

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #293 - Sides A & B & C

Subject: Tom & Eleanor Howard - With Video

Place: Howard Home - Drewsey, Oregon

Date: June 18, 1991

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: No

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and today we're going to be visiting with Tom Howard at his home in Drewsey, Oregon. I'm with Barbara Lofgren and Marcus Haines. The transcript is #293, and it will be stored in the Harney County Library along with the video. Tom, can you please tell us your full name?

TOM HOWARD: Thomas Covert Howard.

DOROTHEA: And when were you born?

TOM: December 31, 1912.

DOROTHEA: And where?

TOM: Right over here in that old house.

DOROTHEA: Right here on this place.

TOM: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And when did your --- who were your parents?

TOM: Well, Edward Howard was my dad, and Ida Howard was my mother.

DOROTHEA: What was your mother's maiden name?

TOM: Ward, Ida Ward Howard.

DOROTHEA: And where did they come from?

TOM: Well, my mother was born here, and my dad came here with his folks, or his mother when he was ten years old from Canyon City. But he was born in Colorado.

DOROTHEA: How did they come about coming to Harney County?

TOM: Well, my granddad originally came here in '62. He was in California. Well, I can start farther back than that with him.

DOROTHEA: Okay, yeah.

TOM: He, his folks came from Ireland two years before he was born, and he was born in 1832, to New York City. And he grew up there, and he went to work in a butcher shop. And he stayed there and worked there until, well I guess you'd call it served his apprenticeship. And in '62 they discovered the gold, you know, in California. And he got the fever, and decided to come west. So, he told his folks, and so he got a, caught a ship coming around. And he left, they never heard of him again, or he never heard of them. He just ---

BARBARA LOFGREN: So, he was a teenager at this time?

TOM: About sixteen, seventeen, yeah. And he came, the boat came to the Isthmus of Panama, and then he crossed the Isthmus on a mule. They could hire a mule, you know. And then another boat brought them up to San Francisco. And that's the way he came west. And he never done much prospecting or working in the gold fields. He followed this butcher trade. And of course, these miners were all crazy for meat, you know. And it was a pretty good business. And he was kind of a happy-go-lucky fellow, I think; he was here and there and everywhere.

And he loved horses. And he had a saddle horse; it must have been an exceptional horse or something. But that's all he had was just the horse. And an old Spanish Don wanted this horse, and he kept after him for him, and he offered him a grant of land there in --- I don't remember whether it was the San Joaquin, or Sacramento Valley, but in there someplace. And my granddad wouldn't trade, he would have been afoot, you know. And land didn't mean anything to him in those days.

And he spent several years in that area, and then he was even over in Virginia City, Nevada when it was its roaring best. And he had a butcher shop there. And then, I don't know what happened, or kind of a lapse there, but some fellows bought some cattle, some beef, and they were going to bring them to Coeur d'Alene, up in Northern Idaho. They had struck gold there, the big mining camps, you know.

And my granddad came with them, and they came up through Nevada, and up into the southern part of the county. And up to Harney, or Malheur Lake, and the lake was high, high as the devil. And they had to come clear around it, and they came around on the east side of it. And then they went on through and over the mountain to Canyon City. And they camped on Canyon City the one night. And of course, I think in those days, the first thing they did was get their gold pans out, you know.

Well, they found gold, they found the gold in Canyon City, I guess quite a bit of it, you know. So that kind of raised the devil with the beef drive. And they didn't go on with them. I guess the people that owned the cattle did finally get some of them on to, over to Baker City. Now there was a gold camp there too, and that was the end of the beef drive.

And most of them stayed right there in Canyon. And that was the beginning of Canyon City, and that was in June of '62.

DOROTHEA: In other words, they more or less were the first residents of Canyon City.

TOM: They were, yeah, they were. And he, now this is just --- there is intervals there that I don't know what he did, you know. But by '65 or '66, Canyon City was quite a town. And in fact, they, the whole John Day Valley I suppose was built up.

And they formed a county, Grant County, and that included Harney County too, clear to the Nevada line. And my dad was the first sheriff, that was in 1866.

ELEANOR HOWARD: Your grandfather.

TOM: Or my grandfather, yeah. And he owned ---

BARBARA: Was it an elective office or ---

TOM: Yeah, yeah, uh huh. And Joaquin Miller, you remember, or you've heard of the poet, well he was the first county judge. And I guess they had a courthouse there. But anyway, my dad just, or my granddad just served the one term, that's all he wanted. But he was a butcher all this time, you know.

ELEANOR: Tell the Indian story.

TOM: Well, that's coming up.

ELEANOR: Oh, is it?

TOM: But they were making laws there then, or they had the laws of the State of Oregon, and my granddad --- well his wife had come in the meantime. And they had a milk cow, and she had a big calf running around town there. And they told him he ought to get a brand on that calf. So, he went down, and the blacksmith shop told --- the blacksmith built him a brand. And he said, "What?" He said, "I don't care, just make an iron." (Laughter) So when he went back to get it, the smith had made a 91, like that. And we still use it.

MARCUS HAINES: You do, well I'll be darned.

TOM: Yeah. That was in the early '60's. But my grandmother ---now he'd gone back to California in the interim here, and they were married. Or he might have been married before they came, I'm not sure. Because let's see, one boy was five years old when my grandmother came to Canyon City, and she came up to Astoria on a boat. And then they had to lay over there for, oh I don't know how long, or for what reason, I guess wait for a ship to come up the Columbia. And she had this little boy and a little girl. And while she was there, the little girl fell down some stairs there in an old hotel building, and she died from the fall. So, she came on up to The Dalles, and then she rode a mule from there into Canyon City with the little boy behind her.

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

TOM: So, she was over here at that time that he was sheriff. And then they --- oh they lived there for several years. But she took two trips back to California to visit. She went out over this old Creighton Road, you've heard of it, the old military road comes up over the mountains here, and down by Westfall and Vale, and through by McDermitt, and on south, and Lovelock to Southern California in a stagecoach.

BARBARA: Boy, what a trip.

TOM: With, I suppose some of these little kids. And she'd stay for, oh they'd stay for three or four months, which they'd have to, to make it pay, I guess. (Laughter) Then she came back. And I think she made two trips if I can remember right, to California. And anyway, the little boy, Jack was his name, he got some kind of a disease or something, anyway he died.

And then they had another little boy, and they called him Tom, and he died. And then they left Canyon City and went back to Colorado Springs, and that's where my dad was born. And they were there for two or three years, and then they came back to California, and they were in Northern California for a while, and finally got back to Canyon.

And then he was, they were in Canyon when the Indian uprising was on. And he and --- he was up in northern Grant County some-place, on some kind of errand I guess, he was horseback.

Anyway, he was on his way home, or he met some fellows from Canyon City, a couple fellows, and they were in a buggy. So, they were all kind of traveling together. And the Indians jumped them. That's when they were going through there, you know. And they took after them, and they were on the road, and they shot my granddad's horse. And his partners didn't wait for him, they just went on.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

TOM: But he made it to the creek, the willows. Got in under a bank in some brush there. The Indians didn't happen to see him, or anyway they didn't come in after him. He stayed there all night. The next day some more men came back to help him out. But that was his only experience with the Indians.

DOROTHEA: Now I understand that your grandmother was a milliner. How did she get into this business?

TOM: Well, I'm not clear on that, no.

DOROTHEA: Not too sure? But she made hats, anyway, in Canyon City?

TOM: Hats and sewed, and taught school too. She was a schoolteacher.

BARBARA: Did you hear of any of your grandfather's experiences as a sheriff, any close calls?

TOM: No, no.

BARBARA: Pretty peaceful at that time?

TOM: No, they were. He didn't --- I've heard that --- of course he died before I was born, you know. I just heard these tales. But he never had any bad experiences while he was sheriff at all.

And let's see, it was, it would have been '78 when he had the Indian escapade. So, it wasn't

long after that until they came over here, '82. And I don't know, I think he was kind of fiddle-footed, you know, he just didn't want to stay in one place too long.

MARCUS: They didn't seem to want to back in those days, they were always ---

TOM: No, no, they always wanted to go over the next hill, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's right.

TOM: And he and this other fellow, oh they was about, he was younger than my granddad, because --- yeah, he had to be. His name was Sam Williams. And you remember Merlin McMullen; he was Merlin's uncle.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

TOM: Yeah. He came from the Midwest, I think. I think the McMullen's came from Iowa, or Missouri, someplace in there. But anyway, they came over here in '82, and squatted on this land here. And then in '83 they could file on it, which they did, they each filed on a hundred and sixty. This was my dad's, and Williams' was over here. Jordan owns it now.

DOROTHEA: Who?

TOM: Lloyd Jordan. Dunten's bought it from him, Bert Dunten. That would be Turen, do you remember Turen, his dad.

And then my grandmother and dad came the next spring. And they built that old house over there. I don't know where they got the lumber, or I don't know just when they built the house. But it had to have been right away because there wasn't any other shelter around except that dugout, and I don't think she lived in that. (Laughter)

BARBARA: She probably got them busy in a hurry.

TOM: Yeah, yeah. And I guess the closest mill was above Harney.

ELEANOR: When did she have the hotel in Drewsey?

TOM: Well, long after that, you know, immediately after that. As soon as they got located, I guess. And then my granddad filed on, let's see, this was original, and then he filed on an original up the creek here. There is meadows up there, and oh, it's kind of a pretty place, you know. There is lots of little meadows strung up the creek there, and he filed on that. And they'd live up there in the

summertime. This was after Drewsey was pretty well settled, and milked cows, and she made butter, and they sold cream and milk, and took it to Drewsey. And they'd do that in the summertime, and then they'd live over here in the wintertime.

And then she, there was a hotel in Drewsey, and they bought that. And she ran the hotel, and taught school, and was the postmistress, all at the same time.

BARBARA: She was certainly a busy lady.

TOM: Yeah.

BARBARA: And what was her name?

TOM: Martha.

BARBARA: Martha.

TOM: Martha Howard.

BARBARA: She had a lot of energy then.

TOM: And the schoolhouse wasn't in Drewsey. It was down in, someplace in Williams' field off down there. I don't know why, but that's where it was. She had to go down there.

DOROTHEA: Well, I think that's where they put schools was down in people's fields.

TOM: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Because it was the closest for all of the kids to go to.

TOM: That's right, uh huh. Kind of the center. I know the school here that I went to was over the hill here. Kind of between this valley and the Kimball Flat Valley.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Where was that schoolhouse at, Tom?

TOM: Over here?

MARCUS: Yes.

TOM: Right at the foot of the hill here as you go over the hill and hit the valley there, hit the flat. It was just right around --- the old road went right by it.

MARCUS: Did it have a name?

TOM: Kimball Flat.

MARCUS: Oh, Kimball Flat School. And then they had another one on over in the flat there, or was that the same one?

TOM: Well, no, no that was the only one. Then they had one at Wolf Creek, you know.

MARCUS: Yes.

TOM: Had one at Pine Creek, and there was one at Calamity.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

TOM: And Drewsey, and Otis Valley.

ELEANOR: And that was up until when, 1935?

TOM: Oh, '40, in the '40's.

ELEANOR: In the '40's?

DOROTHEA: Well can you tell us something about where you went to school, and about the school?

TOM: Well, I went to school over here.

ELEANOR: Kimball Flat.

TOM: The first year we were living down, my grandmother bought another place down, about --- well it's the lower end of this ranch now, but right this side of where Mark is putting his trailer house, you know. But we lived there for several years, and I started to school from there.

