

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #301 - Side B

Subject: Dell Witzel

Place: Witzel Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: 1985

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

DELL WITZEL: ... you know, I don't just for sure either. But Tony Monovich he built, he was working, you know, built some of those buildings. And then Minister, I worked for Minister when he was a carpenter there.

MARCUS HAINES: Uh huh.

DELL: That was about '19 when Minister built all them houses over in there. But you know, I kind of believe that Tony Monovich must have built after he was there. So I got to thinking that Minister built that hotel. But I didn't help on the hotel.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well what made me think that maybe it was built along about that time, was when they started colonizing up there and built all those houses, and probably Frenchglen was kind of a, kind of been a business center for the people there. And that's what made me think maybe the hotel was built, but I don't know. It would be strictly a guess with me.

DELL: Well I worked for the Company there at the "P" Ranch, why I suppose I was maybe sixteen, somewheres along there, I don't know whether I was that old or not. I worked for Frank Pate then when he first come from Texas there, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: And then after they left, I worked for Augustine Gilbert there, I buckarood there at the same time, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DELL: And I know a fellow by the name of Maderson had that hotel over there. But now the hotel wasn't there then, it was just a, one building there. Kind of where they stopped for overnight may-be, one or two people or something you know, before they went on over to Catlow. And they had, well they sold tobacco and candy and stuff like that. But --- and then after they built that hotel there and Hinton's run that hotel. But that was Tom Witzel's mother.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: But you know, I don't know exactly what date they built that, what year.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: I had never had thought of it until you spoke.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah. Well a fellow called me from Portland here, and he said he would be up here this week and wanted some information on the hotel. Well hell, I didn't know anything. I helped remodel it in 1938, I know about it from then on. But prior to that time, I don't know much about it.

DELL: In '38, you built something on the back of it.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

DELL: Yeah, I was thinking that this morning after I was thinking about it.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DELL: I thought they built some more on that.

MARCUS: Well they put the basement under it, and then they put that extension on the back there. And they did it with the CC boys there, out of Five Mile. And finally Jenny McDonald told them she had enough of it. Hell they would truck loads of those kids up there, you know, run back and forth through that house and all. And finally she run the

whole bunch off. And I went to work for John Scharff in May, of '38, and he told me, he said, "Now I've got money enough for two weeks for two carpenters and a painter. You get up there and finish the hotel." And that was, went up there around the first of June, and we did. We finished it in two weeks then. And that's how, that's about where it dates back to me.

But now, Dell, back about the time you were working at the "P" Ranch there, I can remember this, it was known as "P" Station, it wasn't Frenchglen there.

DELL: "P" Station, you're right, it was just "P" Station.

MARCUS: Yeah. I don't know when it was changed to Frenchglen, but they got the post office in 1930. But it was called Frenchglen before that, I know.

DELL: Well, when they built that hotel, you know I could have helped, that is true, on that there. I carpenterd for him quite a while. He was a carpenter, you know, and I worked for, just under him, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DELL: But I can't never remember working on the hotel. But I remember working on all those other buildings around there, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

DELL: But I can't, you spoke about Monovich, you know, Tony. You know I'd forgotten that he was in there. But I believe he was there after Minister.

MARCUS: They didn't work together, Dell?

DELL: No, they didn't work together.

MARCUS: I see, uh huh.

DELL: Nope, Minister was, he was back in Idaho I think, when Cravens brought him in there. He built that house for Judd Wise there, and built the house where I live in. He

built the Jones house, and he built the house there that Harper lived in, and one that Vern Bossuot lived in there. And he built the one that --- I don't know whether he, I can't remember working on the house that Hebner lived in there, near the hotel. I can't remember working on either one of them houses. But I could have, you know, kind of forgotten. Say maybe I wasn't working full-time for him, I don't know. See I helped my father some, you know, on the ranch there.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: And he might have built them, and maybe we was plowing or something for my father.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DELL: Maybe I just helped him very little, maybe I didn't, I can't remember.

MARCUS: No, that's quite awhile back, you bet.

