

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #317 - Sides A & B & C

Subject: Dale White - Harney County Judge - With Video

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Date: March 10, 1992

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy along with Barbara Lofgren, and today we're visiting with Dale White at the Harney County Library in Burns, Oregon. Today's date is March 10th, 1992. Following our interview we will be doing a short video tape and it will be stored at the library along with the transcript and cassette tape, the number is #317. Now Dale, we'll start out by asking you your first name.

DALE WHITE: Ronald.

DOROTHEA: And go on by telling your full name.

DALE: Dale White.

DOROTHEA: Ronald Dale White. And where were you born?

DALE: I was born in Missouri.

DOROTHEA: What date?

DALE: September 11th, 1931.

DOROTHEA: And what are your parent's names?

DALE: My father's name was Ronald Ellsworth White, and my mom's name was Cleo Marie Fudge White.

DOROTHEA: Fledge like ---

DALE: Fudge, like candy.

DOROTHEA: Like candy, F U D G E.

DALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Do you have any brothers and sisters?

DALE: Uh huh. I have one brother, Donald Ray White.

DOROTHEA: And how did you come about coming to Harney County? Do you know why your parents moved here?

DALE: Work. Actually what happened, we were farmers back in Missouri. My mother had been determined by the doctor to be what they called pre-tubercular in those days, and said that she needed to go to a high dry climate, and that might help forestall it happening. And so I had an uncle who had relatives in Ontario, and since that was the only people my folks knew in the west, that's where we ended up. And dad worked around the Ontario, Fruitland area for a year or two, and then we ended up in Harney County.

DOROTHEA: And what brought him on to Harney County?

DALE: Got a job with Dave Kent out in the Drewsey area, was a Drewsey rancher at that time. And then got a job haying that summer of '41 with Murl Coe and Clarence Mace, had hay contracts, and Dad drove a tractor for them. And he got a job with some local ranchers, and then went to work at a dry cleaners, and eventually started one up.

DOROTHEA: Where was the dry cleaners at?

DALE: Well it was the old Quality Cleaners, which is where the Quality Cleaners is now, that was the original one in town.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Was he in partnership with someone else at that time, or did he just work for ---

DALE: At that time he just worked, at that time. Gee I can't think of what her name was, but it was during World War II, and her husband was in the service. So they were ---

BARBARA: And he decided then that maybe that would be the line of work he would like to do?

DALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And how did he come about being able to buy this?

DALE: Well he didn't. But then it became an opportunity to start what was Burns Cleaners, which is where Mark Palmer, or Cork and Chris now have their shop. That was Dr. Holman's old building, and he had left during the war to go to Portland. So him and Frankie McKelvey, who was Taft Miller's sister, went into the dry cleaning business together.

BARBARA: Was it a laundry too, or just dry cleaners at that time?

DALE: It started out as a dry cleaners at that time, and then probably a couple years, maybe more, later then they put a laundry in the back of Maw's old bakery building there at that time. And later on then that partnership was dissolved, and then the folks bought out the Modern Laundry downtown, or down the street.

BARBARA: So were you and Don in school during that time here?

DALE: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: Grade school, high school?

DALE: Yeah, we came, I was here in the fifth grade, fifth grade on.

BARBARA: And what is Don's age, related to you?

DALE: He is two years younger.

BARBARA: Two years younger, okay. And so you both then went on to Burns Union High School.

DALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And you went on to college then?

DALE: Uh huh, University of Oregon.

BARBARA: Well when you were in high school did you participate in sports, or were you interested in the high school government, or what were your interests at that time?

DALE: My first two years I worked for Ray Weeks after school and during the summer months down at the Ford Garage. Then I went out for football and basketball my junior and senior years, quit work and went out and did that. Then became president of the Letterman's Club, and got involved in some of the student government issues.

BARBARA: And what made you pick the University of Oregon to go to school?

DALE: I decided through --- took bookkeeping and some of those courses in high school, and decided that I liked accounting, so that made it fairly easy at that time, the U. of O. was the only place that had an accounting school.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right? Oregon State didn't have their business school then?

DALE: Not at that time. It was pretty specialized back in the old days.

BARBARA: Well I went to Oregon State and took the business fields, so I was curious then.

DALE: You were pretty lonesome from Harney County or Eastern Oregon if you went to Oregon, let me tell you.

BARBARA: Yeah, there are more of us than you, I think.

DALE: Yeah, substantially more.

BARBARA: So you took accounting then at the University.

DALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And what did you really plan on doing when you got out of school?

DALE: Well I really planned on, you know, following accounting. But the Korean War came on during that time, and the state board of accounting rules was that you --- they only took the tests one time, and of course at that time, they have since changed it, but the only time you could take the test was right after you graduated. Or you could wait until

the next year of course, but your chances of passing were a lot better if you could take it when everything was fresh in your mind.

BARBARA: Fresh in your mind.

DALE: But Uncle Sam was not awfully cooperative.

BARBARA: He said his time was now, huh?

DALE: Yeah, he said --- and then I did go into ROTC while I was in college, got a commission through ROTC. And then they had a program --- I started out in transportation ROTC. They only had at the U. of O. at that time; they had infantry and transportation, plus air force ROTC.

But about that same time the army was going into some financial management accounting practices. Basically starting out with some inventory management, and then some, what they called stock funding type of things whereby the military, instead of just being issued, and nobody had a cost of what it was --- like they start out with quartermaster so that each unit would have to calculate what it was going to cost them to buy their food. And they'd buy it from the quartermaster, and then the quartermaster was responsible to charge an amount for that food that would equal an amount that was necessary to replace the food plus their administrative costs.

And so they were looking for some finance officers to do that, so there was an opportunity for --- they gave twenty-five accounting schools from around the nation an opportunity to send eight accounting students to get into the finance school, and I happened to be one of those. I got that --- in retrospect I don't know if it was good or bad, because we ran up against some awful hard-nosed old time quartermasters who did not like the idea that they would have to account and pay for things like that. One of the worst chewing outs I ever got from --- I'll never forget that one.

