

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #303 - Side B

Subject: Elmer & Wanda Ash

Place: Ash Home - Hines, Oregon

Date: March 1985

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

MARCUS HAINES: ... and Elmer, you lived in Blitzen Valley up there since when? When did you come there?

ELMER ASH: You see we went to --- 1927.

MARCUS: You came here in 1927. Well ---

ELMER: With Joe Devine.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well these people that we're going to talk about were pretty well settled in then, or did they come in a little later?

ELMER: No, they was settled in.

MARCUS: They were already there. Uh huh. And what I'm interested in Elmer, is what kind of conditions, leasing conditions and that. I know they built the house for these people. And then they give them so much land there and they had it on a share crop basis I think, didn't they? Could you tell me about that?

ELMER: Yeah. Yeah, that was Craven, you see, done that. And you want to start with the first farmer?

MARCUS: Well, it doesn't matter, just somebody there. Just tell me about the work there.

ELMER: East side of the river was Judd Wise, you come right on down, and Dell Witzel, Parker, and the Whites. Then you go over to the west side was Jones just below, he had

that just below the Five Mile Road. Then Mrs. Fay, she was there at the hotel. She sold cream, Mrs. Fay did. We was down there, that was ... but I was feeding leppy calves then. And she had a bucket with a bail on, and that calf got that bail over his head, and boy we had a hard time getting him out of that thing. Just run over him and everything else, you know.

MARCUS: Well now Tom Bailey, didn't he live down in there somewhere?

ELMER: Yeah, Tom Bailey. The first house this side of Frenchglen, was right up on that little knoll, you know, little hill. That's where he lived, Tom.

MARCUS: Well then Matt lived along there someplace.

ELMER: Matt Morgan?

MARCUS: Yeah.

ELMER: Yeah, he lived there, the same place.

WANDA ASH: He lived in the first house.

ELMER: He lived in the first house, that's right.

WANDA: This side of Frenchglen.

MARCUS: Well then the Bakers lived down there, and the Comegys.

WANDA: Yeah, they all lived right along that space that Elmer missed.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what I mean. We kind of named a few of them here. I know we'll probably miss some of them, but it doesn't matter about --- I think there was around twenty some people that lived --- the Bossuot's lived ---

ELMER: Bossuot's, yeah they lived at --- over there on the east side of ---

MARCUS: Over around ---

ELMER: ... over there, get pretty close to the hill.

WANDA: They lived at Five Mile too.

ELMER: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, there was a house there. Who ---

WANDA: We lived in it, the first people I know of that lived in it when the CC's moved in there.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

WANDA: We lived in that Five Mile house.

MARCUS: Well then Jim Green moved in, lived there at one time too, didn't he?

ELMER: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: Yes.

WANDA: Yeah I think Jim lived there, that was later.

MARCUS: Yes, that was later. But when the refuge came in here, that's what I was interested in. Well they couldn't tear those houses down and run the people off fast enough as I remember that. They had them going in all directions.

WANDA: Well those houses didn't get torn down for a long time after that.

MARCUS: Well I helped tear down quite a few of them.

WANDA: Louie Mace lived there too.

MARCUS: Yeah, or some of the employees. But there was a lot of those houses that were torn down.

ELMER: One of those houses we moved up there for the schoolteacher, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah.

WANDA: Well that was the Baker house.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

WANDA: Moved to the "P" Ranch.

MARCUS: But anyway the people were, the original owners were gone there.

WANDA: Yeah, and they all just raised grain, is all I know is any of them ever raised. Other than Mrs. Bill Fay, of course she run the hotel.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

WANDA: Saved cream, and sold cream.

MARCUS: What year was she in the hotel there? There has been

---

WANDA: She was there in '28.

MARCUS: When you came?

WANDA: When I was working for her.

MARCUS: You worked for her there. That's what I --- I've got a record there someplace and there is a lot of controversy about when the hotel was built, and this and that and the other thing. It's never been settled, for that matter.

WANDA: She sold it then to a Mrs. Miller, sold her lease. When we were married, Mrs. Miller had it.