DELL: But I remember all the other houses I was working on. The hotel and the Hebner house I think were both built before we built any of those others.

MARCUS: What was the Hebner house, Dell?

DELL: That was the first house there, Matt Morgan lived right there, you know.

MARCUS: Oh, it was, huh?

DELL: That was Hebner.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

DELL: Morgan Hebner lived there.

MARCUS: No, I didn't know that.

DELL: Brother just got ...

MARCUS: Matt was there the first time I knew anything about the place.

DELL: Yeah, Matt was there ...

MARCUS: Now Johnny Crow had a picture of what was supposed to be the first hotel there at Frenchglen. And it showed a picture of Mrs. Hinton and the two Grissel boys, and Judd and Judy Wise, and another fellow. Judd and Judy were just young people. And it was just an old shack of affair. And he dated it at 1926. And, but there is, I ---

DELL: Well I was there about, somewheres along in there, because I can remember ... kitchen built off in the back end of it, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

DELL: She used the front end after, Madison used the front end rather, just --- oh, he sold candy and tobacco, and I think maybe most of them fellows had maybe a wagon with their beds and stuff. But it was just the "P" Station there, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DELL: But they kept their horses and stuff overnight, and we'd go on the next morning, you know. But, and then, you know, I couldn't tell you what year they built that hotel.

MARCUS: But ---

DELL: It was somewheres about ... right along in there.

MARCUS: Then I called Wanda Ash yesterday, and she told me that they came here, she didn't remember '28 or '29, and she went to work at the hotel there for some people by the name of Frye, or Fay, a Bill Fay. Do you remember a Bill Fay that had the hotel? I never heard the name before. And she said she worked for him there for quite awhile. And then he sold out to Miller. And then Miller sold out to Joe McDonald, the way she was telling me. Does that sound right to you?

DELL: Well ---

MARCUS: And then this Madison was back down the line there someplace, according to Joanie.

DELL: I remember when they first come there, you see, and Wanda did work there at the hotel. And Elmer was, I believe Elmer was working with my father at that time. I know he did during haying, worked for my father there. And I was living on the river there at that time there. And Elmer and Wanda was married, and then they moved down there to Krumbo, over there. But you know she said she worked there what year?

MARCUS: Well she didn't remember if it was '28 or '29, one of the two dates there.

DELL: Well I think she worked there in '29, I'd say, the year she worked there.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well that's about the time that Joe Fine came, took over the "P" Ranch wasn't it, '28 or '29 there? And ---

DELL: Joe taken that over in about '28.

MARCUS: And she told me then, I said, "Well what does Elmer know about it?" "Well," she said, "I don't think he was ever here, they came in with Joe Fine when they moved in." So I didn't try to talk to him about it. I figured that ---

DELL: Well Elmer worked for my father around there before Joe Fine moved in there to take over the "P" Ranch.

MARCUS: Oh, he did? Yeah, well Elmer would probably know something about it too, then. And I've talked to Elmer, he called, he remembers pretty well too. Well I thought back to '29 then, it wouldn't be much ... there.

DELL: I tried to think what year that Elmer worked for my father there. You see he come from Jordan Valley over there with Joe Fine, and they ... at the Diamond Ranch. Joe and Matt Morgan did ... Elmer come with them over there, when they finished up there. Joe brought Elmer over there, and my father needed a man or some-thing. They probably didn't know, but they just drove over there to see if he could get on. And my father hired him, and he worked there for my father for that year. And then I think he worked maybe

the next year for my father.

MARCUS: Well he was around here awhile before Joe went to the "P" Ranch then, wasn't he?

DELL: Yes, he was there before he went to the "P" Ranch.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah. Well it might be well to talk to him then. He might remember something about it.

DELL: He might remember when they ---

MARCUS: But getting back to the hotel, Wanda said it was just like it was until it was remodeled in '38 when she went to work there.

DELL: Yes it was, yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, it was built prior to that time.

DELL: Yeah, when she went to work it was just exactly like it was until it was remodeled in the back.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

DELL: There was no difference in it.