BARBARA: They wanted to do it their way.

DALE: Yeah, they had done it that way for fifty years, or he had done it that way for fifty years, and they had done it that way in the army forever, and by golly there wasn't going to be any little second lieutenants tell him how to run things. We got that solved really quick.

BARBARA: But you did, eventually.

DALE: Well fortunately the base controller has as many little deals on his shoulder as he did. But I sure didn't.

DOROTHEA: Did that mean that you were drafted, or did you just go because you received this recommendation?

DALE: Well you had, you know, you had --- well you was all draft eligible, but if you went into the --- and at Oregon at that time all students had to take ROTC their freshman and sophomore years. And then you took it your junior or senior year depending on whether you wanted to get a commission or not. And of course what had happened at that time then, that was, if you wanted to finish your education you could defer it by signing up for ROTC for your junior and senior year. And you had to go to summer school, or to summer camp your junior year, and then they got first claim on you after you graduated.

DOROTHEA: How many years were you in the service then?

DALE: Two.

DOROTHEA: Two years.

DALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Where were you stationed?

DALE: Fort Lewis primarily. I went to take finance after we graduated. As soon as we got called up then we took about a four-month further finance school training at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. And then from there I went to the Presidio in San Francisco. But they were also at that time just beginning the computerization of the army,

and they had a lieutenant up in Fort Lewis who understood computers, and so they wanted him down there. So I stayed there about two weeks, then went to Fort Lewis and spent the rest of my time at Fort Lewis.

BARBARA: And so when did you return to Burns then? What made you decide to come back to Burns when you were through with the military?

DALE: Well, you know, we had gotten to see San Francisco, and Tacoma, and Indianapolis and figured if there was any way we could keep bread on the table, it had a lot to offer as far as raising a family. And I had gotten married just shortly before we went back into the service. And, you know, just wanted to live here, you know, just had a lot to offer us.

DOROTHEA: And who did you marry?

DALE: Jo Anna Westfall.

DOROTHEA: And how did you meet her?

DALE: A Sunday school class.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: Was her family --- I mean she grew up in Burns also then, or she came ---

DALE: Yes, she came here when she was about, off and on --- her dad was a bridge crew foreman for the State Highway Division, which covered most of Eastern Oregon. And so when she was younger they moved around quite a bit. Then when they started getting into school they ended up, he took a job in Seneca so they wouldn't be on the move all the time. Then he moved from Seneca down here. She was, I think, I think she did the 8th grade here in Hines. Graduated from high school here.

BARBARA: So did she go on to college too?

DALE: No, she did not.

BARBARA: She worked here while you were away at school then?

DALE: Uh huh. Well she is four years younger, so she was; most of that time was in school.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And then you say you got married when you went into the service then?

DALE: Uh huh. That was a mistake, because she had never been away from home before, and we ended up in Indianapolis, Indiana.

BARBARA: Oh, a little hard on a young bride.

DALE: Oh yeah. Of course, you know, I wasn't probably very sensitive because I had got over, you know, four years to college you kind of broke the habit and forgotten about it. But it was misery for her.

BARBARA: And so after this then you moved back to Burns. What did you do at that time?

DALE: Yeah, well then by that time the folks had purchased the Modern Laundry, and came back and went into that with them.

BARBARA: Did Don also buy into the laundry too?

DALE: Yeah, after he, he was in the Navy and he got out about a year later and he also came in at that time.

BARBARA: So you both helped your parents then in the laundry? And in community work, what were you doing at that time? Was this a time that you then thought about politics, or were you just concerned in making a living and getting settled in? Or how did this come about?

DALE: Yeah, I guess, you know, just, I don't guess there was a conscious decision, it just kind of evolved. I got involved in the Jaycees at that time, which was a real active organization, and they were kind of, you know, had their own little agenda, which was to get people involved in all different types of activities. And so one thing just led to another,

you know. You get a lot of, a lot of it was, I guess that you could say it was choice, but it was strongly suggested that you should do such things.

BARBARA: You participate, huh?

DALE: You participate, yeah.

BARBARA: And what years are we talking about now that you, after you came back from the service, what years are we talking about?

DALE: I came back in '56.

BARBARA: '56.

DALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And what other organizations or activities did you become involved in besides Jaycees?

DALE: Well primarily the only ones we was involved with besides the church was the Chamber, and I was involved with the Kiwanis Club.

BARBARA: And were some of your other friends, Gene Timms or Bob Smith, or some of those people influence you in any way?

DALE: Uh huh. Certainly, you know, at that time I guess the big encourager or dreamer was Cork Corbett. You know he was always, had big ideas about how to do things. A lot of them were probably not doable, but there was a lot of things that got done that wouldn't have been done if you didn't have somebody like him that came around to do those. So yeah, certainly that all had a part in it.

BARBARA: What were some of the big pushes in the community of things to do at that time? The mill I understand probably was going strong at that time.

DALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: What other things were going on in the community then?

DALE: You know of course the community has always, I think, felt the need for some kind

of economic diversification, even though the mill was doing really well. And many of us didn't realize how well off we were until Hines decided to shut down. But I know one of the real pushes the Chamber had at that time was to try to get more tourist traffic through the community, and to concentrate on Highway 20. Seems like we are kind of back.

BARBARA: Still.

DALE: Still back at that thing now, you know. But I know they were involved in getting community support to get a couple large billboards up at Ontario and Nyssa showing 20, and suggesting that people going on into Oregon come through 20.

BARBARA: And during this time, did you and your brother go together to buy a ranch, or land, or whatever to do ---

DALE: Yeah, we, now that was just another kind of a happen thing. Don, after he got married, moved into a little house out on the other side of the Silvies River Bridge on Foley Drive. Henry and Phyllis Griffith owned it. And, oh I don't know, he hadn't been there a year or so, that Henry had a place they called the Baker Place, which was up above where Alice Baker lives now. And he was moving some cattle across the river, and they had a, heart attack and died. So there became a need to do something.