MARCUS: Well then there was some Hinton's there too. I have a picture of them. They would be before I think, wouldn't they?

WANDA: They owned the hotel before Mrs. Fay had it.

MARCUS: Before you, yes. That would be before you folks came.

WANDA: Because I never knew them.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

WANDA: I've heard of them.

MARCUS: Yes. I have a picture of them, of Mrs. Hinton with Judd and Judy Wise, and the Grissel boys, Tom and --- they were nephews I think. And then there was another fellow in the picture that isn't identified. I got it from Johnny Crow, and I had it blowed up about this big, and then I took a post out of Pete French's fence and made a frame for it and gave it to Malina up there. She had it in the hotel for a long time. Yeah, it was kind of a novelty.

WANDA: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well where did your folks --- did you have ---

WANDA: We lived on the, well it was the Judd Wise place I guess, was where the folks lived. Just this ---

ELMER: Just this side of Fish Creek, where Fish Creek come out and jumped into the river, you know there. There is a bridge there, toward Judd Wise, right there.

MARCUS: They lived up there on Mud Creek before they left there then.

WANDA: Yeah, but they lived right there on that canal and raised grain. They had grain from, well almost to the bridge, come down to Dell Witzel's. All that through there, Dad raised grain.

MARCUS: He did?

ELMER: Same place Judd Wise had.

WANDA: Judd had raised grain there.

MARCUS: Well then you just share cropped that, didn't you, with the government? Or did you pay --- do you remember?

ELMER: I don't remember just how they did that.

WANDA: Well you was there in threshing, looking after the --- somebody's end of it.

ELMER: Judd Wise had it then. But I forget just how --- must have been on share crops or something. But anyway Joe bought all that oats there. And I went down to receive it. I know the oats were so light that, couldn't put a bushel in there, half a bushel in there because it would run over. We had to cut it down to about fifteen pounds I think it was.

MARCUS: Well did you have trouble with birds in those days?

ELMER: Birds?

MARCUS: Yeah.

ELMER: There was so damn much grain that was raised, that ---

MARCUS: There was lots of birds around up there though?

ELMER: Yeah. More birds there then than there has ever been since, I think.

MARCUS: Well that's what I mean. That's what I'm trying to get to here.

WANDA: Well they had something to eat in those days.

MARCUS: Well everybody raised a little grain.

WANDA: Everybody had a little grain.

MARCUS: Yes. Had a little grain up --- yeah.

ELMER: See from the "P" Ranch there, like I told you, there was the Judd Wise place, then Dell Witzel, and Parker, and Whites, and Jones, and all the Grain Camps was grain in them days.

MARCUS: Oh yes.

WANDA: Then all the way up the road.

MARCUS: Larson was at Grain Camp then, wasn't he?

ELMER: Yeah, uh huh.

MARCUS: Well then the Montgomery place, the Tipton place across the road there, across the canal from Buena Vista. George Tipton lived there. And then they farmed --- well you farmed some of that for the government yourself. I mean you helped, I think.

ELMER: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: Cleaned out some ditches maybe. I think ---

ELMER: The government farmed that Grain Camp for a while, you know.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, I know all about that. Oh, yes. They farmed that all during the war there. My gosh Marcelle (Leake) and I would do the plowing there with that old 22 Cat, and run it about twenty hours a day, you know.

ELMER: Yeah.

MARCUS: You bet. But I've got --- I'm going to go talk to Dell this afternoon. He leased

it, and he'll know how that, how working that is. But it's nice to have something else to add to it too here.

WANDA: Well we didn't know anything about the business end of it, because we didn't go into that.

MARCUS: No. Yeah. Then he'll know about that.

WANDA: Yeah, he was just working for Joe, and I was working at the hotel after we got married.

MARCUS: But --- and then they leased the Diamond. I don't know, the Diamond Ranch out over there, there wasn't any farming done over there I guess, was there? I don't know of any, but there could have been.

ELMER: I can't think ---

WANDA: I don't know.

ELMER: Can't think of any.

