

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #312 - Sides A & B

Subject: Jim McCullough - With Video

Place: McCullough Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: December 20, 1991

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: I'm Dorothea Purdy and today we're visiting with Jim McCullough at his home in Burns, Oregon. The date is December the 20th, 1991, and this cassette will be stored in the Harney County Library along with the video, which will be numbered 312, as part of the Harney County History Project. Jim, can you tell us your full name?

JIM McCULLOUGH: James Edward McCullough.

DOROTHEA: And how do you spell McCullough, is it spelled different?

JIM: M c C U L L O U G H.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And where were you born?

JIM: St. Louis, Missouri.

DOROTHEA: What year?

JIM: 1900 --- 7th day of December 1905.

DOROTHEA: What were your parent's names?

JIM: What were your ---

DOROTHEA: Your parents? What were your mother and dad's names?

JIM: My dad's name was James, and my mother's name was Molly.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And did they come to Harney County; did they ever live in Harney County?

JIM: My mother was divorced from my dad and we, my sister and I and my mother came

to Harney County.

DOROTHEA: And do you remember what year that was?

JIM: 1915.

DOROTHEA: And what did you do?

JIM: And the reason we come to Harney County was she had another sister that had got a piece of land from the Civil War veteran, and it was out in the middle of Catlow Valley.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JIM: And she wanted --- my mother was divorced, and she wanted her to come out and join her with another sister. And so we came out here in 1915. Moved into Catlow Valley.

Do you know where Catlow Valley is?

DOROTHEA: No, I've never been there.

JIM: Well it is right on top of the hill, a big valley from Frenchglen.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And what did you do out there? Did she ---

JIM: Well she had taken up --- her sister already had this one piece of land. She had taken up a homestead. That's when all that country was being homesteaded. At one time, I just don't know the year, but at one time, so they say, there was five hundred votes cast in Catlow Valley, and that was before the women voted. So you know ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA LOFGREN: There was a lot of people there.

JIM: You know there was a lot of people there, yes. And it was just a big old valley. There was water, but the Company had all the water, and the rest of it was just dry, dry, no good, no good.

BARBARA: And so did your mother run some cows, did she?

JIM: Did she what?

BARBARA: Run some cows, did she have any cattle?

JIM: No, no, she just --- They just built her a cabin and --- I was ten years old when I come here. She got married a couple years after she moved out there.

DOROTHEA: And who did she marry?

JIM: She married a fellow by the name of George Sebring. He was a rancher, cowman. And she had one girl by George.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And what were your sister's names?

JIM: My sister's name was Marian.

DOROTHEA: Did you have more than one sister?

JIM: No, just the one sister, and then mother had another baby, had by George Sebring, and she would have been my half-sister.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. What was her name?

JIM: Grace.

DOROTHEA: Grace.

JIM: Grace. She married a fellow by the name of Catterson.

BARBARA: So did Mr. Sebring live there in Catlow Valley too?

JIM: He lived there, and up on the foothills. And then he lived down towards Denio, had a little ranch down there.

BARBARA: So where did you go to school then?

JIM: What schooling I got was in Catlow Valley, outside of a little in St. Louis. I went through the eighth grade at one school at Catlow, and about two years to what they called a high school over there at Ragtown.

BARBARA: At Ragtown, uh huh.

JIM: But my sister moved to town here with people and stayed in here with different people, boarded and worked for her board and everything and went to high school here.

BARBARA: Here in Burns, uh huh.

JIM: In Burns, yes.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember any of your teacher's names?

JIM: Well yes, one of them was a man, Oscar Stewart. Another gal was Nelson. I forget her first name, Nelson. And then there was a gal; a pretty large woman taught school, and her name was Smith. That was the school I went to then.

DOROTHEA: Well what did you do then after you got a little older, what did you --- is that when you started shearing sheep?

JIM: Well I, as I say I only went two years to high school that way --- well I just, I went to work for the Company mostly.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: The PLS Company?

JIM: No, it was, oh the ---

BARBARA: Devine?

JIM: Huh?

BARBARA: Devine?

JIM: Oh, the big Company out there at the "P" Ranch.

BARBARA: Oh, at the "P" Ranch, okay.

JIM: Swift and Company.

BARBARA: Swift and Company, okay.

JIM: Yes. And I worked for them, I worked with the sheep, and then I worked with the cattle. I buckarood for two or three years, cowboying. That was before I was twenty years old, yeah. DOROTHEA: And when did you start shearing sheep? I understood that you also, besides shearing sheep, you also trapped coyotes.

JIM: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you do that as a hobby, or as an income?

JIM: That coyote deal, oh that was years later.

DOROTHEA: That was years later?

JIM: Yeah. I started shearing sheep when I was a pretty young man, probably 23 or 24. And I had a shearing outfit of my own, what I mean by that I had all the machinery and everything, and I just went from sheep man to sheep man and sheared their sheep. I had a crew of eight, ten men.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And what, where did you travel? Did you stay just in Harney County, or did you travel all over everywhere?

JIM: I just stayed in Harney County with the shearing outfit of my own. But before I got that outfit of my own, I traveled to Montana and the State of Washington and sheared sheep, also California, early.

DOROTHEA: Working ---

JIM: Just with the seasons.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. Is that quite a busy business? Can you keep pretty busy shearing sheep?

JIM: You say was it?

DOROTHEA: Yes.

JIM: Yes, of those days. There was lots of sheep, lots of sheep. And they were sheared once a year. And California was earlier than up here. May was here, go to Idaho the latter part of May, June. Wind up at the Canadian line in July.

DOROTHEA: And then did you turn around and come back and re-shear, or do you just shear sheep more than once a year?

JIM: Just sheared the sheep three or four months out of the year and then came back home.

DOROTHEA: And then what did you do?

JIM: Well then I got that hotel in Crane, I bought it.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And then you met and married your wife. How did you meet your wife?

JIM: Well she was just a, went to high school there in Crane. They had a pretty good high school there in Crane, and she was going to high school there, and I met her there. I met her there when she was going to high school. I got married up here the 7th day of September in 1929.

BARBARA: And what was her name?

JIM: Her name was Millie Quier.

BARBARA: Millie Quier.

JIM: Her dad's name was Quier. There was a whole bunch of them.

DOROTHEA: Are they all related out here?

JIM: Huh?

DOROTHEA: Were they all related to the Venator's and the Quier's, is that that bunch?

JIM: Related to who?

DOROTHEA: The Venator's?

JIM: I don't understand you.

DOROTHEA: I know Billy Quier, is he some relation of Millie's?

JIM: Yes, yes, Billy Quier, yes. He was my wife's brother's boy.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

JIM: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And he went by the name of Venator for a while.

JIM: Billy did.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JIM: Yes.

