

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #292 - Sides A & B

Subject: Walter Dickenson

Place: Dickenson Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: June 1, 1991

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

Release Form: Yes

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen; I'm interviewing Walter Dickenson at his home in Burns, on June 1st, 1991. He is the Harney County Pioneer President for this year. Walt, your family goes way back to the very beginnings of Burns. And so you were born in Burns, weren't you?

WALTER DICKENSON: I was born here in Burns, July the 9th, 1910 where the Ye Olde Castle is at the present time. My family moved here in 1893, I believe. Could be mistaken about that, but I think it is 1893. My oldest brother, and my older sister was born in Nebraska. And Ruby, and Ashley, and myself were born here in Burns.

PAULINE: How many of your brothers and sisters are still living?

WALTER: There are none.

PAULINE: None of them are.

WALTER: I'm the only child living.

PAULINE: What did your dad do?

WALTER: My dad was, he had a sawmill north of Burns, about sixteen miles north of Burns. He originally bought a, or proved up on a timber claim from the Forest Service. And that's where he originally got his timber for his sawmill. And then he bought timber from the Forest Service later.

PAULINE: Did you work in the mill?

WALTER: Yes, I did a little. I worked in the mill a little. Of course, when I was just a kid going

to school, when I was in the seventh grade I hauled lumber on a little old Model-T Ford out of the sawmill. And I thought that was just a great achievement. But of course, there was no traffic on the road then over Devine Ridge, and pretty well had the whole road to yourself. And during the summer I'd haul lumber from the sawmill. Probably about a thousand feet to the load. The folks, the men at the mill would load it for me, and I'd do whatever I could when I'd get down here to the yard here in town. We had a lumberyard in town, and they'd unload it there, and I'd go back and get another load.

PAULINE: How old were you?

WALTER: Well I was, let's see, that was about '23, so I would have been thirteen years old. I didn't have to show my driver's license very often, because there was nobody along to ask for it. I never had a driver's license until, why probably I was sixteen or seventeen.

PAULINE: Did you always go to school in Burns?

WALTER: Yes, I went to school in Burns.

PAULINE: Did the family live in Burns and ---

WALTER: Yes, we lived in Burns, and we lived at the mill. After school was out all of the family lived at the sawmill. And then when the, during school time, my older sisters would take care of the home here in town, and we'd all four of us go to school. My oldest brother was out of school. He, let's see, he graduated in 1914. And my sisters were both in high school. And then after they had graduated, and my brother then --- my folks lived down at the lumberyard here. They didn't live at the sawmill anymore. My brother ran the sawmill, my oldest brother.

PAULINE: And what was his name?

WALTER: Ora.

PAULINE: Ora.

WALTER: And he was a partner of my father's in the sawmill.

PAULINE: Did you spell that O R ---

WALTER: O R A.

PAULINE: O R A. Okay.

WALTER: Ora, I guess would be the proper way to say it.

PAULINE: Ora, yeah.

WALTER: Ora is the lazy man's way of saying it.

PAULINE: And then he was the oldest. Ora was the oldest.

WALTER: Ora was the oldest.

PAULINE: And then who came next?

WALTER: Edna.

PAULINE: Edna?

WALTER: Edna, yes mam. And then Ruby.

PAULINE: Ruby.

WALTER: Ashley, and myself.

PAULINE: Where was the lumberyard?

WALTER: The lumberyard was on North Broadway. Probably to identify it for you --- you know where the Swisher's place is? Charlie, I mean Alfonso Swisher's?

PAULINE: No.

WALTER: Well you know where the --- what's the --- Kimble's.

PAULINE: Yes.

WALTER: The next place, north of that, on the same side of Broadway.

PAULINE: Okay, down on the flat there, right out from the ---

WALTER: Yes, it was north of Kimble's. You know where they --- And there was about six acres probably there that they had the yard on. The property went across to the east, went across the highway as it is today, and went over to that last road towards the river where Bertha Solomon used to have many years ago. You know where she is?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

WALTER: To that street that runs north and south.