MARCUS: I've got some ---

WANDA: Well Reva would know about the Diamond. Because that's where she lived all the ---

MARCUS: Yeah. I've got some hay measurements here. There was, if you'd kind of like to listen to. I've got them right here someplace. Well this was the hay that was stacked in 1935. Now that was the year that the government took that over, and they rake bunched a lot of it. And they put up 1836 tons at the Sod House. And the "P" Ranch put up 5028, Buena Vista 900 tons, and the Diamond 1500 tons, for a total of 9264 tons of hay the first year they had that place. If you get 964 tons on all of it, you'd do damn good now.

ELMER: Now the damn thing is all willows.

WANDA: I was going to say you wouldn't get a pitchfork full.

MARCUS: Oh, it's ruined. It's terrible, terrible. I come down through the Center Patrol

Road here a couple times this spring, you go up there, the snow was all gone, you know. And we had snow that deep. It was kind of a pleasure to go out there and see bare ground. And just across the bridge in that fine meadow there, it hadn't been cut for two or three years, and it's just dying out.

ELMER: Then when it is cut, it ain't fit for anything.

MARCUS: Well no, but it's killing out the grass, all the good grass, clovers and that sort of thing, just ruining it. And you never saw a bird down through, except some hawks.

WANDA: Yeah.

MARCUS: If they had any birds in there to show, or something.

WANDA: When you think back of how they wrecked that place, it's sickening.

MARCUS: Well that's just what I'm trying to get together here now.

WANDA: We never go out there. We don't want to see it.

MARCUS: No, no. Well I go out home there too, and look where those buildings used to be too, you know.

ELMER: Well we haven't been out there for a long time.

WANDA: The last time we was there was when Jiggs' kids give him a party before they left.

MARCUS: Uh huh. You have been in town quite awhile, haven't you?

WANDA: About fourteen years.

MARCUS: Fourteen.

ELMER: Come in '72.

MARCUS: Yeah, all migrated in here after so long a time.

WANDA: Well then all of our ---

ELMER: When did you move in here, Marcus?

MARCUS: '79.



ELMER: '79.

MARCUS: Yeah.

WANDA: All of our family left, everybody was gone from there. There was nothing. He was retired. Couldn't get television out there worth listening to, so we just come to town.

MARCUS: You kind of moved in for the television.

WANDA: Come to town, yeah.

MARCUS: That's about right.

WANDA: There was nothing left out there.

MARCUS: But I've talked to Joe Fine, Joe Fine, and I asked him this question. As far as the birds are concerned, they would be better off out there today had there never been a refuge ever established there. Do you feel that way Elmer?

ELMER: Yes sir, absolutely.

WANDA: One hundred percent.

MARCUS: They ruined some of the finest land in the country, and took the birds out while they were doing it.

ELMER: Mazzoni, he was the cause of all of that, Joe Mazzoni.

MARCUS: Yeah, he sure did his share of it anyway.

ELMER: He had a hell of a pull someplace, that boy.

MARCUS: Yeah, he's still got it too.

ELMER: Yeah, still got it.

MARCUS: They say that this fellow here now calls him ever so often, up in Alaska, you know. I've always said, and I still believe, that he was sent in here to tear down as much of John Scharff's work as he possibly could, and he did a pretty darn good job of it.

WANDA: That's what he did.

MARCUS: He did a pretty good job of it, you bet.

WANDA: As soon as he got here, he started wrecking everything.

MARCUS: Yeah.

ELMER: When John was there, he made them mow everything. I seen John make one fellow there go back and mow twenty acres he didn't mow.

MARCUS: Yeah.

WANDA: Contractors.

MARCUS: He made you mow the willows, and kept them back, you know.

ELMER: Contractors, they didn't like to mess with them little patches, you know.

MARCUS: No, no, I'm sure they wouldn't. And you didn't like to mow the willows, but if you mowed them every year there was no problem.

WANDA: Nothing to it.

MARCUS: But you let them go a year or two, and then you had a job on your hands.

