

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #314 - Sides A & B

Subject: Dora Johnson - With Video

Place: Johnson Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: February 7, 1992

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, along with Barbara Lofgren, and today we're talking with Dora Johnson at her home in Burns, Oregon. Today's date is February 7th, 1992. Following our interview we will be doing a short video of Dora, and it will also be stored at the library along with the transcript and cassette tape, the number is 317, or 314, excuse me. Okay Dora, can you start out by telling us your name?

DORA JOHNSON: My name is Dora Marie Cooley Johnson.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

DORA: The other side of the old experiment station.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about your home?

DORA: It was called the Jones place. It's probably about six and a half miles out there. There is still an old windmill out in the field where the place was.

DOROTHEA: And when were you born?

DORA: I was born the first day of April 1916.

DOROTHEA: And what were your parent's names?

DORA: My dad's name was James George Cooley; my mother's name was Martha Bessie Rudebaugh Cooley.

DOROTHEA: And can you tell us something about your parents, starting with your father? When did they come to Harney County and how did they settle here?

DORA: About the 7th of July in 1914, my grandparents who lived in Pendleton, Oregon, and my mother and my brother, who was six months old, and my Uncle Walter Cooley, he was fourteen years old, got a car. And they always told me my grandpa learned how to drive between Pendleton and Burns.

Anyway they started out with this car and they had an old dog, he always had fox terrier dogs, and the dog had, mother dog had little puppies. And when they started out from Pendleton up Cabbage Hill, and he didn't know how to shift the gears on the car, and he wouldn't listen to his fourteen-year-old son who probably could have told him how to do it. Anyway, they got stuck up there, he couldn't make the car go or anything you know. So the first person that came along they told them to have somebody come out from Pendleton and help them.

Well they had to camp out over night there. The next morning the man that came to help them was my mother's sister's husband whose name was Clifford Bellinger. And he just showed him how to shift the gears on the old touring car that they had. The car they had was one of those old black cars, and it had a cloth top, and there was no door on the driver's side. And there was a bunch of gears outside on the running board on the driver's side. And it had side curtains I think, but of course this was July. And nobody has ever heard of a Premier car, but I have the headlights out of it, and they have turned purple just being in a trunk.

DOROTHEA: Oh, my goodness.

DORA: And they look like real pretty glass plates. Anyway I don't know where they went, it took them two or three days to get here, and each night of course they had to camp out wherever they were. They must have had a tent and something to cook with. They never did tell me all that.

But I know that when my brother would cry, that the little puppies would cry too.

Walt said that they all cried at the same time.

DOROTHEA: And where did they settle when they first came here? Out in this ---

DORA: Out in this place where I was born.

DOROTHEA: Where you were born.

DORA: Somebody that my granddad knew in Pendleton came down here and saw all this good land around here and came home and told everybody about it. And until they came here, my granddad was one of the biggest wheat growers in all of Umatilla County. And what he did was rent the land that he had from the Indians.

And my uncle had pictures of the combine that they had, and it was pulled by something like 35 or 40 mule team. What I never could figure out is how the mules could go ahead of the combine and not knock everything down that they were trying to pick up. But then I think somebody tells me that they were kind of over at the side.

But I did see the pictures of it, and it was really a big operation. And then of course he had to keep all those mules all winter, had to feed them and take care of them.

Then I was reading the other day in --- some of the things I wrote down that my grandmother told me that her family --- Her mother and dad brought her from Kansas, and then Grandpa came from Kansas, and they both went to Pendleton, Umatilla County, and they all farmed. And I suppose that's how she met my grandfather.

And I know that the first house that they stayed in, they came to Burns and stayed all night instead of going out to the ranch to stay. And the first house that they stayed in is the one that is across in front of the courthouse. Let's see, I can't remember right now what the name of the people were that lived there then.

We used to, when I was a young kid growing up we used Cecil's Hill for sled riding. But it was somebody else that used to live here's house, before Cecil's got it.

DOROTHEA: Is that where the Basque people live now?

DORA: Yes, it is. Anyway they said they stayed there all night and then they went out to the ranch the next day. But my father see, didn't come with them because he was already here, and he already had some of the machinery and stuff that they brought from Pendleton. I always understood that my granddad had one of the very first Caterpillars that ever came into Harney County. And he had big plows and stuff that went with them. And when they got to this place out there, they had natural hay, you know, wild hay.

And my granddad had always dug up the ground and planted it to wheat, and so that's what he did. And I think they did all right for two or three years, and then of course it got so that it was dry like it is now and they didn't do very good.

See they came two years before I was born. And then in 1916 there was so much water that when my mother told him that I was going to be born, my dad got in the car and he was only going to go two miles to get a woman to come and stay with her, and then he was going to come to Burns to get the doctor. Well it took him so long to go around the water to get where this woman was, you know, someplace maybe like over where your family lived, which wasn't very far, but it would be an awful long ways if there was water in between.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DORA: Anyway, when he got back I had been there two hours and I was all right so they never did go to town to get the doctor. They didn't need one.

And my mother always told me I didn't have a birth certificate. So I found out a real funny way that I did have one. When I went to get my social security they told me I had to have a birth certificate, and I told him I didn't have one. So they told me to fill out the form and send it in. So I filled it out and sent it in, and here come this form back. My granddad in 1926, in September 1926, came to town, went to the courthouse and went to the county clerk, I think which was Ermin Dillman, used to live here, that worked in the courthouse,

and he made out an affidavit that I was born on this certain day.

But my dad got killed. If you read the story about Seneca, he was the second man that got blown up in 1926 when they were building the railroad bed to Seneca. And see he must have got killed right at the time my granddad did this, because my mother didn't even know he did it.

All my --- I was 24 when she died, and she said I didn't have a birth certificate. Then of course, because I was ten years old on this birth certificate, I had to do something else, so they made me get my school record and on that I was eight years old, but they still had to take it. But what I liked about the school record is that even my younger brother, see I have an older brother and two sisters and a younger brother, and all of us were on there. And that was something to ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, on the school record?

DORA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What are your brother's and sister's names?

DORA: My oldest brother's name is James Leonard Cooley, and he lives in Tucson, Arizona. My younger brother is Samuel George Cooley, and he lives in Tualatin.

DOROTHEA: And your sister's name?

DORA: And I had a sister named Margaret Wynona Cooley Maki, and she died in 1963. And my other sister was Pearl Elmira Cooley Kurtz, and she died in 1989 in November. So all I have left is my two brothers.

DOROTHEA: That's a pretty good history. You know pretty much about yourself. How did they, did they homestead a place out there, or was there a house already there?

DORA: The house was there, and they called it the Jones place. But what Jones it was, I don't know. The house was already there, I know that. I was looking through some pictures yesterday for my cousin that lives in Pendleton; she's going to get some

genealogy information for me from the Pendleton, because my great grandparents were buried there.

And I have a, just a picture of the porch of the old house where I was born. See my brother was born, of course, in Pendleton before they came. And then all the other kids were born in town, in Burns, but me.

BARBARA LOFGREN: So they all have birth certificates then?

DORA: Well I have one now.

BARBARA: So if after a couple of years then, the hay didn't do so well, what did your family do? Did they continue to try to re-plant or ---

DORA: They continued to try to farm.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DORA: But after awhile --- and Walt went to school out there. You see he was fourteen when he came, and he went to high school, rode a horse into Burns. And of course the school had a stable, because other people had to ride horses into Burns too to go to school. But he rode that winter and summer. And then the year I was born, two years later, he was in Pendleton going to school, and my grandmother was with him.

And the only person that was with my mother when I was born, you know, when my dad had to leave was my older brother and my granddad. And my granddad was sick, but of course all he did was keep my brother from going in where my mother was.

BARBARA: It wasn't a place for little boys.

DORA: Well in those days they --- now they would probably let a child see a baby born, because it is so common and it's on the radio and TV --- I mean it's on the TV and everything like that.

