

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #313 - Sides A & B

Subject: Dewey McLaren - With Video

Place: McLaren Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: January 31, 1992

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy along with Barbara Lofgren and today we're going to be talking with Dewey McLaren at his home in Burns, Oregon. Today's date is January 31st, 1992. Following our interview we will be doing a short video of Dewey, and it will be stored at the Library along with the transcript and cassette tape, the number will be #313. All right Dewey, let's start with your name; can you tell us your name?

DEWEY McLAREN: George Dewey McLaren.

DOROTHEA: George Dewey McLaren. And what were your parent's names?

DEWEY: Well my father's name is George Johnson McLaren, and my mother was Sarah Ellen Tetherow McLaren.

DOROTHEA: And when did they come to Harney County, approximately?

DEWEY: As far as I know, that would be the only thing I don't --- that's all I've got to go on now.

DOROTHEA: Okay, that's a pioneer's badge, and it says George McLaren, May 1892. You thought maybe they might have come earlier with ---

DEWEY: I think he come earlier.

DOROTHEA: Okay, can you tell us what ---

DEWEY: Because he drove the chuck wagon over here for the Company, for Hanley.

DOROTHEA: Hanley.

DEWEY: When they started the Bell A, and I don't know how long it was before he went back and got the folks and brought them back, brought them out here. He worked around that Bell A a long time.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

DEWEY: Well I was born out on Poison Creek.

DOROTHEA: And can you tell us about the approximate place, you weren't born in a hospital in other words?

DEWEY: It was hardly a house. (Laughter) Yes, an old house just below Clemens' gate there about a quarter of a mile I guess.

DOROTHEA: That's as you're going on the road 395?

DEWEY: Yeah. And Mrs. Bowen was my doctor.

DOROTHEA: Mrs. Bowen?

DEWEY: Yeah, she used to live up there.

DOROTHEA: I think they call that Bowen's Turn now don't they, or something like that?

DEWEY: Yeah, uh huh. It was a good house there at one time. They farmed all that.

BARBARA LOFGREN: And what was the date of your birth?

DEWEY: August the 4th, 1899.

DOROTHEA: And do you have any brothers and sisters?

DEWEY: Well I had three brothers and three sisters. Just me and my one brother is all that is left.

DOROTHEA: Okay, what were their names?

DEWEY: Well my oldest sister was Dora; well do you want her last name? Dora Gouldin, it was McLaren then.

DOROTHEA: I understood she was married to Harry Gouldin?

DEWEY: Dora was married to Harry Gouldin.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. Okay.

DEWEY: Winnie was Stella, she married Fred Currey, McLaren. And then Annie Peabody, she married Ralph Peabody.

DOROTHEA: Married Ralph Peabody. Okay.

DEWEY: And then my brothers Will McLaren, William, he married Gwendolyn Kennedy. And David McLaren married Ivy Dick around San Jose or Portland someplace. And Ed McLaren, my youngest brother, he married Pearl Richey.

DOROTHEA: Now just you and which brother are still living?

DEWEY: Dave.

DOROTHEA: Dave.

DEWEY: Yeah, he is 97 now.

DOROTHEA: Well can you tell us something about where your parents homesteaded, and maybe something about the country?

DEWEY: My mother homesteaded out here about three miles right above where the old Triska place was, or Lampshire place was, you want to call there, right in there. My father homesteaded up there above Cold Springs, this side of where Cold Springs, you know where the old barn is that's tore down?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: That was the original Cold Springs. Well they homesteaded that, the next place I guess it's where George has got, isn't it, where the old two story house is in there, and that old log barn?

DOROTHEA: Uh yeah, I think that's the same place as Clinton has now, but George used to have it, uh huh.

PEARL PERRY: Where Baker Corral is.

DEWEY: Well the last time they told me, he told Dad that he had everything but forty acres, that George kept 40 acres there where the house was.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: That old log barn was our house. We built that when I, we went there I think in 1909.

DOROTHEA: And did the family all live there?

DEWEY: Yeah. Seven of us, and the folks lived in that old log house. We built some sheds around the outside of it.

BARBARA: And what did your folks do for a living there? Did they raise cattle, or what did they do?

DEWEY: Oh, we mostly cut wood. Lots of wood to be cut then, everybody burnt wood, you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: And my brother, oldest brother, he freighted from Ontario with them big freight wagons.

BARBARA: I see.

DEWEY: And then afterwards they bought these ranches in the valley and started to farming out, this Ausmus place out there, they bought that I think along about 1912. Started to farming there.

DOROTHEA: Okay, your dad had the place up there that now belongs to the Purdy's. Over, you said, over where the Reineman's place is now that belongs to Thad Geer, that was your uncles?

DEWEY: No, that was my brother's, Dave's place.

DOROTHEA: Oh, your brother Dave's place.

DEWEY: Yes. He homesteaded that, between the Reineman place and my dad's old

place.

DOROTHEA: And how old was he when he homesteaded it?

DEWEY: Oh, about twenty-two or three I guess. Let's see, he homesteaded I think in 1917, or something. I don't know, it's right about that time though because I was working for him and helping him farm. I went up there and stayed out --- his wife had to go up there and stay, he had a contract to build a fence and she was afraid to stay up there alone, and he asked me if I would go up and stay alone and clear up some brush on it for him, and I did. I went up and stayed there so they could prove up on it.

DOROTHEA: Well now how did that become the Reineman place, how did it ---

DEWEY: Well the Reineman place was the one the furthest east. Reineman pre-empted that someway, a long time ago. He come back there while we was living there. I guess he didn't expect to see anybody there, and he come over there and I was cutting some wood. He said, "You're cutting wood on my land," he said. "Well," I says, "I don't think so." "Yes it is." "Well, I said, "he just had the surveyor up here and surveyed it all out." And he says, "That's where the line goes." I guess he finally settled for that, it was right. Well that's quite a ways from his land.

DOROTHEA: But that is where Thad's house is now, the Reineman?

DEWEY: I don't know, I've never been in there since.

DOROTHEA: You haven't been in?

DEWEY: Since Thad built that house.

DOROTHEA: It's a big two-story house, and it's right above a spring.

DEWEY: Well that spring is where my brother had to get water. Reineman didn't care, they was good friends, my brother and him.

DOROTHEA: Un huh.

DEWEY: He built it close to that spring, but they surveyed it, so he had to move his

house.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he did?

DEWEY: He had a pretty good house for a homestead house.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Now who had to move his house, Reineman or ---

DEWEY: No, my brother.

DOROTHEA: Your brother did.

DEWEY: Yeah, he had on Reineman's place. He wanted it close to this spring. The spring was only over the line about fifty feet if I remember right.

DOROTHEA: And so then he was what, east, I mean west of ---

DEWEY: He'd be west of the Reineman place.

DOROTHEA: --- Reineman place.

DEWEY: East of my dad's old place.

DOROTHEA: So he might be up where George has got his cabin, up in that area.

DEWEY: Where did he build?

DOROTHEA: Have you ever been up --- there is a fence where Thad goes into his place, there is an old corral there, was that your brother's place? There is an old log corral ---

DEWEY: Well his was the first place when you go in on that road to ---

DOROTHEA: On that main road?

DEWEY: --- that road coming in there. But I haven't been in there, so I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, okay.

DEWEY: I haven't been there for fifty years.

DOROTHEA: George's place goes as you're going through the main road, George's place goes straight through, and he's got a double floored house built there now, and I bet it's right about where your brother's place ---

DEWEY: It probably is.

DOROTHEA: Because it's not too far from the Reineman fence. And how long did he live up there did you say?

DEWEY: Oh, I just stayed there that summer, or part of the summer at Dave's place. But on my dad's old place there, I stayed there all summer alone. Plowed it up, where it's all trees now, I had that in grain. Grain got as high as a horse's back in there.

DOROTHEA: I'll be darned.

DEWEY: And then down towards Widow Springs there is a big basin down there, I guess there is 75 or a 100 acres, I went down there with six horses and I cleared that all up. There was greasewood as high as your head. And if you don't think it was a job driving six horses through that.

BARBARA: Oh goodness.

DOROTHEA: Especially greasewood, sticky old greasewood.

DEWEY: Yeah, hook onto a tree once in awhile they'd just pull it right up. I had six big old horses. (Laughter) Then after I got it all broke down I cleared about, covered around fifty feet or so, burnt it and then plowed it before I set the rest of it afire.

PEARL: I don't think he knows that you folks have George's place, where the, there at Baker Corral.

DOROTHEA: Now ---

PEARL: I don't think Dad knows that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DEWEY: No, I didn't know what kind of place he had. Didn't know, I thought he lived at our old place when he went to the hills. I thought that's what he kept it for.

DOROTHEA: Well we still have the old barn up, but we've put up a cabin there. Well it was the Hawkins cabin I think.