WANDA: When I was running a mower there, you'd go in the fields that somebody had mowed before and they hadn't mowed the willows, why you could make a lot of sections before you got through.

MARCUS: They flew like birds, didn't they?

WANDA: Yeah.

MARCUS: You darn right.

ELMER: John was the best man that ever hit on that refuge.

MARCUS: Oh, he'll be the best man that will ever be there.

ELMER: Yeah.

MARCUS: The old heads are gone, Elmer, is what's wrong. This thing called horse sense and common sense is the thing of the past. There is no question about it. You bet.

WANDA: All common sense, they don't use.

MARCUS: No, that's what I mean.

WANDA: Just something they get out of a book.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's right.

ELMER: Affected the cow business a lot too.

MARCUS: Oh sure, you bet.

ELMER: Then this wilderness area that ain't helping the cow man any.

MARCUS: The what?

ELMER: Wilderness area.

MARCUS: Oh no, no. They sure aren't. The State of Oregon is beginning to do a pretty good job of helping them out too, on out the door, on the water rights.

ELMER: I read in the paper the other day where --- what county was it, anyway they made the wilderness area there, over fifty percent of it be in the wilderness area.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Yeah, I think that's right.

ELMER: Farmers they're going broke, and the cowman is going broke, so I don't know.

MARCUS: No, it's --- we lived in the best time, Elmer.

ELMER: We did.

MARCUS: That Harney County will ever see, probably.

ELMER: Yeah.

MARCUS: We had pretty tough times there during the depression, but by gosh nothing like, you know, that they are going to see around here one of these days.

WANDA: Just the way they build the roads, you maybe saw that picture.

MARCUS: No, no I haven't.

WANDA: That's Elmer and Howard.

MARCUS: It is, huh.

WANDA: That's Katherine Fine's dad, and that's her cousin.

MARCUS: Well I'll be darned. How many horses have you got on there, Elmer?

ELMER: Twenty-two.

MARCUS: That was the old elevating grader?

ELMER: Huh?

MARCUS: That was the elevating grader you were pulling with it?

ELMER: Yeah, the grader.

MARCUS: Well by gosh, that's all right.

ELMER: That's the best leader I ever worked in my life, that white horse there.

MARCUS: He was, huh?

WANDA: That was down on the "P" Ranch. They was making, what was you doing down there, building ditches?

ELMER: Yeah, building ditches.

WANDA: They built a road to Roaring Springs to Three Mile.

ELMER: See built that road from, well from where that road turns off to go to Rock Creek, you know, going towards Roaring Springs.

MARCUS: Yes.

ELMER: Built that road from there to Three Mile.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

WANDA: With that team.

MARCUS: Well I'll be darned. By gosh quite a job harnessing up and unharnessing wasn't it?

ELMER: That didn't take long.

MARCUS: If you had plenty of help around.

ELMER: Of course we left the halters on, just had sacks, you know.

WANDA: There was just Howard and Elmer, they did all the ...

ELMER: We'd harness and feed them their grain in thirty minutes.

MARCUS: You would huh?

ELMER: We'd catch them and tie them up. Of course they was all gentle, real gentle horses to catch. Then we had three extra horses we fed grain, just in case some of them got sick or a sore shoulder or something.

WANDA: Sending that to Howard's boy. He seen it when he was here, and wanted it. He'll want one even now.

ELMER: The leader, he had a bad shoulder. I took a collar and cut it out, and hammered it out. Then I raised the draft up one high, and it didn't bother anymore. I never used this collar for only for him. I never put it on any other horse but him.

MARCUS: You mean this horse here?

ELMER: Yeah.

MARCUS: Did you use a jerk line on this horse?

ELMER: Did what?

MARCUS: Did you have a jerk line?

ELMER: No, no, reins.

MARCUS: You just had, what did you have, just the one set?

ELMER: The lines into ...

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ELMER: The lines. They broke a chain once, and just had the wheelers left. They didn't go a hundred and fifty yards until they fell down.

MARCUS: That must have been a mix-up, wasn't it Elmer?

ELMER: Yeah.