PAULINE: What was it like to go to school in Burns in the dates that you went to school?

WALTER: I think it was pretty nice. I thought it was real --- I had a real fun time. I liked it.

When school was out, I enjoyed that very much too. But I enjoyed school time.

PAULINE: Today we have buses that pick up everybody and haul them to school. You walked, I think.

WALTER: I drove those buses for a good many years.

PAULINE: Yes.

WALTER: Later.

PAULINE: Were later, I guess.

WALTER: Yeah later, you bet. But at that time, we, everybody got to school the best way they could. And a lot of them --- I don't mean a lot of them, but a number of them came by, with a saddle horse. I remember the Whitings, I'm talking about Hilton as an example, he rode his horse to town when he was in grade school. And probably when he was in high school. But I think several of them did.

A lot of them had, I think either owned a home in Burns, or rented a home during the school year so they could have the kids staying right in town. Some of them lived out far enough, you know, it would be almost impossible for the kids to get back and forth without some kind of transportation, and there wasn't too much transportation at that time. Not too many automobiles around.

PAULINE: Do you think the winters were harder then than they are today?

WALTER: Yes I do. I certainly, I'm sure of it. They were --- I don't know that they were any harder, but there was more winters. We had snows then, which we don't have today to amount to anything. It wasn't, it wasn't unusual to have a couple feet of snow here in the wintertime, any winter. But of course, we don't see that anymore. We don't even see that in the mountains, hardly. I can remember several years at the old sawmill in the heaviest part of the winter when the snow would be above the fence posts.

PAULINE: That would make it about four foot, wouldn't it?

WALTER: That would make it a good four feet. And then we'd have quite a little snow, it would crust. And you could get out your skis and sleds and stay right on the top of the snow. And it was

quite a bit of difference. We had some water in the valley then. But nothing like we had six years ago, six or seven years ago. It was a different situation. I don't know what it was, we weren't here then, so I don't know really what caused that change.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well I think we had several, several years of good water years in a row, and it just kept building up.

WALTER: Probably so, but there wasn't too much snow was there? I mean in the valley.

PAULINE: Not in the valley so much, but in the hills.

WALTER: But the drainage area got it.

PAULINE: Yeah, the drainage.

WALTER: That's where it picked up.

PAULINE: Because I agree with you, we don't get near the winters that we did even when I was a kid.

WALTER: No, we don't. Doesn't seem like a winter anymore.

PAULINE: Huh uh.

WALTER: Now we moved back over here from the Willamette Valley in '89, the summer of '89, and we didn't have any winter. In the summer, I mean in '89 and '90. Just wasn't hardly any winter at all. Last year wasn't any winter, but we got some cold weather. Got one time, I guess it was down to about twenty-eight below. And that was about usual for the earlier days. It'd hardly get much lower than that. Of course --- especially get the snow with it, and I don't think it was as cold when they had the snow at thirty below zero, as it is with no snow and thirty below zero. It doesn't seem to me like it, it seems that cold.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well, Wally Welcome always talks about the sports that evolved about the era that you folks went through school. Did you play baseball and football?

WALTER: I didn't --- I played some baseball, but not very much baseball. I played football and basketball. And I was into track a little bit, but not in any competitive style whatsoever. I didn't care for track. The only time that I ever excelled in track was when I was a freshman. And the freshmen and the, I believe it was the freshmen and the juniors took on the seniors and the

sophomores. And we was running a relay, and we --- our relay team was in the lead of it pretty well. And I think I probably was either third or the fourth relay, and I'm trying to think of that deal -- senior, I thought of his name a while ago. Oh gosh, lived right over here by --- Carey. What was his last name? Anyhow he was a senior --- Gordon Carey.

And he was catching me, and it just so happened that there was a lathe laying there in the lane, and just as he passed me I stepped on that lathe --- well this was unintentional but it flipped up and come between his legs and just dumped him. And he didn't feel very good about that; he thought I'd done that on purpose. But I didn't.