So anyway the long and short of it we worked out a deal with Phyllis where --- because the way the laundry worked, usually you was pretty well, you started early, but you was pretty well through with most of the work by 2 or 3 o'clock. And so that could give you some time in the evening and the rest of the day to get things done. So that, we started out that way in a partnership with Phyllis in her operation.

And eventually that, we worked out a deal with Bob Sitz, he didn't have any cattle, by that time we had cows but no land, and Don moved out there on that place. And then Cables, I can't think what his first name was, had the Chevrolet Company in Ontario, they also had the Fay Place, and several of those other places. And he died and they were in

need to getting some cash to take care of the estate. And that was when there was a big push going on for establishing grazing cooperatives. So Don and I, and Bob Sitz, and Tommy Swisher and we went together and bought the Fay as a grazing cooperative.

And then over the years, Bob stayed a couple three years, and then a few years later Tom got out so we ended that. And then, I don't know, a few years after that then we purchased the place where Don lives out on Ryegrass Lane now.

DOROTHEA: Ryegrass Lane?

DALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And this was bought from the Jacobs at that time?

DALE: Well Jacobs, actually it was bought from --- huh, that's what we call it, the Jacobs Place, but there had been another owner in between.

DOROTHEA: Another owner. Did Jack Lancaster own that at one time?

DALE: Uh huh, he did. But I don't ---

DOROTHEA: That's not who you bought it from?

DALE: I don't believe it was from Lancaster. It was, it was from this lady, she bought that, she had two or three places around here. She was kind of an eccentric. For the life of me I can't tell you what her name was.

DOROTHEA: I didn't realize that there was somebody between that place. Then how did you get into --- I know that you were mayor, and so some time or other in this you became involved really deeply in politics. How did you come about running for mayor?

DALE: Well I had actually started out eight years before on the city council so, you know, at that time it was almost a responsibility I guess if you was going to be a businessman that you kind of took your turn of serving on the city council. And it was assumed that you would take about eight years because most of the time it took you about three or four years to learn what to do. So if you was changing over a portion of it every two years,

well then you had some people on there with experience. And that, the Burns Council used to be really strong that way, because they had people on there who would serve for eight years, and so you had a good informed council. And then at the end of that second time then I decided to run for mayor. I'll never make that mistake again.

BARBARA: What are some of the things that were going on in Burns at the time that, during the time that you were mayor?

DALE: Well, you know, let's see, when was I mayor, about '70 ---

DOROTHEA: I think it says 1973.

DALE: Yeah. Let's see, right in through that time was when we were getting hit by the closure of the Field Station and the Job Corp Center, and population loss, you know. Somewhere in the late '60's or early '70's the population of Burns got up to over 4,000 people. And then it was dropped out of sight, and we lost about a 1000 people, so we were into kind of survival at that time.

DOROTHEA: More or less have been like that ever since.

DALE: Almost, yeah.

BARBARA: What are some of the things you feel, good things that happened during your term as mayor?

DALE: Well I think the best thing, and I don't know if it actually happened right at the, during the term, but at least during that period of time was the City of Burns had never set any money aside for equipment replacement. And so if there wasn't enough money to buy a new car or new truck and it went out, you just patched it up and spent a lot of money. And we were able to, over a period of years, to get that turned around where we not only got some decent equipment, but we were able to set up a reserve fund whereby we charged off every year a certain amount, so that when a piece of equipment wore out you at least had the money available to replace it.

BARBARA: You served two years as mayor, is that right?

DALE: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: And then from mayor you ran for county judge?

DALE: For county judge. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Now did you have the laundry all this time also?

DALE: Uh huh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did your folks still run it, or did, or were they in the business yet?

DALE: I'm not sure they were still at the --- let's see, when did we buy the folks out? Yeah, I think they were probably out of it by then, or right around that time, because Dad died in '70.

BARBARA: So in the late '60's sometime then?

DALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So when did you decide to --- did you run for county judge and make it, or have you run more than once?

DALE: No, just --- I'd had people ask to run for one of the commission posts the year before, but decided not to. And then two years later when Newt decided he was going to retire --- so I'd give that a shot.

DOROTHEA: And Newt was the county judge, Newt Hotchkiss at that time?

DALE: Yes.

BARBARA: Can you tell us what is the job, or the responsibility of a county judge?

DALE: It's kind of hard to describe, in fact we get in a big fight in the legislature every year because they claim we are illegal. All counties in Oregon started out with a county court, which was composed of two commissioners and a county judge. And they all had, in the beginning, certain judicial functions that the county court did, and certain judicial functions that the county judge did. And in fact the county judge gets the state judicial

term, which is six years, instead of the commissioner's term, which is four years.

You know the problem we get with --- and so, in our case, and this only basically pertains to counties that do not have resident circuit court judges, which there is about six or eight of us left that do not have. And in those counties you can have either juvenile, or probate, or both as judicial functions. In our case we have both probate and juvenile. So the county judge is responsible for doing those type of legal matters.

Then you set as chairman of the county court, or as, you do the so-called legislative work, pass the resolutions and the laws and set the priorities. And then the county judge is the full time member of the court, and then does the administrative and supervisory work of managing the county. That is where the state legislature gets up tight. They just haven't found a way out of it yet, because they claim the constitution, which I'm not sure they're not right, says that you've got to have separation of the legislative, the judicial, and the administrative. And those counties where the county judges have judicial authority you are basically doing all three of those. But the problem is that they haven't found a cheap way out to get rid of us or they would have a long time ago.

But the only way to resolve it is to put a circuit court judge in now, which makes somewhere around \$80,000 or \$90,000 a year, plus all of his expenses to be here. Because --- especially juvenile is a real problem, because if you just, for whatever emergency reasons, or welfare of the child reasons, if you take a child out of the home you've got to have a hearing within twenty-four hours. And, you know, if you don't have a resident judge, it is just almost impossible to do.

BARBARA: And so you have two county commissioners too?

DALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Are they from each party, one? Is one a democrat and one a republican, or

can they just be ---

DALE: Yeah, they are just elected at large by whoever can get the most votes.