DOROTHEA: So then they were related somehow.

JIM: Well Henrietta Venator was Billy's mother.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay, okay. So did you have any children?

JIM: I had one, we had one girl.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And her name is?

JIM: Here name was Jean.

DOROTHEA: Jean. What did you do, is that when you purchased the Denman Hotel?

JIM: Yes, I got married in '29, and '30, about '31, '32 I purchased the hotel, yeah.

DOROTHEA: And what did you do out there, just run the hotel?

JIM: We run the hotel mostly, and I did a little shearing around in the season.

BARBARA: Who did you have --- what kind of people stopped at the Denman Hotel?

Was it just travelers coming through, or what kind of clients or patrons came?

JIM: Well overnight guests, and everything would - - - I'd say would have been mostly transients, or stock buyers. There was lots of stock shipped out of Crane, and they would have, the stock buyers would be staying with you several days while they were shipping their stock --- overnight.

DOROTHEA: That's where the train stopped. Did you get a lot of people coming in on the train that stayed at your hotels?

JIM: No, not really. You see when we come to the country we came in a car from Juntura, that's where the train was, that was the end of it. That was in 1915. 1916 the railroad built on up to Crane. And that got to be a shipping point for all the stock and everything. And why it stayed there, I don't know, but it stayed there in Crane from 1916 to 1923 when it moved into, train came on up here to Burns.

BARBARA: How many rooms did you have at your hotel?

JIM: Oh, it was upstairs, probably 14, 15, maybe an apartment or two.

BARBARA: And how many people did you have working for you to keep the place up?

JIM: Well we had two or three girls all the time.

BARBARA: Cook.

JIM: One cooking, and ---

BARBARA: So you served meals there too?

JIM: Huh?

BARBARA: You served meals to your guests?

JIM: Oh yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Had a little dining room then for them to eat?

JIM: Yes.

BARBARA: And were these Basque girls mostly that came in, or daughters of ranchers around?

JIM: The girls?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JIM: They were, yes, ranch girls. And they, probably some of them probably went to school and worked for us there, lived in with us there at the hotel, see.

BARBARA: I see, uh huh.

JIM: That was quite a school in those days.

DOROTHEA: In Crane?

JIM: Yes, and it probably is yet.

BARBARA: Yeah, they still have quite a few kids that go to school there.

JIM: Yes. Well they had kids from clear, all the whole county.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh.

JIM: And I moved, sold, I run the store there for a couple years after I sold the hotel, for a man by the name of Dunlap. And I came up here, we moved up here in '45.



BARBARA: Into Burns?

JIM: Into Burns, and bought the Elkhorn.

BARBARA: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Now this, was Millie with you then?

JIM: Yes.

DOROTHEA: You and Millie owned the Elkhorn?

JIM: She was, yes.

DOROTHEA: Now did you play for dances also out at Crane?

JIM: Did I what?

DOROTHEA: Play for dances, did you play an instrument?

JIM: No, she didn't play for dances.

DOROTHEA: Oh she didn't. Millie did or didn't?

JIM: She didn't very much. She might have a little. It was my second wife that played for dances.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

JIM: I had that Elkhorn for about four or five years, and Millie and I separated and I married this, George Tilley's wife, they separated and I married Marge.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And she is the one that played the piano.

JIM: She was the one that played the piano at dances. Oh, Millie played some with her all right, she played the violin.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she did?

JIM: Yeah. Marge and I were married 41 years.

DOROTHEA: What date did you marry her?

JIM: Huh?

DOROTHEA: What date did you marry Marge?

JIM: Well I, I can't be sure.

DOROTHEA: Forty-one years ago, huh?

JIM: Well, it was in '51.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JIM: I'll say '50, it was in '50.

DOROTHEA: And then after you owned the Elkhorn, where did you go, and what did you do?

JIM: After we separated, and I sold the Elkhorn and everything, I went down and went to work for the Basco kid, the Central Pastime. That was a tavern, and I finally bought that tavern from him. And I run that tavern for years and years.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a card game going in there?

JIM: Card games, yes we had card games. We also had shuffleboard, and pool tables, and what goes along with the tavern, you know.

BARBARA: I suppose the guys came in to play poker, and tell good stories, and have a glass of beer or something?

JIM: Oh yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JIM: We didn't have no hard liquor. It was just ---

BARBARA: Just beer.

JIM: Just beer.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Can you remember some of the guys that used to come in and kind of be regular guys, and some of the stories maybe that they would tell. Some of them maybe a little "big" story --- (Laughter).

JIM: Oh, I could name you a few, but I don't know whether I should or not.

BARBARA: Oh, okay. Well sometimes those places are just ---

JIM: Some of them, some of them is pretty prominent around here, and pretty well off, and I don't know whether --- what to do.

DOROTHEA: You don't think they would like their names mentioned, huh?

JIM: Huh?

DOROTHEA: You don't think they would like their names mentioned?

JIM: Well, what would you think?

DOROTHEA: Well, I wouldn't care, so ---

JIM: Well you could just pretty near name any business man you wanted to in town those days that came in and played cards with us.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JIM: Or played pool.

BARBARA: That was a big pastime for men to do, because they didn't have the TV at home to watch, so they came down to visit with their friends and business people. Probably conducted a little business there too, didn't they?

JIM: Played pool, shuffle board.

BARBARA: Nothing wrong with that.

JIM: Yeah.

BARBARA: Do you have any stories that you could tell about, some of the things that went on? You don't have to name any names.

JIM: No.

DOROTHEA: Well tell us something about your life as a child. What kind of childhood did you have?

JIM: Well, she went to school here, and went through high school, got married pretty young.

DOROTHEA: Your daughter?

JIM: Yes, my daughter.

DOROTHEA: What was her name, Jean?

JIM: Jean. I don't know what --- she surely had a middle name, Thelma. Thelma was her first name, Thelma Jean.

DOROTHEA: Thelma Jean.

JIM: She got married fairly young. I guess she thought the population of the country was going haywire. Anyway, she had ten kids.

DOROTHEA: Oh my goodness! (Laughter)

BARBARA: She wanted to make sure it was populated.

JIM: Yeah, I guess so.

DOROTHEA: Does she live around here?

JIM: No, she married this guy, I don't think he amounted to much. She lived down around Roseburg.

DOROTHEA: And they had ten children, huh?

JIM: Yeah, she had ten.

DOROTHEA: By the same husband?

JIM: Huh?

DOROTHEA: By the same husband?

JIM: Jean's husband?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JIM: What was his name?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JIM: Jim Myrick. (Sp.?)

DOROTHEA: Myrick. And they together had ten children?