MARCUS: But I got to thinking about it, when they started colonizing there, and building those houses around there, that they probably built the hotel about then. But that's just supposition on my part.

DELL: They built the hotel before they colonized all that.

MARCUS: They built it before that, you think?

DELL: I know they built it before that.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

DELL: I know that thing was built, maybe --- I was going to say, before that I was going to say it was one of the first buildings that was built there. That was built, and then I think

maybe that Hebner place was built there next. And it was quite awhile before they ever built that over there at the Hot Springs, that, where ... lived.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah. Well I had a letter from a woman in California just the other day. She had been up here, and she was an author or some damn thing, you get letters all the time from these people. But she was wanting to know about the Frenchglen Hotel. She said it was built by Pete French in 1916. So I wrote her a letter back and sent her some stuff. And one thing I'm sure of, Pete French didn't built it, because he was killed in '97. (Laughter) But that '16 date might not be too far off, I don't know. Where she got that, of course I don't know. But that's what she had in the letter, that it was built in 1916, and by Pete French.

DELL: Well you know Maderson was the first fellow that was ever in, he was from that there "P" Station there. He had a wife and a boy and a girl. That boy lives in Portland, the Maderson kid. He ain't no kid now, but I don't know where he lives there in Portland. He might be dead by now, ... But '16, nope, that wasn't built in '16.

MARCUS: I don't know where she got this ---

DELL: I tell you though when my father first moved onto that ranch down there, where he lived there, where they lived for so long there, he was about one of the first that was moved in there on any of them houses there. He lived there about two years before they ever built a house there, in that valley, one year anyway.

MARCUS: Did Minister build that house?

DELL: Yes, Minister built that house.

MARCUS: Okay.

DELL: That's where I went to work for him, right there. When he moved in there on that --
- we were living up there at Baca Lake in '17.

MARCUS: Well I remember Fred telling me that they moved to that place in 1919. Does that sound right to you?

DELL: We moved there in 1919, my father did.

MARCUS: Yeah, Fred told me that.

DELL: We lived there, and moved there on that place in 1919. And then in '18 we lived up there at Baca Lake, and then we moved down there on that there, my father moved in there on the spring of '19. And I helped him plow all that in there, and then I went to work for Emilia (sp.?) to the Sod House then after that. And then when I come back and helped to build that house after he had lived there a year, I know we spent one winter, my father and I did there in just a cabin there, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DELL: And then we had, well he had maybe a hundred head of cattle or something like that. We fed them hay in there, fed them. And he raised quite a lot of grain that year. '19, I know is when he moved in there, early in the spring of '19.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Yeah, that's what Fred told me too. But I think we can agree that there was a hotel there before 1926, wasn't there?

DELL: Oh yes, there was a hotel there before 1926. The hotel was --- '26, well they might have built that hotel in, along in '26, '25 or '26. You know, because when I worked there at the "P" Ranch, I know that there wasn't no hotel there at that time. And that was about the time those Texas fellows come there. Because I worked for Frank Pate there. And I might have been fifteen years old, or something like that, when I worked for him. And that was, that was about '15 or somewheres in there when I worked for him. And that was when Maderson was there. And then after --- I think Hinton was the first one there after Maderson left, I'm not sure.

MARCUS: Uh huh. But ah ---

DELL: Then Hinton moved over there to Joaquin Miller, he was over there at Canyon City after that.

MARCUS: Oh, I ---

DELL: I ... to see them when I lived on the river.

MARCUS: I never see anything mentioned of Hinton. I hear of Mrs. Hinton, she had a husband there with her, huh?

DELL: Oh yes.

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

DELL: She was a Grissel from; her name was Grissel when she had the two boys, Tom and Bill. And then when he died, why she married that Hinton. And he was --- she run the hotel, and he run a shearing outfit, sheared sheep.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, I've heard of that fellow.