BARBARA: I see.

DALE: And, you know, and the same way with the county judge. You run on a partisan ticket, so you can be all republicans, or all democrats, or whatever. Right now Lee and I are democrats and Ken is a republican. Although I'd have to say in county business, you know, I've never known that to have any effect. It is all decided on, you know, what the issue is, and what needs to be done. And I have never even had a hint that anything was ever decided on political issues.

DOROTHEA: Who have been some of the county commissioners since you have been in office?

DALE: We haven't, you know, Harney County has been very stable. We haven't had a lot of them. It started out with Frank White and George Purdy, and I guess about the first eight or ten years that was the county court. And then ---

BARBARA: Earl Tiller?

DALE: Yeah, I guess Earl came on next when George decided not to run. Earl came on and then he stayed on until, here the last couple three years. And then Lee Wallace took George's place, and then Frank decided to resign and we appointed Dick Cowan in his place. And then Dick unfortunately had an accident after he had only been on there about five or six months. And then we appointed Ken Bentz, and then Ken was just re-elected two years ago.

BARBARA: When there is a vacancy, is a commissioner appointed by the county judge to fill the unexpired term, is that how that works?

DALE: When a commissioner is vacant, then the other two, the county judge and the other commissioner appoint. Now there has been cases where two commissioners are

out, then if that happens then the governor appoints the first one, and then the next, the two that are there then they appoint the third one. But if the county judge resigns or dies, or for whatever purpose, since that is a judicial appointment the governor makes that appointment.

DOROTHEA: We were just talking about that, we was wondering what happened if that were the case since we did lose our justice of the peace, which is also a judge in some ---

DALE: Yeah that's, see that is the same thing, that is a judicial appointment, and the governor makes those appointments.

BARBARA: So what are some of the things that you are involved with in the county as county judge? I know there is the hospital, is one of the top things that you have been involved in.

DALE: It was, but we fortunately got a district passed and don't have to do that anymore.

But, you know, I guess there is really not a lot that is new. Primarily it is the economy and the impacts of federal land management agencies upon that economy. And, you know, how we manage to keep a viable economic unit going out here and provide livelihoods for our people. So, you know, when you got about 76% of your county owned by the feds or the state, it limits your abilities.

And then when the ranching and the timber industry, which are our primary industries for economics, are almost a 100% dependent upon the federal government as to what level they are going to participate, even though our ranchers have a private land base. If you take away their BLM or Forest Service or Refuge permits, there is very few of them that can be sustained on their own private lands. So it's, we are really very susceptible to federal interests.

BARBARA: They need to really work together in order to make it work.

DALE: Yeah, and we do have, at least I think, we do have a good working relationship

with the federal agencies.

BARBARA: You serve on some of their advisory boards?

DALE: I've done that. And, you know, then really the problem is not the, at least in our experiences, not been the federal agencies as much as it has been the pressure and the tactics that has been on, been placed upon those through the public view process, and through the legal process that so called environmental interests know how to manipulate so very well, you know. Most of the, I would think, you know, they've got a job to do, and they do it fairly, and we agree with them sometimes, and sometimes we don't. But I think they have always, have our best interests at heart and try to do what they can. And that used to work very well, but you know, it seems like the last five to ten years that there are just a lot more outside type intervention, you know. Used to, all you had to do, if you could agree with the district ranger, or the district manager, that was about all you had to worry about. Then it got kind of bumped up to, you might have to work with the state director or the regional forester or something, you know. But now, you know, it's just almost completely out of their hands, or our hands, or anybody else's hands.

And there is a real push out there by a lot of special interests who don't like any consumptive uses. That is the ten-dollar word everybody is using now. But basically it means they don't want anymore trees cut, or anymore cows grazed, or anymore minerals dug out, or anymore gas or oil taken out from beneath. And, you know, I think that is the big fight we are in for the foreseeable future.

BARBARA: And what do you see happening to the ranchers around here that have depended on this, if some of these environmental things take over and force the federal agencies to do something else?

DALE: Yeah, you know, I don't think the --- I wish I was more optimistic, but I'm really not. Because, you know, the fact of the matter is, as we get reminded, I was just back in

Washington a couple weeks ago and 90% of the federal land is represented by 10% of the Congress. So that tells you the problem. Because basically everybody east of the Mississippi, you know, it's a free vote for them to, whatever it is the people want to do.

DOROTHEA: You were involved in some education things, and getting the radar base. What did you --- exactly what did you do on --- (Do you need a glass of water?)

DALE: Yeah, I might.

DOROTHEA: Okay, we were talking about the radar base. And I think you were involved in some way of disposing of it, or what did you do to come about --- how did this come about?

DALE: Well of course when the announcement was made that they were going to close this radar station, I was on the council at that time. In fact we sent the mayor, who was Ray Voegtly at that time, back to Washington at city expense to see if we could convince them not to do that. But obviously that did not become successful.

So then we started talking with the military about ways that, whatever assets they had up there could be used for the benefit of the community. One of the major ones appeared to be that some of the facilities could be used successfully out at the high school. Plus they had some tanks, as I recall, that we had some old tanks out at the airport, and we took some of the fuel tanks from up there and put them out at the airport for fuel tanks.

DOROTHEA: And also there was a, what we used to call the air force housing.

DALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did you have something to do with getting that into the, for the schoolteachers?

DALE: No, not, you know, other than just in the general, you know, that all of us was working together to get it. I didn't have any big part in that other than --- you know the

school really took that and ran with that.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: We were talking a little bit about roads too. You have something to do with the county maintaining the roads, and the receipts from federal agencies to help with the roads. And you also mentioned that I think this last week you were over in Ontario for a meeting with the highway again.

DALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: What are some of the things that we can look forward to on that?