But my uncle was so particular about that, if an old cow was going to have a calf, he hid it, he wouldn't let us --- I mean he wouldn't let us near the barn or wherever they

were. But my younger brother and sister snuck up and watched through the knothole.

(Laughter) But I didn't do that.

DOROTHEA: My dad was like that too, whenever there was calves born or colts being born or something, he run the girls in the house. Now the boys got to watch it.

DORA: Well you see that was what they did in those days though. I mean that was part of what they did to take care of their family. That was part of --- one of the things that --- like nobody ever saw anybody without any clothes on.

DOROTHEA: Oh no.

DORA: You know, it was unheard of.

DOROTHEA: It was even unheard of when I was a child to wear shorts.

DORA: Oh yeah. Well I got a pair one time and looked down at my legs and thought, boy you don't want those things. (Laughter)

BARBARA: So did your family ever have cattle or anything like that?

DORA: Well now that's the thing that my uncle told my granddad is that he thought the other people, you know, around here had cattle. And of course you had to have a few cows or something for your own milk. And you had to have chickens for eggs and just everything, you know; to help take care of yourself, have a garden. And he told him that he thought he ought to get into the cattle business.

But when they moved off of this place where I was born they lived, the Korten place, which is where Mary and Jim Ausmus live

DOROTHEA: Ausmus live.

DORA: When the, the thing that goes to the airport there on, it's right where they live is where the place was. It belonged to a man named Korten, and now I don't know where he lived. But he did come every summer and stay two or three days, or maybe a week or

something with them. Because I can remember him being in their house.

And then they built the road; you know, through to Crane. And before my uncle died, I think he died last year when he was ninety. No, it was the year before. He died in 1990, when he was 90 years old, because he was born in 1900. Anyway he told me that he helped build that road. He run some kind of a great big machine or something.

DOROTHEA: Out to Crane?

DORA: My dad see was always a mechanic, and Walt was the one that always took care of the cattle and all that stuff. And that was the first time I ever knew Walt could do anything like that. And I was over staying with him over in Ontario, and he was telling me about it.

And they had to take the, my brother had to take the, when we were, in the summertime we were out to Grandmas we had to take the cows from their house across the highway into the field that is across the highway, you know?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DORA: So my brother --- Grandpa bought us a little pony. He bought this little, it was a small horse. We always thought it was an Indian horse, you know, she was just kind of a small --- and she was white, and her name was Dolly.

And I know that we had her when we lived at the Jones place because --- see when my brother, my brother didn't go to school when he was six years old, they waited until he was seven. He stayed on the ranch. But when he was seven, my mother and my brother and my sister Margaret moved to Burns and I stayed with Grandma that one year.

And I don't know when it was but we came to town and we got that little horse and we had a buggy, a team and a buggy. And going home the horse was tied up behind it and I was sitting behind the seat, you know, and I wrapped the rope around my hand that

was around the horse because I wanted to think that I was helping with the horse. Well somebody came along in a car and scared the horse and it took all the skin off of my hand. And I'll never forget how bad it hurt. And of course then you didn't have no doctor to go to, you used whatever you had. But anyway, of course it healed.

DOROTHEA: Well then when did you start to school, and where did you go to school?

DORA: I went to this school right up here. The old school that was ---

DOROTHEA: The old grade school?

DORA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Was that called the Burns Grade School then?

DORA: Oh yes. It was a three-story brick building, and it had a basement. And in the basement was the toilets, in one part of the basement. And then the first grade was on one --- one room was--- yeah the first grade was on one side of the downstairs, and the second grade on the other.

And my first grade teacher was Mrs. Houston, and my second grade teacher was Annette Leonard Homan, married Doctor Homan. She is still alive I understand.

DOROTHEA: And then, can you remember some of your classmates?

DORA: The only one that lives --- well yeah, the only one that I started to school with, I think I started with her that lives here now is Viola Pease Jennings, that lives out to Hines. I went to school with her all twelve years.

But Jean Cecil was in my class, when she came into Burns and went to school. She used to live in that little house over there by Dwight Gunther, that little small house that is over there. She lived there when they moved to town so she could go to school. Then her mother was a substitute teacher, Mrs. Cecil.

DOROTHEA: And that's Carl Mayo's ex-wife?

DORA: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Jean.

DORA: Yes, it is, Jean Mayo. I was trying to think if there is anybody else I went to school with, but if there is I don't know who it would be. There is people older and younger than me.

DOROTHEA: Who was the principal of the school at that time?

DORA: His name was Sutton. And I was so scared of that man it was awful. I think he was the cruelest, awful man I have ever seen. And other people liked him and thought he was nice. But he treated people differently. I didn't have any father, and I couldn't do anything for him, to keep his job and so forth, you know. So he treated me differently than he did other people. I really do believe that, because Agness Brown got along with him fine. But I was scared to death of him. I know that when you weren't paying attention in his class --- he had a great big bunch of keys for all the rooms and he would throw them right at your head. Most of the kids always caught them. I don't think he ever hit a kid with them.

And he used to take the big kids when they were in the eighth grade, just like slam them down in a metal waste paper basket. And he also had one of these glasses that looks like a barrel, you know, a drinking glass, they are heavy and they look like a barrel, they are kind of round. He used to throw that at kid's heads to get their attention.

DOROTHEA: Well we have heard lots of stories about Mr. Sutton. He was apparently quite a strict teacher, principal.

DORA: He was absolutely too strict. Because kindness and good words do a whole lot more than being mean and ornery.

One time he had some, two kids who later turned out to be Chicago gangsters, their name was Trogett. He had those two kids beat up on Mrs. Young, Zella Young's two boys. And she is a little tiny woman and she went up to that school and she practically

led him around by his whiskers and told him what she was going to do to him, that he better not touch her kids again. And believe you me, he didn't. (Laughter)

And I always wished that my mother went up there and told him where to go. (Laughter) But she wasn't that kind of a person.

But Mrs. Young was a schoolteacher and, you know, one of these more confident people. But she had gone to school --- and her sister, youngest sister was I think an English teacher when I went to high school. And she must not have been only about four years older than me. Because as soon as they got out of college they got a job.

And those days, when I went to high school was 1930 to 1934, and they didn't have any money to pay the teachers. They gave them script, what they called script, and you had to wait maybe two or three months until the county got the money so that you could get the money. So there was people like Earl Withers, Leona McGee's mother and dad that would buy your script. Like if it was worth seventy-five dollars, you would be lucky if you got fifty dollars for it, or even maybe forty-five or whatever, because you had to have the money to pay your rent, you had to have it to eat. And I can remember the coach whose name was George Amie, I can remember him practically getting on his knees in the school and begging Leona to get her mother and dad to buy his script. And I really didn't realize what it was right then, you know.

We didn't have as bad a time with money in those days as other people had because when my dad got killed my mother got state industrial accident, and she got this check every month. And it wasn't anything like now, she got thirty-five dollars a month for herself, and she got eight dollars and fifty cents for her children until they got to be sixteen. When you were sixteen you were supposed to go get a job.

But anyway, see we did have this money coming in. And then Grandpa always helped us with, like if they killed a beef, we got part of it. And Uncle Walt hauled wood for

us with a team and a wagon, and things like that, you know. And then of course as soon as we got old enough we all got a job and worked.

And the only job my mother ever did have was cooking for hay men, because she had my younger brother and sister, you know. But she did cook for hay men for Henry Christenson. And Henry Christenson is a man that owns a place where Daryl Eggleston lived, and where his wife still lives. And then he had a ranch up in the mountain, up Emigrant Creek on Hay Creek that came into Emigrant. And she would go up there with him and my brother and sister every summer and cook for the hay men up there, as well as down here.

And I never did get to go and visit when she did this, because the Friday after I got out of high school I started working in the telephone office in 1934. And I worked until 1941 before Marie was born.