DELL: He sheared sheep, and Freedy and I both sheared sheep for him. And then Fred bought the plant from him, and run it for several years.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's where I --- Yeah, I remember that now. I never ---

DELL: When he left here, went over to John Day, Fred bought the plant from him. But we sheared sheep for him maybe, oh god damn it, most the time that he was --- I tell you, the year before that he, Fred sheared for him and I didn't shear, and I remember this well enough. Fred worked for Hinton, sheared sheep for him, and Mrs. Grissel, or his wife, you know, cooked for the shearing outfit.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

DELL: All the way through. And then that year that he had taken that over. You know, I couldn't say just --- you know if a fellow sits down and get to thinking about, most of that

comes back to you, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah. My gosh it's surprising how it will come back to you sometimes. Somebody mentions something; it will kind of ring a bell with you.

DELL: You bet.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's right.

DELL: But I'm pretty sure that, well maybe about, that hotel wasn't built too many years before my father ... He moved there in '19. The hotel was built, I think, before my father moved there in '19.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DELL: I'm pretty sure.

MARCUS: Well Ted Graves told me, I remember him telling about here a long time ago, and I called him last night. You see he was born and raised over here at Silver Lake.

DELL: Yeah.

MARCUS: And he got with an engineer, he was fifteen years old, and they come around here and measuring water. They come in through Dog Mountain, or Iron Mountain way and got stuck back out there. Old Harry Golden fished them out, and got them started, and they come down and read a water level on Harney Lake, and ended up at the "P" Ranch. They stayed there for a week. But he said they stayed over in the white house, and he thought as near as he could remember that was 1919. And he said he couldn't remember, other than maybe a little way station at the Frenchglen, and they called it "P" Station then. He said he had never heard of Frenchglen until he come back over here with Kittridge in 1927, '28, whatever it was.

DELL: He's right, that's right. They come in there, they was going to build a reservoir there, you know. I think maybe, was he surveying on that reservoir somewhere?

MARCUS: Well they were taking water measurements, as I understood from him. They was, probably was connected with that reservoir.

DELL: See they was going to build a reservoir right over further, just above there. There was a road across there, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

DELL: They was going to build a reservoir right across there, you know, and flood all the "P" Ranch and irrigate that down below. And that was, that would have been about the time that Ted ... engineering outfit, I know ---

MARCUS: I bet that's what was taking place all right.

DELL: There must have been some connection there. Because I know that (Arthur) Page was a good friend of my father's. And he used to --- and my father talked about that reservoir quite a lot. I know he come down there, and I'd hear him talk about that. He was a surveyor for the ---

MARCUS: Well John Porter tells about working with Page there. And they did some core drilling ---

DELL: Yes.

MARCUS: --- across there to find out what ---

DELL: Yes. John and Pat, John Porter and Pat ---

MARCUS: Donegan?

DELL: Donegan. Jim Noreal worked for Page there a long time.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: I know a lot of times I worked for Page in the summer, during those years, you know. He'd have that crew working some-where doing something, you know. And then he'd get me to go along with him, and he'd always come by and say well John, can Dell

go with me today? And I'd go with him. And then he had the instruments, and I'd drive the stake or something.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DELL: And I don't know just what he --- I'd just go along and drive the stakes for him.

MARCUS: He was a great guy, wasn't he?

DELL: Yeah, he was.

MARCUS: A fine man, you bet.

DELL: But I can't never remember of, I never worked steady for him, just days when my father would come by. He was wanting me to go with him. The other fellows were doing something else, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh. He came down there and stayed with us, there at Mama's place in March of '35, and located the campsite there at the refuge. And he used to tell me about, you know, they sold out or rented out, and he went to Los Angeles and they got an apartment house, rented an apartment house down there. And they damn near starved to death. And he got a job skinning calves for Swift there in the packing plant. Maybe you've heard him tell that. (Laughter) He was damn glad to get back to Harney County. He hadn't been back long then, you know, when he got that job there.

DELL: Well that water down there at The Narrows, when we lived there, and you folks lived right across there, we lived there for years and we had lots of snow in the winter. I remember when we walked to school that the snow might be up as high as the fences, you know.