And my uncle was working for my dad, and he had a family, three girls. He took us to school and hauled us back and forth with a team in the summer --- or spring and fall with the buggy. And then in the wintertime I remember we had a sled, it was homemade, but it was kind of like a cutter. And they had a span of old saddle horses they worked. And they liked to run, you know, and he just let them run. I can remember those trips.

And then they left in the spring before school was out, and I was too small to get there otherwise, so there was a family that homesteaded up the creek here, several children in the family, and the father was a freighter. That's all they had was, my dad said a bunch of little old Cayuse horses. But he made his living freighting, and he filed on a hundred and sixty up here, you know. Raise a little rye hay.

And he made a living for them I guess, but in the end, he put the land up for security. Well, the store wound up with the land. Anyway, he died, but he'd filed on another quarter section in the meantime. And when he died, and there was this widow woman there with, let's see, there was three boys and two girls. And the two oldest boys were large enough to get out and work. And people were good to them here, and they were good kids. They worked hard.

And they'd gone to school here too, and the two of them were through. But my dad got the second boy to stay with us and he went back to school that spring and I rode behind him. That was the primary purpose, you know. And then that summer why they moved back up here.

But anyway, last fall, well it was Turen Dunten's funeral; this fellow that I rode to school behind came up to the funeral.

MARCUS: Well.

TOM: Now he is an old man.

MARCUS: I bet he is.

TOM: And he came in here. Well, I got a cousin that lives in, oh Parma, just out of Parma. And he knew this old fellow. And he'd heard of him here, when they was, you know from here. And here he came. Another fellow brought him up. And they came right up here. And he was pretty tired. But he took a nap that day. Oh, we had a big visit. And he went down --- oh there was several fellows there that he knew, you know.

MARCUS: Sure.

TOM: Glenn and Byron and several. He had a big visit with them. And he is still going, still alive. But he is way up there in his nineties.

BARBARA: So, your grandfather then homesteaded and raised cattle, is that right?

TOM: Well, they raised horses first.

BARBARA: Horses.

TOM: Yeah. That's --- he was a horseman, he liked horses. And my dad took to that too, and they raised horses here for years. They'd have, in the spring of the year they'd have two bunches of mares, you know. And they'd keep the stallions in, and they'd hire Indian boys to herd the horses

out. There wasn't any fences then in those days. And they'd herd them all day, and then they'd bring them in at night, and they'd breed the mares, and all such.

MARCUS: Yeah, they run them just like you do your cattle now.

TOM: Yeah.

BARBARA: So, your dad just followed in your grandfather's footsteps and did the horses too then?

TOM: That's right, yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: And did they sell to the army, or just people that needed work horses or ---

TOM: Well, they were saddle horses mainly I think at that time. Oh, the army, and they sold a bunch to a couple of neighbors here, Milt Davis and Joe Lamb. And they trailed them clear back to Wyoming.

MARCUS: Oh gee.

TOM: Yeah. And there was a market for horses in those days. Of course that was, you know ---

DOROTHEA: Before the tractor.

TOM: Absolutely. And then my dad raised horses though until ---well we had a Belgium stallion when he got sick. Well in fact I traded for one or bought one after he passed away. That was just before World War II.

BARBARA: And when you were growing up did you --- that was all you thought about was being a rancher too? Or did you ever think about doing anything else?

TOM: Oh yeah. No, I never had any other idea.

BARBARA: You just liked what was going on?

TOM: Yeah, well yeah. I liked --- knew no other life, and wasn't interested in learning, I guess.

MARCUS: Well, you buckarood for the PLS Company quite a little while too, didn't you?

TOM: Oh, one spring and summer. And that was just --- I didn't have to, just kind of a lark, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

TOM: They was moving cattle out of this country that spring and they had a lot of cattle over at the Agency. They bought, you know, the Company sold that ranch. Well to a fellow, Fred Walters,

from, oh he was from over in Idaho. And after he bought it, in a few years why then the Bureau of Reclamation decided to build the dam there, you know, the Beulah Dam. Well, he kind of had that in his head, or he knew there was a chance that that would happen, Walters did, when he bought it.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

TOM: But anyway, he was still paying the PLS Company, he owed them a lot of interest, and the principle too I suppose. And he had a big supply of hay over there. So, the Company moved a lot of cattle over there, and this was the winter of '30, the fall of '31. And they wintered them there. And then the next spring they was trailing them back to Harney, and that's when I worked for them. Stub Currey was over there with the cattle that year, buckaroo, you know.

DOROTHEA: Well before we get too far and lose track of your grandparents ---

TOM: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I understand that your grandmother was also one of the first postmistresses of the post office here in Drewsey, is that right?

TOM: She was the first one.

DOROTHEA: She was the first. So, then she must have been there when they started the post office.

TOM: Oh yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: How did --- you don't know how that got started?

TOM: Well, they, it was drawn up into a pretty good-sized community. And they, the main man in the community --- oh there was, I can't remember names anymore, but they had the store there, and I think there was three saloons. And so, they decided to name it. And Robbins, Abner Robbins, he was another early man into this country, and he came from Massachusetts. And he had the, he started the store. And he had a ranch or two up here, or land he had filed on. And they had quite a time of naming the town. And he wanted to call it Drewsey, Drewsa. That was his sweetheart from Boston that he had left. But they called it --- it was known as Gouge Eye, that was it, you know. Because it was a rough place. (Laughter) And when they sent Gouge Eye in as the name into the state, they wouldn't accept it. So that's when they had to settle on Drewsey. But then I've heard it

was named for a local girl, and all such. But then I think the real name was from the girl in Boston, all right.

DOROTHEA: Well, I understand also that Gouge Eye was just a big kind of a gossip thing, it wasn't a true thing. But this sounds like ---

TOM: Well, it was true.

MARCUS: You can bet it was true.

TOM: You bet it was true. They killed a man and started the cemetery.

DOROTHEA: Oh. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh dear.

ELEANOR: Don't tell them that one.

MARCUS: I never heard that one before.

TOM: Well, that's what they said. They claimed afterwards, you know. (Laughter)

ELEANOR: I don't think so.

TOM: My dad told this story, and he witnessed it all. He was a big kid there. And they was living in the hotel, and the Company had brought cattle into this country, you know, and they had buckaroos over here. And then there were other cattle, livestock around. People coming and a going, men a horseback, they didn't know where they was from, or where they was going.

And there was a fellow that came into the country. Dad said he had a, riding a nice big dapple-gray horse. And he had a good outfit, saddle, bridle, and everything. And what the heck was his name, I can't remember. Anyway, he was here for a year or so, working around. And then about a year later, or maybe less, this big Mexican rode in. And he went to work for the PLS Company, or Miller & Lux in those days. But he and this other fellow met in Drewsey one night and the Mexican jumped this fellow. And they went out back of the saloon and shot it out, and the Mexican killed him. And he just took the fellow's horse, outfit. And they said he, afterwards they learned that he had followed this fellow up here from California or someplace. Damn I can't think of that fellow's name, and I know it too. Anyway, he was the first man killed here.

MARCUS: He started the cemetery --- (Laughter)

TOM: Yeah. Dad said he, next morning, he was about twelve, thirteen years old, curious you know. He went around there, and said there laid the man's brains there on the ground.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MARCUS: ...

TOM: He said that kind of spooked him.

MARCUS: I'll bet it did.

DOROTHEA: You bet.

TOM: Maybe I will think of it. And he's buried; you know where Marshall's lived down ---

MARCUS: Yes.

TOM: Well his, he's buried off kind of south of that house out there in that flat.

MARCUS: Oh, he is. Is he out there, alone is he?

TOM: Three or four --- no there is three or four graves there.

MARCUS: Oh, well that helped a little.

TOM: Yeah. And then they moved it back up on the hill there, where it is now.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: It's not where the original cemetery is?

TOM: No, no.

BARBARA: Well, how many brothers and sisters do you have?

TOM: One brother and one sister. She is dead.

BARBARA: And what were their names?

TOM: Evelyn was my sister, and Ned is my brother. His name is Edward after his dad. He lives in Boise.

BARBARA: I see.

TOM: And my sister died, what, nine years ago, the 31st of May. She lived in Portland. She went to nurses training and never came back to the ranch. And she married a Portland boy, and she took nurses training, was a nurse. And after they were married they started --- the name of this company, he'd worked, driven an ambulance for a long time when he was going to school, or older, you know.

And they made a go of it.

ELEANOR: She came back, but only to visit.

TOM: Oh, she was back, sure, visits. But ---

BARBARA: And what does your brother do?

TOM: Well, he is retired. He and his wife moved over there about when El, early '60's wasn't it?

ELEANOR: I think so.

TOM: And he worked for the city.

BARBARA: He wasn't interested in ranching?

TOM: Well yeah, he had a ranch here.

BARBARA: I see.

TOM: His wife is Marjorie Miler; she is raised right over here. Do you know Norma, Chas? It's Chas' sister.

MARCUS: Tom, that was an old Miller & Lux ranch wasn't it first?

TOM: Yeah, uh huh. Charlie bought it from the Company after they moved out of here.

MARCUS: Yes. The name Ida Howard keeps running through my mind. Was there an Ida Howard?

TOM: That was my mother.

MARCUS: That was your mother, yes.

ELEANOR: I think, didn't you interview her once, Marcus, before she passed away?

MARCUS: What's that?

ELEANOR: Did you interview her once before she passed away?

MARCUS: No, no I never did see her.

ELEANOR: No. Oh.

MARCUS: The name just kept running through my mind here, and I couldn't associate her here.

ELEANOR: Yeah, it was someone else I guess.

MARCUS: Did she run a hotel there in ---

TOM: No.

MARCUS: She never ---

TOM: Her folks did when she was a girl. Hell, they had two hotels in Drewsey at one time.

MARCUS: We used to get some good yarns out of George Riley about Drewsey.

TOM: Oh yeah, he grew up there, you know. His dad had a saloon.

MARCUS: That was old ---

TOM: You bet. Old George enjoyed life to the fullest too.

MARCUS: He sure did all right. He could tell this yarn here about, he said, "You know I saw a feller running all the way over to the saloon one time without his pants on, and the feller shooting at him every jump." He said, "You know that feller was supposed to have gone to John Day, but he did run up on the hill and turned around and come back." (Laughter) I said I wonder if that feller could have been George Riley? (Laughter) He didn't say yes or no to that one.

BARBARA: So, your mother was from Drewsey then also?

TOM: Oh, yeah. Her family, oh they came in here in the early days too. And --- but her dad was a sheepherder, not a shepherd, a sheep shearer.

BARBARA: I see.

TOM: And he'd leave home oh the first of March, you know, go south. Just as soon as they started shearing sheep. And he'd shear sheep the whole season. And come back in the wintertime, and the next spring he would go again. That's about all I ever heard of him doing.

DOROTHEA: Now she was born on Calamity?

TOM: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And what was her last name?

TOM: Ward.

DOROTHEA: Ward. What were her parent's names?

TOM: Bill Ward and Sally --- Sarah.

DOROTHEA: Ward.

MARCUS: Now was that the Lige Ward family?

TOM: Yeah, Lige was her brother. Then you've heard of old Bob Ward?

MARCUS: Yeah, I knew old Lige pretty well.

TOM: Oh, yeah. Bob Ward was her uncle. He was an old buckaroo in Nevada. Well he started out in this country, but wound up in Nevada. They're trying to get his name in the national --- what is it, the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

ELEANOR: Hall of Fame.

TOM: Old Bob, he is a hell of a rider. They said a horse couldn't hardly buck him off. He is about six foot six, and ---

BARBARA: Did you go to high school at Crane?

TOM: Burns.

BARBARA: At Burns.

