

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #304 - Side A

Subject: Hall Cave

Place: Drewsey, Oregon

Date: June 6, 1976

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

MARCUS HAINES: ... here this morning. And this is the 6th of June 1976. And we're up viewing the Hall Cave where the Hall children were raised. And yesterday on the Historical Tour, Mrs. Heinz, Roy Heinz, who was a Hall, said she lived here I think she said till she was fifteen, sixteen years old. So we got quite a little interest generated in it.

So we came up, and we've got Pat O'Toole here with me, and Pat knows this country real well, has been here many years. So I'm going to ask him to tell us a little bit about this cave. There is quite a little history to it according to Pat.

PAT O'TOOLE: Well Tom Howard told me that when his dad first come here, that right down here where this road takes off the main road, that his dad and, I don't know, somebody else that moved in here about --- well it was some of the first white settlers that come into this country.

And they dug out an old badger hole down there where the road, where this road comes off now. All they had was a tarp, so they dug that thing out. They were set to spend the winter there. And old Hall was up here living in this cave, so he went down and got them and they evidently moved up here and stayed with them for a while. Spend the winter here.

MARCUS: How many Hall children is there, Pat, do you know?

PAT: Well not for sure. I think there was four or five of them. There was Mrs. Heinz and

Lindsey, and I don't know, there was ---Bill Nelson's dad, do you remember him?

MARCUS: No, no I don't.

PAT: Well let's see, that would be, no I don't know, maybe there was just two of them.

MARCUS: Well Mrs. Heinz said yesterday that her father moved up in here and told the sheep men and the cowmen that he was going to stay, and the first fellow who tried to run him out of here was going to get shot. And she said he lived to be 93 years old. Now whether he spent all the time up here or not, I don't know. But apparently he wasn't molested very much, Pat.

PAT: No, he probably wasn't.

MARCUS: No. But to tell a little bit about the cave, of course inside is all smoked from fires being built in it. I suppose the Indians made use of it for centuries, and probably that was what caused most of the smoking there.

But it's probably twenty feet deep, and it kind of tapers down at the back end. And this fellow Hall has boarded up the front of it. And it looks like it might be, well maybe thirty feet across. And there is a door and a window, and then the stovepipe comes out over the, above the window. And then there is another wall that projects out about twelve feet. And there was another wall that run back to the cave again. It's fell over, so we don't know for sure just what it amounted to.

But inside there is a ledge that looks like it might have been chipped out and worked out for a seat. We call it the davenport. It's a couple feet deep, and it's up a foot or such a matter off the ground, and probably eight or ten feet long. It's on I think what would be the northwest wall of the cave.

And it sets up above Cave Creek here, well it's a couple hundred feet anyway, and there is a rock retaining wall built out in front to keep the ground from washing away. When you go up on top there is quite a drainage that comes down. At certain times of the

year you would sure have running water. All you'd have to do is stick a bucket out the door and the water would be running down right there, right in front of you.

But this country is well named. There is caves about any place you want to look. This is of course the biggest one, I assume. But there is lots and lots of little ones here.

And I'm going to ask Marky John what he thinks about Cave Creek here, and how he would like to spend the winter. When he gets tired of going to school, maybe his dad will bring him up here and let him camp awhile. What do you think, Marky?

MARK O'TOOLE: I don't know.

MARCUS: Wouldn't you like to live up here?

MARK: No.

MARCUS: Why not?

MARK: Well maybe.

MARCUS: Well maybe. Yeah, when your dad got after you, and Mama too, why this might be a good place to come, wouldn't it?

MARK: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's kind of what I thought. You got lots of rattlesnakes up here for company.

MARK: Yeah.

MARCUS: Here is some chuckers around.

MARK: Yeah.

MARCUS: And lots of trees to play in. And you've been all over these cliffs. You think you was up here all by yourself, how you could do this?

MARK: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Would that be more fun than going to school?

MARK: Yeah.

MARCUS: You wouldn't have any TV, you know.

MARK: I don't care.

MARCUS: You don't care for TV?

MARK: Well, just my favorite shows.

MARCUS: Just at times, huh?

MARK: Yeah. I would say about thirty times a week.

MARCUS: Thirty times a week you like to ---

MARK: Maybe thirty times a day.

MARCUS: You like to watch TV?

MARK: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well, you might not ---

MARK: Not that much, I like to read, some.

MARCUS: Well this would be a good place to come to read, because there would be nobody up here to bother you, would there?

MARK: Especially with her not around, Michelle.

MARCUS: Michelle. Well let's see what Michelle thinks about this. Would you like to live up here Michelle?

MICHELLE O'TOOLE: Yep.

MARCUS: Would you like to be up here with Marky John?

MICHELLE: Yep.

MARCUS: Well he doesn't want to be up here with you. How is that going to work out?

MICHELLE: I don't know.

MARCUS: You don't know, huh? Would you like to sleep in that cave up here tonight?

MICHELLE: Yes, if I have clothes.

MARCUS: If you had clothes.

MICHELLE: And toothpaste.

MARCUS: And toothpaste. Well say that would help all right. (Laughter) Clothes and toothpaste, that would be a pretty important item up here, wouldn't it?

MICHELLE: Where could I put my toothbrush?

MARCUS: Well you just ---

PAT: You'd have to hang it on a nail up here, wouldn't you?

MARCUS: Do you see any nails to hang your toothbrush on? Did you see someplace that you might put the toothbrush?

MICHELLE: Well I might put it on the cave.

MARCUS: Well yeah, that would do it. Gosh you could see the sun come up in the morning. It's pointed right out toward, where the sun comes up now, isn't it?

MICHELLE: What would I have to eat?

MARCUS: What would you have to eat? Oh, you could catch you a rabbit around here I expect, and maybe a rattlesnake. They're pretty plentiful I understand here.

MICHELLE: Yuk.

MARCUS: Yuk. A fellow would need a toothbrush after he ate one of them, wouldn't he? Huh?

MICHELLE: Yes. What would Marky have for eat?

MARCUS: What would Marky eat? He'd have to eat the same thing that you do, I guess, wouldn't he?

MICHELLE: I'll probably take crackers with me.

MARCUS: Yeah, some crackers, that would be all right too. And there is water down here in the creek. You wouldn't have to worry about water. You had some crackers and water, and a rattlesnake and a rabbit; you'd be all fixed up, wouldn't you?

MICHELLE: No. I'd have to take some big crackers with me.

MARCUS: Yeah. Now let's see how good this sounds, huh? Pat tell us a little more about this building here, Pat, go ahead.

PAT: Well from the face of it, where this comes out here and runs east, well there is another wall, just three walls there. They come together against the face of the cliff there, and then it used to slant down, kind of where the water --- and when it run off the cliff there, it would run down the other side.

MARCUS: I think Mrs. Heinz told us here yesterday that there was two rooms then.

PAT: Yeah, there probably was two rooms. Because I think that, looked like it was partitioned off there. You know where that other little cave was there off to the side?

MARCUS: Yes.

PAT: And it was probably a bedroom, or maybe, that was probably the bedroom maybe. This other was the cooking area.

MARCUS: Yeah I expect it was. Probably the living room. That would be pretty warm in there, you know. It wouldn't take much heat to keep you comfortable.

PAT: They probably had another window out there too.

MARCUS: I think there is in that wall that has fell down, I think there is a window there.

PAT: Yeah.

MICHELLE: I would probably need some breakfast with me, what would I have for breakfast?

MARCUS: What would you have for breakfast?

MICHELLE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well crackers and rattlesnakes. (Laughter)

PAT: Well you want to go over and get some pictures of that hole there?

(END OF TAPE)

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