JIM: Yes. And she went to Portland to be operated on, on her heart. And we went down

naturally from here, my wife and I, Marge. And she was just scared to death. That's when that famous man down there, that doctor --- anyway she got scared and she got up and left the hospital that night and went back home. She said, "I'm not going to let them take my heart out and operate on me, and fool around." (Laughter) And we went back down there where she went home, we went back down the next day and talked to her and tried to get her to --- nothing doing. Well she lived about two years after that was all. The heart got her, you know.

BARBARA: Well let's go back a little bit and talk about your childhood, growing up out there in Catlow Valley. What were some of the things that you did on the place, as you were a child? What kind of chores did you have to do?

JIM: Well, I got out of school there when I was 13 years old, and after that, I was big for my age, and I went to work. I went to work for, with the sheep outfit for a man by the name of Frank Kueny. And I worked for him several years. I also worked for the "P" Ranch when I was 17, 18 years old, buckarooing, cowboying.

BARBARA: Was it Frank Kueny that taught you how to shear sheep? JIM: No, he was a, he was a ---

BARBARA: He was a cowman?

JIM: He was a sheep man, Frank Kueny was.

BARBARA: Did he go up on the Steens, did he, with his sheep?

JIM: Steens?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JIM: Yes. Yes, he run a lot of sheep on the Steens.

DOROTHEA: Well who are some of the older people that you can remember that run the sheep? Did you ever shear sheep for Pete Obiague?

JIM: Pete Obiague, I sure did.

DOROTHEA: And some of the others, can you name some of the other sheep men?

JIM: I can name them all for you. There was Frank Kueny, run about ten thousand sheep out above Frenchglen, Steens Mountain. On seven, eight miles over there was two Bascos, Joe Lauserica and Pete Garay. And then there was some more Bascos from town here run sheep out there. I forget their names.

DOROTHEA: Did Felix Urizar run sheep?

JIM: I don't, I can't remember, I just don't believe Felix run sheep. He had this ranch here

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DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JIM: --- in town, and he --- he run cattle more than he did sheep.

DOROTHEA: Well they had a hotel out in the Crane country too didn't they, or Frenchglen or someplace?

JIM: Who?

DOROTHEA: Urizars. Before they came to Burns they bought the Star Hotel in here.

JIM: Oh, the Star Hotel here in town?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JIM: I don't know him having any hotel out of town anyplace.

DOROTHEA: Maybe they just worked at a store or something. Maybe she just worked in a hotel.

JIM: Oh, Mrs. ---

DOROTHEA: Urizar, uh huh.

JIM: I imagine that's the way it was.

BARBARA: So do you remember any of the other sheep people down there?

JIM: Who?

BARBARA: Any of the other sheep people, can you remember some of their names?

JIM: Well, them was the two big outfits out there, was Frank Kueny and them two Bascos I told you. Then you go on down and the Company run eight, ten thousand head of sheep. And they had a man by the name of Jim Green was sheep boss, in charge of that. Then you go on over the mountain and you get down there, you get into McDade's there at the Field Station. And they run quite a few sheep. You go on south, you're getting down to the Nevada line then, around Denio. Well there was a couple Basco outfits in there.

BARBARA: So were you with the sheep camps then when you worked for Frank Kueny? Were you out with the sheep?

JIM: Yes, I worked for Frank Kueny about two years straight; the year around I worked for him. I worked with the sheep, for Frank Kueny. That was all before I bought the hotel and all that, you know.

BARBARA: So where all did you move the sheep during the year? You would go from place to place? How long would you stay in a place before you had to move the sheep on?

JIM: Well that all just depends on the year, and the weather, and the pasture, the food that you had. You would go out there above Frenchglen on the low foothills of the Steens, and they would lamb. In the summertime they would go up higher, along with the grass and pasture, and go to the top of the Steens Mountain in summer. And in the winter they would come down and stay on the desert out here, Jack Mountain country, until it got Christmas, or along in there. Then they would pull into Diamond or someplace and feed hay for, until the first of March again, two or three months there they would be on the feed ground.

BARBARA: And did you have to cook when you were out there? Were you a cook, or were some of the others?

JIM: Sometimes you wouldn't see nobody for eight, ten days. Yes, you cooked or you ---

BARBARA: Did you have beans, or did you bake bread, or what all did you fix?

JIM: Yeah, that was the main deal all right was beans. And jackass bread they called it.

(Laughter)

DOROTHEA: How was that fixed?

JIM: Sourdough.

DOROTHEA: Sourdough bread.

JIM: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So did you cook them in your campfire, or did you have a special stove?

JIM: Big Dutch oven.

DOROTHEA: Big Dutch oven. And you cooked down into the ground then?

JIM: Yes. You built a fire and got all the coals hot and everything. And when your bread was raised in your Dutch oven enough then you put the lid on the Dutch oven and put it down in this hole and covered it up, covered it up with dirt and everything. Covered so it wouldn't ---

DOROTHEA: Burn.

JIM: Burn, yeah.

BARBARA: Have pretty good meals were they?

JIM: Well you had plenty to eat all right.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And what kind of meat did you fix?

JIM: Well it wasn't mutton. You got to the point where you couldn't eat mutton.

BARBARA: Yeah, you saw too many of them, you didn't want to eat it.

JIM: Too much shearing sheep, and too much everything. So you had plenty of bacon, you had plenty of ham.

BARBARA: Mostly cured meats then?



JIM: Yes. Not ---

BARBARA: And how many people were out there with you?

JIM: In the sheep camps?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JIM: Well when I --- one of them years I worked for Kueny there would be nobody with me. He'd have about three of these bands of sheep, and he'd have a man with each band. Like I would be with one band.

And over here he had a, what they called a camp tender, and he had a pack string and saddle horses, and he went to the store at Frenchglen, and he'd come around and see you about once a week or so, and bring you supplies and stuff. So outside of having somebody actually with you, you didn't maybe for eight, ten days at a time.

BARBARA: And how many dogs did you have?

JIM: Dogs?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JIM: We always had a couple.

BARBARA: Couple dogs.

JIM: A couple, couple good dogs, yeah.

DOROTHEA: How did you keep your sheep from getting eat up by the coyotes? How do you round them up so that the coyotes don't get a lot of your sheep?

JIM: Well in the springtime, in the lambing time, you'd have this band of sheep wound up here with --- forty or fifty of these ewes would have lambs at night, you know. Then the rest of the band would go on several miles. Well you put flags around these here young lambs and ewes that is only a year or so old, you know, a day or so old. And every night if they, when they got so they moved, why you'd have to put the flags out around them again. And as they got older well you bunched them up. Pretty soon you didn't have so

many bunches, you just had two or three pretty big bunches. You still flagged them though. That kind of --- and built fires, that kind of kept the coyotes away.