TOM: I graduated in '31.

DOROTHEA: Were you able to go on to college then?

TOM: No, I didn't.

DOROTHEA: You didn't.

TOM: I could have, I guess if I'd of --- but I came home and went to work. Took the hired man's place and I've been here ever since.

BARBARA: Has the pay increased at all?

TOM: I didn't know what pay was there for ---

MARCUS: No, they didn't pay kids in those days, did they?

TOM: I can tell you the honest truth; I never drew a dime of wages on this ranch. Never did. I worked --- the first summer I was out of school, my dad had a, he sent back to Iowa and got a registered Jack, two year old, and they shipped him out here in a box, like a piano box, you know.

MARCUS: Oh, they did?

TOM: Yeah. But he raised mules. We had a lot of big mares, and he raised a lot of mules. And heck I grew up breaking mules, big mules. Hell, they was weighing sixteen, seventeen hundred, you know.

MARCUS: Oh, gee.

ELEANOR: Well this used to be; well it is still Mule Creek.

TOM: Well Mule Creek, this is Mule Creek right here.

BARBARA: Oh.

TOM: And that summer the McMullen family had leased the Farnes Ranch, and the Robbins Ranch. Well Jim --- Pete Jones, he was a brother to Jim Jones. Had them, they owned the Farnes Ranch and they'd lease the Robbins Ranch. And they had cattle up here, you know, they was running back, well up, kind of on Pat's allotment, and in that country. And McMullen's had sub-leased it, and they had quite a haying job there. It was all teams, of course.

And my dad got me a job up there. We got through haying earlier than they did, about the time they started. To work these mules see, he was getting work for the mules. And so, I had to go along. And I took four mules up there, four of those big mules. And I bunched all the hay on those two ranches that summer. I bunched six weeks steady, with three of the mules. I'd alternate them, you know.

And then the next spring I worked for the Company for about two, three months. And that's all the work I've ever done off of this ranch. That's the only time I ever worked for wages.

MARCUS: Well Tom, the PLS Company had some big mules. Did they come from this string here?

TOM: No, no. That was before Dad got the Jack, yeah. No, they had mules, but they were pack mules. We packed beds on mules, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, I see.

TOM: Yeah.

MARCUS: Old Walt Riddle always claimed there was two things you could always get money out of. One was a mule, and the other was a coyote hide.

TOM: Well that's for sure.

MARCUS: There was always a market for mules.

TOM: Oh, yeah. And we kept, well Dad would sell them. Now he raised horses to sell. He liked them, but still he sold them too. And we kept; he sold all these mules but this one span of big mare

mules. And I worked them all the time. And then he decided to sell them, and he did. He sold them to Jack Robinson, do you remember Jack Robinson?

MARCUS: Oh, you bet, you bet.

TOM: And he was just picking them up around, you know. And god I was mad. And he wanted me to take them to Crane, had to deliver them to Crane. I wouldn't do it. I said, "Nope, you sold them, you're going to have to get them over there." And I went to the mountains for about, oh about a month there. I was sick, that was long after haying, you know. Darn I hated to see them go.

MARCUS: I bet you did.

TOM: And hell, he sold them too cheap. But that's --- he raised them to sell, and he sold them.

BARBARA: Did he have any racehorses or anything to go to the fair, or anything like that, the rodeo?

TOM: No. He didn't, but he had a fellow work for him here for about twenty-five years, came from Missouri, and he'd been a jockey in his younger days. And he was racehorse crazy. June Ingersoll was his name. And Dad had a horse here, what did they call it --- Pin Ear, Pin Ear. His ears kind of come in together, you know. And he was pretty fast, and I think that's the only one Dad ever had. But he was interested in them. And then he had old June here that talked racehorse. In fact, he would have to go out every summer for about six weeks and follow the circuit, you know. Get it out of his blood.

No, he just raised saddle horses. Then he got into the cow business, of course, had to you know. Horses, the value on horses went down pretty fast there. And so, he raised cattle from then on.

DOROTHEA: Well let's pause for a little while, while I turn this tape over.

SIDE B

TOM: ... deals here, you might say.

BARBARA: You say you went to school in Burns. Did you live with someone during that time?

TOM: Yeah. Well, my mother moved over two different winters, and my sister was in school,

high school too. Then we kept the Sitz boys, Jim and Norm. And we lived, well the year I was a sophomore and the year I was a senior, we lived in that old Locher house back of that Bennett --- the old adobe house, you know.

MARCUS: You bet. Walls that thick, you know.

TOM: Oh yeah. In the wintertime, you know, that --- you didn't hardly need a fire.

MARCUS: Oh, you could heat it with a lantern, couldn't you?

TOM: Yeah. And in the spring, it got hot of course before school was out, but that building was just as cool in there.

MARCUS: It sure was. They're all torn down and gone now.

TOM: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Probably one of the better structures in Burns.

BARBARA: So how did you happen to meet your wife then? During school time?

TOM: Gosh I was going down the road one day, and she run across in front of the car. (Laughter)

ELEANOR: Sure. I was waiting for you to come along.

TOM: No, she was raised in Juntura right here, you know.

BARBARA: In Juntura.

TOM: Yeah. And the Drewsey boys went to Juntura. The boys were in Drewsey, and the girls were in Juntura, we'll put it that way.

BARBARA: So, you made tracks back and forth frequently then?

TOM: That's right, yeah, lord yes.

ELEANOR: And there were lots of dances.

TOM: Yeah, we used to have dances.

ELEANOR: Every week.

TOM: In the summertime, there would be a dance here every Saturday night.

ELEANOR: It was really a great time for kids to grow up.

TOM: Yeah it was. This was back in the '30's, you know.

ELEANOR: Yeah, it was good wholesome fun.

TOM: And there wasn't much money, but you didn't need much money.

MARCUS: No, no.

TOM: Didn't need any money hardly.

MARCUS: There wasn't much to begin with.

TOM: I've --- after I got out of school, I'd want to go to town once in awhile, or Burns. My dad give me five dollars, and heck you'd go over there, and sometimes I could find somebody I could sleep with or stay with, or get --- well you could get a room for a dollar. And I could come home with a dollar or such, and eat too, you know, and do what I please.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, five dollars would last you about a month.

TOM: Oh, you could, yeah.

MARCUS: Just take the tip.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

TOM: Well, you didn't tip waitresses in those days.

MARCUS: No, no, they sure didn't. Or we didn't anyway.

BARBARA: So, you met your wife then at a dance then?

TOM: Oh yeah, well, you know, gosh I can't remember when I saw her first, you know.

ELEANOR: Everybody knew everyone pretty much. All about them.

BARBARA: And so, when did you get married?

TOM: In 1943.

ELEANOR: We'll be married forty-eight years the 30th of June.

TOM: The 30th.

DOROTHEA: Oh, pretty close.

TOM: Yeah.

BARBARA: And do you have any children?

TOM: Two.

BARBARA: And their names?

TOM: Pam and Tom.

ELEANOR: Pamela and Thomas.

TOM: Pamela and Tommy. Pam lives in Portland, and Tommy is here on the ranch.

BARBARA: I see.

DOROTHEA: How many grandchildren do you have?

TOM: Four.

BARBARA: And so, what are some of the things that you did for entertainment as a young married couple? Continue to dance--- did you have card parties?

TOM: Oh yeah, yeah, everything. And we visited each other, you know.

ELEANOR: We had a lot of young friends, married couples.

TOM: The young couples, you know.

ELEANOR: And we'd have dinners, and evenings, you know, for entertainment. We went a lot.

MARCUS: Sure.

BARBARA: Well you didn't have TV to take up all your time.

TOM: No, that's for sure, that's right.

BARBARA: It ruined the art of conversation I think.

TOM: It surely did.

ELEANOR: It did.

TOM: It sure did.

MARCUS: Yeah, I think that TV is the greatest detriment that the country has ever had.

TOM: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, yeah, ruination, and I'm one of the worst probably. I really think ---

TOM: That's right.

MARCUS: So am I, but I can't get hurt very much by it anymore.

TOM: No, me either.

DOROTHEA: Well that's how I feel too, so --- Can you tell us about some of the earliest times that you can remember, say in the hay field or working?

TOM: Well, I can remember the first haying job I had. They used to stack with those old big old

Mormon derricks. And I don't know if you've ever seen them work?

DOROTHEA: I haven't.

TOM: You know the net was here, and the derrick was here, and the mast up here, and then oh, what did you call ---

MARCUS: The boom.

TOM: The boom, the boom up here. And the pulley went from the ground from the net up to the point, the end of this boom, back down the boom, another pulley, and down the mast, and then run out. And you put the team on the end of this cable out here. And as the team would lift the net up, it latched underneath, you could latch it, you know. It would lift the net up, of the hay, and up. And the boom would, there was another chain on the end of the boom, fastened to the foot of the derrick. And you'd put it around here so it would swing one way, around over the stack, get around there where the stack was wanted. There was a rope fastened to this trip on the net. Got it in the right place why he'd yell, "Trip her." And the net setter would trip it, and there it was.

Well, I had the job of driving that old team on that cart. There was a cart made out of a mowing machine, you know. There was a big old brown stallion and an old black mare. And they'd just go out there, and then they'd back up. And before you got through that stack would get pretty dusty, you know. I remember my lips would get so darned sore.

And then I graduated; I got to run a mowing machine with this same old team. And about all I did, was when the sickle bar would get plugged I'd clean it off. My old team would --- around.

DOROTHEA: Follow.

TOM: Yeah. And I was about; I don't remember how old I was. But I was pretty darned --- ten or eleven probably. I don't believe I was eleven.

DOROTHEA: Did you sharpen the sickles much in those days?

TOM: Oh yeah, they sharpened them twice a day.

DOROTHEA: Because I know some people now run these wind rowers or swathers, or whatever you want to call them, and they'll run them all season without ever sharpening those sickles.

TOM: I know it, and you look at that stubble, and ninety percent is pulled off.

DOROTHEA: That's about this tall. Yeah, yeah, with the fuzzy edges.

MARCUS: Yeah, isn't cut, it's just pulled out.

DOROTHEA: And about this tall. You could get ten ton off of what they leave.

TOM: And going about six, eight miles an hour, you know, and that stubble is all leaning one way.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

TOM: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And all yellow.

TOM: Oh we, heck we sharpened our sickles --- well put a new sickle in at half a day. But it's no trick to sharpen a sickle anymore.

DOROTHEA: No.

TOM: But those old ---

MARCUS: The old foot burners ---

TOM: Oh lord, you'd get tired of holding those sickles. And they were short too.

DOROTHEA: Daddy used to hold the sickle, and I used to sit and go like this.

TOM: Oh, yeah. And a can of water ---

DOROTHEA: And pour the water.

TOM: Water up here with a little hole in the bottom of the can, you know, and it would drip down on that old --- but boy could you get a sickle sharp.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, drip, drip, drip.

MARCUS: You bet, ...

DOROTHEA: Oh, boy, yeah. Daddy used to ---

MARCUS: Yeah. you sharpened two sickles, you take turns a peddling, and the other fellow get out here and this one here ---you could sharpen two sickles at one time.

TOM: Yeah, oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well, I was too little to sharpen the sickle, so Daddy set me on the --- ours had a seat on it, and I sat and just peddled this old thing around and around, and this little --- he had a funnel on his.

TOM: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And you'd fill it full of water and keep filling it full of water.

TOM: That's right.

DOROTHEA: But it was --- yeah, that's what I did. I sharpened, or I mean I peddled while he sharpened.

TOM: If they had four or five mowers running, which a lot of ranches did, well they had a man that did nothing but sharpen sickles, you know. That was his job.