MARCUS: Sure, you bet, you betcha, walk right over them.

DELL: Where did that water go those days?

MARCUS: I don't know Dell. It never got this high, did it?

DELL: No, I maintain that we had hotter summers or something, and that water evaporated.

MARCUS: It had to. Yeah, it had to.

DELL: Everybody says, well they never had winters like that. And I said well ---

MARCUS: The hell they didn't.

DELL: I suppose they had just as hard winters.

MARCUS: You bet your life.

DELL: But I don't know about the summers. The last two years we have had a lot of rain, you know.

MARCUS: That's the thing, that's the thing exactly.

DELL: And no sunshine.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well Dell, we never did get two wet years in a row. We'd have, we'd get a good wet year and then we'd get a drought, and things would kind of dry down. And then --- but hell, this thing, this is about three of them in a row. There is where the trouble is.

DELL: Yeah, the young fellers say, well you don't remember. And I said, "The hell I don't."

MARCUS: Well you bet you remember.

DELL: I was walking to school, you know.

MARCUS: You damn right you remember.

DELL: That schoolhouse, the first one they had was just this side of the lane that goes down through there, on the right hand side there, and it burnt down. And Wally --- no, let's see --- oh hell, Marshall.

MARCUS: Yeah, Robby Marshall, yeah.

DELL: Robby Marshall ...

MARCUS: You know I was visiting, and I was wanting to talk to you about that too. You went to school there?

DELL: Yes.

MARCUS: Who was the teacher?

DELL: The first year I went to school there, Mrs. Harris was the teacher. I've got little pamphlets in there that she give me when I went to school there. And Judy Wise was our next teacher. I've got cards and stuff, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: And they give you ---

MARCUS: Well, they are getting a story together for the --- See they are moving the schoolhouse.

DELL: Yes, I know.

MARCUS: And moving it back up on the hill there, back of the refuge.

DELL: Oh.

MARCUS: Yeah, they are doing it now.

DELL: Yeah, I knew they was moving it.

MARCUS: Yeah. And they were trying to get a story together. They come to the house there yesterday and wanted to know some stuff about the schoolhouses. And they are going to move the schoolhouse Monday or Tuesday of next week now. And they are going to have the TV people in here from Portland. They was kind of wanting some dates and stuff on that. And what year did you start school, Dell?

DELL: I could look in that thing --- I've got it in there, tell you exactly what date ---

MARCUS: Well fine, by gosh.

DELL: --- I started to school in there. Yeah, I've got those little pamphlets that Judy give me, and Mrs. Harris give me.

MARCUS: Now ---

DELL: When I left and went to school, you know, in The Narrows, and then Howard Otley was telling me one time, said, "I went to school at the Dunn District or ---"

MARCUS: Sod House.

DELL: Sod House District. "Oh," I said, "hell you never went to school to ..." "Well by god," he said, "I know who I went to school to Dell." And I said, "Well Howard what year did you go to school to him down there?" So he told me. And I said, "Well the reason I contradicted you, I went to school with him at The Narrows," and I said, "I couldn't believe that, you know."

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: And then I said, "Well he maybe teached down there a year or two, and then he'd teach up there maybe a year or two, and back and forth." And I said, "Well I couldn't believe that when you told me that before." I was twenty-five, twenty years older than Howard, you know.

MARCUS: I was visiting with William Dunn the other day, and he was telling me about that schoolhouse burning down. And he said they accused Freedy of doing it?

DELL: Yes.

MARCUS: And he said Freedy said, "No, I didn't do it." And his dad said, "Well if Freedy said he didn't do it, he didn't do it." So they kind of let it set then. Went on for a while and Robby Marshall finally confessed of burning the schoolhouse.

DELL: Yes, that's true, yes.

MARCUS: Yeah he told me that just the other day.

DELL: Well my mother kept telling them, you know, that Robby Marshall must have set that, because he come by a horseback and went back by, you know. He lived down there, oh I think at the end of the lane, Sod House somewhere, Marshall's did. I believe they had a place right there somewhere, didn't they?