DOROTHEA: Do you lose a lot of sheep to coyotes?

JIM: Lose a lot? Oh, no not really. You would lose a certain amount of lambs, yes.

DOROTHEA: But not an awful lot for a sheep ---

JIM: A certain amount of lambs. You didn't lose many big grown stock.

DOROTHEA: So they didn't come in, in packs and attack your sheep then? Most generally you kept the big packs out?

JIM: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you enjoy that kind of work, or did you like being by yourself out there?

JIM: No, not really. But ---

BARBARA: It was something to do?

JIM: Well, just a big kid.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JIM: And you worked for the Company, and they paid you forty dollars a month buckarooing, or haying. And you never seen the check or anything, it was sent to the Crane State Bank, and they take a cent a day out of your forty dollars.

BARBARA: Oh, for food and stuff?

JIM: So you wound up with \$39.69 or something. Well you could go to work with the sheep outfit; you could get \$75 or \$100 a month. So naturally I ---

BARBARA: That was big wages then?

JIM: Yes. Naturally I went to work for the sheep outfits instead of the Company.

BARBARA: And so after you worked with them for a couple years, then what did you do after you worked with Kueny?

JIM: Well I got married in '29, and bought that hotel in probably '30, '31, '32, somewhere

around there.

BARBARA: So you were able to save up enough money from herding sheep to do that then?

JIM: Yes, uh huh. And then I never, from then on why I hardly ever worked for wages for anybody. I worked a couple years for Dunlap; I run the store and post office in Crane for a couple years. But that was getting up in the '40's.

BARBARA: How many people were out there, how many customers did you have at the post office in Crane? How many families were around there, do you recall?

JIM: No, no way, no way could I tell you.

BARBARA: Were there a lot of people that came into the store for their supplies?

JIM: Yes, yes there was lots --- it was a big store. Vale Trading Company, out of Vale.

BARBARA: I see.

JIM: And it, you want to remember that Crane was there six, seven years, so it was a pretty good little town before the railroad moved on. Actually when the railroad went on after sixteen years, after six years, after the railroad moved on from Crane to Burns, why naturally it started ---

BARBARA: Going down then.

JIM: Going down, naturally. If it hadn't been for that school, that held it there them years, it would have went a lot faster too. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What was Crane like in those days when you had the hotel? Was there other hotels and stores, or how big was ---

JIM: Yes, there was another hotel there, the Clay Hotel, run by an old lady. And there was a rooming house or two. And the Chinaman, old Yee's dad, he had a beer joint there next to the store. And there was another little hotel there; I forget the name of it. Then they had a dance hall. Had one, two service stations. And they had a pretty big garage; it

was a branch of the Ford Garage. BARBARA: Did Cyc Presley work out there at one time?

JIM: Who?

BARBARA: Cyc Presley work out there at the Ford Garage?

JIM: Frank?

BARBARA: Cyc Presley.

JIM: Frank Presley?

BARBARA: Eldon Presley?

JIM: Oh, Eldon Presley?

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did he work out there?

JIM: No, I don't remember. He went to school there.

BARBARA: I see.

JIM: Eldon did, and graduated naturally. And I remember him working up here at the Ford Garage in Burns more than I do working in Crane.

BARBARA: Where did you get your supplies for your store? Did they come out of Vale too?

JIM: Yes. Pretty near all your stuff come from Idaho, Ontario. Because there wasn't no service between Crane and Burns, you know, much anyway. A little mail I guess.

BARBARA: Do you remember when you got your first car?

JIM: When I got ---

BARBARA: Yeah, when you got your first car, your first car ride, do you remember that?

JIM: Well I was ten years old when we come from Juntura to Burns in an old car. And from here we went to Catlow Valley by team and wagon, taking us three days to go out there.

BARBARA: Oh dear. Uh huh.

JIM: But when I actually owned an old car myself, I probably had an old Model-T when I was 15, 16 years old.

BARBARA: Oh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You didn't have to have a driver's license then did you? Just got in the car and drove it?

JIM: I don't remember about driver's license, you know. I don't know whether we had ---- I know I bought two or three brand new cars. I bought a brand new Model-A, they came out along about '30, '31. And I bought a brand new Ford and had Ray bring it down and give it to Marge on her birthday here, way back. It was a touring car.

DOROTHEA: I think Jim Bamerry is coming. Do you want to stop for a moment and answer the door?

JIM: I was ten years old when I come here, see. I'm 86 now. That's 76 years.

BARBARA: So that's a long time in one place, isn't it?

JIM: Yeah, a long time in Harney County, yes.

BARBARA: So what are some of the changes that you have seen happen, and what are some of the good things and bad things?

JIM: There is no way of describing it, no comparison to what it is now, and what it was those days. I'm talking about forty dollars a month wages.

BARBARA: People make that in a day now, don't they?

JIM: Yeah, there is no ---

BARBARA: So when we were talking about when you got your first car, what did you think about that? That really kind of changed your life didn't it, to be able to get around faster.

JIM: It was what they called an old Model-T Ford.

BARBARA: Have to crank it up, did you?

JIM: Yeah, you cranked it all right.

BARBARA: And what about tires, did you go through a lot of tires, flat tires?

JIM: Yeah, you had lots of flat tires too, didn't you Jim?

JIM BAMBERRY: I changed tires.

DOROTHEA: Well let's stop for a moment and we'll turn this tape over. We got the blinking light, so we'll turn it over.

SIDE B

JIM B.: ... drive one till I was 7 years old.

BARBARA: Well that's pretty young though, isn't it? And where did you learn to drive your first car? Did you go out in the field and drive, or did you just get in and do it?

JIM: I can't remember. I suppose anybody got out of their car, like my dad and step dad or anything, why I'd ---

BARBARA: Like most kids, they kind of watched and figured they could do it when they got in.

JIM: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And how long did you own that first car?

JIM: How long did I what?

DOROTHEA: Did you own your first car?

JIM: Well, it was an old Model-T, and it wasn't no good to start with, and I drove it as long as it run. It would break down all the time. And the last time I drove it was out at the Grain Camp, that's half way between here and Frenchglen, and the rear end went out of it and I just rammed it into the garage there, it was built out of sagebrush, and I walked off and left it. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Figured that was a good place to leave it.

JIM: That was a good place to leave that Model-T.

DOROTHEA: Then did you buy another car, or did you go for a while without one?

JIM: Well, I bought a new 1931 Model-A. Wasn't that when they come out Jim?

JIM B.: Yeah, Model-A.

JIM: Model-A in '31, yeah. And that was Ford. And then in later years I bought that new car for Marge down there, it was a Ford. It was quite a lot later, it was a touring car. And I had a pickup or two in the meantime.

BARBARA: How much did cars cost in those days, do you remember?