BARBARA: Going back to having the teachers getting script and stuff, that was really cruel to the people, to only give them part of, I mean to buy their script and to only give them part of what it was worth, because they probably weren't making that much to begin with.

DORA: They weren't.

BARBARA: And to only get part of it, that was ---

DORA: I don't know, I mean I really don't know what the figure would be, but I do know that they discounted it. Probably if you could talk to Wally Welcome he could tell you the actual amount of money. But I know it was a very small amount. And I know that the teachers lived in the Holland house, and that Blanche Robinson, John Robinson's mother worked in the telephone office all night and cooked for those teachers in the day time, and had a nap before she came to work the next night at eleven o'clock. I worked with her for years.

BARBARA: This was during the depression.

DORA: Yes, yes.

BARBARA: And were a lot of the people or families in town really affected by the depression here?

DORA: Well you see, I don't know. Because in those days, nobody confided in you, like you would now. If now if you get into trouble and you have young children you explain to them what you've got, what you are going to have to live on, and what you can do and what you can't do. Well those days they kept everything to their self. They didn't talk to you about nothing. In fact I don't even remember ever having a dad. I don't remember him ever talking to me, ever saying anything to me, or even being around.

DOROTHEA: How old were you when he died?

DORA: I was ten when he got killed.

DOROTHEA: You were ten?

BARBARA: You don't remember ever doing --- that's sad.

DORA: No I don't. We were going into a pool hall once where he worked to ask him something, and I was so scared to go in there because there were all men in there, you know.

BARBARA: So you say he worked for --- at Seneca?

DORA: He worked for the contractors who were building the railroad bed to Seneca. And it was Otley and Thompson, and it was Henry Otley, Henry Otley that lived at Diamond, was the man he was working for. And what killed him was, he ran a steam shovel and there was black powder in the ground up there, this side of the tunnel, somewhere this side of where the tunnel was. And the man that ran the steam shovel at night was supposed to tell him the next morning not to go near where this black powder was. And he didn't tell him, he just went to bed.

And I found out before my Uncle Walt died that that man lived over here in the middle house over here, and I went to school with his kids. Of course my uncle said that he killed my father, which he did in a way by not telling him what he should have told him.

BARBARA: So what kind of other jobs did your father have during that time?

DORA: Well like, this one time he was working in the pool hall. Harry Smith that used to be the undertaker had something to do with it. I think he owned it or something. He was working there, you know, in town. And of course, I don't know what job he had before he had this one. I don't remember him working, of being gone all the time.

My Uncle Walt was up at the Pendleton Roundup when this happened. Went up there with some people from Burns to see the Roundup. And he was there when my dad got killed.

DOROTHEA: Your Uncle Walt was your dad's brother?

DORA: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay. How many brothers and sisters did your dad have?

DORA: He had one brother and one sister.

DOROTHEA: What was the sister's name?

DORA: His sister's name was Margaret Cooley Razor. And first she lived in Ohio, and then she lived in Michigan. That's where her husband came from, and how she met him I don't know. And then, she was two years younger than him. Let's see, he was born in 1888, March 21st, 1888, and she was born the first of July in 1890. Then Uncle Walt wasn't born until 1900, which was ten years later.

But I understand that my grandmother lost a baby boy two years after Aunt Margaret. And after Uncle Walt, she lost twins that were a boy and a girl. And I know that before Uncle Walt was born, that to take care of herself she set in a rocking chair, or was in bed all the time before he was born, because she had had this trouble and lost this one

baby.

And then she had a bad heart, but then still she lived until she was 90. There really was something wrong with her heart. She had to take digitalis.

BARBARA: So was your Uncle Walt married?

DORA: Yeah, my Uncle Walt was sixteen years old the month I was born, and he got married two years before I did, when he was old. He married Opal Brown Cooley. I mean that's her name when she married him, of course. But she is Mary Ann Otley's aunt. So I have always said that I was almost related to Mary Anna because my uncle married her aunt. She died in Ontario, she had a heart attack. She was talking to my uncle, and he said something to her and she didn't answer, and he turned and looked at her, she was gone, just that quick.

DOROTHEA: Oh my goodness.

DORA: But Mary Anna's father, who was Glen Brown, was out hunting and he didn't feel good and he started walking back to the car and he had a heart attack when they were out hunting and died.

Oh, one thing about my Aunt Opal that I think is quite interesting, I've lived in this house since 1926. My mother bought this house with my dad's insurance right after he got killed, and we moved here just before Christmas.

Well this house was a maternity home for a lady named Mrs. Shelly. Mrs. Shelly was one of the first sheriffs in Burns wife, and she was the grandmother of Shelly Brown who went to school with me, Clark Brown's son. And of course they named him Shelly after her family. And she ran a maternity home, and this Mrs. Brown was a friend of hers.

So Opal was born in this house on her sister's sixteenth birthday. Her sister, Ethel Brown Bartlett, that lived in Ontario was sixteen years old when she was born.

And then my grandfather, my mother's father, whose name was Samuel Paul Rudebaugh, died in this house in 1932 I think it was. It was in the spring and all of us were gone somewhere, all of us kids were gone to school or doing something that night. And there were two rooms here instead of one room. There was sliding doors and stuff, you know. Anyway it was still kind of cold so they were sitting in that room and there was a heating stove in there. And he just died sitting in the rocking chair, because he was eighty years old, and he had a heart attack I guess.

And then my mother died fifty-two years ago in 1940, in my bedroom in this house.

DOROTHEA: Well this house has a history.

DORA: It does have a lot of history.

DOROTHEA: It has a history, yeah.

DORA: They said a long time ago, you know, because most people were born in a house and died in a house, that a house wasn't a home unless somebody was born in it and died in it.

And my grandmother died in 1960, and she was in this house across the street where Dorey Burden lives now. And it was Mrs. Richardson's house when I was a little girl; it had three apartments in it. And she knew she was going to die, but she wasn't going to die in that apartment. In those days you always could get the ambulance, and he helped with the ambulance, you know, he could get the ambulance and take her to the hospital. She wasn't going to die in that house; she was going to die in that hospital. I went over there and stayed with her all night, and the next morning she reared up in bed and took her hands and says no. And I know from experience in my family that when you die, somebody in your family comes and goes with you. Because both of my sisters had the experience of somebody came and asked them to go with them and they didn't die. And I know that somebody came after her, and she wasn't going to die there.

So she waited until Roy got the ambulance. It took him quite awhile because Mr. Dewey had a heart attack that day. He was the head of the Hines Mill, you know, and they had to take him to the hospital first, because it was an emergency. And grandma was old, and it was no emergency, you know. And she died an hour and a half after she got over there. And so that's kind of interesting too.

DOROTHEA: She didn't die in her apartment though.

DORA: No, she didn't want to die in that apartment, it wasn't dignified. She wanted to --- and then when Roy, the day that we knew Roy was going to die, he was so bad that we thought the hospital could help him, so we did take him over there and he died in the hospital. Because they have a swing bed, and it was easier.

BARBARA: I was going to ask you, did your mother ever remarry?

DORA: Yes, she did. She was married to Lee Williams. And his father was the county judge. And his brother was Harry Williams, that's Elynor Allen and Louise Clay's, he was their uncle. And she was only married to him four years when she died.

But my brother Sam went to school with Merle Gunderson, and he went with her when they were kids in high school. And he introduced our stepfather to her mother and he married her, and then they were married something like twenty-five years, my stepfather and Mrs. Gunderson. Margaret is her name. And then the lady that was staying with my grandmother when she died was Margaret's mother, Mrs. Glerup.

DOROTHEA: Small world.