DEWEY: Yeah, he moved up from Albert McKinnon's old place. He had a homestead

just over the hill south of that. And he got that in with the same deal that he got the old place. My brother traded him a log chain for that ranch. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Okay. Could you tell us something about that? How did that come about to be the Hawkins place?

DEWEY: Well after none of us lived there anymore, Hawkins wanted to buy it, so Will sold it to him. Not at a great loss, five or six hundred dollars I think, for the whole thing.

DOROTHEA: And Will was your brother?

DEWEY: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And how did he --- he had a place, where at, before that?

DEWEY: Will?

DOROTHEA: No, Hawkins.

DEWEY: I don't know --- he had his place up the canyon where Solomon's is at. He lived there for a long time.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DEWEY: I don't know whether he owned it or not, or whether he rented it. But he lived there a long time. But I don't know, he put that fence along, built a pretty good fence around it.

DOROTHEA: And then who had it after Hawkins had it? Do you remember who he sold it to?

DEWEY: No, I don't know. I don't know who --- who did George buy it from?

DOROTHEA: The Purdy's bought it from Louis Hughet.

DEWEY: Oh, that's where it is. I was thinking the other night, it seemed to me like Louis Hughet, he owned the brother's place over there too, but I'd forgot all about it. Yeah, he had my brother's place there by the Reineman place. But I didn't know that he bought my dad's old place too.

DOROTHEA: Well that's where George got it. Well then how did it become the Baker, called the Baker Corrals?

DEWEY: Well Wallace Baker, when he took over when Tom died, you know, Tom Baker? Wallace went and took over the ranch, and the cattle and everything. And he built a big branding corral right there in the corner of the field.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: You can't see it now. And so they called it the Baker Corral. There is no corral; you can't even see where it was at now.

DOROTHEA: I think they tore it down, yeah.

DEWEY: Yes. Then they lived out at this place, out where Ausmus is at, that was kind of the headquarters after.

DOROTHEA: They bought that, you said, in about 1912?

DEWEY: I think it was about then. And they sold this, my mother had this place out here, it was, bought some road land. She sold it to a soldier after the First World War. And they give him the money, and then he talked her into taking a second mortgage on it, and he spent the money and she didn't get nothing. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DEWEY: Never got a cent out of it. She took the second mortgage from him and he took off. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well did she get to sell the place then, or how ---

DEWEY: No, it was already sold. The government sold to him, and I guess he just kept the money and they had the mortgage on it, the government had the mortgage on it so they just took it.

I don't know, Frank Triska had it for a while. But I think, what's that fellow that lived just across from the creamery there, from the creamery?

PEARL: Petersen?

DEWEY: Petersen, I think he got it for a while.

DOROTHEA: Shelby?

DEWEY: Yeah, I think he had it. Because I was up there one time and he was a farming.

I guess, visited, bought Petersen out now, the ---

DOROTHEA: Cowing, uh huh.

PEARL: Clyde Cowing.

DOROTHEA: Clyde's ---

DEWEY: Cowing's, yeah. I guess ---

DOROTHEA: Clyde's dad, what was his name?

DEWEY: Probably belongs to them I imagine now, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Henry.

PEARL: Henry.

DOROTHEA: Henry Cowing.

DEWEY: Yeah. I imagine it belongs to them now.

PEARL: I'm sure it does.

DEWEY: I haven't seen them old places for fifty years, only Dad's old place, I went by there. I looked at it, and it sure don't look like it did when we was there.

DOROTHEA: You said you wanted to get a picture of that old barn, and you're sure welcome to go get a picture of it. I wouldn't even be surprised and you could get in there today. Because I don't think there is enough snow or moisture to hurt a thing.

DEWEY: Yeah. Might some time. I'd like to send it to my brother; he's in a nursing home and has been for eight or nine years up in Sunnyside, Washington. And he can't, he can't walk or nothing. And he likes to see them old things, old times.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DEWEY: He likes to talk about them, but you can't talk to him because he can't hear you hardly.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: Oh, he's pretty feeble, I don't know if he'll last much longer.

DOROTHEA: Well now let's go back to your parents. Let's kind of skip around here. Let's go back to your parents and find out how they came to Harney County. You said they came with Bill Hanley?

DEWEY: My dad did.

DOROTHEA: Your dad did. Can you tell us something about the Hanley's?

DEWEY: I worked for them for about twenty years.

PEARL: Should be able to tell you something.

DEWEY: I worked at the Double O Ranch when they was --- Bill Hanley, when I got out of school, wasn't out of school yet, it was when I was fifteen, sixteen, he always told me if I'd come over there he'd give me a job. I went over when they first bought that big Caterpillar. They was going to rake up a lot of land there, and worked on it a little. And I found out I could buckaroo a little bit, so they put me in a buckaroo crew. And so I buckarood for a while. I spent a whole summer there, riding that old desert; gee whiz it was hot out there.

DOROTHEA: Didn't have many fences out there then, huh?

DEWEY: Didn't have any.

PEARL: You worked for Hanley, Daddy.

DEWEY: Oh they had the Company; they had fifteen thousand acres there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: In the Double O Ranch.

PEARL: Well Hanley's had a lot of cattle.

DEWEY: But they run their cattle outside of it too. Well towards Wagontire and Iron Mountain, and around there. That was my job for a long time, I'd leave the Double O house about daylight, I'd have to ride way off out in them sand hills, they had a pump out there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: And an old engine, I'd get it running and fill the troughs up with water. Then I'd have to ride clear around, the whole circle, and count every cow that they could find to see if they was any of them a drifting out of the country. Every day I would have to count them darn cattle. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You pretty soon got to know them by name, huh?

DEWEY: Almost. (Laughter)

PEARL: He worked for Hanley and Company down at Juntura too, Daddy, you and Mama both.

DEWEY: Yeah, I went over there from here. I was drafted for the army and I went over there to see my dad, and he was there all alone trying to run that ranch.

PEARL: This was at Juntura.

DEWEY: This was a pretty big ranch over there.

DOROTHEA: Over at Juntura?

DEWEY: Yeah. So I just worked around there. They give me six days to get ready to be at Fort Lewis. And then I got another one to wait, and then I got another said to go in six days. I kept a getting them until the darn war ended. I was in the army all the time and didn't know it. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: But you never really went to the army, huh?

DEWEY: I never got to train any, that flu broke out, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

DEWEY: That Spanish flu broke out, and all the training camps was plumb full of sick and dying soldiers.

PEARL: They just put him off.

DEWEY: So I didn't have any place to train. I didn't know what was the reason they kept a doing that until oh, not too long ago I read it in the paper, it said the reason they didn't never take them was they didn't have no place to train them. There was two hundred and thirty of us called, and that called from Burns here. So then I just stayed there, I kind of liked it there, and I just went to work. Dad and I run the ranch for them for ten years.

DOROTHEA: Okay, your dad worked for Hanley too then?

DEWEY: Oh yeah, he worked for him half of his life.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: That's how this little place, you know, where Dawson lives out here?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: Hanley give him that for working for him so long.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you dad had that place too?

DEWEY: Yeah, that was my dad's. He give it to Dad for kind of a gift, for working for him so long. But when he died it went to my niece, Winnie Gouldin, went to her. He thought a lot of Winnie, so the place went to her. Then she sold it to her dad, Harry Gouldin, and then Harry sold it I guess, I don't know if he's the one that sold it to Dawson or not.

PEARL: No, this ---

DEWEY: But he had all that Hogg place over there too, where, what's ---

PEARL: Tylers has got now.

DEWEY: Where Tylers is at. Harry had that whole section, clear down to this other lane there.

DOROTHEA: Harry Gouldin did?

DEWEY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now did he work out, or just you and your brother work out where the Braymen's, Ausmus place is?

DEWEY: Oh, we all stayed there for a long time, two or three years, three or four years.

DOROTHEA: You all did.

DEWEY: When my brothers got married, everything blowed up. Neither one of them liked the others wives, and they just split that place right down the middle. They had bought it together, and this Dave, my brother, he sold out first to Jetley's. And I don't know who Will sold out to. They finally all sold out. Will stayed here a long time though, and run a dairy and one thing and another there for a long time during that depression.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about the dairy? Did you ever work on it?

DEWEY: The dairy?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: I worked on the other end of it. I worked in this creamery for thirty-five years.

DOROTHEA: Oh, in the creamery.

DEWEY: That was just the other end of the dairy. No, I never did, I don't like to milk cows. I did, lots of them ranches, you had to milk cows too. I worked for every ranch on the country.

BARBARA: Okay, so your brothers, when they had this Ausmus place out here, did they run cattle, or did they just have grain or both?

DEWEY: Yeah, no he had cattle too.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: That's where I learned to buckaroo.

BARBARA: I see.

DEWEY: He got that; I had to take care of the cattle. That's where I learned to buckaroo

at.