JIM: I don't know, they didn't cost very much compared to --- What did they cost Jim?

JIM B.: 1935 they cost \$550 for a Ford V-8, 1935.

JIM: 1935, \$550 for a V-8?

JIM B.: Right.

JIM: I had one, yep. ...

BARBARA: Now they cost more than a house did then. Well when you had the Denman Hotel then out at Crane, what were --- you say you served meals to your guests then, what kind of a feed did you put on? What kind of food did you serve?

JIM: Oh, it was just the same as you serve ---

BARBARA: Was it family style, did you just have it at certain meals?

JIM: Yes, mostly, or short orders too. I had one fellow that come in there, he would be pretty intoxicated, and he'd want a steak. And he wanted a steak, and he wanted it rare. And this gal that was cooking for me, she just threw up her hands, said she couldn't do it. And I said, "Let me cook that steak for him." And what I did I threw that steak on the stove --- it was old Charlie Roux, Jim.

JIM B.: Yeah.

JIM: I threw that steak on the stove, and it hadn't hardly hit the stove until I turned it over,

and I took it out to him, and it was rare all right!

BARBARA: It was still cold in the middle, huh? (Laughter)

JIM: He said, "That's the best steak I've had in this place in the last two years."  
(Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: So did you cook for him every time he came in then?

JIM: Huh?

DOROTHEA: Did you get to cook his steak for him every time he came in?

JIM: I can't ---

DOROTHEA: Were you the cook when he came in from then on? Did he like your steak so you cooked them?

JIM: Did I what?

DOROTHEA: You say it Barbara, I think he ---

BARBARA: Did you cook his steak then every time that he came in?

JIM: Oh no, I never had no more to do with him, hell --- But you know what he did, he took a five dollar bill, and he had some spuds left back on the table, had some spuds on his plate. He'd take the five-dollar bill and shoved it into them potatoes. No, I didn't have no more to do with him.

BARBARA: What were some of the things that you did for entertainment while you were living in Crane? Did you go to dances, or have card parties, or the grange?

JIM: Well they had lots of dances. And the school was pretty active those years. They had a big dance hall there.

BARBARA: Did the couples get together for ---

JIM B.: Make him tell you about him and Millie was the dance king and queen. He can tell you.



BARBARA: Okay. What about the dances, you were king and queen out there of the dances?

JIM: Oh, I don't think so.

JIM B.: Yes, you and Millie was, damn you.

BARBARA: Tell us about some of those dances. What kind of dances did you do? Polkas and schottische and square dance?

JIM: Yeah, quite a lot of square dancing. And the old waltz and the old two-step, and the three step, yeah.

BARBARA: Did you have contests?

JIM: Yeah, I won a contest. Millie and I won a contest out at Frenchglen, a waltz, waltzing.

BARBARA: What kind of music did you like mostly?

JIM: My wife?

BARBARA: No, what kind of music did you like the best? Did you like the waltz the best, or did you like to --- or you like them all?

JIM: Waltz, two step, or schottische, but the square dances was altogether different kind of music than a waltz.

BARBARA: You liked to do them all though?

JIM: Yeah. I was pretty good on square dancing too. I got where I did a lot of calling on the square dances.

BARBARA: Oh, did you?

JIM: They got a hundred different kinds of calls. Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you dance all night sometimes?

JIM: Pretty much, wasn't it Jim?

JIM B.: Oh we stopped when the sun come up.

JIM: Yeah.

BARBARA: Time to go home because the ranchers had to go home and feed, so they had to end the dance.

JIM: Right. Jim --- I was one of the first guys he met when he moved into this country.

BARBARA: Oh yeah.

JIM B.: Second.

JIM: Second. '40---

JIM B.: '42.

JIM: '42, yeah. I was still running the hotel I think. That or the store one, yeah.

BARBARA: And so what did you do Jim? You came in and what did you do?

JIM B.: Oh I worked for Andy ... for thirty days and then I went in the Army.

BARBARA: Were you ever in the service Jim? Did you ever serve in the military?

JIM: Not me. I was 36 years old I guess when the war broke out.

BARBARA: What changes did you see in the community when the war came on?

JIM: Well ---

BARBARA: Did you have rationing?

JIM: I'll say we had rationing.

BARBARA: Have coupons and stamps?

JIM: Yes. See I moved to Burns here in '45. The war was over the later part of '45 I think.

BARBARA: So like '41 and '42 you had rationing? Did you have the store out at Crane at that time? Were you still running the store in Crane during the war?

JIM: No --- I suppose, yeah I moved up here in '45.

BARBARA: So you must have had the store then.

JIM: I run that store and post office for old man Dunlap there. I was out of the hotel there,

yeah.

BARBARA: So you were in the store then. Did you have trouble getting supplies then during that time?

JIM: Oh hell yes, yeah.

BARBARA: People had to have stamps for sugar, and syrup.

JIM: Oh, all that stuff, yeah.

BARBARA: That was a big headache I suppose to keep track of all that.

JIM: Yeah, that was a ---

BARBARA: Shoes, did you have trouble getting shoes and tires?

JIM: Sure, you had to have a shoe stamp, sure.

BARBARA: Tires?

JIM B.: Gasoline stamps.

JIM: Overalls, yes.

BARBARA: I was just a little girl at that time, so rationing didn't really mean too much to me at that time. What made you decide to move into Burns then in '45? Why did you leave Crane?

JIM: Well, the Elkhorn was for sale, and it looked like a pretty good business.

BARBARA: You could see that Crane was going downhill then?

JIM: Crane had been going down, down, down, down. So I moved to Burns and I bought the Elkhorn. And state was a doing a lot of road building and different things then, and had several road crews in here and we was feeding all these crews. And we was having hell getting meat and stuff to feed these here road crews. And I finally went to the old boy and told him, I said, "I just bought the Elkhorn here six months ago and I can't get enough stuff, what am I trying to say, tickets and" ---

BARBARA: Stamps.

JIM: "stamps and stuff to feed these guys." And I said, "What am I going to do?"

BARBARA: So what did the rationing board say?

JIM: I said, "I don't want to go broke." This old boy said, "How long you lived here?" I said, "Quite awhile." He said, "Don't you know any cattlemen that might have a cow that is sick or something and wants to get rid of it?" I said, "Mister I'll never come back and bother you anymore." (Laughter)

BARBARA: So you made your deals with the ranchers then, huh?

JIM: Right.

BARBARA: Yeah, well that was the way to do it.

JIM: It sure as hell wasn't legal, but it ---

BARBARA: Well you had to feed the men.

JIM: Yes. Do you remember them days Jim?

JIM B.: Uh huh.

JIM: Yeah.

JIM B.: Wasn't they building the airport too?

