steers for about twenty dollars a hundred, or twenty cents, whichever you want to call it. Now the same cattle are worth eighty-five to ninety cents, to a dollar a hundred. So, it's changed a lot, really.

We used to figure if a cow would maybe be getting pretty old, but if she could have one more calf, why we would just keep her and see if she would have another calf. And wasn't worth hauling to market, hardly, older cows, older poor cows. So that's the way we did it. But we sold some of them too, when we got a chance. Changed a lot.

Then we used to hay with horses, now it's all machinery. Don't own a single workhorse, haven't for years now, just saddle horses. That's about all I can think of really to ---

BARBARA: Do you still get out and ride very much?

CARL: Yes, I still ride.

DOROTHEA: You do part of the irrigating and haying too?

CARL: Yeah, I've been irrigating this spring. Since it's started raining the creek came up, we had enough water to irrigate. And ride ---

DOROTHEA: Can you maybe tell us the difference between Florida country and Oregon country?

CARL: Well, I was pretty young when I left Florida. There is too many people there now.

DOROTHEA: You like less people and a lot more country, huh?

CARL: It's changed a lot. That country has changed a lot too.

DOROTHEA: Are there many trees there, compared to the trees in Oregon?

CARL: Yeah. Well, they have a very good paper industry in particular in Northwest Florida, and along the Gulf Coast. They can grow a paper tree big enough to harvest to make paper in about twenty-five years there, twenty-five to thirty years. So, it's a going business. Thousands and thousands of acres that are planted and harvested that way now, long leaf yellow pine. My brother

is in the paper business.

DOROTHEA: Does he harvest some trees, or ---

CARL: No, he doesn't. He buys the paper and he's in the plastic coating paper business. It's a real nice plant that is going real good in Pensacola, out of Pensacola about fifteen miles.

BARBARA: And you have another brother that lives here in Burns, is that right?

CARL: Yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And did he ---

CARL: He's retired. He worked for the ---

BARBARA: Dick, when did he come to Oregon?

CARL: He came to Oregon in about 1936.

BARBARA: And what did he do when he first came to Burns, do you remember?

CARL: He worked at the mill.

BARBARA: At the mill too.

CARL: Gradually --- he ran a crane for Hines, those overhead cranes. Then he worked for the postal department, retired from that.

DOROTHEA: And his name is what?

CARL: Richard Mayo.

DOROTHEA: Does he have any children?

CARL: No children.

DOROTHEA: Do you belong to any activities or organizations?

CARL: Yes, I've always belonged to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, and the National Cattlemen's Association, and attended those meetings all around. The National all over the country.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever hold any offices in it? Were you president or ---

CARL: Yeah, I was the secretary of the Oregon Cattlemen for three or four years I guess. Three years I think.

BARBARA: And how do you see this organization helping with all the changes that they are putting against beef, trying to down play the use of beef. What is the organization doing to try to

get people interested again?

CARL: Well they've gotten, in the last few years, into advertising quite a bit nationally. There is money contributed through the sale of cattle now for that, it's earmarked for advertising. I think it helps.

BARBARA: Are the ranchers becoming more aware that they need to raise leaner beef, or are some of them still fighting that?

CARL: Well, I think that trimming the fat on beef is pretty well the way they do it now. It makes a better product, and I think people are conscious of not eating so much fat in beef. I've practically lived on beef all my life. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Hasn't hurt you yet, huh?

CARL: And I might live to be a hundred if I can still get plenty of good beef to eat. (Laughter) So I think that some bad publicity about beef not being good for people --- I've seen some pretty healthy old boys about seventy-five, eighty years old could still ride all day, and they wouldn't even eat vegetables.

DOROTHEA: Lived on that meat, potatoes, and beans.

CARL: Right. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Are you living in the same house as the Cecil's lived in, or did you build a new one?

CARL: Well, we built a new house, and my son and his wife and family live in it. And I live in another house. I'm single and moved into that house.

DOROTHEA: Is the original Cecil house still there?

CARL: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Is it being kept up, or ---

CARL: Yeah, it's being kept up. We just put a new roof on it, and a new roof on the barn this last spring.

DOROTHEA: Does anyone live in it?

CARL: Yes. Yeah, it's what we call the ranch house. It's kind of a big old house. But ---

BARBARA: Have you retired in some of the phases of the ranch work and let Mark take over, or are you still pretty much involved in it.

CARL: I let him take over as much as he will. I'm still very much involved. But I kind of do my thing.

BARBARA: Would you like to retire?

CARL: No.

BARBARA: No.