But anyhow we, he dug himself out of the dirt and got up and he --- they won, the sophomores and the seniors won that meet. But I don't know as he ever did get over that. Of course, he was a senior, and he was just about out of school. But he thought I did that on purpose. But that's all, we never participated between different schools, I mean I didn't, because I didn't care for it.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WALTER: But I did play football and basketball, I liked both of those real well. A little bit of baseball, not very much.

PAULINE: Well, you've always been quite a sports fan; I know you were always at all the games when we were in school.

WALTER: Well you know that was just one of our, that's one --- we enjoyed them too. And we enjoyed the kids. And of course, we had our kids too, you know. And we had, we went to all of them. It doesn't make any difference where it was, we went to them. And we always had --- of course we'd take the yell leaders along with us, because they had to go. Wasn't any transportation then, you know, for anybody with the exception of the players. And we enjoyed it very much. Enjoyed the kids very much, all the kids. We still do.

When we were in Canby we'd go to the plays, and we'd go to the, put on these plays at the school, just like they do here. And we enjoyed all of those. And we went to some of the football games. Even went in to see the Blazers play once in awhile. And I go out here. I have several

times, to the football games and basketball games. I don't think I'll ever get over it. It's really enjoyable.

PAULINE: Well it's great to see the kids play, it really is.

WALTER: Oh, you bet it is. It sure is. It's just a wonderful feeling. And when Esther and I was working at the school, we'd just enjoyed those kids immensely, just really liked them. And they kind of made our work a little easier sometimes. Sometimes they made it a little harder. (Laughter) It worked both ways, you know.

PAULINE: Well after you graduated from high school here in Burns ---

WALTER: Yes.

PAULINE: And did you go to college?

WALTER: No, I didn't.

PAULINE: Or did you join the service? Or did you go to work?

WALTER: Well, I didn't join the service. I'll tell you what I did; I got married and went to work. And I didn't join the service. I was working for Edward Hines Lumber Company and they were supplying materials for the war effort. And so, they sent me to Seneca and I built a sawmill for them up there at Seneca.

PAULINE: Oh, I didn't know that.

WALTER: And I run that for five years. And then about that time it was pretty late in the war, about the time the Japanese got into it, and it got very difficult to get labor. And the logging part of the company paid more money than they'd allow me to pay. Edward Hines let, I mean they made the schedule out, I mean for the salaries. And so, they'd work for me a few days, and then they'd hear about how much they could make in the woods and they'd take off. And then I was out hunting men again.

So, we just decided finally that it just wasn't worth the effort. And they, they shut the mill down. And they even started moving it out before I moved away, or my family.

My family was at Seneca too. The boys went to school there at Seneca. And Esther and I had a, we bought a little home there. And we moved away, and they had started moving that

sawmill out and they moved that to West Fir. And I come back down and I worked for Edward Hines for a little while after that.

Then I quit Edward Hines Lumber Company then and went to work for Ellis Bennett. He had a little shop there in the back of his service station. I run that shop for him for sometime.

Then I, we, his son and I bought the parts store. He had a, I guess you would call it a parts store, yes. It mostly was for the Oldsmobile parts that he'd had. But he had parts for other cars too, but mainly for Oldsmobile's.

Then we, his son and I bought that out, and started a parts store in --- right there next to the office there, your office. Between there and Dalton, not Dalton is that, is that Dalton?

ESTHER DICKENSON: Jordan's.

WALTER: Jordan's. Between you and Jordan's. We had a parts store in there.

PAULINE: You know I don't remember that.

WALTER: Oh, don't you?

PAULINE: I remember it being ---

WALTER: Down there by the ---

PAULINE: Around the corner there.

WALTER: Yeah, by the bowling alley.

PAULINE: By the bowling alley.

WALTER: How long were we their Mom, about three years?