JIM: Huh?

JIM B.: Wasn't they building the army airport out here then too at the same time?

BARBARA: The airport?

JIM B.: They were building the airport for the ---

JIM: Oh, they probably were, sure. Lots of stuff going on, yes. Oh, Clarence was the guy I got the beef from.

BARBARA: What about the CC boys, did you ever know any of those guys that were in here?

JIM: CC's?

BARBARA: Uh huh. The CC Camps?

JIM: No, no I never really had much --- I don't really know much about the CC's.

BARBARA: Well, can you tell me something about when you first came into Burns in '45, you had your Elkhorn. Who were some of the other business people on Main Street at that time? Do you remember some of the other stores that were downtown then?

JIM: Well the drugstore would have been run by Corbett. The Ford Garage would have been run by Archie McGowan. The Arrowhead Hotel, I don't know who the hell had it. J. C. Penney had a store here then in those days.

JIM B.: Those three businesses between the Elkhorn and the bank.

JIM: Huh?

JIM B.: There were three businesses between the Elkhorn and the bank, used to be.

JIM: Yeah, there was a barbershop.

JIM B.: That was on the other side.

JIM: Yeah.

JIM B.: It's all bank now, clear down to the Elkhorn. Used to be three businesses in there.

JIM: That guy that runs that hardware store across the street from the bank, what's his name?

JIM B.: Jinks Harris?

JIM: Huh?

JIM B.: Jinks Harris.

JIM: Yeah, but I mean the one ---

BARBARA: Baird?

JIM B.: Bud Eshelby?

BARBARA: Oh, Eshelby.

JIM: Bud Eshelby.

BARBARA: Yeah.

JIM: I think he has been there for the last fifty years. (Laughter)

BARBARA: And Alice Johnston with her dress shop.

JIM: Yes, yes, Alice she has been there for ---

DOROTHEA: About fifty-five years.

JIM B.: Yeah.

JIM: Huh.

DOROTHEA: Alice has been there about fifty-five years. My voice doesn't ---

JIM: What did she say Jim?

JIM B.: Alice has been there fifty-five years.

JIM: Fifty-five years, uh huh.

BARBARA: So what were some of the things that you did while you had the Elkhorn? Were you involved with some community projects, or organizations? Did you belong to the Elks or Masons or anything like that?

JIM: Yes, I was a charter member of the Elks. I don't know when they set it up, '46 maybe, '47, quite awhile. Outside of that I didn't belong to any organizations or anything, outside of the Elks.

BARBARA: Well running a business probably kept you pretty busy.

JIM: Yeah.

BARBARA: What kind of hours did you have, did you serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner? Were you open all day long, into the evening?

JIM: Oh yeah, in the Elkhorn we served until twelve, one o'clock at night. Probably opened at five o'clock in the morning, or four-thirty. The road guys all went to work early, you know.

BARBARA: Did you have trouble getting help in those days, a cook? Did you have

trouble keeping good cooks?

JIM: Help?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JIM: Oh yeah, they would come and go, you know.

BARBARA: Did your wife cook?

JIM: Oh yes, sure.

BARBARA: Played the violin.

JIM: Played the violin.

BARBARA: You still managed to get to dances though during that time?

JIM: Oh yeah, they had dances out at the grange hall those days. DOROTHEA: See if he can tell us any stories.

BARBARA: Do you have any stories you might like to tell about some of the people around here, or some of the things that you used to do? There has to be some stories in there someplace.

JIM: I don't know.

JIM B.: Tell them about marking that guy's saddle. Marking that guy's saddle, that's a good story.

JIM: Buckarooing.

JIM B.: Yeah, them spur tracks in the saddle. Tell them that story, that's a good one.

JIM: About marking it?

JIM B.: Uh huh.

JIM: Oh, he is going back a hundred years!

BARBARA: Well that's good. We like a good story.

JIM: There is ... story. When we was kids out there in Catlow Valley we used to do a lot of buckarooing and riding. But anyway this guy, and his name was Claude Moore, he

bought a new Lakeview saddle, brand new. And we had, we was there on the old Rock Creek Ranch, and we had a bunch of horses in there that we were going to ride and break to ride. They weren't broke, so to make a long story short, I saddled up this here old horse, and I didn't want to have --- my old saddle of mine, and Claude said, "Take my saddle, take my saddle." And I put on spurs and everything, you know, and I got on that horse and she threw me higher than hell. And when I went across, these spurs hit the seat of the saddle and just put a big old mark across it.

BARBARA: Oh dear, on his new saddle, huh? (Laughter) I don't suppose he was too happy about that.

JIM: Oh, I don't think he was either. I felt awful bad about it. I seen that saddle years later, and that mark was still there. (Laughter) Yeah.

BARBARA: Maybe you can help us remind him about some other good stories to tell.

JIM B.: He has lots of good hunting stories.

BARBARA: Okay. What about your hunting days? What did you hunt; did you go hunt deer and elk? Tell us about some of those trips. (Looking at picture.) Yeah, we saw this picture up at the library.

JIM: Yes.

BARBARA: Can you tell us about some of those hunting trips that you went on?

JIM: Well, that was I think the first time the State of Oregon opened the elk season. And it was over the other side of John Day, back up in the hills there. And there was six of us on this trip. We went over there. And this old guy here (looking at picture) about the third man, sitting down there ---

BARBARA: Yeah.

JIM: That was Charlie Frazier, he was --- you've heard of him. He was the sheriff those days. And anyway we went over there and we got, what did we get, four or five Jim?



JIM B.: Uh huh.

JIM: Elk.

BARBARA: Looks like five of them.

JIM: Five.

BARBARA: Yeah.

JIM: There was six of us, and we got five elk.

BARBARA: Well that was a pretty good hunt.

JIM: Yeah, that was the first time they had opened a season on elk.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JIM: And it's what --- over there, they had them elk in there for a year or two in what they call Billy Meadows. And that's where they started their herd, and then they turned them loose into the forest. Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you used to hunt deer too?

JIM: Oh every year, every year, every year, yeah.

JIM B.: Anything that would fly or run.

JIM: I was a, I was a pretty good hunter, I was pretty good with the guns, shotgun, or --- yeah I did lots of hunting, fishing ---

BARBARA: What were the people's names in that picture there? Who were the guys that went on that first elk-hunting trip? You say Frazier, who were the other people there?

JIM: Read them names to her Jim please. Dewey Quier, I'm first, I'm standing up there.

JIM B.: Jim McCullough, Dewey Quier, Charlie Frazier, Joe Hendricks, Clem Bartley.

DOROTHEA: Clem Bartley?

JIM B.: Uh huh. He's the only one I didn't know. I knew all the others.

BARBARA: Clem?