DALE: Well of course our roads are, the funding for the roads comes almost entirely off of federal forest receipts. And those have been extremely high the last four or five years. In fact one of the things, the first thing that I got involved with after I came on the court, counties used to get 25% of the net forest receipts, and that was after all of the costs of getting the timber out was taken off of them. They had a lot of what they would call below cost sales, because of building the roads into it, and all the forest service management exceeded the cost of the sale, then you know 25% of nothing didn't get you a heck of a lot. So the counties had argued for a long time, and this was I think counties first started arguing that, and as well as the payments in lieu of taxes for non-forest service lands. Started that thing out in about the late '30's, early '40's and started fighting for that. And it happened to be in the, '75 it got passed primarily because it was a expediency to grant it to the west because of some presidential politics, and in fact it shows you how things can work.

The NACO, the National Association of Counties, the Congress is supposed to adjourn at, in those days, on September 30th, no matter what happens, at midnight. And we had that payments in lieu of taxes bill and the increasing the 25% of net, to 25% of the gross up twenty some times on the floor that night, and it had always been beat down or

taken down. And it come five minutes until twelve and it looked like it was all lost, but then you found out the remarkable powers of Congress, they cannot go past midnight, but nothing says they can't stop the clock. So they had the sergeant of arms stop the clock at five minutes to twelve, and they finally got a compromise on forest receipts and payment in lieu of taxes about four-thirty in the morning and the bill passed, and they started the clock, and they adjourned promptly at midnight. (Laughter)

But that has, you know, that's probably been the biggest thing that has helped the rural counties around because when you get 25% of the net, or not the net, but of the sales volume, that gives you money. We were, of course I was fortunate because most of my years that I have been here we was on the old formula. But the first couple three we was on the --- or on the new formula, we was on the old formula, and there was a couple three of those years we only got three or four hundred thousand dollars for roads.

And, you know, we got, last year, which was our biggest year, we ended up with over four million dollars. But, you know, the concern that we have is that, you know, not only will we hurt if the timber cut goes down and we lose employment, it is also going to lose us our funds that are necessary to do the roads.

BARBARA: Maintain your roads.

DALE: Because, you know, we get very little, we probably get maybe three hundred thousand dollars a year as our share of the state gas tax, and PUC permits. And other than that we get a little bit on federal land sales, which depends on how they go, but it's not a big source, maybe fifty thousand dollars a year. And get a little bit out of the refuge, we get about a third of the refuge receipts, which is probably another twenty-five or thirty, and then two thirds of that goes to schools. But basically, you know, if you lose the forest receipts, you're looking at probably four hundred thousand dollars, all the rest of them put together.

BARBARA: We have a lot of miles of roads to maintain around here too.

DALE: We've got about two thousand miles of county roads. Now we don't maintain all of those to any degree of quality. A lot of them are lucky if they get a little grader over them a year. But we've got about a thousand miles of them that we try to maintain to good standards. And that, just for our wages and the material to support those, that will run us over two million dollars a year, just to do that without, you know, doing any improvement or paving or anything like that.

DOROTHEA: You have a lot of the county roads that are paved now. Can you tell us approximately how many miles are paved?

DALE: I should be able to because we just had to give a report. We got, I can't give you an exact figure, but we've got two hundred and some miles of that thousand paved now. We've been trying to pave for, between the rock and the oil, we can pave, and just the time to put it down, we can pave about twenty miles a year, or something like that. And that, depending on the prices you get for your oil and stuff, that will be a minimum of a million dollars, and maybe up as high as a million and a half. But it does have the affect of, once you get graveled roads at a certain level of usage, you know, you just really cannot keep gravel on those. They kick it off about as fast as you put it on there. So you not only have people unhappy, but you're spending your money just constantly putting gravel back on there. It might work if you was in a county where you had some moisture to hold it together, but especially around here you get that last shot at it in the spring, and until it becomes fall, you know, if you break the surface you're just creating a big dust hole.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

DALE: So, but, you know, that's the other thing that concerns us, and one of the things that we have done to alleviate that, not without some real criticism, is one of the things

that when I first came on the court we probably had the biggest junk pile for equipment that anybody ever had. We did some studies, and it was, we were lucky if we had our road crew out doing roadwork 50% of the time. Most of the time they were standing down at the shop waiting for it to be fixed.

First thing we did after we started getting some money was to upgrade our equipment, and to also at the same time, we was running five to eight yard dumps, gasoline power, and we put those over, started turning them over into belly dumps that would haul twenty yards at a shot with diesel, and you could run the diesel for no more than it would cost you to run one of those eight yarders. And we ended up getting those changed over, and our graders, our other equipment pretty well up, and under a system where we traded them off in a reasonable length of time. And now I've got some excellent equipment which we get criticized for all the time, because tax payers say they can't afford that good equipment, so the county shouldn't be doing that, you know. We like to look at it as, you know, that we are supposed to be managing the county the best we can. And we think it's better if we can afford it to have our guys out there working productively ninety some percent of the time instead of just sitting down watching equipment to be repaired. And the thing was, you know, we were spending a couple hundred thousand dollars a year in repair, and still had nothing but junk, you know. Because you guys know how it is.

DOROTHEA: Let's pause for a moment while we change this tape over.

SIDE B

BARBARA: I understand there was a meeting in Ontario I believe this last week on the highway designation.

DALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: What happened there, what kind of results can we see from this? I understand there was a number of people that did go to testify, or whatever.

DALE: Yeah, we'll see if there is any results that follow that. I'm not sure that there is. You know, one of the things that the State Highway Commission decided that they would do, was here about four years ago that they would designate certain highways across the state as Access Oregon Highways, which would be those highways that would receive the highest priorities for funding, and for upgrading. And they asked the State Highway Division to recommend those highways that met that criteria. And one of those highways was U.S. 20. Well when the commission came around for hearings like the one they had out in Ontario last week, the delegation from Grant and Crook and Baker Counties, which is basically U.S. 26, came around with a large group of people and made the pitch that they thought that U.S. 26, now to be fair to them, they never asked to my knowledge at least that 20 be taken off, and 26 be put on, but that is what happened.

BARBARA: They were looking at their fair share also.