MARCUS: Yeah, I fell heir to that job.

TOM: I never did. I run like the devil. I'd sharpen my own, but darned if I would sharpen everybody else's.

ELEANOR: Would you like sugar for your tea?

DOROTHEA: I'll take some.

TOM: I used to, I'd always work these mules, this span of mules that my dad sold, on a mowing machine. We generally ran three mowers. And we'd go down and start on a piece, you know, and I'd take the lead. Go around, oh maybe half, three-quarters of an hour, and I'd be behind. Well they would let me by, and pretty soon I was behind again. And those old horses, the other teams, sweating you know, and those old mules just --- But they just had the perfect gait for a mowing machine, just clickity click.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

TOM: Clickity click.

MARCUS: We had to have that ---

TOM: And never bother them.

MARCUS: Machine cut it good too.

TOM: Oh, yeah, you bet.

DOROTHEA: Well then you have used horses to do a little haying with, yourself, before you got the tractors?

TOM: Oh yeah, we had all kinds of horses. Had a corral full of them there.

MARCUS: Had lots of runaways too, didn't you?

TOM: Oh boy.

ELEANOR: I just rescued this old picture from an early shot of Drewsey.

TOM: That first week, you know ---

MARCUS: It's the only time they would work was when you were haying.

TOM: Yeah, a lot of them.

MARCUS: Yeah, you bet.

DOROTHEA: The Bartlett Hotel.

ELEANOR: Uh huh.

TOM: One-time, Compton Moffet, you know, died a year or so ago, worked for us, he had a big white horse, cattle horse, with a big mule. They was kind of an --- he was an ornery devil. And then I had another team, and we was in different fields, or different pieces, because afraid maybe a runaway or something. And there was a little ridge down there with nothing on it, kind of a gravel ridge, and I was a mowing up on top here, and he was down under the hill. Pretty quick I looked up, and up over that hill come Compton and the team just a running their best. Well they come up there and he saw me, and he sat down on that old white horse's line, and that's --- the machine, the wheels just skidded around. And he was headed the other way in about a half a second, you know. He said he just had super human strength when he saw me out there in front of him.

MARCUS: They will always go to another team.

TOM: Oh, always, always.

MARCUS: Always, you bet.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

TOM: One time they started haying over here, and I wasn't here. I don't know whether I was riding, or something. And the shop was above the ditch over there, and they come. There was a bridge across the ditch. They'd been working on --- well they was tuning the machine up, you know, and they'd come out with this young team. And this old fellow, when he got them hooked up and he started out around, made a circle and down to the gate. My dad opened the gate for him, and

then the bridge was just through the gate. Well, they got pretty near to the gate, I guess they saw it open, they took off. Well, he couldn't hold them. And he fell off or something, or jumped off. Anyway, here they come down --- my dad got out of the road. He had a yellow bob-tailed dog, a heck of a good dog. And he was always right where Dad was. And just as they come over that bridge, the dog was right there too, why the sickle bar came down and cut that dog's head off just as slick as a button, and it rolled down the hill there.

MARCUS: Huh.

TOM: Just that quick.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

TOM: Dad sold that team right away.

DOROTHEA: Those sickle bars are sharp.

TOM: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: Did you break many horses yourself?

TOM: Oh yeah. When I was younger.

ELEANOR: No, I don't think in later years.

TOM: Huh?

ELEANOR: Not in later years anyway.

TOM: No. Oh, I broke workhorses. Gosh, we broke a string of them every year practically. But then I broke my own saddle horses, some of them. Some I tried to break.

BARBARA: Do you remember the first car you ever had?

TOM: Oh, yeah. It was a 1916 Model-T Ford.

ELEANOR: Your parents had it.

TOM: Yeah. Then we had a, I think it was a '23. These were touring cars, you know. (Laughter) Then we bought a, Dad bought a Model-A sedan, I think it was a '29 if I remember right. And it was a going son-of-a-gun. You know it had the small wheels, or small tires.

MARCUS: Yeah.

TOM: And --- four big tires, or wheels. Mud, you know, it just had lots of power, they'd just go

any place.

MARCUS: A lot of clearance too.

TOM: Oh clearance, heck yeah. Mud was, muddy roads weren't any ---

MARCUS: No, you wonder now --- well you went around places with those old cars that you can't hardly get to with these four-wheel drives now.

TOM: Why yeah, lord yes.

MARCUS: You bet, you bet.

BARBARA: Did you learn to drive out in the fields?

TOM: No, I learned to drive the last year I was in high school. My mother lived over there with us, and we had the car over there. Well it was --- that was the car. And I learned to drive it in Burns there, yeah. Burns wasn't like it is now. (Laughter)

MARCUS: No, you wouldn't see a Model-A sitting out there in front of that high school anymore.

TOM: Lord, no. (Laughter)

MARCUS: ... would be to that.

BARBARA: They have better cars than the older people.

DOROTHEA: The parents.

MARCUS: You bet. They are all good ones, and lots of them out there.

ELEANOR: And those pickups, you know, they must cost a fortune. The pickups they drive, the tires ---

DOROTHEA: I'd like to have owned a car as good as some of these kids drive ---

TOM: Oh lord, yes.

DOROTHEA: --- when I first got married.

TOM: You bet.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ELEANOR: We didn't have cars, you know. Maybe an old pickup or something to drive in.

MARCUS: Where does this come from, does this come out of your ---

TOM: Well no, that's --- we found it the other day and it was, do you remember those little

calendars that Sam Burt used to send out from the store?

MARCUS: Yes, yes.

TOM: Well this is one. It was in the calendar, and I just took it out the other day. That's what the hole is, that's where the thermometer was.

MARCUS: Oh, well I'll be darned.

TOM: I think ---

MARCUS: Would that be in Drewsey?

TOM: Well yeah, that's the old hotel building right there.

ELEANOR: The Bartlett Hotel.

TOM: Bartlett Hotel.

MARCUS: This is the Bartlett Hotel?

TOM: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Well, I'll be darned.

TOM: And that freight team is probably ---

MARCUS: I stayed over night in that in 1927, when I come over here to a dance first ... ever at Drewsey.

ELEANOR: Probably ...

DOROTHEA: First and only?

ELEANOR: Wally Welcome was telling me that. He stayed there too when he was a young fellow.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

TOM: Hell, those Burns boys would come over here to a dance, and inevitably some of them would go home with a black eye or a --- Wally was telling one time they come over and played basketball.

MARCUS: Oh, yeah.

TOM: With the Drewsey boys. Burns McGowan was in the bunch, and Miriam McConnell was teaching over here, you know. Well Burns kind of liked her, and there was two or three boys over

here that kind of liked her too. Of course, Burns, knowing him, he'd horn in anyway. Well he tried it that night, but he went home, Wally said with a big nose, hell it was puffed up. (Laughter)

MARCUS: I'll have to tell you a story about an Irishman over here --- this happened over at the Double O country there when the Lakeview Irish used to come in there and winter. And they'd have, they had finished the schoolhouse, and they had a dance up there pretty near every Saturday night, or a party of some kind. And Frank Cote, you knew Frank?

TOM: Oh, yeah.

MARCUS: Frank was sweet on this schoolteacher. Well so was one of these Irishmen. So, Frank decided the thing to do was whip him. So, he ... got this Irishman and tapped him on the shoulder, he said, "I'm going to give you a whipping." He said, "You pull off your coat, I'm going to give you a whipping." He sized Frank up and he says, "And be Jesus, I won't have to take me coat off for a mere lad." (Laughter) Frank says, "Take the girl." (Laughter)

BARBARA: So, the Burns boys liked to come over and cause a little trouble then, huh?

TOM: Oh yeah, you know. They'd get a few drinks in them and --- yeah.

ELEANOR: And you played baseball with them.

TOM: Oh yeah, yeah.

ELEANOR: So, there would be quite a competition.

TOM: Yeah. Drewsey used to have a pretty good baseball team. This was before my time. I was a kid, but I had two or three uncles that played. Well old George Riley, and when they were in their twenties, Joe Lillard, Jimmie Capps.

ELEANOR: And Glenn Sitz was very good.

TOM: Bummer Moffet.

MARCUS: Glenn was a top player, wasn't he?

TOM: Well yeah, but he was a little younger than they were. He finally got in --- he played shortstop. The others were a little older than Glenn.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

TOM: But oh, they played everyplace. Hell, they would go to Ontario, and up to Huntington, and

everyplace.

MARCUS: Yeah, that was a good old pastime. Everybody had a ball team in those days.

TOM: Oh yeah, oh yeah, you bet. And there were some good players.

ELEANOR: There was always something going on, you know, when you don't have entertainment.

TOM: Then if there wasn't a --- the ball diamond is out there where they got that roping arena now, you know. They ruined the ball diamond when they fenced that ---

MARCUS: Oh yeah, yeah.

TOM: --- and plowed it up. And if they didn't have a ball game, why somebody would bring three or four bronco horses or something in there and they'd have kind of a rodeo.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

TOM: Ride out the commons there, you know.

MARCUS: But down at Crane was kind of a hot place long about then too.

TOM: Oh boy, you bet.

MARCUS: Go down to that old ... hall and dance until midnight, and fight until morning.

ELEANOR: Oh, sure.

TOM: Yes sir.

MARCUS: ... used to whip the whole town around. And then Rye Smyth would come along, and it wasn't quite so easy then.

TOM: No.

ELEANOR: You always went to a dance on Saturday night.

MARCUS: Sure.

ELEANOR: Yeah, that was the thing to do.

MARCUS: We went on a Historical Society trip down to the, oh ended up at the dam here, Riverside Dam, and Art Sawyer was along. And somebody said, well we used to dance here, and somebody --- we used to dance here. Well Art says, "Is that all you people did was dance?" And I said, "Well that's all we had to do ---

TOM: That's right, you bet.

MARCUS: --- was dance."

BARBARA: Who were some of the people that played the music, or had the little bands, or groups or whatever?

TOM: Oh gosh, seemed like there was never any shortage. There was always somebody that could

---

ELEANOR: And in later years, of course the Riley ---

TOM: Oh yeah, the Riley's. Ruth Riley played the piano, and Howard here played a saxophone.

ELEANOR: Joe Boy played ---

TOM: Joe Boy Lillard was saxophone.

MARCUS: Well, the Gearharts were pretty musical.

TOM: Oh, they were always playing.

ELEANOR: They were pretty good. They were before, you know, Riley.

MARCUS: Yes. I never knew any of them either, just by hearsay.

TOM: Yeah.

ELEANOR: And then you know, Helen Jenkins used to play.

MARCUS: Oh, you bet.

TOM: Oh yeah, she --- they'd come over. If you couldn't get somebody here, they'd always be somebody from Burns, you know.

MARCUS: Dewey Robinson.

TOM: Oh god he ---

MARCUS: I'll tell you, we sure used to dance to him.

TOM: --- man.

MARCUS: He'd dance with you, you know.

TOM: Yeah, he could just ----

MARCUS: He'd dance around the piano, and sit down, and nobody would miss a lick.

TOM: Yes sir, I never heard a man that ---

DOROTHEA: Well don't you think the kids used to play more musical instruments than they do

now?

TOM: Oh lord, yes.

DOROTHEA: Because I know none of my kids --- well I shouldn't say any of them, but ---

MARCUS: Well, they're all sitting staring at this TV. And this stuff that they hear now, you know, there is no music to it, just a lot of noise.

BARBARA: Just noise.

DOROTHEA: But the bands don't, they aren't as big and they don't have the concerts that they used to.

ELEANOR: No. Burns used to have a beautiful band.