JIM B.: Clem.

DOROTHEA: That's in 1933, huh?

BARBARA: Yeah. Did you guys just go out for the day, or did you camp out on this first --

-

JIM: No, we camped there. We was up there four or five days. And I killed two of them elk about a mile and a half, two miles down the creek from the camp where we was at. And we had to hire some fellers that was in there with horses to pack these elk back out to camp, yeah.

BARBARA: Pack them out. It says here about 1933?

JIM: I think so, around that time. I can't be sure of it.

DOROTHEA: What year are those cars?

JIM B.: '33, '34 I think.

JIM: License on the car?

JIM B.: No the year, what year model were they?

JIM: Huh?

JIM B.: The year model of the cars, '33 and '34 wasn't it?

JIM: Is that what they were?

JIM B.: I think so.

JIM: That's when it was then, sure.

BARBARA: And did you like to go bird hunting too? Did you kill ducks and geese, and pheasants?

JIM: Yeah, bird hunting was one of my main deals. Ducks and geese and pheasants.

BARBARA: Did they have specific seasons at that time too that you could go shoot them, or anytime?

JIM: No, no, you had a regular season.

BARBARA: Did you have to have a license at that time too?

JIM: In the fall, in the fall for the ducks and geese. Pheasants in the fall too, yeah.

BARBARA: Chukars?

JIM: Chukars, they come along later years.

BARBARA: I see.

JIM B.: Chukars is a new thing in Harney County.

BARBARA: Oh, uh huh. Did you like to eat them too, or just hunt them? Did you like to eat them?

JIM: Oh, I never cared too much about ducks and geese. Pheasants was pretty good.

BARBARA: I feel the same way; I like the pheasant the best. It doesn't taste quite so wild.

JIM: Yeah.

BARBARA: How about venison? Did you like venison and elk meat to eat?

JIM: Yeah --- you didn't get too much meat those days. You had to like venison or something.

BARBARA: If you wanted meat, you had to like it huh?

JIM: Yes. Sometimes you would get one that wasn't in season too. It tasted a little bit better. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Those kind are always the better ones.

BARBARA: What about fishing, did you like to fish?

JIM: Yeah, I did lots of fishing too. Just home fishing here, in creeks here.

BARBARA: Out on the Silvies?

JIM: This here Joe Altnow that died here had that ranch at Drewsey, was an awful good friend of mine, and he had a fish pond over there and he had fish in it.

BARBARA: Yeah, he stocked that, yeah.

JIM: I did a lot of fishing there.

BARBARA: Yeah, we went up and visited Joe probably a couple years ago, and he had some good stories to tell too.

JIM: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: He was a fine man.

JIM: Yeah, Joe was pretty interesting, yeah.

BARBARA: So your family, did you go out camping when you were a young man, or did you just mainly go out for the day for fishing or hunting?

JIM: Oh, we went camping every fall, deer season. They would be fifteen, twenty of us, woman, kids, all in hunting camps up there.

BARBARA: So it was a family affair then, huh?

JIM: In the Blue Mountains, yeah. Yeah, we'd go for a week or so, yeah, coming and a going.

BARBARA: What were the names of some of the people that you palled around with, that you did things with? Who were some of your friends, names of some of your friends during those early days?

JIM: Well we were talking about the Quier's, they was eight or ten of them, so pretty much a family affair.

BARBARA: And when you moved into town, who were some of the people that you were friends with?

JIM: Into Crane?

BARBARA: No, into Burns.

JIM: Into Burns? Didn't have time much, much time to ---

BARBARA: You were too busy working then, huh?

JIM: Trying to.

BARBARA: Keep a business going, huh?

JIM: Trying to keep from going broke in that place.

JIM B.: ... was one of his partners for a while in the Elkhorn.

BARBARA: Oh, Joe Hendricks, was he one of your partners in the Elkhorn for a while?

JIM: Yeah, he was one of the partners when I bought the Elkhorn.

BARBARA: I see.

JIM: Him and a guy, a Basco by the name of John Gogenola.

JIM B.: Oh yeah.

JIM: Remember Johnny?

JIM B.: You bet.

JIM: I bought the Denman from Johnny down there too.

BARBARA: When was it that you sold out with the Elkhorn?

JIM: When?

BARBARA: When, uh huh, when did you give up your Elkhorn?

JIM: Oh, I probably run that store there for two or three years. Oh, I'd say '42, sold the Elkhorn or leased it. I leased it the first year, then I sold it along in '42, '43.

BARBARA: The store out at Crane? When you came into Burns, and then you bought the Elkhorn, how many years did you have the Elkhorn?

JIM: I had it five years before I sold it.

BARBARA: And then what did you do?

JIM: Well, I didn't do anything much for a year or so, then I bought, went to work for Roman Yriarte, and then I bought the --- what's the name of the place ---

JIM B.: Central.

DOROTHEA: Central.

JIM: Central.

BARBARA: Central, uh huh. Okay.

JIM: I bought the Central business from Roman.

BARBARA: And how many years did you have that?

JIM: Not the building, just the ---

BARBARA: Just the business.

JIM: Business. Oh, I don't know.

JIM B.: Until his eyes started getting bad.

JIM: Quite a few years.

BARBARA: So when did you retire?

JIM: I was still working in the Elkhorn for Bill Griffith when I was 79 years old. Oh, I guess I've been retired about, after I got out of the Elkhorn that time, I guess I've been retired seven, eight years.

BARBARA: Who did you sell the Central to?

JIM: Who did I sell the Central to?

BARBARA: Uh huh, when you left the Central, who bought it from you?

JIM: Harry Hardin, Harry and Dick Harding.

BARBARA: Harding.

JIM: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Hardin.

BARBARA: So what have you done since you've been retired?

JIM: Huh?

BARBARA: What have you done since you've retired? How do you fill your days, what keeps you busy?

JIM: Well my eyes went bad to start with, and my hearing hasn't improved any, so I didn't really do anything.

JIM B.: Did he tell you about his trapping?

JIM: Oh, trapped.

BARBARA: Okay, tell us a little bit about your trapping experiences.

JIM: Well I, coyotes were a pretty good price there, those years, and I trapped out on what they call Jack Mountain. It's back up from Frenchglen in that country, coyotes. And you'd start in along the first of October and trap until the weather got so bad you couldn't keep your traps from freezing and everything, up to the first of the year. Caught quite a few coyotes. I got about a hundred and some traps hanging out there in the garage yet.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right? What kind of a bounty did they pay on the coyotes?

JIM: Well there was a bounty on them at one time or anything, but I can't remember much about the bounty. I --- when I was trapping them and everything, there wasn't no bounty on them. Do you remember anything about bounty, Jim?

JIM B.: I don't remember the coyotes, I remember when there was a bounty on rabbits.