ESTHER: You mean at the ---

WALTER: Right there by Jordan's.

ESTHER: Two or three years.

WALTER: Yeah, two or three years I think. And then I bought Carroll Bennett out. He was --- I bought him out. We went down to, when Crump built that new building and bowling alley, and one where Firestone was, and so forth. Well, we were between the bowling alley and Firestone. And we were there until '59, I think. '58 or '59 we sold out. Either '58 or '59.

PAULINE: Well Esther, what was your maiden name?

ESTHER: Weil.

PAULINE: W E I L.

ESTHER: W E I L.

PAULINE: Okay. So, you grew up in Harney County too then.

ESTHER: I was born here.

PAULINE: Okay. When is your birthday?

ESTHER: July the 31st, 1916.

PAULINE: And who were your parents?

ESTHER: Paul and Annie Weil.

PAULINE: I think that is one thing I forgot to ask Walt here, is your parent's name.

WALTER: No, you --- oh yes.

PAULINE: I asked you what your dad did, but I forgot to ask you what his name was.

WALTER: Yeah. His name was Ashley Dee Dickenson. That was

D E E.

PAULINE: And your mom's name was?

WALTER: Elvira.

PAULINE: Elvira.

WALTER: I don't --- what was her middle name, do you know?

ESTHER: Middle name?

WALTER: Middle name.

ESTHER: Phoebe.

WALTER: Phoebe. Sheldon.

PAULINE: Where did they come from when they came to Harney County?

WALTER: They came from Nebraska to Burns. They came to Huntington by rail. There wasn't any Ontario there I guess at that time. At least Huntington was the end of the rail I guess, or rail stop, whatever.

PAULINE: So what year did you get married?

WALTER: '34.

ESTHER: No.

PAULINE: 1934.

WALTER: Isn't that right?

ESTHER: '33.

WALTER: Oh yes, that's right, '33. Excuse me.

PAULINE: And did you get married in Burns?

WALTER: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Where did the ceremony take place?

WALTER: I'll let Esther talk to you about that. It was at her place.

ESTHER: At my parent's home right down here by --- the railroad. They lived down there on the old McLaren place.

WALTER: That's where Dewey lives now.

ESTHER: I think so.

WALTER: I think so too.

PAULINE: Did you move to Seneca then right away then, or did you live in Burns for a while?

WALTER: No. We never moved to Seneca in the ---

PAULINE: In the '40's.

WALTER: Well, in the '30's, late '30's.

PAULINE: Late '30's.

WALTER: I worked for Edward Hines at Hines, and then they sent me up there.

PAULINE: Okay, and then you had Ralph and Dee.

WALTER: Yes.

PAULINE: And how many grandchildren do you have?

ESTHER: Seven.

PAULINE: Do you have any great-grandchildren?

ESTHER: We have eleven.

PAULINE: Oh, my goodness.

WALTER: That's what we say. We can't wait for them to come over. They'll be here a week from today.

PAULINE: That's ---

WALTER: At least, they'll be here before that.

PAULINE: That's neat.

WALTER: And we can't wait for them.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WALTER: We've got two that won't be here, and they're in New Zealand. That's a little too far away.

PAULINE: That's a little bit ---

WALTER: They might be. It could be such a thing that they would be here. But I don't think they will.

PAULINE: That would be kind of a long trip all right.

WALTER: Yeah, you bet, it would be. They were here last year. But I don't know, they'll probably be coming, but I doubt very much that they come at this time.

PAULINE: And Dee is still living in Ontario?

WALTER: Dee is living in Ontario. His family is all in Ontario. Dee has got a, five grandkids. Just a little new girl, no a little new boy, isn't it? A couple weeks ago, or such, or three.

PAULINE: Well, I just have two, and they live in Tennessee, which is too far away.

WALTER: Well that's too bad.

PAULINE: I don't get to see them very often. They were here in March.

WALTER: Yeah. The only reason that it is too bad is the fact that it is too hard to get --- and it's costly.