TOM: In fact, the kids can't dance. They can't dance.

BARBARA: They don't dance with each other, that's for sure.

TOM: No, and well if they do, you know, just hang on.

BARBARA: We enjoyed hanging on to each other.

TOM: Just hang on and --- I get disgusted watching them.

MARCUS: That's what we'd go to the dance for, you know, was to hang on to the girls.

ELEANOR: Put your arms around the girls.

MARCUS: Sure.

BARBARA: The only place you were allowed to.

ELEANOR: Yeah.

MARCUS: Now they don't know who they are dancing with. Gosh down there --- did you folks go down to the Elks Club the other night after the wedding?

TOM: Well yeah, we came home pretty early though.

MARCUS: So, did we. We stayed until that music started.

TOM: Yeah, well we did too.

MARCUS: And it about blowed our heads off and we left.

TOM: And you can't --- it's so darned loud, you know, you can't even visit.

MARCUS: No, no. If you don't want to dance, you can't talk to anybody because they can't hear

you.

TOM: And, I don't know, that music, it's all got the same beat.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: Just loud, that's all it is.

TOM: Loud, that's all.

MARCUS: You bet.

ELEANOR: The funniest thing happened when our daughter was a teenager. And they first started dancing, you know, way out here. This fellow, Jim Conner, you know he was kind of comical.

TOM: A clown.

ELEANOR: Well he --- she was out there dancing, her partner was over here, so he got up and started to dance with her. She said, "I'm dancing with so and so." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: How could you tell?

ELEANOR: Yeah.

MARCUS: Could have fooled me anyway.

ELEANOR: Yeah, how did I know.

MARCUS: Well, they are just fazing us out, is what it amounts to.

ELEANOR: Yeah, things have to change.

TOM: Yeah, that's right.

MARCUS: Might just as well get on with it.

BARBARA: I'm still fighting it.

MARCUS: Well, you're a few years younger than we are too. We'd be fighting it too if we were back here forty or fifty years.

ELEANOR: Right, have the energy.

TOM: I've got bad knees, I can't ---

DOROTHEA: Well what has been your greatest pleasure or joy about ranching? What has kept you here all this time?

TOM: Well, I like the livestock, the cattle. I'd rather work with them than anything, and ride the

range. And that's what I've done most of my life.

DOROTHEA: Have you ever been sorry that you didn't pursue some other kind of an occupation?

TOM: No, not really. I regret I didn't go on to college, but that's the only thing.

DOROTHEA: Did your children go on to college?

TOM: Pam did, but Tommy --- what did he --- he went one quarter or two quarters?

ELEANOR: Well, he went for a year.

TOM: He graduated quick.

ELEANOR: He thought he knew more than --- much to our disgust.

TOM: Well, he come home and went to work, you know, which is what I did. I got out of high school right in the middle of the depression, and I've been here ever since.

MARCUS: I think Tom is kind of like me. They asked me, they said, "How long have you been here in Harney County?" I said, "Well, I was born in Burns in 1907, and I've never made money enough to leave."

TOM: Well, no.

ELEANOR: Right. And then when you got enough money to leave, you didn't want to, right?

MARCUS: No, no, that's ---

TOM: I haven't seen any place that I would rather be, really.

MARCUS: No, that's the whole thing, Tom.

TOM: I have been perfectly satisfied all my life. But it's getting worse right now.

BARBARA: Are you still active in ranching now, or have you retired, or sort of?

TOM: Well, I'm kind of phasing out because I can't keep up. Oh, I don't work like I did.

BARBARA: Well, there is no reason to, huh?

TOM: Well no, I'll probably hay some, and I ride. I had kind of --- I don't know what it was last fall, heart attack or something. I haven't been the same since.

BARBARA: Time to slow down just a little bit.

TOM: Yeah, that's what the doctor told me. He said, "Just take her easy." And Tommy's boys are getting big enough --- they're up at Calamity today riding.

DOROTHEA: How old are they now?

ELEANOR: Fifteen --- or no, fourteen.

TOM: Fourteen and eleven.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they're getting at that good age.

TOM: Oh, yeah. And they ---

DOROTHEA: Getting at the handy age too.

TOM: Yeah.

BARBARA: So, what do you do to fill your time, most of the time now?

TOM: Ask her.

ELEANOR: He reads.

TOM: She keeps me busy.

ELEANOR: He likes to read.

BARBARA: Well that's great.

TOM: Oh yeah, I do lots of reading.

BARBARA: That's good.

ELEANOR: He's always read.

TOM: I've always read.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any special hobbies that you like to do? Do you like to carpenter or ---

TOM: No, I never was a carpenter. I never was a mechanic. I never got on a tractor until I was forty-five years old. (Laughter) And I have an awful time with Tommy, you know, feed in the wintertime. I will drive the tractor, and I make lots of "bolly greens". (Laughter) He just looks meaner ---

ELEANOR: He's not a good driver. Like he knocks out the gateposts.

MARCUS: Kind of nice to sit in the house and look at --- you can look through the window and watch the snow flakes go by.

TOM: You bet, you bet, yeah. But I fed cattle all winter. We had one of those spinners, you know, on the tractor, and these round bales. Hell, you just back into it and go out and pull the strings off

and turn her loose.

MARCUS: Yeah, quite a difference.

ELEANOR: It gets simpler all the time.

TOM: But I was --- I like to be a horseback. I rode a horse all my life. That's what's the matter with my knees.

DOROTHEA: That's when you feel the most at home, huh?

TOM: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: So, have you done any traveling over the years? Or would you like to do some?

TOM: Well, we drove back to Washington, D. C. one summer with her brother-in-law. And we've been up and down the coast and around.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever get the urge to go back to Ireland to find out where your distant relatives came from?

TOM: No, lord, no.

DOROTHEA: Never had the urge?

ELEANOR: I went back.

TOM: Eleanor went back.

ELEANOR: Tried to get him to go, but he would not go. I went. My parents both came from ...

TOM: Yeah, they were born in Ireland.

DOROTHEA: Oh, so you've got more connection there.

ELEANOR: Uh huh, I guess. He's farther removed.

TOM: I don't even know where --- yeah, they came in the --- well he was born in '32, and they came two years before he was born, so that would be 1830. So, I don't know what was going on there then.

BARBARA: Well, there certainly has been a lot that's happened since then. So, it's probably not too good of a place to be.

ELEANOR: Well, Tom went to Hawaii.

TOM: Oh yeah, I went to Hawaii.

ELEANOR: I don't know how come he ever did that.

TOM: Well, I always kind of wanted to go there. But I don't care whether I ever go back.

MARCUS: Well they dug our old president up that's been dead for 141 years.

ELEANOR: I know.

TOM: Isn't that a ---

MARCUS: Isn't that the damndest thing anybody ever heard of?

TOM: Oh, god.

MARCUS: They've got very little to do, that's all I can say.

ELEANOR: That's true.

TOM: Gee.

ELEANOR: We should be taking care of some of our dying children who need food.

TOM: Oh, this country, I don't know. I hate to be a fatalist, but I think it's headed downhill.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, you bet.

TOM: We've reached the peak.

DOROTHEA: Well this place then is over a hundred years old.

TOM: Yeah, it's a hundred and what, two --- well it's been deeded since '83. A hundred and ---

BARBARA: Eight.

TOM: Eight years. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: How are these new rules and regulations with the water and wetlands and things going to affect you?

TOM: This water deal is something else. We have been fighting them for five years here. And we're finally going to have a hearing the 16th of July. And I don't know what it's going to amount to.

DOROTHEA: Well, I see you've got a creek that runs right by you. Is it going to affect that?

TOM: Well that is our ditch. That's our irrigation ditch.

DOROTHEA: That's your irrigating ditch.

TOM: It comes out of the river. And we've got our old prior rights. And --- but you take, it's three-

acre feet, well you take these ranches like these on this valley that are --- none of them are too well developed when it comes to being level and such, you know. They're pretty rough and ---

DOROTHEA: Hillsides and rough.

TOM: And three acre-feet won't hardly do the job. Well over the years, in the spring of the year when the river is high, running bank full or maybe out over part of your meadow, we've always filled this ditch and soaked these meadows up. Well nothing was ever said, and we're under the, the two water districts down below on this water. Of course, our three acre-feet is prior to their rights. But this other water, like they said you're stealing it. Dr. Weare, young doc, he sit right down here and said that, you're stealing that water. We didn't have a right!

MARCUS: (Laughter) No water left.

TOM: And god, the river was spilling over the banks, you know. And you fill these meadows full of water early, and it stays damp all summer, and the springs the full length of the river all summer long from this water that --- But you can't make those people from the Willamette Valley believe that. They don't want to.

MARCUS: They don't want to.

TOM: Uh huh. Oh, we have had rows.

MARCUS: Well Tom, you've lots of this water that you irrigate with that runs right back into the river and goes right on.

TOM: Why it goes --- there is not two meadows in this valley ---well this meadow right here is one of the --- I'd say it's the longest distance between the ditch and the river as any of them.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

TOM: They are all --- some is a hundred yards, two hundred yards, three hundred. There is darn few of them that's over a quarter or, or much more than that.

MARCUS: You bet.

TOM: So, you know it's back in the river pretty quick. But now they don't know whether they want that water that's run over this ground.

MARCUS: Picked up a few cow chips?

TOM: Yeah. And it's --- the fish. And that's what started it all. They wanted us to give them fifteen second-feet of water for the fish in the summer. See we --- the river by the time all the ditches are in operation here, and the weather turns hot, why there is not very much water left in the river. Well they wanted a fifteen second-feet for the fish. They go up from the Warm Springs Reservoir to lay their eggs, and then they come back, you know. Well that's all done before the river gets that low. But they still wanted it. And that's what started the whole darn business.

ELEANOR: And tell them about the fish ---

TOM: And now they've filed on all the other water, other than our three acre-feet. Unless we can get another foot and a half, which we've applied for, for early spring water. And that's what we're fighting over, and that's what the hearing is over. And it's before the Water Resource Board. And they're all --- there is two men from Eastern Oregon, and the rest are all from Salem, or the Valley. And one woman lives in Portland. The chairman of the board, I don't know where she lives, she doesn't know any more about irrigating than that dog. No, and they're ---

MARCUS: Well, sure.

TOM: And they --- we were, Ken Bentz and I were down there to the hearing the first time. See they allowed it once, and then they reneged.

MARCUS: Oh?

TOM: Uh huh. And we were at that meeting, and they wouldn't let us talk. They wouldn't let us say a word. But our lawyer could, he let him say a little. Oh, they're very --- what would you call them? Overbearing for one thing.

MARCUS: Well, they've got no compassion for their fellow man anymore.

TOM: Not a bit. Cramer, Bill Cramer was on the board at that time, and he's the only man --- well I'll take that back. There was two men there from Southern Oregon, around Medford at that time, that were okay. They sided with us.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

TOM: And they allowed it. And then about six months later why they got a new crew in there and they reneged it. Yeah.

MARCUS: Changed again.

TOM: Yeah, yeah. So now we're trying again. And we've got the Water Watch, and The Oregon Trout, and the Fish and Game, on us.

MARCUS: You bet, you got them all.

TOM: And we was supposed to had a hearing --- well the State hired a mediator, a professional mediator. He's an old forest man. His name is Chadwick, I believe. And that's his business; he just tries to settle disputes and such. And we had a meeting set up in Baker for the 3rd, no the 1st of July. Had our witnesses all ready to go talk, and they backed out. They didn't want to talk. So then in two or three days they called again and said well we'll meet with you in Bend the 24th. Well the 23rd they called again, and they backed out. So, they don't want to talk to us.