DOROTHEA: What number child are you in the family?

DEWEY: I guess it would be the fifth, sixth I guess. There is seven of us, and there is only one younger than me, so I was the sixth then.

DOROTHEA: So you got to come along and do a lot of the work behind the older brothers?

DEWEY: Yeah, yeah, they was my bosses until I finally took off to the Double O.

DOROTHEA: You were telling us a little story about Bill Hanley, saying something about his schooling. Can you tell us that story again?

DEWEY: Well all I know is what Dad told me, and he ought to know, he was there. He said Hanley got to the third grade, and the teacher made him mad, and he jumped up and threw the book in his face and quit. (Laughter) So I know he didn't have much education, but gee whiz he sure went to town. He had, oh gosh he had lots of property once.

DOROTHEA: He did real well for himself.

DEWEY: At one time he had that Double O, I think there is 15,000 acres in it, and all this Bell A. I never did know how much there was in it. He had land out here, between here and Venator, and at one time he had all the "P" Ranch and everything, all that, clear, pretty near to Nevada. I don't know, after Pete French got killed, someway he took that over and run it for a long time. But he must have had it, he sold it. Because he give a lot of them that worked for him divvy out of it. But I don't know how he got it.

PEARL: Well wasn't there one time Hanley said he could run cattle clear from Nevada clear to Canada?

DEWEY: No, that was the PLS Company.

PEARL: Oh, that was the PLS Company.

DEWEY: They were bigger than Hanley.

PEARL: Oh, I ---

DEWEY: No, they said they could stay on their land every night and drive cattle from Canada to Mexico. I know all, when I was a kid, this country all up in there was just nothing but PLS cattle. They'd bring thousands of head of them up there and turn them loose right here on these hills. And they had ranches everyplace; they had ranches at Juntura and Harper. Harper was their headquarters for this here. They was PLS ranches every place. They had them at Juntura, two or three of them there.

DOROTHEA: Well you probably know up on the forest where they call the company corrals, now that belonged to the PLS Company too?

DEWEY: Up here, it did I think. They used to drive lots of cattle through there. I know when my brother was a homesteading up there they used to go up through there with big bands of cattle, because they'd come in and want to stay all night there with them. One time he wouldn't let them. I don't know how many thousand head they had.

DOROTHEA: Eating all of his grain and grass up, wouldn't they?

DEWEY: Oh, they really had had some big bands of cattle. Oh, come across that desert from the Double O to the Bell A, well they'd be strung out there for miles. Oh, it was dirty. You could see it a moving along just like a big cloud coming across there of dust from all them thousands of head of cattle. Have riders on both sides, and one in the lead, and a whole bunch of us back behind punching calves. That was no fun. Talk about cowboy life being so great, it ain't so great.

DOROTHEA: Not when you're in the dirty spot, huh?

DEWEY: Not when you're really a doing it out there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DEWEY: They didn't ---

DOROTHEA: Following those cows.

DEWEY: You didn't haul your horse out there on a trailer and get out and ride him, you rode him out from the ranch, clear out there. You'd be out there by daylight, way out there on the desert.

DOROTHEA: Now you're talking about checking cows on the Double O, did that include the Bell A, and around in that area also?

DEWEY: No, they kind of seemed to keep them separate. The Bell A put theirs on Stinkingwater. And the Double O run theirs over there, I don't know how far out towards Wagontire. Oh, I've kind of forgot some of the names of them places over there. But they had different brands even.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: They branded over there with the Double O, and here they had the Bell A. And they branded all the horses LY.

DOROTHEA: What did the LY represent?

DEWEY: That's the last letter of Hanley.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh, last ---

DEWEY: He branded the horses all with it.

DOROTHEA: LY.

DEWEY: There was an old fellow went over there after, okay, Double O, to buckaroo, I was talking to him just awhile back. He come over here talking to me. He said he went over there. He says, "You know," he says, "they've got the buckingest horses there I ever saw on any ranch." He said, "I don't think they got a horse that you can ride." (Laughter) "Yeah," I said, "I found that out." I said, "I rode some of them."

DOROTHEA: You got that experience on your own, huh?

DEWEY: You bet. I've been as high as this here thing upside down out there. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you ever get any broken bones being thrown by a horse?

DEWEY: No sir, they never did hurt me much. I don't know, always seemed to light pretty good.

BARBARA: Well we might back up just a little bit and say where you went to school, where you got your schooling.

DEWEY: Poison Creek.

BARBARA: Poison Creek, uh huh.

DEWEY: Yeah, I went there.

BARBARA: Did you go through eight grades?

DEWEY: Barely.

BARBARA: Barely.

DEWEY: I made my eighth grade in four months.

BARBARA: Oh, well that's good.

DEWEY: From seventh to eighth. I had to; I didn't have no place to live anymore.

BARBARA: Oh. Your family wasn't up there still when you were through with school?

DEWEY: Oh, they all broke up and went every direction.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Your parents weren't still there?

DEWEY: My mother was, she got married again, my father and her separated.

BARBARA: I see.

DEWEY: She got married again. I went up and asked them if they'd let me stay there if I give them my summer's wages and go to school. They talked over it --- or at the Double O the engineer and his wife talked me into going back to school. I was in the seventh grade, and I told them I would.

Oh, he was tickled to get it. Well I made it to Christmas, he come in and he said if I was going to stay there any longer I had to pick up some more money. Well I couldn't, I give him all I --- I told him all right, so that ended my school. I went back, I guess, in the

spring and took my examination and I passed, so I got a diploma. But that ended my schooling.

PEARL: Him and his step dad didn't get along.

BARBARA: When was it that your parents separated, how old were you?

DEWEY: About fourteen.

BARBARA: About fourteen. And then your dad went to Juntura during that time?

DEWEY: No, he went to the Double O and run one of them ranches for Hanley over there, they called the Dunn Field. He run it, they was a breaking it up, and it was big brush and meadow and one thing and another. And he went over there, and then when he left there he went to Juntura to that ranch.

BARBARA: And who was it that your mother remarried?

DEWEY: Bert Pennington.

BARBARA: Pennington, okay. And so it was just your younger brother and you that were still at home during this time that your parents separated?

DEWEY: Yeah.

BARBARA: Okay.

DEWEY: But that was the last we was at home. After that, why just, almost like a hobo.

BARBARA: You were kind of -- went out on your own then. So you went from your schooling then there to work for Hanley, was that right?

DEWEY: Yeah, uh huh. Then, oh I worked over on, used to, when I was just a kid, fourteen, fifteen I followed those old steam threshing machines when they would start in the fall, and I'd work through the hay fields for the others.

PEARL: He worked for years for Eastern Oregon Livestock too, for Joe Fine.

DEWEY: Huh?

PEARL: You worked for years for Eastern Oregon Livestock for Joe Fine.

DEWEY: Well that was later, yeah, I worked for ten, eleven years for Eastern Oregon Livestock Company, out in Catlow and Steens Mountain building fence mostly.

DOROTHEA: For Joe Fine?

DEWEY: Yeah. He wanted me to come out; he said he had a little fence he would like to have me build. I went out the first year to, they still had the "P" Ranch. Then I built fence all summer there. "Well," he said, "if you come back," he says, "I've got enough to last you twenty years," he said. (Laughter) I went back and built about a couple hundred miles for him.

BARBARA: My goodness.

DEWEY: And then he come out, and he says, "Do you know anything about powder?" I said, "Black powder." "No, I mean dynamite," he says. "Not much," I says, "I know you use a cap to set it off." "That's all you need to know," he says, "you're the powder man, we're going to build a road from Catlow Valley to Smith Flat." It's way up there on the Steens, I don't know about fifteen miles I guess right up a, just a steep canyon, just nothing to it but rocks. And me and this Dewayne Hibbard, did you know them Hibbard's, any of them? He used to be a musician here, Hibbard's Orchestra.

DOROTHEA: Huh uh.

DEWEY: Well he went with me; he said he set off a shot or two in a mine. So him and I took the job as powder man for that, building that road. Old Joe says, "Well," he says, "you fellers go over there and get ready and we'll send the Cat down, and the graders and stuff," and he says, "and I'll bring the powder down." The next day he come down there and he had his trunk full of old dynamite, it was so old it was all stuck together. And gee whiz, it had just all crystallized. "Oh," he says, "I think it's alright," he says. He says, "All I know about powder," he says, "if you think you need ten sticks, put in twenty," he says. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DEWEY: By golly we shot that road clear up that canyon and build a road. I don't know why we didn't get killed, we didn't either one of us know anything. They had old fuse, they set them off with fuse and cap. And they'd go out two or three times sometimes. We'd have to dig that darn shot of powder out of there, and you'd get down there about where the cap is, and the sweat would just run off of you.

DOROTHEA: I bet, I bet.