CARL: No.

BARBARA: Just enough to keep you interested and busy.

CARL: Yeah. I have some cattle of my own, beside the company cattle that I take care of basically by myself. I have somebody help me part of the time doing that. I run them separate.

DOROTHEA: So, do you still have a hired man yourself, or do you do it all ---

CARL: No, no, I have two neighbors that I can get to help when I need somebody.

DOROTHEA: Who are your closest neighbors now?

CARL: Well, Bob and Vickie Johnson and their three kids are my closest neighbor.

DOROTHEA: Do they have one of the old homesteader's places?

CARL: No, no, they just have a part of, Bob has a part of one of the old ranches, the old Gibson place.

DOROTHEA: And this was what, Stanley Gibson or what Gibson?

CARL: Tin Gibson's old place.

DOROTHEA: Tin.

CARL: That was another one of the old timers, Tin Gibson and his family there. Tin used to work for us. He was a pretty good old buckaroo. He didn't like to do anything but ride, but we used to have him around quite a bit. Help in the spring and fall, work cattle and ride.

DOROTHEA: Well, I know that Stanley Gibson come from that area, so he must be a grandson or ---

CARL: Yeah, well he is the son.

DOROTHEA: Son.

CARL: Tin Gibson's son. They live ---

BARBARA: You say Tin?

CARL: He lives in Prineville, Stanley does.

DOROTHEA: They all had good names. Tin, and Buzz, and Babe, they had good names.

(Laughter) Do you know if that was his real name, or if he was a ---

CARL: It was just a --- it's all I ever knew.

DOROTHA: --- nickname.

CARL: So, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CARL: But he wasn't related to Babe and Buzz.

DOROTHEA: Off breeds or something I think.

CARL: He wasn't related. He was from, I think raised originally over around Prineville. He was married to Lulah Gibson, and they had a big --- Lulah Johnson was her name. The old man Johnson was an early settler there too. Anyway, he married Lulah Johnson, and they had, oh god I don't know, seven or eight kids.

BARBARA: Were there any Williams that lived out in that country too?

CARL: Yeah, Harry Williams lived there. Well there was a Williams's family. Bob Williams was their father's name; he was an early settler there. They ran sheep and cattle both. But then Harry, Bob Williams son, lived there for a lot of years.

DOROTHEA: Well, let's pause for a little while and think of something that maybe we want to add on to this, and we'll turn the tape over in the meantime.

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about Pat Cecil and his family? Where did he come from?

CARL: Well, he was born here. His father was Carroll Cecil, and they ---

DOROTHEA: They homesteaded the place out there then?

CARL: Yeah, they started to settle there in 1871, and Carroll Cecil, they called him Carl Cecil, married Ollie Bedell who was a family that lived right close by. They homesteaded on what we call the island at the ranch now. And there was a big family of them. Charlie Bedell was one that I remember. He used to be around Burns when he was older. Originally lived in Prineville, I think, for years. He was a kind of a dignified old guy, always wore a coat and a tie. Anyway ---

DOROTHEA: Did they originally come here ---

CARL: And there was two of those sisters, and I think they must have been twins. But anyway, there was a whole bunch of double first cousins, and whatever in that family. The Lillard family that lived over at Drewsey was Joe --- Charlie Lillard married one of those Bedell girls. I think her name was Grace. But anyway, they were early settlers.

BARBARA: Are there any of the families still around here, like the Bakers, Fred Baker is ---

CARL: Yeah, there is some Bakers here.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

CARL: Fred Baker worked for us for, hell I don't know, fifteen, fourteen or fifteen years I guess. And he lives in Drewsey now. In fact, I talked to him this morning on the phone. He just had a hip operation, about the fourth time he said that that had been done. He's had both hips operated on.

BARBARA: Too much buckarooing?

CARL: I don't know, just heavy and old I guess.

DOROTHEA: Now is he some relation to Elmer Baker? Are they brothers or cousins, or ---

CARL: I think all those Bakers are related, the old family Bakers are all related. But I don't --- old Donnie worked for us quite a bit. He was living there on Silver Creek for a long time. And he was one of the last Baker that was living there, actually. He was married to one of the Johnson girls, one of Al Johnson's daughters. Or Al Johnson's only daughter, I guess, Phyllis was her name.

DOROTHEA: So, there is still some of the Bakers still living in Harney County yet?

CARL: Yeah, they are all around, all around the county. But Walter just died this summer, I think; he was one of the old family.

DOROTHEA: I think Walter was Elmer's brother too, so he must be a brother.