MARCUS: Well now does this expert, is he kind of heading this up all this time that they're ---

TOM: Well, he's ready to come and talk to us, you know. He has nothing to do with backing out. He is as disgusted as we are with them. But I think they think they've got a better chance before this Water Resource Board, which they have too.

MARCUS: Oh sure, sure, you bet.

TOM: Yeah. So, I don't know whether we will win out or not, I don't know.

MARCUS: Well Tom, you've probably got one of the oldest water rights in this valley, haven't you?

TOM: Yeah, yeah, '83.

MARCUS: Yeah.

TOM: Yeah. And oh, I'll tell you, it gripes you. You go and you argue with those damn idiots. They don't know what in the heck they are talking about. And this one woman, I'll tell you, they are the worst.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, you bet.

TOM: But this one gal, she works for the ODF&W, that's the Fish and Game, and she lobbies all winter with the legislature, for the Fish and Game. And she is just as slim, just a string bean. And she comes to these meetings in an old pair of faded, washed jeans, maybe with a hole in them, and

she looks like hell, and thinks she is smarter than the devil, and got her mouth open all the time.

And I'll tell you it is awful hard to take. (Laughter) My gosh, geeze! You sit there and listen to her --- Here is an earring, I believe.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah, it is, I must have lost it out. Thank you. Well Tom, let's go on to what kind of other organizations do you belong to?

TOM: Oh, I used to belong to the grange years ago, but it kind of got old to me.

DOROTHEA: Are you an Elk or an Odd Fellow?

TOM: I was an Elk for, well I got my twenty-five-year pin and then I finally just dropped out.

DOROTHEA: I know this must go in here somewhere.

TOM: And that's about all I ever ---

ELEANOR: Well, you're a Cattleman.

TOM: Well, I'm a Cattleman, yeah. I was the president for one year. One year was enough.

ELEANOR: The state and national.

TOM: Yeah, I belonged to them; I belonged to all of that. Every few days you get another bill from them, you know. But they got to have money.

ELEANOR: Well they do, I think they're doing their best.

TOM: Oh yeah, they are working their best.

BARBARA: They're trying to do a lot more advertising now ---

TOM: You bet, oh yeah.

BARBARA: --- and educate people that beef is not all that bad for them after all.

TOM: Yeah, that's right.

BARBARA: So, it takes the advertising anymore.

TOM: Yeah, it does.

ELEANOR: Yeah, and you were a school board member for years.

TOM: Oh god, yeah, I was a school board member for fifteen years. And then they put me on the budget committee, and I've been on that ever since.

DOROTHEA: Are you still on it?

TOM: Yeah, uh huh. And I was president of this ditch company, the Reclamation Company for twenty-five, thirty years. And it seemed like for a while there, one time I had --- well I had two checking accounts in two different banks of my own, and I had three others.

BARBARA: Kept you busy keeping everything straight.

TOM: They'd form some kind of an organization, and then I'd get the job of the secretary.

MARCUS: Well, can't you manage like some of our senators and representatives are. You can use those ---

BARBARA: I'm afraid that isn't worth the effort.

MARCUS: Well it appeals to them.

BARBARA: It causes a lot of trouble.

DOROTHEA: Well Tom, unless you think we can fill some more on another tape, my little bell is telling me that we are about out of tape on this time. If you'd like to add to this ---

TOM: Well, I could talk about my mother's folks too some, you know.

DOROTHEA: Okay, why don't we just ---

TOM: And then Eleanor's ---

ELEANOR: But it wouldn't fill a tape.

DOROTHEA: Well, that's okay.

TOM: No, that wouldn't, but then we could discuss your dad's history.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that would be nice. If you want to take the time. We've already taken up an hour and a half of your time.

TOM: Oh hell, the time is nothing.

DOROTHEA: So ---

BARBARA: Time is all you have, huh?

TOM: That's all I've got is time.

DOROTHEA: I have a little bell that rings on here, and a little light that goes off, and so it tells me that my tape has about run out. So, let's change tapes, and we'll go on to that then.

SIDE C

DOROTHEA: Okay.

TOM: Well my mother's folks came to this country in the early '80's from Southern Oregon, I think around Ashland and that area. But they originally came from Missouri. They spent some time in Texas. Then they came to Oregon, and then here. And there was a big family of them, and my grandfather married here I guess. So consequently, he stayed. And they located in the upper valley up here, Calamity and that area. And like I said a while ago, he was a sheep shearer by trade, and that's about all he did. He'd shear sheep about six, seven months out of the year.

BARBARA: Wasn't that kind of hard on your grandmother to be left alone all those months?

TOM: It was, you bet, you bet. And they had several kids. Well he would come home, and then every spring there was another baby. One of those deals.

BARBARA: He knew how to do one thing.

TOM: Yeah. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Sheep shearer, and have kids.

TOM: But the older ones were boys, and they went out, they were working early. And then they moved to Drewsey and they ran a hotel there for a long time, my grandmother did.

BARBARA: And her name again.

TOM: Sarah Ward, or Sally they called her.

BARBARA: Sarah.

TOM: And the boys, well the only work there was here in those days was buckarooing for the PLS Company. I had an uncle, a great uncle he was, he buckarood for Pete French for twenty-two years.

MARCUS: What was his name?

TOM: Charlie.

MARCUS: Charlie Ward? He wasn't along when he was killed, was he?

TOM: Uh huh, he was there that morning. He worked two more years, and then he quit.

DOROTHEA: After Pete was killed?

TOM: Yeah, yeah. Bill Hanley was running it. He said it wasn't the same. Then he went out and

he worked for Bill Brown for years, running horses.

MARCUS: That was a little different too.

TOM: Oh yeah. And he stayed there until he got too old to do that, and then he herded sheep for him. Then he, Brown went broke and he moved up around Pendleton, he worked for that Cunningham Sheep Company for a long time. And then he got over in Montana, and that's where he --- he herded sheep there until he died. But he came here to spend a winter with us every once in awhile.

DOROTHEA: What did your mother's mother do while --- your grandmother do while her husband was gone?

TOM: Well she ran that hotel, and that's about all I know of. And the boys, these older boys were working. I guess they --- and he'd send money home, you know. And I don't know, she was in that hotel for a long time, because my mother went to school in Drewsey.

DOROTHEA: So how many children were there in that family?

TOM: Oh golly, there was seven or eight. Two girls and six boys I believe, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now this includes the ones that died, or this is after the ---

TOM: Just one died, and he died when he was nineteen. The rest of them all lived. Well, her sister died when, oh her family were small. And Francis Miller, do you know him, that was his mother, Wilma Dunten, Claire Newell, and Lawrence Miller.

MARCUS: Oh, she was out of this family, huh? The mother?

TOM: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: I didn't know that.

TOM: Yeah, she was a sister to my mother.

DOROTHEA: Claire Newell was too?

TOM: No, Claire is a cousin.

DOROTHEA: A cousin.

TOM: Yeah.

ELEANOR: Of yours.

TOM: Of mine. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

ELEANOR: And a niece of your mother's.

TOM: Yeah, uh huh. Claire and Wilma, and Francis and Lawrence.

ELEANOR: Tell them the story about the Timms fellow. Your grandmother is ---

TOM: Well, there was a grave up here on this Cleveland place that we bought, this co-op, and it turned out that it was our great-grandmother. And they, when they came through the country here, why they lived up there for a while. And she died there, and they just took her up on the flat there, or bench, and buried her. And we've always known the grave was there, but we never did know whose it was, or we weren't --- well it was just never was brought to our attention really. And so, after --- who did start it, Lawrence?

ELEANOR: Lawrence.

TOM: Anyway, we got to looking into it, and Victor Cleveland came over and showed Lawrence where it was. Well, we decided he didn't have the right place. It's up on the flat, and the flat has been plowed, but it's all in sagebrush now. And he --- I don't know what got us to thinking, but there wasn't any rocks up there, not a darn rock. But over here in one place there is a lot of river gravel just around, you know, say the size of this room. And it's right above our meadow, and you go up a pretty steep little hill to get up there, and that hillside is all gravel, just --- be a good gravel pit. Well I'll bet that whole flat is undermined, you know, with gravel. And where these river rocks are, we decided that's where that grave is, because they are not natural there, they've been turned up.

So, we, Lawrence had a tombstone made with her history on it, and brought it up here and we took it up last fall and set it up. And we dug down where we figured about the head of the grave was, and it was just as easy digging there, you know, and it was pretty dry dirt too at that time. And we dug down, oh that far, you know, to get a good foundation for it. So, I think we got the right place. Anyway, we got a tombstone there.

ELEANOR: Tell them about the marker.

TOM: Well, the original marker we got, the first one, the heavy one, we decided if we put it up

there it would be a good target for deer hunters and such. And of course, while we owned the field we could kind of patrol it or watch it, you know, but in the future, you don't know what's going to happen.

So, the Wards, by the way they have a big reunion every year. Well --- and it's a, they go at it in a business-like way; they pay their dues and everything. And some of them wanted to put the headstone up there, and some of us wanted to put it down here in the cemetery, because she's got --- well she's got her daughter and two grandsons and a granddaughter right there. And we wanted to put it right along side of them, you know, which we did finally.

But we --- Lawrence had it all made, and he brought it up here, and so we put it in our garage out here for --- it was there for six, eight, well pretty near a year. And finally got the big argument settled, and we put it down there.

ELEANOR: ... about the insurance man.

TOM: Anyway, one day I was sitting out there, we'd taken some; oh, a box of old canceled checks or something sitting out there. And the kids had upset them and I was sitting there one day picking them up and looking at them. And this car drove in, drove right up in front of me, a stranger, I didn't know who he was. He got out and come around, an insurance man. I didn't even bother to get up. I was civil to him, that's about all. But he set down there, talking, talking, and I could see him, he would look at me and then he'd look at that headstone. Then he'd look; pretty quick he would look at it again. Finally, he said, "Is there a story behind that?" "Well," I said, "yeah I guess there is." So, I told him. But I could just see the curiosity rolling out of him, you know. I should have said, "Yeah, the grave is right here."

ELEANOR: Yeah ...

TOM: Anyway, we built another one up there, just a marker made out of metal, welded and all such. Some fellow made it down there for Lawrence. Did a good job, pretty artistic.

DOROTHEA: Do you have one down at the cemetery also?

TOM: Well, we put it down there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you put it down there.

TOM: Yeah, it's down there. And we've got on it that the grave is up, told where it was. Then that family --- well that was my granddad's mother. Then they moved on over to Riggins, Idaho. And that's where Lawrence finally found the great-great-grandfather's grave. That was the end of the line there. But he spent two or three years tracing that family out.

DOROTHEA: Now is Jim Ward some of your relation too?

TOM: Yeah, he is a cousin.

DOROTHEA: He's a cousin.

TOM: In fact, he grew up here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I knew he did.

TOM: He came here when he was what, twelve years old.

DOROTHEA: I figured he must be related somehow.

TOM: Yeah.

MARCUS: Who is his father, Tom?

TOM: Herb. He was next to the youngest boy. There was Ed, and Jess, and Lige, and Grover, and Herb and Lon. And Jess died when he was nineteen.

DOROTHEA: Well Eleanor, do you want to tell us something about some of your family?

TOM: Well ---

ELEANOR: I'm going to let Tom tell you, because his voice is better than mine, it will carry better, he knows the history.

TOM: Well your dad came from Ireland in when, 1907?

ELEANOR: Uh huh.

TOM: To New York City. Well, he came --- he, where did he land, Philadelphia, yeah. But he went to New York. He had a sister didn't he there, up there or something?