DORA: We thought that was quite nice because we liked their family and knew them and everything. And then this little lady was quite a bit, ten years younger I think than Grandma. But she had what they called catarrh. In those days you had some kind of a pipe or something you smoked, that is supposed to help it because they didn't know, have medicine, and they didn't know what they know now. And she would go out on the little

back porch in the wintertime even, so it wouldn't bother Grandma. Well three years after Grandma died that lady died with cancer of the lungs. Evidently that was, it caused it.

BARBARA: Okay, you say you graduated from high school in 1934, is that right? And what did you do after that; you went to work for the telephone company? And what did you do?

DORA: And then I got married. My mother died in, the 8th of February in 1940, and I was married the 7th of November in 1940. And I lived for a little while in what they call the Cross cottages. You know where those little houses are down there? Crosses used to live down there, and they owned them. We lived down there.

And then my stepfather decided he couldn't stay here because my mother was gone. And I had, both sisters and both brothers were here, and the times were so bad then, they couldn't get along, they didn't have enough money. So Roy and I moved back up here with our baby Marie and I've stayed here ever since. But I really wasn't gone very long, so I say I've lived here ever since my father got killed.

DOROTHEA: And who did you marry?

DORA: I married LeRoy Alvin Johnson, and he was from a little place called Ioka, Utah. It's just out of Roosevelt, and Roosevelt is about 150 miles from Colorado.

DOROTHEA: And how did he come about coming to Burns?

DORA: The Edward Hines Lumber Company was running, and of course out where he was, it was very hard to get a job. What he and his brother both did every summer was go to Idaho and work in the fields helping people harvest, or whatever they had, you know. And they had a sister that lived over there around the Twin Falls area. And he heard about the Hines Mill, his brother that he was always so close to, Ward Johnson. And he came over here and got a job, and so he wrote to Roy and said whatever you're doing, quit whatever you've got and come to Burns. And there was an old bus that you

could come on. So Roy put everything he had in a shoebox and came to stay with his brother. His brother said you could stay with me until you get a job. And he was here three days until they gave him a job.

And then he worked, he was a turbine repairman. Always swore I would never marry a mechanic, because my dad was a mechanic and my brother was a mechanic and they had grease on them. But I didn't know a turbine repairman did the same thing. I mean I never asked, and I didn't know.

But anyway he worked nine years and one day at the mill. And the reason that he quit the mill is because in the powerhouse out there, you have to go up on a ladder, a really, really tall ladder way up high. And the ladder, he went up that ladder one day to do something, and the thing came out from the wall. And when it settled back down, he got down and he said, "I will never go up that ladder again." And of course I didn't want him going up that ladder. I thought that Marie and Elva wouldn't have any father like I didn't have one.

DOROTHEA: And you have two children, two daughters?

DORA: Yes, I have Marie Ann Johnson Fenley, and I have Elva Lee Johnson Edgerton. And both of my son-in-laws first names is Gary. DOROTHEA: And you have how many grandchildren?

DORA: I have twelve.

DOROTHEA: Are any of them married? Are you a great grandmother?

DORA: I'm a great grandmother. And there is going to be another great grandchild this year. That will be the fourth one. Fenley's have three children, they have an older girl whose name is Annette. She married a man whose name is John Johnson. And everybody of course thinks he is related to my Johnson's, but of course he isn't, because their name was Fenley. And they have a boy and a girl, Ryan and Niki. And she is going

to have a new baby in August.

And then my grandson's name is Mark Fenley, and his wife's name is Michelle. Annette lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. And Mark and his wife Michelle live in West Jordan, Utah. And Mark is a policeman, and his territory is around South Jordan, which is the Jordan River Temple. You know the temples are all over Utah and a lot of other places. And his wife is a policewoman, and her area is Sandy, and that's across the freeway from West Jordan to where she works. And they have the baby that was born last May on his granddad's birthday.

And then the youngest girl's name is Lisa. She doesn't have any middle name, just Lisa Fenley Putnam. And her husband's name is Paul, and she can't have any children. At Thanksgiving time she almost got a baby. We got to be there when the baby was born, and hold it and all things. And they were going to give it to her, and then the baby got pneumonia and the family took care of him. And the baby was born on Sunday, and on Monday they told us we couldn't come and see him because he had pneumonia. And Tuesday they told us that they were taking care of him, and Wednesday they told us that they were keeping him.

DOROTHEA: So that was a great big disappointment then?

DORA: It was really bad for her.

DOROTHEA: Heartbreaking.

DORA: She and her sister will be married seven years this year, and she is six years younger than her sister, but they were married two months apart. And then Mark didn't get married until probably about four years ago.

Oh, she has tried to adopt a child. She has gone to the adoption agencies and all kinds of things. Went to classes and did everything she could think of. I still think she will get a baby, I hope. But they say that, in our church especially, they are not giving babies

away, they're keeping them. Which, I can't see how they could give one away anyway, you know. I mean that is the way I feel about it.

BARBARA: How did you and Roy happen to meet?

DORA: We met at a dance hall out to Hines. Used to be a dance hall and an old pool hall out there. And I thought he was the silliest thing I had ever seen.

BARBARA: Where the Gayway Motel was? Or ---

DORA: No, it was where the thing burnt up, where the store burnt up. There by Kyle Krebs house, you know where Kyle lives on the corner. Where the building all burnt up, and the Oltman's were in the ---

DOROTHEA: Antlers.

DORA: Antlers. Brophy family run a pool hall and a dance hall there. Let's see, and then of course there was a grocery store, and it was, the people's name was West. That's where it was.

BARBARA: So you were working at the telephone office then at that time when you met him?

DORA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: When was it that you got married?

DORA: I got married in November in 1940 in Boise, Idaho.

BARBARA: And did you continue to work at the telephone office at that time?

DORA: Yes I did, but I had Marie the next year, so I didn't work very long. For my wedding, we had gone to a wedding in July with some people that were friends of ours, this West that run the store's oldest son and the woman that he married. And then my sister and the man that she married, this John Maki that had lived with Roy, we went over to Boise with them when they got married, and then we went back in November. But for my wedding my sister Margaret and my brother Jim, and the man my sister married, John

Maki, went out --- my grandmother lived in this big house out back of the Orbit Motel that is like your house.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DORA: That Stafford's have now. She lived there, and she went with us. And Uncle Walt said she made him get up about two o'clock in the morning and go start the old car and everything, to be sure that she got to go. She wanted to go really, really bad, and I thought that was great. I thought I had a nice wedding because they were all there with us, even if it was the justice of the peace, I liked it.

And then we went on our, I suppose you would call it your honeymoon, I never even thought about a honeymoon. But we went to see Roy's parents who lived in Ioka, Utah, and stayed for a week. And when we came home, Roy's dad wanted to come here with us because he wanted to see his other son. And he wanted to see Harney County, so he came with us.

Lots of people have asked me, why did you let him come with you when it was your honeymoon. I said, "I never thought anything about it. I liked him, I thought if Roy wanted his father to go with him, that was fine with me." And then the next time when he was going to come and see us, which was about five years later, just after, well maybe it was six years, Elva was about a year old I think, she was born in April. About June he was going to come and bring his wife and his two younger children with him, and about four o'clock in the morning of the day they were coming he had a heart attack and died. So he would never have got to Harney County if he hadn't of come with us. So I'm thankful he did.

Roy's mother of course did get to come after that. Somebody either brought her, or we went and got her, or whatever. So that's what happened with that.

BARBARA: So what are some of the things that you did as a young married couple

besides go to dances? Did you have card parties, or did you get together with ---

DORA: Roy and I always went out to John and Margaret's --- no John and Margaret always came up to our house, because they didn't have any children. My sister Margaret never did have any children. And he worked at the mill, and she started when she got out of high school as the legal secretary for John Biggs the lawyer, and he taught her so that she was really good. And then during the war, John went in the service and Margaret went with Dick Clark's mother down to Portland to work because you could get a lot more money working in the Portland area. And at that time my younger sister was married to Dick Clark. He was her first husband. She had gone to school with him, all the years they had gone to school. And they got married, and then he went off to the service, and when he came back they got a divorce and she married this second man.