CARL: Yeah, yeah. But not Donnie's brother. Donnie was his --- I don't know, maybe he was his uncle or something like that.

DOROTHEA: Well, when the Cecil's came here originally, the grandparents, and homesteaded, did they come with the intention of raising cattle, or do you know?

CARL: Raise horses ---

DOROTHEA: Horses.

CARL: --- and mules. Mules, that was their deal.

DOROTHEA: And how did they get ---

CARL: They didn't even have any cattle at first. Carroll and Loge Cecil came to Prineville first, and they bought cattle around for a year or two, and trailed them to California, and owned a ranch down there. Then they decided they would settle on Silver Creek and raise horses and mules.

BARBARA: Did they sell to the army, or just work horses, or ---

CARL: Yeah, they sold horses --- there was a market for horses for the army, you know. That was kind of in the time when Bill Brown was very active, and had thousands of horses around on the desert, all over.

DOROTHEA: Did they raise their own, or did they go out on the desert and get some?

CARL: No, they raised their own. They ---

BARBARA: With the open range like that, did they have trouble keeping track of who belonged to who when it came time to brand?

CARL: Well, they knew, those old boys knew horses, you know. That was their game, was running horses and keeping them so they could corral them and everything, you know, take care of them.

BARBARA: Did they ever say ---

CARL: Those mares at the ranch, they'd herd them during the breeding season, and bring them in every day to the corrals. Breed some of the mares to raise mules.

BARBARA: Did they ever say how it was to get along with Bill Brown? Did he kind of run the

area out there, or was he a pretty good neighbor?

CARL: No, not really. I think he was, no problem with him. The Cecil's, Pat, they had some horses out that way too, and they --- him in particular would ride in the summer with Brown's outfit. Camp, stay right with them and help work the horses.

BARBARA: During that early time, there was sheep in the country too. About how long ---

CARL: Yeah, Bill Brown had sheep also, lots of sheep.

BARBARA: And how long did they run sheep in that country before cows took over?

CARL: Well, there has been sheep there practically all the time. Still some sheep there. There was --- Davey Jones owned one of the ranches and ran sheep. And Williams' family had sheep in the early days.

BARBARA: Did the Cecil family ever have sheep?

CARL: No, they never had sheep. Pete Obiague had sheep out there. He was the last one that was --- Don Miller owns that ranch now. But ---

BARBARA: So maybe more than a person would think right now, of being sheep around.

CARL: Not many sheep now. But ---

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well, even I can remember when there used to be sheep all over out in that area.

CARL: Oh yeah. There was Pete and Davey --- Pete Obiague and Davey Jones and Dennis Linehan and the Williams had had, but those three outfits were active in the sheep business. The Williams family had had sheep, and then when Bob Williams died, why Harry just had cattle, Harry Williams.

DOROTHEA: Do you suppose that any of the wild horses that the BLM is gathering now are descendants of some of the Cecil and Brown horses?

CARL: Well, I suppose maybe they are. The Cecil ranch was an estate when I went out. And we gathered, for several winters we gathered estate horses, and we'd run horses in the winter, every winter. And we finally gathered all of them, pretty much, you know. But there was still some of those old Bill Brown horses that we would get in, you know, with that horseshoe bar iron on.

DOROTHEA: They were all pretty well branded in ownership, owned in other words.

CARL: Well yeah, you know, horses in that whole country out there, they were all basically branded horses. There would be some bronco horses in the bunches, but they were basically branded horses that belonged to different outfits, you know, that had had horses on the range. But horses got so cheap that, you know, they didn't pay much attention to them for a number of years, and they didn't brand the colts, you know. There was a lot of --- but basically all stemmed from ranch horses out in that whole area.

DOROTHEA: Don't you suppose that's where the mustang's come from originally is from once owned horses?

CARL: Oh yeah, yeah. Horses get away, you know. There is a lot of, every bunch you'd get in would be several different irons on some of the horses, you know. Some of them wouldn't be branded. But there is no such thing as horses descended from Indians in this country, really. No.

DOROTHEA: Do you see many wild horses out in your area though?

CARL: We don't have any on our range. We just got them all cleaned up. We could see this thing coming, you know, we wanted to get rid of them. We ran them horseback, and with planes, and everything else to get them cleaned up.

BARBARA: Yeah, they are a real problem with the BLM.

CARL: We thought it was pretty important not to get saddled with a bunch of horses that the government is going to manage on our range, you know. That's a disgrace, really, that horse thing, you know. It's just unbelievable. The money that has cost the taxpayers for nothing, you know. They can't --- they've got to put them out for adoption and all that kind of thing. You can't --- you know there is a market for horsemeat.