WANDA: Yeah, it was.

ELMER: Then this white horse here, he come back to the grader ... didn't have a thing on, not even a halter.

MARCUS: He didn't huh?

ELMER: And then we had to pull them all back and take that chain up and, the big chain, and --- I'll think of it in a minute. The blacksmith was there, he welded it.

WANDA: Oh, Steele.

ELMER: Huh?

WANDA: Steele?

ELMER: Frank Steele.

MARCUS: Frank Steele.

ELMER: Then we moved that barn up there, you know, that time. He come up there that, caught a ... that time, you know, when we moved that barn up there and we broke that chain again. That chain next to the --- there. Moved that barn. They didn't put any rudders under it, any rollers I mean, and it set in gravel and it broke the lead chain. Of course we didn't lose anything then. So then we ---

MARCUS: Well have you got the original picture?

WANDA: That's it.

MARCUS: This is it right here.

WANDA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: I would like to have a copy made of this for the museum and put this story right down here. You don't see twenty-two horses hooked up.

WANDA: I have --- well Lewis (Ash) has the other one like that. I was sending that to Howard's oldest boy.

ELMER: We could get that to Lewiston, and then you could get a copy of that.

MARCUS: Yeah, whatever would be fine. Who took the picture, Elmer?

ELMER: Who in the heck took that picture, do you remember?

WANDA: I don't have any idea.

MARCUS: He kind of knew what he was doing anyway.

WANDA: ... enlarged them, didn't he? See there is a post card size.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh. Yeah this is the one I meant; I can have this enlarged right here.

WANDA: Well you don't get all of Howard. I don't know why. They cut him off on this.

MARCUS: Well I'll be darned.

WANDA: Now this, you get more. Now Lewis has one in Crane, just exactly like this.

MARCUS: Yeah, well I ---

ELMER: I'll have Lewis bring that one in from Crane.

MARCUS: All right, yeah. When I first glanced down here, I thought that was Albert Olafson standing here. Looks like him, doesn't it?

WANDA: Yeah it looks like him, but it was McDonald.

MARCUS: I see that it wasn't after I took a second look. But it looked like him.

ELMER: You seen that mess though, didn't you?

MARCUS: Yeah, I sure did. That was real good Wanda. You bet. Wanda and Elmer, in Howard's obituary they had it that you folks lived in Drewsey.

WANDA: I didn't.

MARCUS: Didn't your folks live there for a while?

WANDA: I wasn't. When the folks were married, they were married in Indiana, and then they started west. And Dad had some relatives here in this end of the world. And they wound up in Drewsey and Mom stayed in the old hotel in Drewsey, and Dad worked in Juntura. MARCUS: Oh.

WANDA: And Howard was born in the hotel in Drewsey.

MARCUS: I'll be darned. I'd never had heard that before.

ELMER: I can't think of who took that picture though.

WANDA: And then they went on to California and on to Montana. I was born there.

Indiana, then we went ---

MARCUS: You moved around quite a bit.

WANDA: Dad was always on the move.

MARCUS: Uh huh. By gosh, I guess Louie really had a nice trip up there last summer.

ELMER: Yeah.

WANDA: Yeah, he did.

MARCUS: He got his pictures ---

ELMER: He got a white salmon.

MARCUS: Yeah, he showed me that.

ELMER: I never knew of white salmon before.

MARCUS: He got his picture, went over and got his pictures and showed them to me right during one of the big hot basketball games. We missed the whole game. But he had a stack of pictures like that, and we sure looked at them, and the hell with the ball game. By gosh we were, sure enjoyed Clyde here.

WANDA: Yeah, well Clyde is the one I'm sending that too.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what you said.

ELMER: Where did you go to high school at?

MARCUS: Burns.

ELMER: Burns.

MARCUS: We didn't know him from Adam, of course. We hadn't seen him since he left here in 1955.

ELMER: Let's see, you dad owned the store at Narrows?

MARCUS: No, that was Charlie, that was my uncle. That was Wilbur's boy. Their father rather. My father had a store at Princeton.