PAULINE: It's just too far to go very often. And so, I can count on my fingers the times I've seen them. Kate is seven, and Jeremy will be five this summer. But ---

WALTER: Well, you know, that isn't unusual really. That's not unusual.

PAULINE: But you know we were so lucky, because we grew up with our grandparents around. And my kids grew up with their grandparents around.

WALTER: Yes.

PAULINE: So, it's ---

WALTER: We went back to Nebraska in 1924, and that's the only time that I ever saw my grandfather and grandmother Sheldon. And I suspect I saw my grandfather and grandmother Dickenson in 1910, but my eyes weren't only just barely open then. But I certainly couldn't remember that.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WALTER: Because that's the year I was born. But they were here for a while, and then they didn't stay here, they went to California. And then I never did see them. And they lived right across the street from us, where that house is today that Dick Corbet's father --- do you remember he had, it was an apartment house then. That's where they lived.

PAULINE: Well when you go up in the hills today, does the forest look a lot different than it did when you were a kid?

WALTER: I don't think the forest looks too much different than it did when I was a kid with the exception I think the terrain looks different. All the roads and such.

And of course, there is not the big trees, and not very many of them, you know. But the forest looks about the same to me, with the exception that the accessibility of getting to the area is so much different. That's changed. And of course, that has changed the forest some too. Because those roads are what causes whatever change there is in the forest, really. But it is still a pleasant sight I think. We enjoy it.

PAULINE: Well when did you go to work for the school? You sold out the parts house in 19 --- about 1959.

WALTER: Yeah, '59.

PAULINE: Is that when you went to work for the school?

WALTER: No, I went to work for the school in 1960. About July the 15th.

PAULINE: And you drove bus, and you were maintenance, weren't you?

WALTER: Yes, I was maintenance. I had the buses, and I had the grounds, and I had the building, and I had the boilers.

PAULINE: And that's for Slater Grade School?

WALTER: No, that was Burns Union High School.

PAULINE: Was it? I'm just really off base then.

WALTER: Well I ---

ESTHER: You had the Slater buses, too didn't you?

WALTER: Well but, she said Slater Grade School.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WALTER: No, it was at the high school.

PAULINE: You were at the high school, okay.

WALTER: I didn't --- we had the buses, the grade school buses.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WALTER: And we had the ---

PAULINE: That's where I got the idea, I guess.

WALTER: Well you might have been --- I went to a good deal of those board meetings at the grade school, because they were tied together. So maybe you saw me there at those board meetings, I don't know.

PAULINE: Well Esther, you cooked though, you cooked. Did you cook at the high school then?

ESTHER: Yes, at the high school.

WALTER: She was the cafeteria manager there for quite a number of years.

PAULINE: And then you retired along about 19 ---

WALTER: '76. The day after Thanksgiving, whatever day that was. That was about the 28th I think, '27th I think. Yeah, perhaps.

PAULINE: And then you decided to leave this country for a while and live some place else. So, you went to Canby?

WALTER: Yeah, we went over, out of Canby, we had a little farm out of Canby there. Between Canby and Molalla.

PAULINE: And you came back about two years ago?

WALTER: Yeah, we came back July the 18th, 1989.

PAULINE: Do you remember the --- well you used to drive the car when you were a kid to haul, or the truck hauling the lumber. But do you remember the first vehicle ride you ever took? The first time you went for a ride in a car?

WALTER: You mean went for a ride, or was at the wheel?

PAULINE: Well, either one.

WALTER: Well the first time that I can remember of taking a ride in a car, and I can't tell you the date on it, but it was fairly early. And my uncle had an old Model-T Ford, which was the popular car at that day. And he loaned it to my brother, my older brother ...

SIDE B

WALTER: Well you should have hollered, we've got some.

PAULINE: This is a sixty-minute, and thirty minutes goes by pretty fast.

WALTER: Well that's a big plenty.