BARBARA: Yeah, it's a real problem.

CARL: In the foreign countries, they are glad to get it. But the government can't sell these horses for butcher.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think that Wild Horse Annie didn't do the horse all that much good.

CARL: No. I was on the BLM Advisory Board when that kind of began to get started, that Wild

Horse Annie was advocating, take care of this wild and virile horse, and whatever, you know.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: Can you think of some of the important events that you remember back over your life here in Harney County? Some of the things that stand out in your mind?

CARL: Well, nothing I want to talk about.

BARBARA: So, what do you look forward to in the years to come, in doing? Just keep doing what you're doing now, or do you have some other things?

CARL: Well I suppose. I've done a lot of things. I've had an interesting life. I've traveled a lot, extensively.

BARBARA: Where are some of the places that you have gone?

CARL: Oh, been to Africa, South America.

DOROTHEA: What kind of country is that, compared to our country? Is it really the desert like country that they show in movies and such? Or are the people as unschooled as ---

CARL: Do you mean Africa?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And South America.

CARL: Well Africa is an awful big country, you know. You don't realize looking at it on a map how big it is. It's a huge, huge country. You know, from Egypt to the Cape is a long ways.

BARBARA: You go from a city to out in the barren country.

CARL: It's interesting flying low in Africa to see some huge areas that have all been settled and farmed. You can see the scars even on mountaintops, and mountainsides. It's been cleared and lived on, and then abandoned. And a lot of people have been in Africa for an awful long time.

DOROTHEA: Do they still do ---

CARL: A lot of interesting things. There is still lots of game there, you know, but it's on reserves and managed, or maybe there wouldn't be any. I was interested in that. Still lots of wild life.

BARBARA: Have you gone out on safari?

CARL: Well, not to hunt.

BARBARA: Uh huh. To go look, and pictures ---

CARL: Yes. I've been all through, several of the game reserves. Did that. Was one of the things I wanted to do.

DOROTHEA: Would you like to go back and do some more?

CARL: Not really. There is other places to go.

DOROTHEA: How about South America?

CARL: No.

DOROTHEA: No.

BARBARA: What did you see in South America?

CARL: Lots of people, lots of poor people.

BARBARA: Fly over some of the rain forests, and things down there?

CARL: Yeah, yeah on the ---

BARBARA: They are cutting down a lot of timber there too though, aren't they?

CARL: Well, there is still a lot of it there.

BARBARA: Have you gone to Canada and Alaska?

CARL: Yes, I've been to Alaska several times.

DOROTHEA: How do you like the dark and the light? Have you been down there when it was completely dark all day and all night?

CARL: Not really. I've been as far north as in the Bering Sea.

BARBARA: What about Russia, have you made it to Russia?

CARL: No, no intention of going either.

BARBARA: No intention there, huh.

DOROTHEA: What other country would you like to see?

CARL: Oh, I'm thinking about I'd like to go to the Scandinavian countries maybe. I might do that.

DOROTHEA: In your South American trips, did you get to see Australia and the kangaroos or anything?

CARL: Yeah, I've been to Australia and New Zealand.

BARBARA: Well they raise cattle, a lot of cattle in Australia too, don't they?

CARL: Yeah, quite a few. There is a lot of country there. Desert, a lot of desert. And the good forest, just around the coast, you know.

DOROTHEA: How do you travel when you get there? Do you go on tours?

CARL: You got to be on a kind of a tour, is the best way I think, to go anywhere really. You know more organized, and see more.

BARBARA: Spend all your time being lost if you're not.

CARL: Yeah, or trying to get somewhere, you know, and you don't know exactly how to do it, whatever.

BARBARA: What are your plans for your next trip? Do you have one set up yet?

CARL: No, no.

BARBARA: And what are some of the other things that you like to do with your time besides travel?

CARL: Well, I've been moving around quite a bit.

DOROTHEA: Do you have anything special that you like to do? Do you like to sleep, do you like to watch TV, or --- you say you don't like to play cards. Do you still like to dance?

CARL: Yes, I like that. I like to drink and dance. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Drink and dance.

CARL: I like that.

BARBARA: You like to socialize then. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well is there anything else that we can think of that ---

CARL: Oh, I think that's about enough. I can't think of anything very interesting anymore.

DOROTHEA: Well, if that's it, then we'd like to thank you for the afternoon. And we'll stop now and do a little short video so that we will have a picture to remember you by. And thanks Carl.

(END OF TAPE)

bl