DOROTHEA: Well now that, isn't that Dick Clark the one that was in the automobile business with Roy?

DORA: Yes. When Roy quit working at the mill, he went to work as a mechanic at the Bennett Motor Company. And Merle Bennett owned the Three Flag Service Station. So he and Cecil, one day just told Roy he didn't have a job, that he had to buy that Three Flag Service Station. He said, "I can't buy anything." Well they said, "You can get some other people to help you, and you can buy it. And we'll give it to you for so much and so on." And so he had Homer Morrison and Dick Clark, and they bought the Three Flag Service Station.

And after awhile both Homer and Dick had used up all the money that they were supposed to have earned, and Roy didn't ever draw all the money he was supposed to have earned, so we bought them out and then we had it. And it was in front of where the Safeway is now, went clear across the front of there. And when the Safeway built their new building they of course bought the land from us and bought the block behind us.

And then we built the building down where Teague is. And then in 1972 we sold it to Teague, so this year it is twenty years since we had a garage. And the first cars that we sold were Pontiacs. And then we got Cadillac, and then we got International, and after awhile they gave us Oldsmobile.

And I was a bookkeeper at the garage for the years that he was --- well for the first two or three years I wasn't, but after that I was. I worked down there; I worked twenty-nine years all together for Roy and for the telephone office.

BARBARA: Were you a bookkeeper at the telephone office too?

DORA: No, I was an operator.

BARBARA: I see.

DORA: It got so busy before I quit in 1941, that you had to stand up to put the plugs in the holes and say number please, and you couldn't say thank you, you didn't have time. That's how busy it got, in just that little time. And the worst problem I ever had was that I used to dream that I would go to work some morning at seven o'clock, and whoever was there all night like Blanche Robinson McWilliams would go home, and I would take my coat off and I didn't have my dress on. (Laughter) They say you could set there all day with no dress. And the only thing that ever happened to me was anywhere near close to that, is that I went to work one morning and that ---

SIDE B

BARBARA: What are some of the clubs or organizations that you belonged to after you were married? What did you become involved with? You were working, I know, but did you ---

DORA: When I was in high school they had the Rainbow Girls, and I'm a charter member

of the Rainbow Girls. My name is on the charter out in the hall, and I liked that very much. And I went through all the offices in the Rainbow. And both of my sisters belonged to it. And then even Marie and Elva did, I think, but not too long. Because we got involved in our church and then we didn't have time to do that. And I did join the Eastern Star but I didn't go, because I had others things I had to do, and didn't care about it anymore.

But I belonged to the Mother's Club, and I think I was the second woman in the Mother's Club whose mother was a president. The first one was Beulah Clemens, I know her mother was a president, and then she was. My mother was the president of the Mother's Club when she died. And it was a really nice thing for the time that they had it. And they did things for children and stuff. Even when I was really young they had a play park down in that area of town down in there, towards the river. And they had merry-go-rounds and stuff in there, in the park that kids could go use. We didn't go down there an awful lot because we played around home. But they did have one.

DOROTHEA: How about PTA and --- no?

DORA: I never did that.

DOROTHEA: Never did that.

DORA: When I married Roy, of course he belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, but he never did go. But I got into the church by going to the women's organization which is called the Relief Society, like Ladies Aide, you know. And I went when Marie was a baby, and I carried her. And then I went to Relief Society and to church for twelve years before I was baptized and was a member of the church. I think they all thought I belonged and never asked me. And I always thought that that was kind of funny. But I always felt that I belonged there. Of course I still do, I always felt that that was the place that I belonged, and I really liked it.

It wasn't Roy that got me in the church; it was Lily Waldroph that belonged to the

Relief Society that knew Roy. In fact she got out of the bed, Dr. Homan had a maternity home in Hines, and that's where Marie was born. And she got out of the bed and went home when she had her boy named Gary, because she said if she stayed there then she would have all the pains that I had with me, because that's just the way she was made. And then of course she knew that Roy belonged to her church, so that's what he did.

BARBARA: Tell us a little bit about your flowers. How did you become interested in growing all different kinds of flowers?

DORA: All the flowers that, everything that I do --- I've been taking flowers now to church for, see this year my granddaughter will be thirty-two, Marie will be married thirty-three years, about thirty-five years of taking flowers to church. But Jennie Gress belonged to the Green Thumb Garden Club in Hines, and she belonged to my church, and she told me one time, "Why don't you come and go to Garden Club?" And I said, "I don't know anything about flowers." Well she said, "If I can do it, you can do it." So everything I've ever did in my life with flowers I owe to Jennie encouraging me to do it.

I have finished eighteen years of being the head of the flower department at the fair. And the reason I got into the flower department at the fair is because Norma Jenkins and I belonged to the Garden Club, and we decided if anybody run the flower department at the fair it should be somebody that belonged to the Garden Club, so we volunteered. Well what really happened is I worked the year before for Shelba Hammond, because she had it, helped her. And when we got through with it, like Sunday, she said, "Well you're going to have this next year, I'll give it to you." And I wanted it, and I took it. And then of course to talk to Norma, and then last year Norma retired.

And then when we moved here, all there ever was --- the lawn was here, the front lawn was here. I can remember going by here to school because it looked so good, you know, there was a lawn and there was chickens out in the lawn. There was a wood picket

fence, and there was a wooden sidewalk, that long ago. And there was big trees. So of course when we moved here, the lawn was here. But then the sidewalk had been --- I mean the picket fence had been torn down.

And the woman that owned this house that my mother bought it from was Edith Sizemore, and her daughter was Naomi Walter. And she also run a maternity home here.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she did?

DORA: Oh yes. And I found out years and years later, in fact not very long before Naomi died, that just before we moved here they put that wall in out there between the kitchen and what's the bathroom, because they knew they were going to get a sewer into Burns. I think maybe the next year or the year after that. They knew they were going to get it because it had been voted on or something, you know. But that was one whole room once. And then there is an upstairs, but you have to go out on the back porch to go up there.

DOROTHEA: So you don't use the upstairs much?

DORA: I don't use it. Well I do too, I've got stuff stored in there now for probably sixty years. (Laughter) Marie is going to come and throw it out or have a yard sale or something.

BARBARA: So what are some of the flowers that you grow here?

DORA: I have lots of perennial things. The lilac bushes that are out here now were here when I came, and they got to be trees. They were up there so high that when the lilacs were on them I couldn't even pick them on a stepladder. So I got Roy to take his chain saw and go out there and saw the tree part of it out, great big pieces, you know. And then when he sawed them out of there, see I went underneath them all the time to go get the mail and the paper, and I couldn't believe that they are so far apart. See there is one over here and one over there. I couldn't believe it. It still seems funny to me. And it has taken

about six years since he cut them off. Last year all the lilacs in Burns bloomed. If lilacs bloom, every little tiny place has lilacs, and if they don't just real sheltered places have them. But there was hop vines out here in front. Well that's the first thing I got rid of. I worked and worked and worked on that, because I didn't like them. Then I had iris that somebody else had had. And then when Lee Williams was still here he read the water meters, he worked for the city of Burns. And down where Jean Johnson lives now was Dr. Llewellyn Hibbard, and they had a corner, and it was a whole bunch of flowers. And I wanted them so bad, so he asked her if I could have some starts of her flowers, and she said yes I could have them. So I have a flower that comes up in the spring that is called the sweet rocket, and it looks like phlox does in the fall. And then I was over to Redmond one time when we were coming home from Portland, and they have these, some people call the Black Eyed Susans, Gloriosa Daisies. You know how pretty they are, they are orange and they have the black center, and they have double ones and single ones. Well I found out from the person at this service station what they were, so then I bought myself some seeds, and they just come up every year.