DEWEY: Think what it would do with his head, a couple of feet from twenty sticks of powder. We dug it out one, two or three times, and Joe was there, and he got pretty nervous. He says, "Don't dig any more of them out," he says, "I'll go and get you some new powder and fuse." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: He got nervous too.

DEWEY: Yeah, when he saw us a digging them out, he knew all that powder was down there, gee whiz a fellow would never have found the pieces.

DOROTHEA: Nope, you would have ---

DEWEY: Oh, we done lots of things we didn't --- after we got the new power we got to reading the instructions, and it says don't, if it's a lightning don't be around it or fool with it. Gee whiz we was using it right there when lightning was just flashing all around us. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh my.

DEWEY: We had to move camp after we got about half way up there, and Dewayne says, we'd got his old Model-A Ford up on top, and then there was a kind of a long bench before we hit the canyon again, and it was a nice big spring. He says, "If you'll finish this up, this blasting here," he says, "I'll go on up and set up camp and get supper for us." I told him all right. He says, "You can ride up with the Cat and wagon."

They had a wagon behind that you could haul our junk on. I told him all right, so he went on up. When the wagon come by I went out there with a sack, a gunny sack full of dynamite on my back, and the caps in my pocket, and they wouldn't even let me near them. They said, "Get away from me with that stuff." So I had to walk clear to camp and carry that on my back.

BARBARA: Oh my.

DOROTHEA: They weren't very nice people, were they?

DEWEY: They didn't want to be blowed up. They had an old fellow up there, he was a homesteading way up in there, and he was supposed to be a powder man. He come over and watched me and Dewayne a putting in a shot one day, and he sat there and just chewed his tobacco as fast, and he got to chewing faster and faster, and pretty quick he jumped on his horse and Dewayne said, "Where are you going?" He said, "I'm getting a long ways from you fellows, I never saw such powder men." (Laughter)

But we got it up there, and we didn't get killed. I bet you they was rock as big as that stove, went clear out of that canyon, a lot on top of them rim rocks up there. You could see them with dust in the air.

BARBARA: Oh gosh.

DEWEY: The dickens of it, there was no place, there wasn't no trees to run and get behind. You had to just stand out there and dodge the rocks when they was a coming back down.

DOROTHEA: How far did you run away from it before you set the fuses off?

DEWEY: Well about as far from here to Sis's house over there. You could see them a going up there. And when they started coming down you could kind of dodge them.

PEARL: About seventy-five feet.

DEWEY: But sometimes they would go clear out of the canyon. I don't know why we

didn't get killed. There must have been somebody watching over us. Had to be.

DOROTHEA: Could you tell us something about, you mentioned, what did you say his name was, Dewayne Hibbard?

DEWEY: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: He played in an orchestra, could you tell us something about an orchestra? Did they have dances, or what kind of orchestra did they have?

DEWEY: Well Dewayne played one of them piano accordions, and a steel guitars. And Harris played an accordion and piano accordions. And then this (Esther) Fowler woman played the piano, and Ralph Hibbard played a guitar, just a plain guitar. They made awful pretty music. Dewayne used to play over the radio in Boise.

PEARL: He played at all those dances out here at the grange hall.

DEWEY: He was a real musician. They was all musicians, they homesteaded not very far --- do you know where the Jackman Cabin is?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: Well that place, they homesteaded that, and they was about twelve of them kids, and they was all musicians.

DOROTHEA: Those are the Hibbard's?

DEWEY: Yeah, the Hibbards, that's the old Hibbard place. Do you remember some old log things right there inside the gate, kind of an old pieces of a barn and things.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DEWEY: Well that was their old home. There was twelve kids raised there.

DOROTHEA: Now those are not the Lyle, or those are something like Lyle Hibbard, I think probably was one of the kids.

DEWEY: Yeah, Lyle was Ralph's boy.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: He was married to my cousin.

DOROTHEA: So you were related to the Hibbard's too?

DEWEY: What?

DOROTHEA: You were related to the Hibbard's then some, by marriage.

DEWEY: Yeah. One time I was raised by about half the people in the valley, or in Poison Creek.

DOROTHEA: You mentioned that your sister's name was Peabody, and she married Ralph Peabody.

DEWEY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Could you tell us something about the Peabody place?

DEWEY: Well I don't know, I lived there quite a long time.

PEARL: They was also related to ---

DEWEY: Yeah, he run cattle. He had this place where, I don't know whose got it, right below the ---

PEARL: Hilton.

DEWEY: Huh?

PEARL: Hilton Whiting is related ---

DEWEY: Peabody's place in the valley ---

PEARL: Oh.

DEWEY: --- you know where the old Whiting place was there where, this Whites is now.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: Right straight south of that about half a mile was Peabody's place. And then he had that ranch in the mountains right below where Frank Whiting's place is. I think they joined. And he run cattle.

PEARL: Don't Gardner's live there Daddy?

DEWEY: I guess, I don't know whether they still live there, they did.

DOROTHEA: Clarence Gardner?

PEARL: Clarence, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Clarence and Irene Gardner.

DEWEY: Does he still live out there?

DOROTHEA: They still live there.

DEWEY: I didn't know. Norm Williams lived there a long time.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

DEWEY: I didn't know whether Gardner's still lived there or not.

PEARL: Well how is Aunt Ann related to Whitings now? Ralph and

DEWEY: Just Ralph was a cousin to I think to Frank and George.

PEARL: That's the way it was.

DOROTHEA: Whiting, Frank and George Whiting.

DEWEY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: Then you go up the other way that old Black place, you know, up there in the canyon? He was my cousin, and he married old Cleveland's aunt. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Victor Cleveland?

DEWEY: Yeah. Victor Cleveland's mother, and old Jap McKinnon was sister and brother, and he married Jap McKinnon's daughter.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: So ---

DOROTHEA: So that made you related in that way too, through a ---

DEWEY: To Cleveland.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, to Cleveland.

DEWEY: I don't suppose they're very proud of it, but they can't help it. (Laughter) Oh, I used to go over to old Victor's quite a little. He run everybody off of his ranch, hunting. I went over and told him I was going up and hunt, and he says, "Stay right here," he says, "there is a bed right out there," he says, "in the bunkhouse and you can stay out there. If you can't get any deer on the hills," he said, "come around here in the orchard in the morning and get one." (Laughter) Somebody was talking about him awhile back to me, about going over there. He said, "He was sure a cranky old devil, wasn't he, about his ranch." I says, "I don't know, I never had much trouble with him." I'd go over there and stay at his place.

PEARL: That kind of made double relation then Daddy. If you were related that way, well then when Joy and my brother, when Chet got married well Agnes Cleveland ---

DEWEY: That's right, I was double related to them wasn't I?

PEARL: Yeah, you was double related to Cleveland.

DEWEY: My son married her, Mrs. Cleveland's niece.

PEARL: Niece, uh huh. So he is double related to him. I'm finding out a lot of things.

DEWEY: She comes back up here, she's the only one of them that comes and visits me anymore. She comes up here every summer and visits me awhile.

PEARL: That's when Dad gets to go fishing more.

DEWEY: Huh?

PEARL: That's when you go fishing more. I can't make you fish much.

DEWEY: Oh, she is the craziest woman to fish I ever saw.

PEARL: She comes up and I tell my sister-in-law, okay, let's get Dad to move it around more. So he has to fish for a month.

DEWEY: I don't like to fish alone, it's lonesome.

DOROTHEA: Okay, let's go to the Black place again. Now that used to be some relation of Lyle Hibbard's. Now was ---

DEWEY: Yeah, Lyle's mother to Fred's daughter.

DOROTHEA: Black?

PEARL: Uh huh.

DEWEY: Fred Black, he was my cousin, and he married old Jap McKinnon --- that was the old McKinnon place. He married Jap McKinnon's daughter. And then Fred's daughter married Lyle Hibbard.

PEARL: Minnie, Arminta.

DOROTHEA: Arminta.

DEWEY: And Lyle died now too.

DOROTHEA: Oh, has he died?

DEWEY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DEWEY: Just got a letter from Minnie just ---

PEARL: You get one every Christmas. He died four or five years ago.

DEWEY: They live right up in Grandview, Washington.

DOROTHEA: Washington.

DEWEY: Right close to --- they go over to see my brother, I guess, once in awhile. His wife died about a year or so ago. His second one.

DOROTHEA: Your brother's wife?

DEWEY: Yeah, Dave. And now there is none of them there. His kids is scattered all over, some of them in Texas, and some --- all over. And there are none of them there, only Minnie.

DOROTHEA: Well why is that called the Black place then if it was McKinnon.

DEWEY: Well Fred Black bought it after Jap McKinnon died. Fred Black took it over.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see.

DEWEY: See he was married to Jap's daughter, I don't know; maybe they inherited it, I don't know. But they built that house there; there was an old, little old shack there that McKinnons lived in. And Fred built that house there.