ELEANOR: Right, in New York City.

TOM: Yeah. And he was there several years. And he worked for the, oh the biscuit company.

ELEANOR: Nabisco.

TOM: Nabisco. They were in operation clear back then.

BARBARA: That's a long time.

TOM: Yeah. He worked for them for several years. But his folks had had sheep in Ireland, and that's all he'd ever done was work the sheep, you know, and he hadn't lived in cities. So, he came west, he had some relatives up at The Dalles, or south of The Dalles, running a sheep ranch for someone. He came out to them, Shaniko. And he herded sheep there for a few years, and finally he got enough money to buy a band, didn't he?

ELEANOR: Uh huh. He made a stake.

TOM: And they come clear up --- and they'd summer up here on the Strawberry. And he got his own sheep, well he come up that spring to the Strawberry and then he came off that fall down into this country, or over the North Fork, and in there, and the head of Cottonwood. And then he bought hay in Agency Valley. And that's how he got into this country, and that was 1912. And then your mother was already, she came before he did, didn't she? She worked in ---

ELEANOR: Pittsburgh.

TOM: Pittsburgh. And in 19 --- when? 1919 --- '18.

ELEANOR: 1918.

TOM: Why he went back to Pittsburgh and they were married.

ELEANOR: Well, he met her there.

TOM: Oh, he met her; he didn't know her before that?

ELEANOR: Well, it was 1917 or '16; he met her earlier back there. And then they corresponded all this time. And in 1918 he went back. They were married and she came out here, and she thought she was really at the end of the earth, because Juntura in those days ---

TOM: Well that was the end of the railroad.

ELEANOR: Yes.

BARBARA: The end of the world, huh?

ELEANOR: She got off the train, and there was mud, you know how adobe mud is. And she said she had on these little rubbers, you know, high heels. And she got out and lost her rubber, and of course in Juntura everyone was looking at the new bride. Dad was so embarrassed because she

stepped in the mud. (Laughter) But they stayed there always and raised four children.

DOROTHEA: Are there four girls or ---

ELEANOR: Three girls and a boy. I was the oldest.

DOROTHEA: What are your sister's and brother's names?

ELEANOR: John Joyce was my brother, and he lives in Ontario. And Patricia Joyce Bachman was my sister, and she passed away the 18th of May. And my youngest sister is Cecelia Jameson. She married Joe Jameson from Burns, and she lives in Beaverton. Joe has passed away. She raised ten children.

BARBARA: Oh my.

DOROTHEA: Your youngest sister did?

ELEANOR: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And your maiden name was Joyce?

ELEANOR: Joyce.

BARBARA: J O Y C E.

ELEANOR: Right. And there were several families of Joyce's there. Well, four families actually that raised children there. And two families were related to each other. Two brothers, and then two other brothers were --- but not to each other. There was ---

DOROTHEA: In other words, two separate families.

TOM: Yeah.

ELEANOR: Two separate families of Joyce's.

BARBARA: So, your father's brother then came to Juntura also?

ELEANOR: Yes.

BARBARA: I see.

ELEANOR: He came later. He came after my father was there. And there was quite an Irish settlement in Juntura in those days. In fact, it was mostly Irish.

TOM: Oh yeah.

ELEANOR: Uh huh. And it was a big shipping center, you know, the cattle and sheep. It was

quite a community.

MARCUS: Your father was named Martin?

ELEANOR: Martin, uh huh.

MARCUS: Yes, Martin.

BARBARA: And your mother's name?

ELEANOR: Annie.

BARBARA: Annie.

ELEANOR: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And so, he originally was with sheep, and then did he continue with that, or what did he do?

ELEANOR: Yes, he did until he retired.

TOM: Yeah.

BARBARA: I see.

ELEANOR: Then my brother ran it for a few years, but he sold it. It was so hard to get herders.

TOM: The BLM ---

ELEANOR: Everything was so different, you know.

TOM: --- fenced the range up.

ELEANOR: But my mother's name was Joyce too. But they were not related.

BARBARA: Oh, isn't that interesting.

ELEANOR: And I couldn't quite understand it until I went back there. There is a place in Ireland called Joyce Country, near Galloway, and it is true, almost everyone there is named Joyce.

BARBARA: Kind of like Smith or Jones in the United States?

ELEANOR: Yes, uh huh.

BARBARA: I see.

ELEANOR: And you know they are not all related. And they didn't know each other in Ireland.

They didn't really live that far from each other, but they just had their own little villages and didn't have the transportation. But it's a beautiful country.

DOROTHEA: Is it as green as everybody says it is?

ELEANOR: Uh huh, it is. And it's just a special green too. It seems like it is a different green. It is just so bright, there is something about it, it's hard to describe. You just almost have to see it to believe it. And they say Scotland is like that too.

TOM: And they turn the sheep loose, they run on their own and they herd the cows.

ELEANOR: In Ireland.

BARBARA: Is that right?

ELEANOR: They'll be going down, you know, the road with a sheep stick, and there will be the cows, they are herding them. And the sheep, everywhere.

TOM: Everywhere.

ELEANOR: At night they bed on the roads. You have to be careful driving, they are on the roads.

DOROTHEA: They are a different kind of a cow, aren't they? I mean they are not like the Herefords and ---

TOM: Yeah, yeah, they are.

ELEANOR: They are Herefords.

TOM: You know the Herefords and the Angus and Galloway are British bred cattle. That's where they came from.

ELEANOR: And they are ---

TOM: I think mainly, there are lots of black ones there, wasn't there?

ELEANOR: Uh huh.

TOM: Yeah. Angus and Galloway.

DOROTHEA: Must be the Galloway I'm thinking about.

TOM: They are the longhaired ones, you know, and the short noses.

ELEANOR: I didn't see --- they could be there, but I didn't see them.

TOM: Well, Angus is the main breed.

MARCUS: Well are you related to Peter Joyce's ... used to say.

ELEANOR: No, not related to Peter.

MARCUS: I can't think of his name right now.

ELEANOR: Oh, are you thinking of Jack Dillon or ...

MARCUS: No, no. He had the property ---

TOM: Oh, Philip?

ELEANOR: Philip Coyne.

MARCUS: Philip Coyne, Philip Coyne, yeah, you bet.

ELEANOR: Oh yes, he was our character. Another old Irishman, he never married.

MARCUS: Always called him Peter "Joyst"!

DOROTHEA: You had better spell that name for us.

TOM: C O Y N E.

DOROTHEA: C O Y N E.

BARBARA: And did you go to school in Juntura then?

ELEANOR: Yes, uh huh. And they had a high school at that time.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right? I was wondering, uh huh.

ELEANOR: Went to high school there.

DOROTHEA: Do they still have a high school there?

ELEANOR: No, they haven't for years. I think my sister; my youngest sister was the last class.

DOROTHEA: Class. And what year was that?

ELEANOR: '40 --- what?

TOM: Well, let's see.

ELEANOR: '43, '44. '44.

TOM: '43 or '44, during the war I know.

BARBARA: And so did you look forward to being a rancher's wife, or did you have other aspirations?

ELEANOR: I really hadn't planned on it, it just happened that way. I did, after I graduated from high school I went to Portland to Marylhurst College. Took my teacher's training there. When I came back I taught in Vale for three years. Then I married Tom and came to Drewsey and taught

up here for two years after I was married. It was during the war and they were having a very difficult time getting ---

BARBARA: Desperate for teachers.

ELEANOR: Oh yes, it was a crime.

DOROTHEA: Well there is one question that we didn't ask Tom. Can you remember something vividly about your wedding day?

TOM: Awful hot.

ELEANOR: Extremely. And we were married in Juntura in the little Catholic Church there. And it was the first wedding that they'd had. You know in those days people used to kind of go somewhere and just get married.

TOM: Well, they would go to the JP or --- if it was a big wedding why it would be in town or ---

ELEANOR: Uh huh. And so that was the first wedding there. People came from far and near and had a big party. It was --- but from that time on, there have been lots of weddings there.

BARBARA: You started a trend.

ELEANOR: Well, I don't know, but it seemed like it. People ...

People just ...

TOM: Well it was kind of the beginning of that generation.

ELEANOR: Yeah, of the era, or something.

DOROTHEA: You found out that you could have a wedding at home.

ELEANOR: Right, uh huh.

BARBARA: Well, we have talked to a lot of people that talk about going to Winnemucca or Reno, or someplace like that and going to get married.

TOM: Oh yeah, well that's what they used to do.

ELEANOR: Well you know, most people did.

BARBARA: Or they were just married in their parent's home and that was just the end of it, you know, no big deal.

TOM: Yeah.

ELEANOR: Yeah.

TOM: And my parents were married in the, oh gosh, what was the doctor's name?

ELEANOR: Not Marsden. That was a different ---

MARCUS: Geary?

TOM: Might have been. Might have been Geary.

MARCUS: Yeah, he was after ...

TOM: Yeah.

ELEANOR: In Burns.

TOM: In Burns.

MARCUS: Yes. Marsden born me, and Geary born sis.

DOROTHEA: Did he live in that big old rock house there, is he the one?

TOM: No, that was Dr. Ground.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that was Ground.

TOM: No, I think Geary lived in that house, I believe Dr. Smith lived in it for ---

ELEANOR: It was a stone house though.

TOM: No.

ELEANOR: Wasn't it? I always thought it was, you know.

TOM: No. No, when I went to school over there, the first year there was a family living in that stone house name of Hodges. And they ran the, they called it the Holly Cafe, and then they changed it to the Harney Cafe, and now it is the Tijuana. No, yeah, the Tijuana. I know they had twin boys that were, started to school when I did, freshman. Lark and Clark Hodge.

BARBARA: Mark and Lark?

TOM: Lark and Clark.

BARBARA: Lark and Clark.

DOROTHEA: Lark and Clark.

TOM: And they looked alike too.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

ELEANOR: Lark.

TOM: And then they moved away ---

BARBARA: Sounds like a Swedish name.

TOM: --- and another family moved in there. And I don't know what, I think he must have worked at the mill or something. And they had twin girls, and they were in our class, only it was the next year. And what the heck was their names? Laraway. Laddie and Bobbie. Barbara and Adelaide.

DOROTHEA: Laddie and Bobbie.

TOM: Yeah. And then they left. And we had the Hanley twins all the time in our class. But we always had two or three sets of twins in there.

BARBARA: That's unusual.

TOM: Yeah, it was. But then I think Dr. Ground moved into that building after these people moved away. And he lived in it for years.

DOROTHEA: Well it seems like when we first came to Burns there was a doctor that was still in it.

TOM: Yeah. Well, he came with the mill, as I remember.

DOROTHEA: He was probably one of it. When did he --- because we came into Burns in 1940.

TOM: Well yeah, he was there then I'm sure.

DOROTHEA: And I know Smith and Weare were both at the hospital.

TOM: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: There was a doctor on that corner.

TOM: Yeah, it was Dr. Ground. And then there used to be a Dr. Homan over there too.

DOROTHEA: But he was down where Cork Palmer's building is.

TOM: Yeah. He married a Burns girl. What in the heck --- Leonard, wasn't it? Annette Leonard married Dr. Homan.

MARCUS: Yeah. I'm sure that's right.

DOROTHEA: We were trying to think of what Dr. Homan's first name was, can you remember?

MARCUS: No, I don't remember what it was.

TOM: Oh, it started with a W.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's what we figured.

TOM: And it wasn't William, it was Wilford or ---

DOROTHEA: Eunice said that it was Gary Cronin's middle name. And I wanted to call him Homer, but she said no, it was Waldo.

TOM: I believe maybe it was.