MARCUS: Well they were over the hill there.

DELL: Yes.

MARCUS: Yeah, right the end --- right the --- Mrs. Marshall is buried right there at the foot of the hill, you know.

DELL: Well I was sure they lived right over there.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, that's right.

DELL: But Robby come along, and he thought sure that he was the one that set the fire. They seen somebody a horseback there and they thought it was Freedy, because he was up there getting the milk cow down out of the hill there somewhere.

MARCUS: Well then did they have school there at Mrs. Dunn's house there for a while? Did you ever go there? What would have been the what, the old Curtis Place we called it, you know. They lived right ---

DELL: Oh, the first time we ever went to school was, we went to school there, right at the end of the lane, right this ---

MARCUS: Right out in the brush there.

DELL: --- right on that side as you were going down. Would be the north side. They had just, oh ... the Tyler kids was going there, two Tyler kids. And my sister, Dora, and --- Did you go to school there?

MARCUS: No.

DELL: I didn't think --- you were too young.

MARCUS: I started in 1913 to Jessie Bardwell, there up at the schoolhouse. We were trying to kind of get --- you see the first schoolhouse, prior to your starting, was over there by the trees there at the old L. B. "Pappy" Springer place. Got a picture of it. And Effie Dunn was the teacher in '94. And then later, I don't know what happened there, but then they ended up over there at the end of the lane going to school. And then they had --- after the schoolhouse burned down they had school there in Effie Dunn's house there for a little while. And then they built the other house, or school where it's at now there in the middle of the lane, as near as we can find out. But yeah, that date would be fine Dell, if you had it. And I'll get it on here, and I'll pass it on to them.

DELL: Yeah, I'll find that stuff. And I'll look at it this evening. It's in the trunk, you know, with all that stuff.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well you started when you were six years old, probably, didn't you?

DELL: Huh?

MARCUS: You were six years old probably when you started school, weren't you?

DELL: Yeah, I was six years old, yeah.

MARCUS: Well when were you born?

DELL: I was born in 1901.

MARCUS: Yeah, well that would make it about 1907, about the year I was born then, that you were going to school there. You know, I don't know when it burnt up, but it seems to me like I can remember that building. But I undoubtedly didn't, if it probably burnt up within a year or two of that time.

DELL: Well we went to school there about two years before it burnt up there.

MARCUS: Yeah, well I wouldn't ---

DELL: And Mrs. Harris taught there one year, she was the first teacher there, and then

Judy Wise. I know, it might say in some of those things in there, about the teachers, but I remember her so well, Judy.

MARCUS: Uh huh. And then there was Anita Cawfield that taught down there, did you go to school to her?

DELL: No.

MARCUS: Well she taught ---

DELL: I had moved to The Narrows by then.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

DELL: I went to school ---

MARCUS: Well you went the two years then, and the schoolhouse burnt down, and then you went to The Narrows. Yeah.

DELL: I didn't go to school to her, I was in --- went to school to The Narrows. I went three years there at that Sod House District. Then we moved from there to The Narrows. I, as near as I can remember back, my father had that Reineman and rented it or something there. He never owned that. He had that rented for years when we lived there. And then he gave that up and after that I remember this Howard Reineman coming there. You probably remember him.

MARCUS: Oh yes.

DELL: And he lived there. Well it was a great big old house there, you know, two stories. I don't know whether that burnt down, or what happened to it. But he ---

MARCUS: Uh huh. Yeah, they tore it down and built another house there, yeah. Yeah, my mother, you know, she thought your folks were the greatest. They were such good neighbors to her there.

DELL: Yeah.

MARCUS: When her husband was killed there in 1903.

DELL: Yes, yes.

MARCUS: She lived there alone, and she just thought the Witzel's was just the greatest people that ever lived.

DELL: Yeah, I know, we were just one family, just back and forth there, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, just back and forth. I can remember when you were there, yeah.

DELL: Yeah, we just --- I guess Nannie and Dora was about the same age, you know, if I remember right.

MARCUS: Yeah, Dora was born in '97.