PEARL: That is standing now.

DEWEY: Huh?

PEARL: That house that's standing now.

DEWEY: Yeah, Fred built that one, Fred and her.

DOROTHEA: Well let's pause for a while, and maybe you need a drink.

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: Well let's talk about the Tetherows, and you can tell us something about them. That was your mother's name?

DEWEY: I don't know so much about them. I never did, I never did know my granddad. I knew one or two of the uncles and my aunt. One of them was, my aunt she used to live here, you know, where the Devine Springs is?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: They used to live there, but they never did homestead it I don't think.

PEARL: Well what Tetherow was it that brought the wagon train through?

DEWEY: Sol, Solomon, Sol they called him. I remember my mother used to have a big picture of them hanging on her wall.

PEARL: He brought the wagon train from where, Daddy?

DEWEY: Huh?

PEARL: Where did he bring the wagon train from, to?

DEWEY: Missouri, I guess.

PEARL: Missouri to here?

DEWEY: Well they was lost. They come to Vale, that's where they, they was another route that they went heading for the Willamette Valley, and him and the main wagon boss thought that they could make a shortcut right straight through the hills here, so they followed up the Malheur River clear to Crane. And then they went back over and stayed there where that hot springs is for awhile. And then they come back up the other fork, let's see it would be the one that comes by Drewsey, what's that, the middle fork ain't it?

PEARL: Middle fork.

DEWEY: They come back up it for a long ways. And somewhere in there is where they said they found that Blue Bucket Mine between that hot spring, you know, where there is a warm springs or a hot spring comes up in it. They camped there and washed their clothes all up and bathed and one thing, and rested for a few days. And that's where their oxen got away from them. And it was the next night after that; they went one, however far they travel with oxen in a day, that's where that they found the mine, the gold. They said the kids went out where they could find them, and they found that gold. But the other peoples has looked and looked and they sometimes got it clear over yonder by, pretty near to Pendleton. They got it all over the, that's what they told me, I don't know, that's ---

PEARL: The kids found it in their buckets, they was playing in the stream, so ---

DOROTHEA: That's kind of like the lost wagon train; they kind of lost the Blue Bucket Mine, didn't they?

DEWEY: Yeah, they lost everything. I asked them one time, I asked my mother, I says, "Why didn't they go back?" She says, "The Indians were too cranky." (Laughter) I wondered why they didn't go back. They knew it was awful rich, but they was afraid these Indians was all on the warpath then.

PEARL: Do you know what year that was, Daddy?

DEWEY: Said it was 1843, isn't it? Or '45 or something like that.

PEARL: Was it in here? (McLaren Family Newsletter)

DEWEY: That little gal, she's got everything like that in them. By golly, I don't know how she can dig so.

DOROTHEA: We'd like to have a copy of that so we can stick that in with your file. That's your niece?

PEARL: Uh huh.

DEWEY: It wouldn't, don't take much to make a copy anymore with them, does it?

PEARL: It would be his brother's granddaughter.

DEWEY: Huh?

PEARL: It's your brother Ed's granddaughter.

DEWEY: Oh, you mean the --- yeah.

PEARL: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And her name is Elaine what?

PEARL: Elaine Beswick.

DEWEY: She is my niece.

PEARL: Yeah, she has got her name here, and her address.

DEWEY: You know I never even knew she existed until I had my birthday party here. There is a lot of them come, I didn't know, I didn't even know they was ---

DOROTHEA: You said you had a ninety years birthday party, was that here?

DEWEY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: At your home?

DEWEY: It was over at Sis'. She thought maybe there would be, a few might come. Gee whiz, there was a hundred or so of them, they just come from everyplace, in Idaho, in

Washington, and California. (Laughter)

PEARL: He told me, he said, "You can never pull that off, you can never get all the family here." I got over a hundred of them.

BARBARA: Oh, great.

DEWEY: It looked like a town out here. There was trailer houses and motor homes and everything else. And then a lot of them didn't get here. Some of them down in Texas didn't make it.

DOROTHEA: She pulled it off then. While we're talking with your daughter, Pearl Perry here, let's go back and find out when and where and how you met your wife, and how many children you have. How old were you when you were married?

DEWEY: Nineteen, she was sixteen.

DOROTHEA: And what was her name?

DEWEY: Tipton, Irene Tipton.

DOROTHEA: Tipman?

PEARL: Tipton.

DOROTHEA: Tipton. And how did you meet her?

DEWEY: Well I stayed there after I didn't have to go on to the army; I stayed there working at Juntura on that ranch. And they hired her brothers, she had two or three brothers, and they come down. And then she come down to visit, her aunt was a cooking there, and she come down to visit her, so that's how I met her. And then they all moved down there finally, they all got work there. It was quite a town then.

DOROTHEA: You're talking about Juntura?

DEWEY: Yeah. It ain't nothing now, it's just a little ghost town. Gee, there was quite a lot of people. It was one of the wildest you ever wanted to live in. If you wanted to get beat up, you just want to go to one of their dances. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: And when were you married then?

DEWEY: When?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: Well in Vale, we went down to Vale and got married.

PEARL: Your date, Daddy.

BARBARA: What year was this?

DEWEY: 1919, wasn't it?

PEARL: Uh huh, June 2nd, 1919.

DOROTHEA: And how many children did you have?

DEWEY: Three. Her, and I had two boys and they both died.

BARBARA: And what were your son's names?

DEWEY: Chester and Alfred. They didn't --- Chester has been dead ---

PEARL: He passed away in 1965.

DEWEY: They both got cancer in their lungs.

PEARL: And Al passed away in 1951.

DOROTHEA: Young boys.

DEWEY: Yeah.

PEARL: Yeah, Chester he was only 45, and Al of course he was only 29.

DEWEY: They was sure good workers.

BARBARA: Goodness.

DEWEY: They used to help me lots on that fencing. They could build more fence them two kids than most, half a dozen fellows would. They would just get out there and they just pretty near go in a run.

BARBARA: So you were working in Juntura for Hanley at that time?

DEWEY: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And after you were married, how long did you stay there in Juntura then?

DEWEY: About ten years.

BARBARA: About ten years.

DEWEY: Oh we come over, and we was on this place, we rented it from my brother, this Ausmus place out here.

BARBARA: Okay, that was after you were married.

DEWEY: Two years, in '20 and '21. But gee, you couldn't sell anything, we raised a good crop and you couldn't sell enough to buy you a loaf of bread. If you did, you didn't get no money for it. Just didn't have no money. So they told us to come back over there, I could have my job back at Juntura, so we went back over there. And she went to cooking, and we worked, and we stayed there for ten years.

DOROTHEA: And then where did you go from there?

DEWEY: We come back over here, and then I went out with Joe Fine, out with Eastern Oregon Livestock Company. Went out there for pretty near seven or eight years. Built fence, and then I worked at the sawmill one year for Dillman, and that's when I got this job at the creamery. The war had started and they lost all their men, they didn't have nobody to run it, and they come out there and begged me to come in and help them. I was stacking hay for Harry Gouldin. "Well," I said, "I don't know nothing about creameries." I says, "All I know is about ranches and things." "Well I know," but he says, "maybe you can learn it." Old Morgan he got up on the haystack with me, talking, begging. Says, "If you can just come and help us just a few days until maybe we can find somebody." "Well," I says, "I'll go and do what I can, I don't know nothing about it." Three or four day's come, they didn't have any, and it run into thirty-five years.

DOROTHEA: And this was Morgan Timms?

DEWEY: Yeah, he was --- him and Miller was in it too then. Timms bought Miller out.

DOROTHEA: Was that Lee Miller?

DEWEY: Yeah. He was a partner in it. Then when Morgan died, it went to Gene. Now his boys is a running it, Toby.

DOROTHEA: Toby.

DEWEY: He seems to be a nice kid. I worked with Gene two or three years, three or four years after Morgan quit. He was an awful good fellow. I never knowed I was working for anybody. I went to work when I got ready, and I quit when I got ready. Nobody ever, I don't think I ever did have any of them give me an order all the time I was there.

BARBARA: That's a pretty nice kind of job to have then.

DEWEY: They finally turned it over to me, that was the dickens of it. The last fifteen or twenty years I was there, I was the boss. Some of them got madder than the devil about it. They wanted to be boss. (Laughter) One of the young fellers he come out of there, oh he was mad, he says, "I don't know why they would want to put an old feller like you in for boss. Why didn't they put somebody like me in that knows something." And I said, "I don't know Frank," I says, "I didn't have nothing to do with it, I never asked for it."

PEARL: Plant manager is what he was.

BARBARA: And did you make ice cream there at the creamery too?

DEWEY: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: I understand you made some pretty good ice cream in your day.

DEWEY: I don't know, some of them said it was good, and some said it wasn't.