ELMER: Oh, I see.



MARCUS: And then Fred Haines, another brother, had the store up here at Harney.

ELMER: Harney, yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah.

ELMER: Yeah we tell that story there, that guy there, that uncle there at The Narrows sold a sheepherder a lot of stuff, so much he couldn't pack it, so he sold him a wheelbarrow to wheel it off in.

MARCUS: Well that's about right, I think.

ELMER: I don't know whether that was right or not.

MARCUS: I think it was, you bet.

ELMER: They say that.

WANDA: We enjoyed those pictures Lewis had. I wish you could see the movies that Clyde and Fred had. That's all they did since they have been in Canada is hunt and fish.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

WANDA: Of course not all they did, they build log houses and everything.

MARCUS: Well you folks have gone up there a few times, haven't you?

WANDA: Yeah, we have been there three times.

MARCUS: That's what I was, I was sure you had.

WANDA: We was there around British Columbia. Where they are at now we have been twice. Been there four times, one, two, three, we have been there four different times.

ELMER: We have done a lot of traveling in our life.

MARCUS: Well you went back to Minnesota on the airplane too, didn't you?

ELMER: Yeah.

MARCUS: Did you like that Elmer?

ELMER: Yeah, it was pretty good. She got sick coming back, didn't get airsick.

WANDA: I didn't get sick coming back; I got sick before I started back. Kids back there

had some kind of a flu or something, and I caught it the night before we was to get on the plane.

MARCUS: Didn't help any to get on the plane then, did it?

WANDA: Didn't bother. The plane didn't bother me one bit.

ELMER: Did you ever ride those big planes?

MARCUS: Yeah.

ELMER: Don't seem like you are moving hardly at all.

MARCUS: No, no.

WANDA: Just get up there and sit still. I was so sick I didn't care if we did crash.

ELMER: Traveling five hundred and twenty-four miles an hour.

MARCUS: It would be all right with you.

WANDA: Yeah.

ELMER: After they get up there, five hundred and twenty-four miles an hour.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Yeah we flew from Boise to Seattle and back one time. Edna was born and raised in Seattle. She had relatives up there, we went up and saw a football.

ELMER: How is Edna?

MARCUS: Real good. She went over to Drewsey this morning to pick up the girls. They are going to Boise today. She has a doctor's appointment over there. They are going to take her over there. They will be in there at two o'clock, two o'clock today.

ELMER: How old are you now Marcus?

MARCUS: I'm 79.

ELMER: 79.

MARCUS: 79 last month.

ELMER: John, well he is about 74, 75 --- I mean 84, 85, isn't he?

MARCUS: Yeah, he was born in 1901, the 7th of July.

ELMER: I knew we was right close together.

MARCUS: When is your birthday Elmer?

ELMER: January the 1st, 1901.

MARCUS: Yeah, you got a little over half a year ahead of him there. His birthday is the 7th of July.

ELMER: Now Dell can tell you about the share crop, but I couldn't tell you what ---

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what I would like to know, and kind of get a little idea of the acreage of grain. Now down there at Grain Camp, you know, when we was farming down there we'd give half of it to the cranes and the geese. I suppose that happened up there too.

WANDA: Yeah, they was just all over, but nobody paid any attention there was so much.

MARCUS: No, no, they didn't pay any attention to them.

WANDA: The only thing that anybody paid any attention to was, let's see how come, where were we living then. You remember Dunn's?

MARCUS: Leah and ---

WANDA: Leah and Benny Dunn, they'd come out.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

WANDA: And Estelle and Leo wanted a goose. Leo mostly wanted a goose. I told him absolutely no shooting geese; you know, on the "P" Ranch, that's all there was to that. I don't know where we were; we must have been in the store. We were.

ELMER: Yeah.

WANDA: So what --- they never told me this until years afterwards. I know they were taking off by themselves. I was busy in the store and they would take off. Found out that they put a hook on a, fishhook, a fishhook on a line and then put a piece of grain on it, you know. And put some grain out there, and then they would put that out there. They

thought maybe they would catch a goose on that, but they never did.