DELL: I don't know just when Nannie was born.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DELL: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, they're pretty close to the same age though, yeah.

DELL: But I know they was about the same age in school, along there you know. And there was --- I could name almost all the people that went to school in ... I think.

MARCUS: Well I was reading this testimony here, the transcript of the trial between the state and the federal government that they had here in 1931 over the ownership of Malheur Lake. And I saw where the Hembrees tells about coming to school at the end of the lane there.

DELL: Who?

MARCUS: Well the Hembrees. John Hembree, there was two of them, Joann and John, and I've forgot the other fellow's name. Does that ---

DELL: I remember them Hembrees all right. They said they went to school down there?

MARCUS: This fellow said he did, yeah. But I can't understand that late, that he would

be coming --- they surely had a school to The Narrows before that didn't they?

DELL: Oh yes, they had a school there long before that.

MARCUS: I would think so.

DELL: And they lived in the area, Hembrees did.

MARCUS: Yeah. Charlie Haines started a store there in '92.

DELL: Yes.

MARCUS: And there was something wrong with that. I asked William Dunn about that. That's how we got to talking about it. "No," he said, "I never knew him at all."

DELL: Oh, I remember the Hembrees; they lived there up The Narrows right there. Tom was --- I remember them Hembrees well enough. But they never went to school ---

MARCUS: Well, they built the old hotel there, you know, to begin with.

DELL: Yes. But ... Hembree's had the hotel.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: I don't know whether they had --- I think Elliott's had the hotel before they did, didn't they?

MARCUS: No, no, it was afterwards. Yeah, they built the ---

DELL: Yeah, you're right.

MARCUS: He had the --- old Albert Hembree had the hotel, had a little store there first, built in '89. And then he put the hotel in. And then he got the post office and kept it from '92 to '97. Charlie Haines got the post office in '97 there. And then that's when --- I think he left there shortly after that. My mother knew them well; she used to talk about the Hembrees.

DELL: Yeah, I remember them.

MARCUS: I can't remember them at all.

DELL: I remember them, yeah, I remember them.

MARCUS: Do you? Uh huh. No, I don't.

DELL: Well, everybody knew one another in them days there, you know, because you never got as far as Burns.

MARCUS: No, they sure didn't.

DELL: In almost a year, maybe something like that, you know. Just knew the people in the valley, you know.

MARCUS: You bet, you bet. Well Dell, by golly, I think that takes care of things pretty well here. Your 1:30 is here; you're probably needing to go. I'm going to go on down and visit with William a little bit here too. Oh, William is in terrible shape.

DELL: I haven't seen him for a long time. I don't know.

MARCUS: Yeah. I go see him right along. About fifteen minutes is about as long as you can visit with him. He gets so weak that you can't hear him talk.

DELL: You know the last time I visited with him, I saw him on the street, you know. And I haven't --- that's been a couple years ago.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, it had to be.

DELL: And then I seen that --- I don't know whether that is a step brother or ... you know. I asked ... once in awhile.

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

DELL: Well Sam wasn't too good either, was he?

MARCUS: No he isn't. We saw him just day before yesterday. See they live out at Buchanan, and they got drowned out and they moved out there.

DELL: Yes. But Sam isn't that old to be ---

MARCUS: No, he'll be seventy-seven in May.

DELL: William is over eighty.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: He's up about eighty-four or five.

MARCUS: Yeah, he was born in 1900.

DELL: I thought he was a little older than that.

MARCUS: Eight-nine, eighty-nine --- ninety-eight I guess, yeah, ninety-eight there I think.

Arthur is eighty years old.

DELL: Yes. Arthur is about the same age I was.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: Maybe a little older.

MARCUS: He was in there, and Sam.

DELL: I don't remember whether Mary was older than them or not. I think she is younger though than Sam.

MARCUS: Yeah, she was younger than Sam. Sam and --- Mary and then Sam I think. I think the two boys and then ---

DELL: Uh huh, I think so.

MARCUS: Yeah, I think that is right.