DOROTHEA: They said that was the best ---

DEWEY: Sold a lot of it to your father-in-law and mother-in-law.

DOROTHEA: Probably, uh huh.

DEWEY: Yeah, they'd come in there and get a whole bunch of it, and we'd give them packers for it to take it up to the ranch.

DOROTHEA: They said that --- we were talking to Blair Armstrong, and she said it was the best ice cream in Harney County.

DEWEY: I don't know, some of them said it was awful good. Some of them said it wasn't, but some would say that no matter how good it was.

DOROTHEA: You must have had a knack though, because I know that you can make some bad ice cream.

DEWEY: I got after the old boss, they had an old freezer, gee it took a long time, take thirty minutes to make a batch of ice cream, it was ten gallon at a whack. "Well we'll get you a new freezer then," he says, and he got me two. (Laughter) He got one that run with Freon, and the other run with direct ammonia gas. And I used it, gee it was quick, you could make a batch of ice cream in about four or five minutes.

BARBARA: Oh, my goodness.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

DEWEY: I just worked like the devil to try to not shut it down. I'd get it drawed out in cans, and they had a filler there. Sometimes I'd just barely make it, and they'd be another one. By golly you follow that for about two or three hours and you're all in.

PEARL: Kind of had to beat his granddaughter up the rail.

DEWEY: That old inspector he'd come in there, and, "Well I see," he says, "you never miss a whack do you," he says. I says, "No if I did I'd be sunk."

I was going to quit; they wanted me to get all them licenses. Gee, I had to have all them licenses in there to work. They come in there --- that's what my brother quit on, he was a working there first, my youngest brother. He quit when they give him a big stack of papers; they said he's got to get a license. He give them back to him, he says, "I'm quitting." He said, "I wouldn't work where they had fellers like you around watching a feller all the time." So he quit. And he give me the books, hell I didn't, I didn't want ---

No, the inspector he come there once, he says, "Have you got a license?" I said, "No." He says, "You know we could give you ten years in the pen," he says, "for this." "Well," I says, "make it twenty and then I can retire when I get out." (Laughter) "I'm not a joking," he says. "Well," I says, "I can't get a license." He give me the blank, it had a great big writing across it, you must have a college education. I says, "I ain't got a good grade school education." "Well," he says, "I believe you can pass it." He says, "I've been watching you, I think you can pass it." "Well," I says, "I ain't a going to LaGrande or Salem to take no examination." "Well," he says, "we'll bring the examiner in." "Well," I says, "alright, ain't nothing to lose if I don't pass it." By golly I passed it. Pretty good, I only missed one question out of about a hundred and fifty, two hundred of them.

BARBARA: Wow.

DOROTHEA: Wow.

BARBARA: So I guess you knew what you were doing after all, huh?

DEWEY: I studied lots, every time I'd have a few minutes I'd study them books.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: And the old inspector told me one day, he says, "You know," he says, "you've got the best record in the state." He says, "And you've got the poorest equipment." He says, "I don't understand that."

BARBARA: So what all did you do at the creamery, just process the milk?

DEWEY: Oh, processed milk, and ice cream mix. I made my own mix and everything.

BARBARA: Make butter too?

DEWEY: And, no, they just quit making butter when I went there. They had the churn yet; they sold it to Ausmus I think to dip grain in. It was a great big one; it was as high as your head. But I didn't have to make butter. They tried to make me get a butter maker's license. I wouldn't do it, I says, "I've got two or three now." And I says, "And I don't make

butter, why do I have to have a butter maker's license?" Well they let me off with a plant operator's license, a pasteurizer's license, a tester's license.

BARBARA: So did they deliver milk in town from the creamery when you started?

DEWEY: They did for a long time, but then they quit. That's awful.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: You deliver it, and they get a big bill, and they just up and leave. They lost so much money, you know, transients. They get it until they'd get a big bill, then they'd just move, and didn't get paid. And so they quit it, they just put it all in the stores.

They had a deal with that Willow Ray Dairy for a while. Willow Ray would put all the milk in the store, and they'd furnished all the restaurants and the schools. But it didn't last very long.

DOROTHEA: Where did you get your milk? Did you have different people bringing it in, or ---

DEWEY: Oh, there was several around here, there where you live, that Otley he had quite a dairy there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that was Homer Otley.

DEWEY: Uh huh. Well he brought his milk there, and Norm Williams. And Ches Mace, and some down below, down out ---

DOROTHEA: Wayne Howes, did he bring --- because he had a dairy, a little small dairy too.

DEWEY: Who?

DOROTHEA: Wayne Howes.

DEWEY: Oh yeah, yeah he brought milk in there too, that's right, I forgot about him.

DOROTHEA: Because I was going to say, that's how my mom put us kids through school. So I knew they must have had some milk there someplace.

DEWEY: Over at Wayne's?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: Yeah, he brought it in there. Is he still alive?

DOROTHEA: No, no, he passed away last year.

DEWEY: I knew him when he first come to the country. He come out, his dad was a working where I was out there by the Bell A. And Wayne come out there in a great big old car of some kind. Gee whiz, two bits was a lot of money then, I don't know how he got it. But he come out there to visit his dad, and we were discussing about that great big old car, and him a working for a dollar or so a day.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, the car probably belonged to his mother.

DEWEY: I guess so. I don't think her and Wayne's dad got along very good, I don't know whether she even stayed here or not.

DOROTHEA: Once in awhile.

DEWEY: Did she? But yeah, I don't know, he, I guess he had a ranch out there. Because he, I don't know what he done with it.

DOROTHEA: He sold it to a guy by the name of --- oh, I shouldn't say anything, because I forgot his name.

DEWEY: I ain't the only one that does that.

DOROTHEA: Dan Langenfeld has it now. I can't remember the guy's name, Jack --- I can't remember his last name. His first name was Jack; I can't remember his last name. But he sold that to him, and then ---

DEWEY: Oh, Pete Hebener brought lots of milk in there too, he had quite a dairy.

DOROTHEA: Did he? Right out here by the Indian Village? Pete Hebener, oh that's out by the Sand Hill.

DEWEY: Yeah, just over the Sand Hill.

PEARL: Hoyt's has got it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, where Hoyt's ---

DEWEY: Hoyt's I guess is there. Hoyt's or whatever their name is. He had a pretty big dairy; he brought a lot of milk in.

PEARL: Wallace ... Baker did too, didn't he?

DEWEY: Oh, one of them Smith's brought milk in. Huh?

PEARL: Didn't Wallace bring milk in?

DEWEY: Who?

PEARL: Wallace Baker.

DEWEY: No, I don't think he --- no he got that ranch after they quit making, processing milk. They quit along the --- that carton business put them out of business. People wouldn't buy bottled milk anymore, and they didn't have a --- it cost twenty or thirty thousand dollars for them to put in a carton deal and they wouldn't do it, so they just quit and started shipping their milk in from Home Dairy in Caldwell. And it was already bottled. So then after that I didn't have their --- pasteurized all the time.

BARBARA: About when did they stop processing milk here in Burns at Alpine Creamery?

DEWEY: I don't know, I can't remember. I think it --- probably I was there --- I quit in '77. They must have quit sometime in '65 or so, something like that. Because I know I was there a long time after they quit that. That made me, I just had to wait on people then, take care of --- I took care of all the country operators, stores and things.

DOROTHEA: You didn't still make ice cream then?

DEWEY: Yeah, I still made ice cream.

PEARL: They must have quit in about '58 or '59 Dad, because when Bonnie went to work there with you, they weren't bringing milk in then.

DEWEY: Wasn't they? I don't know when they quit; I know it was quite awhile ---

BARBARA: Well when was it that you retired from Alpine Creamery?

DEWEY: In '77.

BARBARA: '77.

DEWEY: I worked until I was pretty near sixty-seven years old, seventy-seven.

BARBARA: That's a long time, isn't it?

DEWEY: Everybody else was retiring around sixty, or sixty-two or three or four.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: They thought I was kind of crazy.

BARBARA: But if you didn't have anything else to do, why not go to work, huh?

DEWEY: By golly I liked to work there. I had lots of friends there to visit with. They'd come in all the time, them country stores and things. I had lots of people to visit with, and I liked it there.

BARBARA: Well sure.

PEARL: You quit in '76, Daddy.

DEWEY: I started ---

PEARL: Mama passed away in '77.

DEWEY: Yeah, I know, but I started to quit, you remember, and I had to coach along, I'd have to go back and keep a helping them. They'd get stuck and they'd send for me to come up and help them get straightened out.

PEARL: I didn't think you worked any in '77. I'm slipping.

DEWEY: There used to be an old feller out in the valley here, he run an old big steam threshing machines. They bought his tractor, his steam tractor, and he brought it down there and slid it in there for steam. They had a smaller boiler. I got too much steam in that thing and blowed it up. (Laughter) That sure scared the old boss. That's the worst I ever saw him scared, old Morgan.