PAULINE: Yeah. Anyway, your uncle had a Model-T Ford.

WALTER: He had a Model-T Ford. Of course, they were a touring car, open you know, with just a cloth top and so forth. And so, my brother, he wanted to take my mother and father, and of course me being the younger one, why the others was someplace else. But I went along, and we drove out that road, the same highway that this Crane Boulevard is on, towards your folks' place out there. Only it wasn't built up, the road wasn't built up then by no means. There was barrow pits, but they were a little bit deep, but the road wasn't built up. Well this was in the spring of the year, and in those years, we got some water. And it was just about wide enough for that car to go by. Water on this side, and water on that side, and I can remember it worried me quite a bit. I don't know how old I was, probably eight years old, seven years old, or something like that. And that's the first ride

I can remember in a car.

But I do remember the first time I drove a car. And that was one time --- and this was probably about the time I was in the seventh grade. So, we had this little Model-T Ford, and we had a pretty good-sized lumber truck that Ora was taking back up to the mountains. He brought a load of lumber down, and he was taking this little, why I don't know, probably they had just bought it or something. They were taking it up there; rig it up for a lumber truck.

But we got up on top of Devine Ridge, he had this little Ford up on the bed of the truck, hauling it up there, so there was a pretty good place where he could back off. He said, "Well I think," said, "Walt I think this is about the time you had better start driving." And so, he got that thing backed off, and I'd drove around a little bit down here in the yard, one thing and another, but not out on the road. So, he said, "Well, I'll go ahead and I'll follow you." So of course, on Devine Ridge, those roads up there were just a cow trail, you might call it, just stay between the rocks. And we went up there three or four miles from the mill and he took off and I followed him. And for some reason I got off the road a little bit, and there was a mahogany, and those mahoganies don't always grow straight up. This one happened to grow away from the way I was driving. I run that front axle of that little Ford right up that tree, because it was on a, just kind of a slant. There I was, I couldn't get off, and I couldn't --- Well he saw me, he was watching me, and he saw me, and back he came and he said, "Now there is one thing you've got to remember, you got to stay on the road." Well I thought that was pretty good advice. I tried to stay in the --- I suppose I was looking at the birds, or a coyote or something, or just not looking at all, or thinking I was doing too good a job. But he said, "You've got to remember you want to stay in the road."

ESTHER: ...

PAULINE: Well maybe, if he is going to mow his lawn, he might be pretty noisy.

ESTHER: (Closes door.) Quiet him down.

WALTER: Yeah, it will make a difference.

PAULINE: Well, what is the biggest change you have seen to the community since --- over the years?

WALTER: Well, I would really believe probably it was the sawmill coming in. I think probably that was the biggest change that I can remember of happening. And then by the same, the lull in the industry from about 1980 on, to bring it right back to where it was before the sawmill came in. I think those are probably the two major changes that I have seen.

PAULINE: Do you see --- we're hearing a lot of talk now about looking for some other kind of industry to come in. Some other thing to spark the economy. Do you see any hope for that kind of planning?

WALTER: I just hate to answer that.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WALTER: I really do. It just kind of hurts me to answer it. I don't think, I can't see it. The only -- - maybe in four or five hundred years from now, when the population is so great that they are going to have to get out in this country. I just can't --- I don't know how they can. I don't see any chance for industry. I hope I'm wrong. But there are so many places, you know, that are close to good transportation and easy access to marketing, and so forth. I can't see how it --- unless we were unlucky enough to hit a lot of oil. And I hate to see us do that. It would just about ruin the country, wouldn't it?

PAULINE: Well, it would sure make some majors changes in it all right.

WALTER: Oh, you bet it would. Yeah. It would be a different, Burns would be a different atmosphere, it wouldn't be the nice little town.

PAULINE: Well speaking of the, you know, transportation and the railroad, were you involved in the building of the railroad between Burns and Seneca at all?