DELL: We used to live down there at Mud Lake, you know, in the fall of the year. And they'd go to The Narrows School after I moved up there for maybe a month. And then they'd move back up to their place down there and --- down there ---

MARCUS: They would? They'd go to the other school, huh?

DELL: Then the kids would go to school at the Sod House.

MARCUS: I'll be darned.

DELL: Yeah, I remember that well enough. Every year they would go for maybe a

month, or six weeks or something like that while they moved their cattle home. And then they'd go down there and go to school.

MARCUS: There was quite a bunch of kids going to The Narrows at one time, wasn't there?

DELL: Yes.

MARCUS: You bet.

DELL: The Harris kids were going there, all of them, and the ... and Dunn kids. I imagine there was about forty of us going to school there.

MARCUS: Did you go to school with Ermin Dillman there?

DELL: Yes.

MARCUS: I remember driving, we just drove up to the store there one --- you probably remember this too. And Ermin Dillman overhauled Bill Harris, caught him right there on the porch.

DELL: Yes.

MARCUS: Took him down, and old Daddy Farnsworth stepped out someplace with a pocketknife about that long. God damn old Ermin went flying by and went to the schoolhouse? Do you remember that?

DELL: Yeah, I remember when that, how that all happened. I was in school then. Wilbur (Haines) and I, doggone it, ... fell down and bloodied his nose.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: Yeah, I knew old Dillman. Yeah.

MARCUS: We thought somebody was killed sure. I was just a little old kid. We was in a buggy, and we drove up there just as that happened. We was about ready to go home again, you know. By gosh old Wilbur kind of came to a tragic end. You didn't see him in

his last years, did you?

DELL: I never seen him at all in his last years.

MARCUS: No. They had him in a nursing home over there; I'd go see him. He didn't know anybody, you know, hardly. I'd talk to him kind of like we are here, and that would ring a bell with him, and he'd just smile. And he was hearing, but he couldn't say a word. Just lay there in that damn bed, you know, and finally died then. But he had those strokes, you know, it was about three years there, killed him. He just, we'd go see him, and we'd see him, each time he'd be a little bit worse. Then finally she put him in a nursing home over at Payette. And that's the last time I saw him was over there. Real pathetic.

DELL: Whatever happened to his wife?

MARCUS: Well she got married again, and she lives down here at Brookings, on the coast.

DELL: She what?

MARCUS: She lives at Brookings on the coast down here.

DELL: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: He must have had a little money when he died, didn't he?

MARCUS: Oh yeah, I'm sure he did. And then they had a duplex there, which she sold out. Oh, I think she come out pretty good.

DELL: You know I don't think I ever seen Wilbur after he left Diamond.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

DELL: I'd see Johnny quite often, and I see Charlie, you know, before he died. But I never seen Wilbur after I --- I stopped a time or two when I was in Ontario, but he was off

fishing or something.

MARCUS: Yeah, they done a lot of fishing. After Wilbur had that accident there, he was never the same after that. You know him and the Davis, the harness maker, was killed in a wreck, just as you come down off of Fine Hill there. There is an irrigation ditch that crosses there, and a little curve in the road, and it was --- they'd been up here, Johnny was having a hell of a time. He'd stole some stuff out of the slaughterhouse up here, and Wilbur come up to help, kind of straighten him out. And this Davis came along with him. When they come down there, and this fellow was asleep, but Davis was driving. And they run off into this ditch. Well it killed Davis dead there, and they thought old Wilbur was dead there for a long time. They bored holes in his head and all. He was never the same after that.

DELL: I didn't know about that.

MARCUS: No.

DELL: After they got down there, the kids used to always be around a lot, Charlie and them, you know. Always come home, down to see me there, you know. And I'd visit ... Wilbur back and forth in Diamond when ... and I first went there, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DELL: And then when he left, why Mary was in here a year ago or something, two years. I went down to see her, and visited with her a long time, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, I hear from Mary once in awhile. But I haven't seen her for a little while. Well Dell, by golly, many thanks here. And I ---

(END OF TAPE)

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