I was standing there at that one morning, I knew it wasn't supposed to have --- they had cut it down to about fifty pounds, is all we was supposed to put in it. I had a big roaring fire in it there one morning, and I was standing with my back up against it. And I heard this sizzle up around the steam dome, and I looked up and I had pretty near two hundred pounds.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

DEWEY: Never thought much about it, I just set draft on, and I thought now I can really start to pasteurizing. Just got out on the flat and bang she went, and right where I was standing. It ripped a hole that long. If I'd have stayed there it would have just burnt me to death.

DOROTHEA: Wow.

DEWEY: Right where I had my, had my back. It busted a big hole about that long in that. Oh gee whiz, you never saw so much steam. You couldn't see that darn building for about a half hour.

DOROTHEA: A little wet?

DEWEY: What?

DOROTHEA: A little wet in there too?

DEWEY: Well yes, it just come right out there and out through the front door. I didn't know what had happened, I knew it was something. I couldn't get the back door open for a long time, and finally I pried it open. ... there was a big hole in it. I called old Morgan up, he was in Portland, I asked him if they had any boilers down there. He wanted to know why. "Well," I says, "I blowed this one up." He pretty near swallowed his cigar I think. "Oh did it hurt anybody?" I says, "No," I says, "it scared me out of about ten years of growth is all." (Laughter)

By golly he rustled around and went to Seattle and got one. It was a good one, I

wasn't afraid of it. I was afraid of that other one from the start. They had used it in that old threshing machine until it was ---

DOROTHEA: Do you remember whose threshing machine that was?

DEWEY: Ringer and Needham.

DOROTHEA: Needham?

DEWEY: Needham --- Ringer, one of them was named Ringer and the other one was Needham. I think they was out around that Ryegrass country somewhere.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they were, yeah.

DEWEY: There was two or three of them out in there. Woods and Gasch had one too.

DOROTHEA: Well I knew Woods and Gasch had one.

DEWEY: And then old Claude Austin had one from over to the Double O. He had the biggest and was the worst fellow to work for. And then there was one come from Silver Creek, Williams and Thorne from Silver Creek. Williams he is here, Williams was, that used to have the old place right there by the Sand Hill, you know, what's that woman's name?

PEARL: Bertha Solomon.

DOROTHEA: Bertha Solomon, yeah. The Williams brothers, yeah.

DEWEY: They used to have a, they had an old threshing machine. Glen Clemens had one, Clay Clemens had one. There was a lot of them, all them old big steam riggs.

DOROTHEA: I understand that you like to fish and hunt. Can you tell us some of your hunting stories?

DEWEY: I never was much of a hunter, I couldn't hit anything. No ---

PEARL: He ain't been a hunting the last five years. Before that you hunted all the time.

DEWEY: I can't hunt anymore, I can't walk.

PEARL: You used to hunt with Ches all the time, then you had ---

DEWEY: Well yeah, me and my boys used to have a good time hunting when they was growing up. We'd hunt off up in there, around old Dickenson Mill and around in there.

DOROTHEA: That was when the deer came. You said when we were talking earlier that there didn't used to be deer up in that country.

DEWEY: Well that was back in 1914, '15, there wasn't. There was none there. I don't know when they started to coming in there. But they had been there, because I can remember we used to cut lots of wood up at the old place there. We'd come back toward ... well you used to see the horns, the old horns, so they must have been in there at one time. Because once in awhile you could pick deer horns down in there, but I never did see one down there. They sure wasn't no elk down there.

DOROTHEA: There is a lot of elk in there now. They tear down all the fences.

DEWEY: You know I never did, the first deer I ever killed was I think in 1914, I think. A couple old fellers out there in the valley, we had been a haying, they got to, wanting to go hunting and they wanted me to go with them. I never had so much fun in my life. They was just a couple of comedians. Got up there, I killed one deer, and that's the only deer they killed. That was my first hunt; I just shot once and got me a deer. I had to whack it up with everybody, I don't think --- I didn't have use for meat anyhow. I didn't have no place to cook it. (Laughter) I give it to all of them.

PEARL: Well you and Hebener's used to hunt, and Frank Triska.

DEWEY: Yeah, I used to hunt with old Pete Hebener and Frank Triska a lot. He was a game warden.

DOROTHEA: Frank Triska?

DEWEY: Triska, yeah he was a game warden for twenty, thirty years. He used to be a regular game warden. When I was to the Double O he'd come over there to see if anybody was killing ducks. He was a game warden in Yellowstone before he come here.

I hunted with him a lot. Lots of people they asked me, ain't you afraid to hunt with him. I said, "No," I says, "I like to hunt with him." I said, "He's a good feller to hunt with." I says, "I just don't do anything against the law."

PEARL: I think what depressed him on hunting the last time he went hunting; we went over by Beulah ---

DEWEY: Huh?

PEARL: I think the last time it made you disgusted with hunting you went over there above Beulah and you got lost.

DEWEY: It was the only time I was ever lost in my life. I walked, and walked, and walked, started walking and there was a ridge, and none of us knew that it was forked down there. And Ted he wanted to go down through some brush down there, and I told him I didn't care where I went, just so I went.

So I went up on this hill, and I went too far. And I got on the other ridge, and it went in the other direction. I kept a following that ridge, I knew it ought to come out to a road. I walked, and I walked, and I walked through some of the funniest looking country I ever saw. I got down there, way down there, and I found an old road and I sat down there. Some people come up out of there, and I stopped them, and I wanted to know if they'd have seen a pickup, she had my old pickup. That feller says, "No." "There is nothing down there," he says, "this is the end of the road. If you go any further you just went off down into the river canyon," he says.

And he started on, and he stopped and he come back, he said, "What kind of a pickup was it?" I says, "A little old white Ford with a woman driving." "I saw that this morning," he says.

PEARL: This was afternoon.

DEWEY: "Way off," he said, "way off over them mountains."

DOROTHEA: You'd walked a long ways.

PEARL: He sure had me and my husband and grandson a hunting.

DEWEY: They had about nine camps there getting ready to hunt for me. I wasn't lost, I'd have found a way back. That's the only time I ever did. I wasn't turned around, but the darn country wasn't right, there wasn't no road there.

PEARL: It dropped off into the Malheur River.

DEWEY: I had somebody that --- well I says, "I think I'm still in Oregon, but I ain't sure."

(Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Might have gone into Idaho.

PEARL: I told my husband I said ... Dad is a hunting like that, I don't know if I'll go with him.

DEWEY: Well I did see different signs. One said Harney County, and one said Grant County, and then I don't know whether it was Baker County. I went through three corners, I must have been right in the corners.

PEARL: Yeah, there was three corners.

DEWEY: Where the darn counties cornered there, because I was in three counties.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

BARBARA: You were a busy man that day.

DOROTHEA: Walked a long ---

PEARL: When he left camp it was six-thirty, and it was noon before I found him.

DEWEY: I told somebody, I was telling, I says, "I think I'm still in Oregon though," I said.

Them old fellers up there hunting, I went way up towards Sheep Mountain. I was a hunting along in there all alone. I went down into where a spring was, and here come a whole bunch of them bow hunters in there. And I was talking to them, and they says, "How old are you?" "Oh," I said, "eighty something." The idea of a man eighty years old

off here a walking around these mountains alone --- (Laughter)

PEARL: Just because he was alone, they didn't know that Ted and I was just a little ways from him.

DEWEY: Gee, eighty ain't real old. You can walk anyplace then. I could walk all day then.

BARBARA: Well as you and your wife were starting your married life, and after your children came along, what did you do for entertainment when you lived here in Burns? Did you go to dances at the grange, or what did you do?

DEWEY: We went to all the grange dances, we belonged to the grange.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: We still do, I guess. We got a demit from them, because we just played out, so we got a demit if they ever started --- if we ever wanted to I could go back in.

Oh, when we was at Juntura, there wasn't much to go to there. They'd have a dance ever once in awhile, and that's about all. We'd go to Drewsey once in awhile to the dance, after we got our old car. We didn't have a car for a long time, we were afoot. We finally got an old, old, old Chevy, and we'd go up there. We'd go up there and dance all night and get back to the ranch just in time to go to work. We had to work Sundays too.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: She'd start cooking, and I'd start doing chores. Oh, them was long days.

BARBARA: I can imagine.

DEWEY: And then they'd have a dance there, especially around St. Patrick's, they used to have wild ones then. That was all Irish country over there. When I went there, over half of the people was Irish, most of them old country Irish. Oh, they were dancing fools, fighting fools too. I went down there one night and they had a free-for-all right in the hall. By golly, that's the only one of them I ever did get in, in my life. The hall was just crowded

with people too. Somebody pulled another feller's nose, started it. They got in a row ---

BARBARA: Some little thing, huh?