DALE: Yeah. And, you know, we didn't oppose it because, you know, if you've been over 26 you can certainly take all the money you can throw at it and then some. But we did not think, and I don't believe that they did too, that 26 would be substituted for 20, but nevertheless it was substituted.

And we have been agitating I guess ever since then to try to get 20 put back on because they follow that up, Access Oregon now those show as, these are the principal arterial highways, and they are now building on that and saying they are going to have transportation corridors, and lo and behold the Access Oregon has become the transportation corridors.

And what it is going to show, we're afraid of, is eventually down the line that those are going to be shown as the bright red, or the bright blue whatever the first class roads

are on a map. As you come in now, you know, I don't think anybody that is knowledgeable of the area, or the truckers, are going to go over 26. But you get just a tourist coming into Ontario and he sees a map and its got this bright line that shows that this is a good road, and this is a lesser quality, it is going to mean that all of those people are going to be routing to the north on 26 instead of coming through 20, and that is a real major concern to us.

And we have been making an effort to try to get the commission to place 20 on there, and so far without success. And with the present chairman on there, I don't think we will have success soon.

BARBARA: Is it just money is why they are not doing it, to maintain 20?

DALE: Well, you know, their argument which I'm not sure is, that their argument is that 20 is basically in good shape, and all they need is some maintenance money, and 26 is in bad shape, and therefore it needs to have a lot of money thrown out at it. And, you know, I don't disagree with that, but the criteria by which they said that they would judge it didn't say that was the criteria. The criteria was based upon highways that Oregon was of state wide significance, which 20 had always been designated, 26 hadn't. Based upon the average daily traffic on those highways, and we run three to four times the traffic through on 20 that 26 have, based upon importance to the economy of the cities along the route and, you know, both of them are essential. One I wouldn't say is any more important than the other. But for whatever reason, you know, they made that decision.

And then the thing that really, it just seemed like everything else followed that, that the first thing we knew then there was a plan came out and they took all of the highways of state wide significance that were not Access Oregon off of state wide significance. And we finally hollered long enough that they did put us back to highway of statewide significance. And then the new federal highway bill that just passed here last fall, they are

doing away with the traditional U.S. 20, 395, the system, and are going to what they call highways of national significance. And those will be the only ones that will receive federal funding. Well low and behold when the state submitted their list of highways of national significance it followed the Access Oregon, so immediately we lost our standing as a U.S. highway. And that act is now in effect, in fact was in some centers in Washington, D.C. a couple weeks ago, and the congressional delegation --- the Secretary of Transportation has authority to add I think 15% of the miles across the country, wherever he feels should be highways that have been left out, that could be added to it. And our congressional delegation is going to write a letter to the Secretary of Transportation asking him to add 20, so we are hopeful that we'd at least get that back in, which would qualify it for federal highway funds. Which with the U.S. designation you get about 80% of your cost on those highways are paid by federal dollars, and the other is state, which is about 20%. So if it no longer qualified for the state, or for the federal program then you are looking at doing it with state dollars.

BARBARA: So what affect is this going to have on Burns trying to bring new business, or whatever, in? It's going to affect these companies that look at us, is that not right?

DALE: That's correct. You know our, we feel that, you know, we've got to try to diversify which is the same thing that a thousand other communities are trying to do also. Because all natural resource dependent communities are really fighting survival.

BARBARA: Going to blow away?

DALE: Yeah. And so if you don't have something --- and then we've got the additional problem out here of tremendous distances, and so the only way you can overcome the distances is to have a good infrastructure. And if we've got second-rate highways, you know, they are not going to do it.

Plus, or else if they want to fly into airport, they need to have some --- and we're

fortunate that the military built a base, and it is a fairly good one if we can manage to keep it up. Because, you know, it can take most corporate planes.

So if we were successful in getting a, locate in here, and we do have the size of an airport that would permit them to come in here. We're fortunate in that sense because, like John Day doesn't have that. We know that one of the, I don't even know what his name is, but he is the official in one of the major medical companies back east, and his mother has moved to John Day, and so about once a month or so he flies their corporate jet, and lines it out here to the airport, and then drives up to John Day to visit his mother.

But the Grant, or the John Day Airport is not big enough to permit that size of plane landing up there. So it just shows you, you know, that we have a valuable asset out there if we could just keep it up.

BARBARA: Now is that maintained by the city, or does county get into that too?

DALE: It is maintained by the city, but the county contributes funds to the city to --- you know, the city has the franchise so they get, they add on a certain amount to their gas sales. But that does not generate enough money to do everything. So then between the city's general fund and the county's general fund we put enough money in to do the rest of the operating, plus all the capital has to come from some place.

BARBARA: And then we have the railroad, are we looking to see that disappear this next year?

DALE: That's a possibility. You know we've spent a lot of effort getting the rail service restored after the flood, and then we got the thing operating about the time the timber industry went into a recession and the shipments never did come back as to what had been forecast. Plus we had a continual chicken and egg thing, it seems like the rail people said you give us the volume that you'll ship, and we'll give you the rates. And the timber guys said you give us the rates, and we'll give you what we'll ship. And that just

never did hit off.

Some would believe that the type of sale that was consummated by WYCO when they bought it from Union Pacific set it up for nothing but salvage operation, because more money could be made from salvage than could be made from operation. And therefore they were more willing in seeing that it failed than they were seeing it succeeded. I don't know if that's the, absolutely truth or not, but I do know that it doesn't seem, to us at least, that either industry or the rail have made an all out effort to try to make maximum use of that railroad.

And, you know, if we lose the railroad it will have two definite impacts on us. Number one, we just lose the rail service and the opportunities that gives us. And we do have a plant, or a company that is looking at the zeolite deposits out here at The Narrows. But they are saying definitely that their market is pretty well east coast, and they would be looking at shipping by rail. And that if they don't have rail it might not be economical to load it here into a truck and then take the truck and unload it over by Ontario someplace and re-load into a rail car. So it might just foreclose that opportunity to use that resource.