And then Julian Byrd, who lived over where Dick Clark lives, you know, he was Dick Clark's grandfather. Mrs. Byrd had these oriental poppies, they were orange, and she let me dig some up and bring them home. And then somewhere, from somebody else I got some that aren't orange, they're red. Orange ones are double, a whole bunch of these, and the single ones are red. So I have both of those.

Then whenever I would hear about, like delphiniums, I planted a bunch of delphiniums once in my garden, and the next year I set the plants out where I wanted them, and it was a long, long time ago and I still have them, they still grow. Last year the winter killed the, like the red-hot poker, just froze it so the whole thing died. Most people had a really bad time with the roses, but I've always covered up my roses. Because Dr.

Cliff said to cover them up, and I've always covered them up. Some of my roses came from the Banfield Freeway in Portland. My sister lived in the houses on this one side where they didn't dig them up and take them out of there. And I was down there one spring, probably to get a car for the garage, and everybody was over there with a shovel, they had moved the houses out and everybody was over there in the yard digging up the roses. So I dug up the roses and brought them home, and I still have them and they are still blooming. And then of course I've got some from Jackson and Perkins and put in with them.

And the first tulips I ever had, I think that's an interesting story. My brother was in the eighth grade, and Sutton gave all the kids in the eighth grade eight tulip bulbs from Holland. And they were, let's see, pink tulips, plain pink tulips, red tulips with a yellow edge, and then there were peony tulips. And peony tulips look like a peony flower, and they are double, and they are dark red, and I still have some of those tulips. First time I dug them up there was about fifty, and I gave a whole bunch of them away. And after that I never could count them; I just kept giving them away. When you get something like that started, that's what you do with it.

BARBARA: How often do you dig your bulbs up and separate them?

DORA: Not as often as I should. I'm getting too old to do it. You should do it probably every three years at the very most. And another interesting story with flowers is that I had these pink tulips, and Aunt Opal took them out to Diamond when they moved out to Diamond when they sold this place out here to Stafford. And out there, evidently it is volcanic soil, turned them yellow. So I went out and got some yellow tulips, and I have yellow tulips that came from her place. And let's see they haven't lived out there now for a long time, probably twenty some years. They sold the place to Hammonds and moved to Ontario into her sister's house, because her sister had died. And then they had a ranch

out between Emmett and New Plymouth. And then they came back to Ontario, and I think he lived in, it's not a trailer house, it's a home that can be moved, a mobile home I guess you call it. He had a really nice one. He lived there about fifteen years. And Mel and Bethene Pulliam live there now.

DOROTHEA: Oh really?

DORA: In the one that he had.

DOROTHEA: Is that in Ontario you said, Mel?

DORA: It's the first trailer park in Ontario. It's at the sign for the used cars of the Ford Garage, that's where you turn to go to that trailer park.

BARBARA: So what else did you get involved with other than the Garden Club?

DORA: Just my church.

BARBARA: Just your church.

DORA: And the fair, of course that's just once a year.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DORA: But I always used to go hunting and fishing with Roy. There was years that I never went to church in the summertime, I just went hunting and fishing with him, because I thought that's where I belonged. And we took the girls of course until they got married.

BARBARA: Did you do much traveling?

DORA: No, not really. But in 1974 Roy and I and Bud Eshelby drove up the Alcan Highway to Fairbanks, Alaska. And the reason that we did that is because Roy's sister, who lived in Twin Falls, Idaho, first day of April on my birthday her husband had a heart attack and dropped dead. And his son was the assistant manager of J. C. Penney's store in Fairbanks, Alaska. And so of course we went to the funeral over in Twin Falls, and all that boy did all the time we were there was work on Roy to get him to come to Alaska to go moose hunting. So when we got home I started working on him, because he would

take me with him. And then Bud Eshelby decided he would go with us. And it was really a good thing that he did, because the road was not too wonderful, and it was really good for both of them to be able to drive.

And then Jack Minor couldn't go with us, but he flew up to Fairbanks and went hunting with them for this whole week out in the woods. And you have to hire a guide when you get there, you have to pay him for --- they won't let you go any other way. You have to hire a guide. And they went moose hunting, it was the first year you hadn't been able to get, everybody that got a tag, a moose. But that year was a different year, like the weather changes, and the leaves weren't off of the trees yet, and the moose hadn't come down where they should have come down. And what they ended up with was a cow moose. But we also ended up with three hundred pounds of just meat, no bone, nothing, you know, I mean they boned it all out and fixed it in steaks and roasts and hamburger, whatever you want to call it. And they sent it by airfreight, I guess, to Portland, and it was frozen. And they put it in some kind of a locker or something there, and Millie and I drove to Portland and took her ice chest and stuff and brought it home. So all three of the families got a hundred pounds of moose, and oh, it was good.

And then it was a real experience to go up the Alcan Highway, and to come back. We got up there a week early and we drove down to Mt. McKinley National Park, and we got there just before September, it was in August, the end of August. And they usually make you park your rig and go on a bus, but they had stopped that now because they were going to close it up because winter comes early in that area, you know. So we got to drive our Travel all that we had taken up there all around, wherever we wanted to, and we saw all kinds of animals. Probably some that you'd never seen if you were in a tour bus or whatever. I remember that there was a fox, that he was black and red. Oh, he was a beautiful thing. And of course there was, what is that bear that is so dangerous?

DOROTHEA: Grisly?

DORA: It is not a polar bear. A what?

DOROTHEA: Oh the white, the white bear, or the grisly?

DORA: No they are kind of --- grisly bear. You want to stay in the car when you're looking at them because they are very dangerous. I think we saw an awful lot of different animals. We were just in there that one-day. We took a lunch and were gone just one day from Fairbanks and went back that night.

DOROTHEA: Did Millie go hunting with you, or did she ---

DORA: Millie hardly ever went anyplace with us. She didn't care too much about going fishing and camping and hunting. But when our kids were little, the kids went with us a lot. And I used to get to go hunting with Roy and Jack and them because we would take Mary Jo. And of course Mary Jo, you know, moved in next to me about six or seven years ago. And I've known her since she was about four years old. And always thought that was kind of nice that she lives by me now. She was real cute, she always liked horses. And the minute we'd get there, no matter where it was, she had a stick horse and she went everywhere. And then of course Dan Opie gave her a real horse, and she will have horses all her life I think. I'm sure she still has them.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she had some out by the mill for a while. I don't know what she has done with them.

DORA: I don't know what she has done with him. I've never taken time to ask her about them.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

BARBARA: Okay, you say you sold your business in the '70's to Teague's?

DORA: Yes.

BARBARA: And what did you do with your time then after you retired?

DORA: When we sold our business, Roy worked for Mel Pulliam and he was working for Cole, you know, out of Boise, Idaho, and they had this garage down here. And then Mel built his own car lot down there where the beauty shop is. And that house that was in the front of there, you know, that they moved out on the highway to Bend? That's where my stepfather and Mrs. Margaret Glerup that he married, that's --- let's see, her name was Gunderson, it was Glerup Gunderson. Anyway, that's the house that they lived in.

DOROTHEA: Oh really.

DORA: That they moved out there. Now they've got a great big two-story thing on the side of it.

BARBARA: They really added on to it.

DORA: Is it the Woodruff boy that owns that. I heard once that he was the one that put that out there.

DOROTHEA: I don't know. That's what I heard, but I never did hear whether he lived there or not.

DORA: I don't think he ever lived there, but I was wondering who was going to live there now that they built all on to it and it's all different, and changed and everything.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. They are sure building it up.

DORA: I'll have to ask somebody that knows them, won't I?

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Could be one of his kids or something.

DORA: Yeah, it could. Let's see, he has a son that was married to Marjorie Osborn, Cheer Osborn's daughter. And of course she died with cancer. And then he had ---

DOROTHEA: Well that's the Woodruff isn't it that is living there?

DORA: Is it?