MARCUS: They never got one, huh?

WANDA: No.

MARCUS: Well I'll be darned.

WANDA: Then they said we was afraid to tell you.

MARCUS: Joe Fine told me that they used to go down to Baca Lake and kill geese for Christmas. Said you would get the fattest geese down there you'd ever want. They never thought about buying a turkey, or getting a turkey. They always killed the geese down there.

WANDA: Well. We just don't like geese or ducks.

MARCUS: No, I don't either.

WANDA: Elmer likes sagehen; I'm not crazy about sagehen.

MARCUS: I like sagehen. The young sagehen, Elmer, there is nothing better is there?

ELMER: When I was, oh about thirteen or fourteen years old, lived on Sheepheads. And about twice a week I'd take a 22 and go down below there on Palomino Creek and get three. I learned pretty quick you always wanted to shoot the one closest to you. Shoot one up there they'd get to the top would make them all fly. So shoot the one closest to you, and I would get three, and that was it. Kill three and take the entrails out as soon as I killed them.

MARCUS: We used to go out to Star Mountain there, when Dora and Charlie lived there. Went out there several years the Fourth of July. And he had a meadow down below he called Bell Mare Meadow, and there was always a bunch of young sagehens in there. And he had a 410, and we'd go down there and kill a mess of those sagehens. And I'll tell you, there was nothing better.

ELMER: Last batch I had was, went up on Home Creek I believe it was, someplace. But

anyway those herons, Joe give me the shotgun and said, kill them herons if you can.

They was catching fish, you know. I never killed a heron, but I got the sagehens.

WANDA: I don't think I ever ate any young sagehen.

MARCUS: You never?

WANDA: I think all we ever had was the old ones.

MARCUS: All the old ones. Hell you couldn't eat one of them.

WANDA: ...

ELMER: You couldn't stick a fork in the gravy, those roosters.

MARCUS: No, no, you sure couldn't. I always remember Albert telling about John and Florence came up there one time when they first came to the country visiting. And Lottie got to telling them about killing sagehens and canning them on Steens Mountain.

WANDA: Oh, uh huh.

MARCUS: Albert said, yeah, but Lottie that's been a long time ago, ain't it? (Laughter)  
Didn't want John to think he was killing sagehens.

ELMER: Lottie still alive?

MARCUS: Yeah, she is still alive.

ELMER: I thought she was. That Albert he was quite a case, wasn't he?

MARCUS: He sure was.

WANDA: He sure liked to give Lottie a bad time.

MARCUS: Yeah. Lottie could slow him up once in awhile too, you know.

WANDA: Yeah, once in awhile. Anyway she wouldn't have too much to say. We played many a games of cards with them.

MARCUS: Stayed there all night with them one time and we were trying --- she was supposed to fix up a lunch for us, you know. So we could get started to work. Well she got to arguing with me, you know. Lottie liked to argue.

WANDA: Yeah.

MARCUS: And Albert said, "Lottie, Lottie, fix the lunch. Lottie, we got to go, fix the lunch." And she said --- Finally he said, "Lottie," said, "I knew a sheepherder one time that always fixed his lunch the night before." So Lottie said, "Well why didn't you marry the old son-of-a-bitch?" (Laughter) She sure slowed the Swede up that time. By gosh we went up there in January of '67, the high school at Crane burned while we were gone.

ELMER: Yeah.

WANDA: Oh, uh huh.

MARCUS: And we stayed all night with Albert and Lottie. And Albert would have to set on the davenport and get his arms back like this to get air enough to talk to you.

WANDA: Oh, no.

MARCUS: And the next morning he got up, and he got on his Bird Machine, and was on there for fifteen, twenty minutes before he could say good morning to you.

WANDA: Yeah.

MARCUS: And he died in June of that year.

WANDA: I know he was extremely bad. Speaking of Bird Machine, I know somebody that hasn't been on his for a long time too.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well I think maybe I had better go, I don't want to wear Elmer out here.

WANDA: Oh, he is all right.

(END OF TAPE)

bl