DEWEY: And this here one feller reached over and pulled this other feller's nose.

BARBARA: That set them off, huh?

DEWEY: Here they come. Of course they got inside, well they took sides with them, and pretty quick the whole hall was just a fighting and they had them chairs, you know, like they used to have, they fold up, them wooden chairs.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: They was just a bashing each other over the head with them things.

BARBARA: My goodness.

DEWEY: They had this, Eggleston's used to have an orchestra here, and they was clear up on top of the piano. They had one old upright piano, and they crawled up on there. And I was talking to, me and another rancher there, we was trying to keep out of the way, we didn't want to fight. Here come a feller at us, he had a big knife about that long, and he made a pass at me with it, and I jumped and he shoved it in this other feller's arm and ripped it open.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

DEWEY: That fellow was cool about that --- "Now what did he do that for," he says. (Laughter) I says, "I don't know," but I says, "I got, want them ... and women and my wife," I said, "I'm going to try to get them out of here." I finally got them out. Gee, I never saw such a thing as that. I don't know, nobody got killed, but gee whiz, you could. If he'd have hit me with that knife he'd have shoved it clear through me.

PEARL: Every once in awhile they used to kill somebody at those old dances.

DOROTHEA: Sounds like you have lived a pretty protected life. You've had all kinds of experiences, and got out of all of them.

DEWEY: By golly I have, I was just thinking here awhile back, of all the things, the near things that I've had that could have killed me and didn't.

One of the nearest ones, two of them, was on that darned old ranch up there of Dad's. One when I was a plowing up there, I was all alone, I only saw two people all summer, and right above where the house is at, the plow hooked under a rock, I didn't know there was any rock up there, and it flipped up in the air and come down right square on top of me. I was laying under it, right on the stomach on it, and the seat was right on top of me. Well I hollered, the horses stopped. But then, how was I going to get out, the thing weighed about a thousand pounds. Finally I got one hand, and I got to digging that, where I lit was the plowed ground, it was pretty soft, dug that out, and I finally got myself out from under it. I had to hook a team on it and tip it over again.

And the next time when Hawkins had it, there used to be some great big trees there by the gate. There is one there yet.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: And they died, and he wanted to know if I'd --- I had an old drag saw, if I'd go and cut them and saw them up for him for wood. And it was in the winter, and I told him yes. The oldest boy went up and helped me saw them down. And then I was a going back up and my youngest boy, he was just a little feller, and he wanted to go with me. I said it was awful cold, about thirty, forty below zero, had to ride up there on the bobsled. I says, "I don't think you ought to go, it's too cold." And he started to begging his mother to let him go. Finally she said, "Well we'll wrap you up good and let you go."

And we went up there, and I've got the old saw set on that log, and it was probably four feet or more through. I sawed off one block, and I went around on the other side to see if there was any rocks what had come down on the side. Then when something, ... thing knocked me down and come down on top of me. There I was again, right in that

snow, my face right in the snow and that darned big log on top of me. I couldn't move, I'd have died there in just a little while because it was so darned cold. And he says, "I think I can get you out," he says. And he started digging, and he'd get limbs and he'd pry it up and put little sticks under it. That little feller he worked until he got it up and got me so I could get out. If he hadn't been with me, why I'd have ---

DOROTHEA: And you didn't break any bones or anything on this?

DEWEY: No, it just mashed me down in that snow clear to the ground. It was cold laying there though.

DOROTHEA: I think you have led a pretty guarded life.

DEWEY: There has been several things like that, just so near, and not get hurt.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, up in that area is where my brother-in-law got the log on him. And up in the canyon, up from the Melvin Flat, and I think it was up in that area.

PEARL: Is that where he got hurt?

DEWEY: Where?

DOROTHEA: Up in the canyon above, oh up above the Melvin Flat there. I can't remember --- there is a canyon up above the Hawkins Field there.

DEWEY: Yeah, where they cut the logs there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: Yeah, I remember seeing that place. I used to cut wood in there when I was little.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's where he got hurt. So he fell a tree on him and couldn't get out from under it.

PEARL: Did he ever get so he could walk?

DEWEY: What did it do, split up?

DOROTHEA: No, it jumped back.

DEWEY: Well that's what I mean.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DEWEY: That's one of the most dangerous things in logging is that, a tree if they lean, you can't tell what they're going to do. I've had them split up maybe twenty feet, and then come back like that. I never did have one get me.

DOROTHEA: Un huh.

PEARL: That was Wayne, wasn't it?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PEARL: That's the one I went to school with.

DEWEY: I fell lots of timber. I fell for Hines one summer over out in the Ochoco.

BARBARA: You have certainly had a lot of experiences in your life then haven't you? All kinds of jobs.

DEWEY: I've done pretty near everything.

DOROTHEA: Buckaroo, and farmer, and rancher, and fence builder, and logger, and creamer.

DEWEY: My brother, my oldest brother, I wish I had done what he wanted me to do. He wanted me to be a musician. He even had hired a teacher. I used to play anything I'd pick up, instrument. I used to play for these old dances some, them old country dances, accordion and things.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: And it just seemed like nothing, I could just pick up music, and he wanted me to join that orchestra. I think they called it Sagebrush Orchestra or something.

DOROTHEA: Un huh.

DEWEY: "Oh," I says, "I don't know, I'm going to be a buckaroo."

BARBARA: From musician to buckaroo, huh?

PEARL: It always used to make me so disgusted, Dad could play, both my brothers could play, I never could play. I think I just came along too late.

DEWEY: I still got a violin and accordion, but I don't never play them.

PEARL: I play a little accordion.

DEWEY: Harris Hibbard asked me if I ever played them anymore. He used to be in that orchestra, the last time I was talking to him.

DOROTHEA: Who was that?

DEWEY: Harris Hibbard.

DOROTHEA: Harris Hibbard.

DEWEY: Belonged to the Hibbard Orchestra.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: I told him, "No," I says, "I don't know, I just never play them much." He says, "I don't either," he says, "I never pick mine up." Oh, I used to play when Irene was with me, she always liked for me to play, she liked music.

DOROTHEA: That was one thing that we had up at our cow camps. We got Thad Geer and a bunch of --- Joe Enneberg and Buck Hodges, we got them all in there, and we had an old hoedown. (Laughter) We really ---

DEWEY: At that big house out there where you lived ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DEWEY: I went there the first night that they opened that. Well I and Henry used to run, Henry Baker we used to run around together.

DOROTHEA: Well can you tell me what year that was?

DEWEY: Must have been around '14 or '15, somewhere around there, I don't remember for sure.

DOROTHEA: Well see we were told that it was built in 1892. And somebody told us that

no, it wasn't built until 1912. Well that's ten years difference.

DEWEY: Well I don't know now.

DOROTHEA: Or twenty years difference.

DEWEY: But I know that I was old enough to dance, and I didn't start to dancing until I was fifteen, fourteen or fifteen years old. But I can remember going there to that dance; they give a dance when they opened it before they ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, in a big barn. They always had a barn dance.

DEWEY: Yeah. And then I went there to another one; it was after that a little while. It was a hard time dance they called it. I rode over there a horseback from our old ranch up there. I was a going up the lane, it was kind of moonlight, and I see a feller ahead of me a horseback. I caught up with him. I knew him, it was a musician, it was one of them Hibbard's. And we rode along there talking. He said, "Where are you going," he says? I said, "I'm going to a dance." And he sit there a little ways, "Looking like that he says?" (Laughter) I had old ragged clothes on. You had to then, I had to be just ragged, the raggeder the better. And he said, "Well I didn't know it was one of them." He was going to play for them. And pretty quick he stopped and he give me the horse's reins, he says, "Hold him," he says. He got off and took his clothes off right there and rode and turned them all inside out and put them back on. (Laughter) Where all the seams was, they had white strips where they had sewed, it was the funniest looking thing. He got up there and played all night like that. Oh, there is some of them ridiculous clothes they had on. I can remember that old Alvon Baker ---

DOROTHEA: Sounds like a Halloween dance.

DEWEY: Yeah. You remember old Alvon Baker, you remember how tall he was, big tall feller?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DEWEY: He had on, ... pants I guess when he was a little kid, little knee pants.

(Laughter) They had lots of fun at them though.

DOROTHEA: Well can you tell us some more stories? If you can, well we're going to have to change tapes again. If you think you're tired, well we'll quit and come back another time.

DEWEY: Well you've probably heard enough hot air. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well we've had an enjoyable afternoon. We've learned lots of history, and some of the things that have gone on in the county, where your parents came from. And you didn't tell us that they came from Jackson ---

PEARL: Grandpa come from Nova Scotia, Canada.

DEWEY: They come from; to start with they come from Scotland to Nova Scotia, Canada. They settled there and my granddad ---

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