DOROTHEA: I think so, uh huh.

DORA: Well see I understood that he is the one that moved the house out there.

DOROTHEA: But that's, what's his name?

DORA: Well I know as well as you do.

DOROTHEA: Harold.

DORA: Harold, yeah.

DOROTHEA: And I think he is the one that is living there, but I don't know who is building on. Whether it is one of their kids or who it is, I don't know. But they sure built on to it.

DORA: Yes, they are. Really have changed it.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Made a big house out of it.

DORA: And they have planted trees along the road that goes into it. I'm interested in that, because I like trees. See all the time Opal and Walt and Grandma and them lived out in this big house out here of Stafford's, there wasn't any trees until Walt married Opal, and then she got some little old bitty trees and packed water to them from the pump. Of course he helped her. Probably packed it from the horse trough. Well anyway they watered the trees and got them alive, and now of course it has been --- my daughter is going to be forty-seven, that was a baby when they moved. Elva is going to be forty-seven this year, so the trees are getting pretty big.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, been there awhile. Well is there anything else that you can think of, our tape is coming down --- no it's only about half way, so we still got some room. Tell us more about the maternity home. You said this was a maternity home at one time.

DORA: See I don't really know too much about that, only that Shelly Brown's sister was born here.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DORA: See I can't even think what her first name is. Anyway she came here one year for Pioneer Day, and she came up and asked me if her husband could take a picture of her out here on this porch, because she was born here. Of course it was her grandmother

that built the house. But I don't, I really don't know too much about, only Aunt Opal. That's the thing I was interested in was my Aunt Opal.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DORA: I liked her, and I thought it was great that she was in my house; I mean was born in my house. I'm going to see what's the matter with my fire. I think it is kind of cold.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Do you go to the Senior Center?

DORA: Yeah, I do.

DOROTHEA: And have lunch and ---

DORA: Yes, and my church has every third Wednesday, we serve the meal.

DOROTHEA: You help serve down there?

DORA: Uh huh. But I wasn't in the Senior Center when it started. When it started Roy was still working for Pulliam's, and he had diabetes and he had to eat three meals a day on time, and I didn't have time to go to the Senior Center. I went when they got into the new building. But I don't know how long ago I started helping. I don't keep track of those kind of things.

DOROTHEA: I've been working there for eleven years, so I've got eleven buttons. And one year they didn't give us a button, and one year we have a refrigerator button, so I have eleven buttons. So I've been working eleven years.

DORA: I don't know how many buttons I've got. I don't know whether I gave them away or if they are still in a drawer. I have a sister-in-law, Roy's sister lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and she had a bunch of buttons like that saved. And one of her children had to be in Show and Tell or something at school, so she made him a jacket and sewed all of those on it. And I have thought about putting those in a box and sending them to her so she could make one of the other children in that family a jacket, but I just haven't did it.

DOROTHEA: For the volunteers, right, yeah. Because they are, they are really nice.

DORA: Well if you're not going to do anything with them, that would be something to do.

DOROTHEA: Well I've got mine pinned on the walls. (Laughter)

DORA: Well, you know like the ribbons at the fair, I never keep them. I don't need them, I don't want them, and when they don't have a date on them I give them back to the fair board because it saves them money. And I have no use for them. Now I know that the Hills have kept theirs forever and ever, and they're interested in it, and they enjoy it, and they like it. But I don't enjoy it, and I don't like it, so all the ones I keep are the great big ones that I have got.

DOROTHEA: My daughter got a lot of them when she was in 4-H, and she made a bedspread and pillows out of them.

DORA: Now where is your daughter, does she live here?

DOROTHEA: The oldest one lives in LaGrande.

DORA: Where does --- do you have two?

DOROTHEA: I have two. One lives in Colorado, and the oldest one lives in LaGrande.

DORA: And then do you have more than one boy?

DOROTHEA: No, just the one boy.

DORA: See I wouldn't know your husband if I saw him. But I think if he would walk up to me and start talking to me, I know his brothers enough that I would recognize him. Maybe I'm crazy, but there is something about Purdy's that is the same. And I've known them ever since I was a little tiny girl. See when my dad got killed, I got to go to all the dances with my mother. And I got to go to all the different churches that she went to, with my mother. Because women did not go anywhere alone, it wasn't proper. And my brothers didn't want to go, and stayed home with the other kids. So I got to go to Purdy's to dances and all kinds of things. They lived in that house up there around the corner, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Yeah, and they held lots of dances.

DORA: They did.

DOROTHEA: And then when they moved to Silvies, they did the same thing. That's the reason I think they had to have that big house.

DORA: They were a nice family.

DOROTHEA: Clint and George resemble each other a lot.

DORA: Do they?

DOROTHEA: The rest of them, they're the only two that really ---

DORA: Now see I know George and the oldest one.

DOROTHEA: Mervin.

DORA: Mervin. But I don't know your husband at all.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And see then there is Wayne. Wayne and George you wouldn't know were brothers. Clint and George and Jim Howard, and their uncle.

DORA: Oh yes, I know who ---

DOROTHEA: And they all look alike. Wayne and Mervin resemble a little bit, each other. But other than that, they are short like their dad was. And Clint and George are both tall, like the Howard's.

DORA: Like their mother.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. So --- but Clint's got gray hair, George is still kind of sandy red. But Clint is gray.

DORA: Of course I know him and talk to him and Mary all the time.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

DORA: And then Mervin used to come to the store, and one time I went up to him and told him I knew who he was. Told him why I knew.

DOROTHEA: Probably shocked him.

DORA: But I thought if I know who you are, you should know who I am. A long time ago I would never have did that, but now I would. You know you see people when you're somewhere, and you think they are someone and you let it go. Well what you should do is go find out. Because if it isn't that person, it doesn't matter at all, and they won't care. If it is that person you can have all kinds of fun talking to them.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Learn all kinds of information.

DORA: I was in a family that you were supposed to be seen and not heard. So it took me years, and years, and years to get enough--- I was sitting here since Roy has been gone, wondering how did I ever go down to that telephone office and ask them for a job. How did I ever have nerve enough to do that. I really don't know how I did. Only that I had to have a job to help my mother.

DOROTHEA: How many telephones did they have in the country then? Were they quite -
--

DORA: The worst thing that --- I really don't know how many we had. But the worst thing that ever happened to us was the Welcome Hotel, the Welcome Hotel was a three-story building, you've seen pictures of it. Nobody will believe it was there. But it was built out of rocks, and there was absolutely no reason in the world why that should have burnt up, but still it did. And it had carpet on all the floors, all the hallways and all the rooms. It had apartments where the bed came out of the wall. It had apartments with one bedroom and with two bedrooms. And the dining room was the first place I ever saw in my life where the table was set on both sides of the plate, you know. It had a beauty shop, it had a barbershop, it had this big fancy restaurant. And it had a clothing store in the corner of it. Mildred Corbett's mother run a dress shop in the corner of the, the northwest corner of that thing. And you could drive through the thing, you could drive in there with the car and the bellhop could come out and take your stuff to your room.

In 1936 when Roy came here to work, he worked at the mill, and they had people from the mill come up and help with the fire. But when he got out there all he did was just sit on the sidewalk and watch it burn. Well when he first got there other people were going in there, and then they were looking around. And he went in there and looked around. You could go in there and you could walk all around. And he said that people were opening other people's suitcases and all kinds of things in there, you know. But anyway he went in there with the other people and looked around.