JIM: Huh?

JIM B.: There was a bounty on rabbit's ears I remember. I don't remember the coyote bounty.

JIM: Oh, there was a bounty on rabbits yes, but I think they had a bounty on coyotes. Maybe not, I don't know.

BARBARA: Did you sell the fur?

JIM: Huh?

BARBARA: Did you sell their hides and their fur, the coyotes?

JIM: Yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh. What kind of a price did you get during that time?

JIM: Well, it varied from year to year, and who you sold to, and how good a trader you was. At one time I had around a hundred coyotes hanging up out here, the hides, fur.

BARBARA: Did you stretch them and brush them?

JIM: In the garage. Yes, I stretched them and taken care of them. And I would just sell to a local guy that come by.

BARBARA: Yeah, pretty much the time there would be somebody come through that would be buying hides and stuff.

JIM: Oh yeah, they was quite a few fur buyers. Oh, you get thirty-five, forty dollars, that was a pretty good price. And then it got down to where it was fifteen dollars, twenty dollars.

JIM B.: Did you get a top one, didn't you get one sold for ninety-one time?

JIM: I had, yeah, I had a friend that lived in Montana that I used to shear sheep with, and he said, "You're not getting near enough money for your coyotes, Jim." He said, "You get me a good hide and send it to me and I'll see what I can do here in Great Falls, lots of fur houses in Great Falls." Well then to make a long story short, I killed a coyote out there, and he was a big one. And when I got him stretched and cured I sent him to John up there, and I got --- I think it was ninety-five dollars for that coyote.

BARBARA: Well that was good. Did you do this by yourself, or did you have someone that went out hunting with you?

JIM: No, I had a, there was a friend generally went with me on this trapping mostly.

BARBARA: And who was that?

JIM: Emmett Langlois, he was a Swede.

JIM B.: Swede Langlois.

JIM: Yeah.

BARBARA: Langlois?

JIM: Langlois, yes.

DOROTHEA: L O I S, I think.

JIM B.: ...



JIM: You might have knew Lois Langlois. She was his wife; she did quite a lot of cooking and worked around in these restaurants and stuff, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Ask him if there was a certain amount that you could get, like ---

JIM: What are you going to do with all this crap?

BARBARA: Well we store this at the library; it's just kind of a little history of Harney County. We have about 312 interviews up there now of different people that have lived here in Harney County, and some of their experiences, and just a record of what's gone on. And just so that people can know some of the things that have happened here, and a little bit about the people that have lived here. If you want to read about somebody, you just go up there to the library, and it is on file. It's called the Oral History Project of Harney County. A Mrs. Luce left a trust fund.

JIM: How far back are you going?

BARBARA: We go back as far as we can get information. This project started in the 1970's.

JIM: You don't go back to Pete French's time, do you?

BARBARA: Well ---

DOROTHEA: If we can get any stories on Pete French, yeah.

JIM: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did any of the people that you worked with as a child; did they have any stories that they told about Pete French to you? Did they used to talk about him?

JIM: Oh yeah, Pete French, yes. He drove a bunch of cattle, this was back way before my time, in the '80's.

BARBARA: Sure, yeah.

JIM: He drove them through from Northern California up here to Catlow Valley out there, and come on down and settled on what is now the "P" Ranch. Come there way early.

And he was killed by a settler out here at The Narrows.

BARBARA: Yeah, Ed Oliver, wasn't it?

JIM: A guy by the name of Oliver, uh huh. And Johnny Crow's dad, Dave --- I had Johnny tell me this, maybe he had Dave tell me, but anyway there was no way of getting word out of here those days, and Dave rode a horse from Catlow Valley out there into Winnemucca, to wire about Pete French being killed by Oliver.

JIM B.: Let's see, you've done Shelby Petersen already?

DOROTHEA: Nope.

BARBARA: Not yet.

DOROTHEA: We'd like to.

JIM B.: His dad married Oliver's widow.

BARBARA: Yeah, we'd like to get him, but he's kind of putting us off right now. So, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: We ought to give these tapes to you Jim, and let you go around to these old guys. (Laughter)

JIM B.: No. Take it down to the coffee table?

BARBARA: Yeah, right.

JIM: What did he say?

BARBARA: We told him that Jim should take the tape recorder down to the coffee table and get some of these stories that you guys talk about down there while you're drinking coffee.

JIM: Oh no --- I can't hear nothing down there anyway, so it wouldn't make no difference to me.

BARBARA: Well, can you think of any other story that you might like to tell us about some people maybe that you worked with, or worked for you?

JIM: No, I don't think I ---

BARBARA: Well have you had a good time living in Harney County? Would you have rather lived some place else, or do you think it's been a good place to grow up and live?

JIM: I think I must have thought it was a pretty good place to live or I wouldn't have been here.

BARBARA: Or you wouldn't have stayed all this time.

JIM: Stayed this long.

BARBARA: So if you had to do it over again, you would probably pick Harney County all over again, huh?

JIM: Well, it was a pretty good life at that.

BARBARA: Did you have a chance to travel around at all during your adult life? Did you go on many trips?

JIM: Not too much outside of shearing sheep. I've been all over the State of California shearing sheep, and Idaho, Montana, the State of Washington. But that was seasonal, you know, like you'd start in California down there maybe February, March. You may get back up here in April and May in Idaho, and Montana line by the first of July.

BARBARA: Well after you were married, did you and your wife take vacations every year? Did you go some place every year on a vacation?

JIM: No, not really, not really. When you run one of them eating joints, or tavern joints, you run a tavern ---

BARBARA: It's hard to get away for very long I suppose.

JIM: Yes, you put in a lot of hours.

JIM B.: Eight days a week.

BARBARA: Yeah. Pretty much kept you tied down, huh?

JIM: Yeah, right.

BARBARA: Well, you've had a pretty interesting life though, working as a buckaroo, shearing sheep, and running a hotel, and running a post office and a store, and a restaurant and a tavern. I'd say you've had pretty good experiences throughout your life here.

JIM: Yeah, that's right, that's what I did all right.

BARBARA: Well our little red light is blinking at us again that we're running out of tape. So if you don't have any other little stories or tidbits you'd like to share with us, we will call it an afternoon, and thank you very much for visiting with us.

JIM: Okay.

BARBARA: We've really enjoyed it, and hope it hasn't been too hard for you.

JIM: No, it hasn't been --- it's been all right.

BARBARA: Okay.

JIM: I can't see where it amounted to a hell of a lot, but then it ---

BARBARA: Well every little bit of history that we get, it all adds up together to make a good story about our county. So we thank you very much, Jim, for an interesting afternoon.

JIM: That's all right, yeah.

(END OF TAPE)

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