MARCUS: Yeah, that sounds about right.

TOM: Yeah, that's it.

DOROTHEA: I didn't think that sounded right, but she thought it was Waldo.

TOM: Yeah, it was.

BARBARA: Waldo was a common name years ago.

TOM: Oh yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: There were a lot of people --- Waldo.

TOM: Waldo Geer.

MARCUS: Yeah, they had Waldo Geer there about that time. You remember old Dr. Meyer up there in the ---

TOM: Oh gosh, yeah.

MARCUS: --- across from the library there.

TOM: Well, he lived in that stone building too.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, sure.

TOM: Yeah, he lived there after Ground.

DOROTHEA: I think that's who was the doctor ... Dr. Meyer.

TOM: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: That's where --- there in 1938, 1937. Mid [Mildred] Parker shot his wife.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Right in front of the house.

TOM: Who shot him, I've forgotten.

MARCUS: Mid Parker, John Parker's wife.

TOM: Oh, that's right, yeah.

MARCUS: John was playing around ---

TOM: Yeah, I'd forgotten all about that.

ELEANOR: Drewsey wasn't the only bad place.

MARCUS: ... accused her of. Well it was one of those things. He said it sure isn't ...

DOROTHEA: Oh dear.

TOM: Yeah, I'd forgotten all about that. That was kind of a haunted house there for a while.

MARCUS: You bet, sure was.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, people didn't live in it.

TOM: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Did you enjoy teaching?

ELEANOR: Yes, very much.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And did you have large classes, or were they

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ELEANOR: When I first came to Drewsey I had all eight grades. Of course, when I taught in Vale it was a graded system.

BARBARA: I see. And what grade did you teach?

ELEANOR: I taught fifth, and then I taught fourth and fifth combined. About thirty pupils.

DOROTHEA: When you taught in Drewsey, how many students did you have?

ELEANOR: Well, I probably had just twelve or thirteen, was about all I had, fourteen.

TOM: Pat O'Toole, Terry Williams.

ELEANOR: Yes.

MARCUS: All of Drewsey.

ELEANOR: It really brings back memories, you know, when you see them.

MARCUS: How many years did you teach in Drewsey there, Eleanor?

ELEANOR: I only taught two after I was married. But then later why I went back in '70.

TOM: After the kids were grown.

ELEANOR: 1970. And I taught for eleven years then.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what I thought.

ELEANOR: Until '81. Uh huh.

BARBARA: Well then it hasn't really been that long since you quit then?

ELEANOR: No. And then I taught Marcus' grandchildren.

MARCUS: Yeah.

ELEANOR: And I taught their parents.

BARBARA: Oh, for goodness sakes.

ELEANOR: So, it was quite an experience.

BARBARA: Yeah.

ELEANOR: It's real easy to get the generations confused. (Laughter)

MARCUS: You bet.

ELEANOR: It happens.

BARBARA: I suspect you saw a lot of changes in the educational system then from the time that you first taught and then these last ten years ago.

ELEANOR: Oh yes. Uh huh. And then of course all the time my children were going to school I would substitute, and you know kept up quite a bit through them.

DOROTHEA: Did you have to go back to school in the summertime to get your renewal?

ELEANOR: I did go back. But I didn't really have to, because I have the life certificate, you know. But I did go back and I took classes and everything, you know, refreshers.

DOROTHEA: During the summer?

ELEANOR: Yes.

BARBARA: Certainly, can't hurt.

ELEANOR: No.

MARCUS: You have one of those lifetime certificates?

ELEANOR: Yes.

MARCUS: Edna has one too.

ELEANOR: Yes. That's why I taught the one-year I came, after I was married. Because my class was the last class that could get that certificate. So, I decided well I had better, you know, just have it. And I really only had to teach for three months to get it, but I taught a year, because you couldn't leave. And then the next year they just couldn't get anyone, so I stayed until they could find another teacher.

BARBARA: I imagine it is harder and harder to get people to come to country schools.

TOM: Oh boy, it's something else.

ELEANOR: It's terrible.

BARBARA: It's going to get to the point, I think, where everybody is going to have to be bused in to the ---

ELEANOR: I do too.

BARBARA: It's too expensive to maintain little country schools anymore.

ELEANOR: And you know, it's such a sad situation. Because so many things that go on in the community can be brought into the school, and this is where the trouble begins. It has no business there whatsoever, but it gets there. And you know it can disrupt everything, it's bad.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. And it seems like that having a little community, it seems like there is a lot of that, more than ---

ELEANOR: Terrible. And once it gets started, it's --- just doesn't ever stop.

DOROTHEA: And then too they expect your rural schools to abide by the new school laws, and a lot of times this doesn't work.

TOM: Why no.

ELEANOR: No.

DOROTHEA: Just like I was understanding on the lunch menus and things like this. I guess that's quite a thing to really go through. You have to follow so many rules and regulations.

ELEANOR: Oh yes, they're very particular.

DOROTHEA: And they dispose of so much of their food that they could really use otherwise.

ELEANOR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well, what organizations do you belong to?

ELEANOR: Oh, really anymore, I'm not very active. I used to be. But I belong to the Cattlewomen.

DOROTHEA: Didn't belong to the Lady Elks or anything?

ELEANOR: No, I never did. It was difficult for us to go into town, so I didn't really belong to anything there.

DOROTHEA: Well with Tom being an Elk, you can get into the dances and things.

ELEANOR: Until we got too tired to go.

TOM: We don't --- too old.

MARCUS: You couldn't get out quick enough.

ELEANOR: But we used to have extension clubs. And then we had a society, altar society in our church. And oh, the grange, home ec. Oh, we just had, you know, about five or six, and I was active in all of those. But when I started teaching again, why I kind of dropped all of that.

DOROTHEA: Do they still have a church in Drewsey?

ELEANOR: Oh yes, uh huh.

TOM: Two churches.

ELEANOR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Protestant and a Catholic?

ELEANOR: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Who are the ministers?

ELEANOR: Well, Father Scanlan comes out from Burns every Saturday evening for ours. And then I think they have Skip Day, is the pastor, and its non-denominational now. It used to be Presbyterian.

BARBARA: What kind of hobbies do you have?

ELEANOR: Well,. I used to sew a lot.

TOM: Keep me busy.

BARBARA: Honey-dos. (Laughter)

ELEANOR: And then I read too. I like to read. And I don't know, lately I haven't had time for a hobby.

BARBARA: I see the piano in there, do you play?

ELEANOR: No, I really don't. I have that, my daughter took lessons. And I tried to interest my grandchildren for a year, but they dropped it.

BARBARA: Well, if they're really not inclined, it's just kind of a waste of your money and their time to force it.

ELEANOR: No.

BARBARA: Until they're ready, it's really hard.

ELEANOR: Right, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I keep telling my grandkids that they ought to get interested in something like that, but they don't seem to think that's ---

ELEANOR: No, that's the way. I was so disappointed when ---

DOROTHEA: And it was such a way of life when we were growing up, you know.

ELEANOR: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I never got to, but most everybody else did.

ELEANOR: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Can you see things different today than when you grew up?

ELEANOR: Very definitely different.

DOROTHEA: In what ways?

ELEANOR: Well I believe that, you know, we --- I'm trying to think how to say that --- we really responded in a much different way than the children of today do to authority. And you know, I think we had more respect for our elders.

DOROTHEA: I think we've lost a lot of respect.

ELEANOR: Definitely. Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: The discipline was a lot different I think probably.

ELEANOR: Very. You know, you didn't question too much. And I don't know if that's all good. You know it's alright to really learn to think for yourself, but ---

BARBARA: You can also show respect even when you're forging out on your own.

ELEANOR: That's true, uh huh. Right.

BARBARA: But I think the family unit in itself is not what it used to be.

TOM: Oh no.

ELEANOR: It isn't.

BARBARA: With both family, parents working, and the stress related with work, in towns and cities now. It really tears the family apart. Your children in day care centers, and you might see them a couple of hours a day, and maybe on the weekend.

TOM: That's right, yeah.

ELEANOR: We're really very fortunate out in these places because we still have a very strong family unit. And the families together, they do things together. And I know that's going in the cities. They just don't have it anymore.

BARBARA: Well around here, families continue to stay on like you have, for a hundred years on your property. Where in cities, you graduate from school; you go on to another job. You may be sent to the East Coast ---

TOM: That's true.

BARBARA: --- and families are broken apart. They don't have the unity that a lot of these communities do today.

ELEANOR: No.

MARCUS: And another thing too, and Tom I think has had this same experience. When we were going to school, when the teacher give us a whipping, we got another one when we got home.

TOM: You bet, you bet.

MARCUS: The teacher was always right.

BARBARA: That's right.

TOM: And now they can't touch a child.

MARCUS: Oh no, I'll tell you.

TOM: And even the parent's, you know, that's child abuse. Well ---

MARCUS: I think that's overdoing that.

TOM: And that works all the way through until the parent has lost a lot of control of that child.

MARCUS: You bet.

TOM: Now I know right over here they can reprimand those kids, or tell them to do something, and if they don't want to do it, or they just don't do it.

BARBARA: That's right.

TOM: And it seems ---

ELEANOR: And they're good kids too.

TOM: --- to be okay with the parents, they don't follow up.

ELEANOR: They have to be responsible kids, and they're good kids.

TOM: Yeah, if they weren't why ---

ELEANOR: They do, but still you know they aren't ...

TOM: --- well we've got a difference. Now the two boys, the oldest boy is just --- he's slower moving, not up here, just slower moving, and well I think he's a little smarter. If he don't want to ride or do something that day, he just don't get up. Well hell, that was the farthest thing from ---

BARBARA: You wouldn't even think, wouldn't even come to mind.

TOM: Why that, no, and I've pulled lots of boys out of bed.

ELEANOR: You were expected, you know, to do this.

TOM: And then the other boy though, he bounces out.

ELEANOR: Well, he is more than eager, and I feel badly for him because we all take ---

TOM: And he's --- he's busy all the time.

ELEANOR: --- advantage of him because he just slips in and does it while ---

TOM: While the other one is contemplating it. But it's just ---I don't know, I can't understand why they can't --- and they're not the only family that way, all the kids are that way.

DOROTHEA: All the younger people are.

TOM: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, when we were going to school Tom, when we got up in the morning we had a job to do before we went to school.

TOM: Sure, you bet.

MARCUS: And when we got home at night we had another one.

TOM: You bet. Yeah.

MARCUS: You had that responsibility that you had to meet, and you learned that early.

TOM: Yeah, you bet.

MARCUS: You bet. You were turned over somebody's checkered apron if you didn't get it done.

TOM: You darned right. I always --- it was my job as soon as I got big enough to get the wood in.

MARCUS: That was mine too. In the wintertime when you used a lot of wood, you got back awfully quick on it.

TOM: Oh boy, you bet.

MARCUS: But you did it anyway, we burned sagebrush in those days.

TOM: Oh, we burned juniper wood. And that's the hardest work I ever did was hauling that juniper wood, and work with that.

MARCUS: Yeah, I know. We had an old crosscut saw.

TOM: Oh boy. Take four horses to pull a wagon up. Two to bring it back loaded, you know.

DOROTHEA: You see my little bell is ringing again, and my light. Do you have anything else you would like to add to this? It's getting to four o'clock, we've been here almost three hours, so

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TOM: Well, I don't know what it would be.

BARBARA: We want to do a short little video with you too, to have a picture to go along with this.

DOROTHEA: So why don't we close this off and do our little video.

TOM: Okay.

DOROTHEA: And we'd like to thank you for the afternoon. You've been a very enjoyable information person. Thank you.

(END OF TAPE)

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