But that morning when I went to work at the telephone office, the Loggan girl was working, and she had been working all night. And she was sitting there, she said, "Oh our switchboard is out, the Welcome Hotel is on fire." And got up and went home. And I rang in the --- Mr. Howard lived over here in this house where Veave Miller lives, back of the Catholic Church. I rang in the boss's ear three times --- no he didn't, he didn't live in that house, he lived in the one right beside it. Anyway the third time I rang in his ear, he put his clothes on and come down and opened the back door and said, "You rang in my ear!" I said, "Mr. Howard the Welcome Hotel is burning up, and our switchboard won't work." See we were furnishing the power for their switchboard. And he got the man who helped him and went down and started in taking out telephones. And this was in 1936, and I worked until 1941. And we had something like thirty-five or thirty-six red marks against our office because we lost all those telephones in that fire. There was no way to get them back again. No other thing had come into Burns that had that many telephones. And what I remember see, was the red mark against our office. But they could have taken the switchboard out; they could have taken absolutely every telephone in there if she had of called them when it started.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DORA: And why --- well why they had anybody working there that didn't have sense

enough to do that, I don't understand that either. I would have called him, if I would have rang in his ear or what I did, I would have called him. But you see, she wasn't even using her head at all.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Well sometimes that's how shock affects people. Sometimes, you know ---

DORA: That's true. And she was a very quiet little woman. Very quiet person, you know.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us more about some of the buildings in Burns? A lot of them burnt up. Was that one of the big fires, the Welcome Hotel?

DORA: The building down where the Elks Club, you know, is in that one corner. There used to be a building from the Ford Garage, the whole block. And let's see, on the side street, that would be by the used car lot, you know, Wally Welcome's father had a saddle shop. And in the front of the thing there was a beauty shop, and Mrs. Haines whose husband run the store and had a lot to do with Harney, made a lot of money at Harney, run a beauty shop there. And how I remember all that is that that's where my mother used to get her permanents from this Mrs. Haines. And he was a brother to the, Marcus Haines' father. And I think Marcus Haines' father run the store at The Narrows.

BARBARA: That was Princeton, wasn't it?

DOROTHEA: At Princeton, I think. Charlie Haines run the one out at The Narrows. And I think it was Fred Haines out at Harney.

DORA: Fred Haines was at Harney, that's right. But the other Haines was at The Narrows.

DOROTHEA: I don't remember Marcus' dad's name.

DORA: Well if it wasn't --- oh it was Wilbur Haines' father that --- you're right; his name was probably Charlie, because Wilbur Haines' son's name was Charlie. And he was the

one that did have The Narrows. And they made a lot of money out there in those days.

DOROTHEA: And I think Marcus' dad was out at Princeton area.

BARBARA: Then he went back over into Idaho.

DORA: When Marcus and Edna were first married, her mother and father run the old Princeton Post Office, which was on the old highway. And when Opal and Walt got married --- Roy and I got married in 1940, they got married in 1938. I went out there with them with a truck so Opal could get some things out of her parent's house. And we went to the Princeton Post Office, and of course she knew the whole family. And the grandmother was there, I think Edna's grandmother, Edna's mother was there. No, Edna's mother was there and it was Edna's mother's mother that was there. It was Edna's grandmother was there, Mrs. Dougall. And then we went over to the place that's --- I was talking about that at noon at the Senior Center, over past the Malheur Cave. Brown's had a ranch and some kind of a creek. Isn't that funny, I thought of it at noon, and now I can't tell you what the name of it was. But anyway, we went over there and we went in the house and we took the things that Opal wanted for her house back out to this house out here, you know. But that's the only time I ever got to go to that house that Brown's had. And I know that several years ago, maybe two or three years ago, the place burnt up. The whole thing burnt up. The house anyway burnt up, and probably all the other things too, because they weren't too far apart.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DORA: And if it got started, you know, they couldn't stop it. Why can't I think of the name of the creek? I do that. I don't have anybody to talk to anymore that can remember the things that I remember, and so it's hard to straighten all this stuff out.

DOROTHEA: Right, it's hard to keep your ---

DORA: See at first I had my grandmother to talk to. And at the end of her life she lived

across the street. And then I had my sister until she died. And then of course I had Roy, and then I had Uncle Walt, but he didn't live very long after Roy died. And nobody else knows what he knew.

DOROTHEA: No, it's a shame that he didn't write a book or something, telling everything that ---

DORA: It's a shame I didn't have sense enough to take my recorder like this and have him talk to me. I did get him one day to tell me about the trip down from Pendleton to Burns. I wrote it all down on a big piece of paper, and then read it back to him to see if I got it right. And to me, that was quite interesting and nice. And I did talk to my mother a little, my grandmother a little bit, not my mother. My grandmother a little bit, and she told me about her family. But I didn't do half as much as I should of did, because now I should do their genealogy, you know. And even the new computer we have in our genealogy library, my family is not in it. I'm going to have to put it there if it ever gets there I guess.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you will, because they are supposed to have everything in their computer.

DORA: Well they will eventually. See it is going to take two more years to get everything into all the computers. They've got it in Salt Lake. If I'd go to Salt Lake and look it up, I might be able to find somebody. But even with my granddaughter living there, I don't go there that much. And I don't want to go there to live at all.

DOROTHEA: No, it's a big city.

DORA: Too many people, and it gets too foggy. No, I like it here. Do you know --- you were born here?

DOROTHEA: No.

DORA: You weren't?

DOROTHEA: I was born in Kansas. I came here when I was five years old.

DORA: Well you've lived your life here though, easily. But there is something wrong with every place, and I'm used to what's wrong with here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DORA: And so I don't want to go somewhere else.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, me too, me too.

DORA: At Christmas time I was gone forty days and forty nights, and I told them I was just like Noah, only I didn't bring any water. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, right. Well I woke up this morning with this snow, and I was so surprised because I had got up with the dog about three, and there wasn't any. And then I got up at seven ---

DORA: See the guy on the radio he said they didn't predict this.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DORA: But he said it's great, because it is wet.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, right.

DORA: I like Stan Swol, an odd looking man, but he has got the nicest voice. He's got a perfect voice for what he is doing.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, he does, he is a good ---

DORA: And that one boy that is with him in the early morning, he does everything really good, and the woman is not too bad. But that one, there is one boy there that can't even read sometimes.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: I see you have an old piano here, do you play? Or does it have a history to it?

DORA: No, I wish I did. Do you see that its got four pedals?

BARBARA: Yes.

DORA: Do you know what the fourth pedal is for?

BARBARA: No.

DORA: Bet you can't guess.

DOROTHEA: To rest your left foot on! (Laughter) I have to unhook your (microphone).

DORA: I'll pull your --- the cord came out, huh? I don't play at all. I don't know one note from the other. All I know is they go up and they go down. I wish I did know, but I think I'm kind of old to think about that now. (Plays piano.) Does it sound different? That's the ordinary key. Now if I step on this thing, it's a banjo. Does it sound like a banjo? It's got a banjo attachment. It's got a thing that goes clear across back in here, because I've opened the top and looked at it. And its got felt stuff on it, and it makes it sound like a banjo. So it's different than anybody else's.

BARBARA: For heavens sakes.

DORA: And I got this cute little, it's actually an organ bench. Mrs. Minar was a friend of mine, Jack Minor's mother, and she wanted me in her will. And I didn't want anything she had, I just wanted --- I just liked her, and wanted to help her, and you know, go down there and stuff. Well I had to be in her will. In her lifetime, down in Salem, she and two other women were in an older ladies will that didn't have any children or any family or anything, and they inherited a lot of things from her. She had a lot of things in her house that was from this lady's house. So I saw this little tiny bench in her bedroom, and I said, "Well my piano has never had a bench, I guess I'd like to have that." So she put me in the will and I got it.

And then I ended up with a bed and a lamp, and a little bedside table, and everything that everybody else didn't want after the grandchildren and stuff were there. Jack brought it up and gave it to me. I have a really pretty little, oh it isn't over there anymore, I used to have a China cabinet thing over there, a swan, a little glass swan. I

always thought it was real pretty, and I got it, without even wanting it or anything. Well I thought it was real --- she gave me a lot of things; see this thing here that's a beehive?

(END OF TAPE)

bl