But the other thing it will do, and the state had some figures when the railroad was flooded out just between here and Ontario, it was costing them over a million dollars a year just for the extra damage that was done because of all the loaded lumber trucks that were being diverted there because rail service wasn't available. So it would put another burden on the highway system.

BARBARA: What do we see happening out there with the intent of putting in a, businesses out by the mill?

DALE: Industrial park?

BARBARA: Industrial park, yes.

DALE: You know one of the things that we've run into in our recruiting efforts is that, and you know, mostly the companies that you are recruiting are, tend to be people who have good ideas, but not a lot of capital and they need some place that is going to help them get started.

BARBARA: Unfortunately we don't have the money to help them here, probably.

DALE: So one of the things that they always say, "Well if you had a place that we could get into for two or three years economically, then we'd come." We don't know for sure that, you know, if that's the real answer. But we have never been able to call the bluff, and say, "Okay, we're here."

So what we have proposed to do, you know, this is something that hasn't, isn't new, Harney Industries came up with that idea when Edward Hines closed down in the early '80's and sold public subscriptions, and collect forty, fifty, sixty thousand dollars, I don't know what out there, and took option on that land.

And then as a result of that we went to economic development and got a grant to run the road from Hotchkiss Lane there where Doc Minor lives down to the railroad track. And then when Contact Lumber decided they wanted to put in Frenchglen Millwork, they wanted a separate entrance that would not be through the existing Hines plant. So we was able to get some funding through the state, plus our own, and extended the railroad on down, or the road on down to Frenchglen Millwork. And then when Snow Mountain decided they was going to put in Tecton, which meant taking out their entrance to their mill, we kind of, special public works grant and put the road in from the highway and down to the mill, and then connected over there.

And in the meantime Harney Industries used up all their money, but they did deed us the right of way for the road, plus Pete Clemens deeded them about thirteen acres there, so that has been available.

So this latest effort has been to build upon that, and go to EDA for a grant to put in an Industrial Park. We'd like to put in about a ten to fifteen thousand square foot building, and then put in the water and sewer and the streets. Have the building there that, somebody comes in and says, "I need five thousand feet," we'll say, "okay we'll give this to you for two years at an economical rate, and then as soon as you get going, then we expect you to locate someplace else so that we have somebody else." And then we'll have all the rest of the land there with water and sewer service so that we can offer them an attractive rate to build a building of their own. And that seems to be the only, at least from what we have been able to determine, those communities that have been successful in recruiting have had to have something like that to entice people to come in and get started.

So, you know, then we've got a portion of that, the City of Hines had east of the railroad, or west of the railroad tracks had about eleven acres in there, and when we had the so called experts in here they suggested that what we ought to do is see if the City of Hines would be willing to put that in the Industrial Park and to rezone it. Because what a lot of the successful Industrial Parks now are not just your traditional park with the heavy industry there, but they have a transition between the residential area and the Industrial Park with this high class, or high tech type of a business that is a low profile office type building, or maybe it's a computer type thing, but it is, you know, it's not manufacturing type. It's things like you see around Boise or Beaverton, or some of those places where they've got these beautifully landscaped buildings and things like that. And so you'd have your residential and you'd have this, and then that would be in between that. Well ---

BARBARA: A little buffer between the two.

DALE: Yeah. Unfortunately the people here did not take, either did not --- well I think they understood. What they really wanted was, since the City of Hines had this, they did

not think anybody would ever build over here, and then they had their view of the Steens and everything out there, and they didn't want anybody to build there. Of course they didn't say anything about what happened when these people here had that, and they built in front of them. But, you know, that's neither here nor there. But, you know, they are very adamant that, at least some of those people living on that street, and they don't want anything taking place. But, you know --- and we can build the Industrial Park without it, you know, it wouldn't cause that much problem. But the thing will be, you know, everything west of the track there you're just going to have anything that is successful, is just going to be looming right up in their view without anything in between them. Well we, you know, the only reason we did it was because it was suggested that this was the way to make it more attractive and to, as you say transition it in. But they don't seem to want that.

DOROTHEA: Let's go back a little bit, and you talk more about, a little bit more about your family. We never got whether you have any children or not.

DALE: Yep.

DOROTHEA: Do you have --- how many children do you have?

DALE: I have three, two girls and a boy.

DOROTHEA: And what are their names?

DALE: Linda Jo is oldest one, she was born in 1956; and Kathy, Katherine Marie was our second girl, was born in 1958; and then Ronald Dale Junior was born in 1960.

DOROTHEA: And are any of them married?

DALE: Uh huh, all three of them are married. Have three, or five grandchildren, and one due in June.

DOROTHEA: Do any of them live still here in Burns?

DALE: Uh huh, they all live here, or Linda and her husband teach out at Crane, so they

live out there.

BARBARA: And what is her married name?

DALE: Bennett.

BARBARA: Bennett.

DALE: Uh huh. And then Kathy is a health and P.E. teacher out at the high school, her name is Wassom now. And Ron works for Frenchglen Millwork.

DOROTHEA: And what are your activities, do you have family gatherings, or what all do you do to keep the family together?

DALE: Oh yeah, that's one of the good things about them all being here is, you know, you get together all the normal occasions, plus a lot of them that are not, you know. And then of course my folks lived here, and Jo Anna's folks lived in Hines. And then of course Don and Lois lived here, so you know, we had our own little party all of our own.

DOROTHEA: Are you active in church or something?

DALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about your church?

DALE: Yeah, we belong to Faith Baptist Church. And, you know, we --- folks were Methodists back in Missouri. When we came here the Baptist Church up by the courthouse, back in that time they had some bells or clarions or something up there, I don't know if they was records or what. But anyway that's what Mom heard, so we ended up going there to see --- sounded, the music sounded good, you know, so we ended up going there, and never did leave. So, you know, we've been active in church. I've taught Sunday school, and been on the deacon board. And Jo Anna and I were youth advisors for a spell in our younger days. I don't know why we were youth advisers, we didn't know what was going on ourselves, but ---

BARBARA: And what has Jo Anna done, has she worked outside of the home, or has

she been a homemaker most of the time?