WALTER: No, no. I wasn't involved in that. That was a long time ago, I wasn't --- I was still at home. But that was, those were industries, you know, that didn't --- I'm trying to refer that to an oil. I think oil would be a tragedy for any place almost, even though there would be lots of money. But a change of people, big change of people.

But with Edward Hines Lumber Company, that was a real good thing for the country, I think. That timber had to be used, you know. Just as well come here. And it was tied up in such a

way that it all came here for a good many years, until they were forced to allow other bidders to come in. And that's about the time Hines went out, you know, when they opened it up. It was a pretty well tied up thing for a long time, which was good for us. And it didn't hurt anybody else, because at that time Prineville couldn't afford to truck that over there then, or build a railroad. And Bend wouldn't want it, there was plenty of timber around, you know. But in the '70's and '80's, why they were looking for, they were looking for timber, because they were getting short on timber close by. And that forced the Forest Service to open things up a little bit. But I think that was good for the country. I don't think that hurt us right today, because --- Of course I know that there is a lot of people in town that would like to have a good steady solid job. But I don't think that's hurt our town much really, even though it fell off, you know. Because it was still a little old busy town in the '20's. It wasn't as busy as it is now of course, but it was just like these little rural towns are. And I doubt very much if it changes.

PAULINE: Well it was sure busy yesterday.

ESTHER: Yeah, wasn't it busy?

PAULINE: I tell you.

WALTER: Oh yeah, and today.

PAULINE: And today too, yeah. Well of course those Ducks Unlimited people are in, maybe that's what --- I don't know though, downtown though. I just see --- everybody you know is downtown.

ESTHER: The weather is nice and everything.

PAULINE: I guess that's what it is.

WALTER: But there is no ducks.

PAULINE: No.

WALTER: There is --- there is quite a lot of wildlife around.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WALTER: But, you know, I can remember when there was, in the spring there was lots and lots of wildlife, the birds. All kinds of them, swan, and geese, and ducks and --- the sky would just be

dark. You've seen that though --- I don't mean dark, but I mean it would shade the sun when they'd fly over.

PAULINE: It hasn't been that way for a long time.

WALTER: I've got some --- we, many years ago we bought an 8mm camera, it was silent, you know. And here a couple months ago we had all that film, we had quite a bit of it, we had it transferred over to video. And we show that ever once in awhile. We --- there was a lot of ducks and geese we took pictures of those, you know. And lots of them at that time. And we have those videos, and it's kind of interesting. And we had, oh we've got, oh I don't know, let's see about eight hours I guess of video when they transferred it over. And a lot more interesting. We had music put on it, background music. It kind of livens it up, it don't seem like its ---

PAULINE: Yes.

WALTER: --- they are still, they're not still, but I mean silent pictures.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WALTER: Makes quite a difference. And down through the years when our kids were little, and we were going to ball games, and one thing and another, got a quantity of different ball games and such. And all the grade school, or I mean the high school kids, and the yell leaders. And we've got the, oh the parades, and a few of those things. It's kind of interesting.

PAULINE: Well that would be fun to watch.

WALTER: Oh, we do, we run them, you know, quite often.

PAULINE: Well is there anything in particular that you'd like to have in the story in the paper that we haven't talked about?

WALTER: I don't, I can't think of anything that I would think about to add, really.

PAULINE: Okay. Well, I really appreciate your taking time to do this today. I should have come on down yesterday, but it had just been such a hectic day.

WALTER: Well I don't ---

PAULINE: That I thought, I just thought I can't even concentrate.

WALTER: Well Pauline, you don't need to apologize for that. We just set here and wait for

somebody to come. It didn't matter to us.

PAULINE: Well, I'm glad that it worked out for me to come today. I would have come down here yesterday and probably just gone to sleep or something. It had been a long day.

WALTER: Then I'd have had to ask my own questions, wouldn't I?

PAULINE: You'd have had to ask your own questions, and give your own answers, and that's no fun. Well let's get your picture taken.

(END OF TAPE)

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