DALE: Yeah, she has just been home most of the time.

BARBARA: Did she work at the laundry at one time?

DALE: Yes, well yeah she filled in as needed to be, but most of the time she took care of the kids.

BARBARA: And what kind of hobbies does she have? Are there certain things that she is involved with?

DALE: Yeah, you know, she is kind of an artistic type. She likes to, you know, grow flowers and arrange those. And then she gets into; she has been into tole painting and those other kinds of things.

DOROTHEA: And what organizations do you belong to? Like do you belong to the Elks or Historical Society or ---

DALE: Yeah, I belong to the Historical Society.

DOROTHEA: Chamber of Commerce?

DALE: Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis, the church, and I guess that's about it.

BARBARA: I understand that you have to do a lot of traveling with your work though. That takes you away from home frequently, does it?

DALE: Yeah, quite a bit, yeah. You know the, seemingly the days of, and maybe it never was, I don't know, but the days, especially for counties that are involved in public lands issues where you can resolve those problems at the local level just passed us by. If you're not involved in state wide and national organizations you just lose out, that's all. So yeah, we have been pretty active in some statewide things.

And even, you know, things that are not public lands, as far as state government, there is a continual effort of the state to decide that they like a program and so they give the counties the job of delivering the services but they forget to pass the money on. So if

you're not there when they are in session making sure that they feel strongly enough about a program that they are willing to fund it, then your county can really get cut short very quickly.

Then too, we in rural counties have a particular problem because so many of the federal, as well as state programs, are funded on a per capita basis, and you know a per capita basis on a seven or eight thousand people doesn't even establish your core programs. So what we have been working hard on, and have had some success, more failures, but some success of saying that every program should have enough to do the core program whatever that might be, you know, at least have your full time person, and a secretary and office before you start giving anybody else any extra.

And 911 was the first one that we were successful on that. And that took some, then that I think proved the working together with other counties, because basically we worked that out within the counties who, the larger counties agreed that every program would get enough to basically fund a system before any other counties would get anything that, what they called enhanced work. And so basically our share came out of Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington, some of those bigger counties.

But, you know, I guess it is like everything else, rightly or wrongly, most of it boils down to not how good or how smart you are, but who you know. And, you know, if they think you are credible they'll go along with those type of things.

BARBARA: Have you not been involved in the Western Counties, I don't know exactly what it is called --- Western Counties.

DALE: Yeah.

BARBARA: As chairman, or something? Has this helped you in working for us?

DALE: Uh huh. Yeah, I think it definitely has. There is, the Western Interstate Region of Public Lands Counties, which is a branch of the National Association of Counties, but it is

basically the thirteen western counties --- or western counties, western states plus Alaska and Hawaii. And its primary function is just to deal with those issues that pertain to counties who have a high percentage of public land ownership, and to work on those issues that impact counties.

And of course that was the big place where payments in lieu, and of course we are in a major effort right now to get payments in lieu adjusted. It was authorized in 1975, and that basic amount has been continued to be paid since then, and the buying power is now about 40% of what it was at the time. So we have the legislation pending now in both the house and senate to adjust that. And if that was successful it would bring our receipts up from, we get about \$308,000 a year now, it would bring that up to about \$640,000. Which would be --- that goes to general fund, which is where we really hurt. And so that would be really helpful to us, and that's been, you know, one of the major pushes in that.

But, you know, it's I think, you know, its been, it also is one of those places where the forest service and the BLM primarily, although fish and wildlife to some extent, it's a place where those issues that are of a general interest to everyone that they have a forum where they can bring those to us, and then we can discuss those with them and help establish policies that we can all work with. So I think that has been a very beneficial program to us for public land issues.

BARBARA: Well we talked just a little bit about our hospital here, you serving as administrator at one time. How do you think our hospital situation is doing, and what about recruitment of medical people, and where do we stand at this time?

DALE: You know rural hospitals, and we made the pitch, and the state bought it, and we're hopeful that eventually that the feds will buy it, that hospitals are an economic development issue. Because if you lose your hospital or your doctors you're not going to be able to get people to come or even get them to stay. You know that not only includes,

the federal agencies would have a hard time recruiting people, your schools would have a hard time recruiting teachers.

We've had a lot of professional people tell us, you know, I can get a job as a lawyer or whatever someplace else, I don't have to go someplace where I expose my family to the added danger. So, you know, I think that there is no way that we can succeed without a hospital.

At the same time, you know, I don't think there is any way a hospital will succeed by itself. The system is just stacked against small communities. Number one, both the state and the federal regulatory agencies make a hospital like Harney County Hospital have to abide by the same rules and standards that St. Vincent's or somebody else does in Portland. Number two, I don't know how they got this started, but sometime when they begun the Medicare program they had an urban and rural differential and supposedly in those days, and I certainly don't know, I know that it is not now, that it was cheaper to operate a hospital in a rural area, so they pay you a lot less out here than they do say in Portland, you know.

But we have found now that we have a scarcity of doctors and nurses and everyone else is, you know, you not only have to pay as much, but you got to pay more to entice them out. And then the federal government has this nice little theory on Medicare, you know, if they need to save five or ten billion off of the federal budget they just say, you know, we're only going to pay "X" percent of your Medicare bills, you know. And so it don't make any difference how much you bill them, they're just going to pay "X" dollars.

Well when they first started the system out they had a cost reimbursement system whereby they audit you, and then they would pay you the lower of cost or charges. So that if basically your charges ended up, and you made a good profit, then they would only pay you based upon your costs. You didn't make any money, but you didn't lose any. But

then they decided that that didn't encourage hospitals to be efficient, so they went on this DRG based payments, which is --- DRG --- diagnosed, diagnostic related --- I don't remember what the "G" stands for. But anyway, you know, if you've got appendix or a gallbladder, that's got a DRG number.

And what they did was say, you know, they took averages around a region, we fit in the western region, so if you come in and need your gallbladder out, the average cost let's say is \$3000. So if you come in with a gallbladder, Harney County Hospital would get \$3000. You may have complications and the hospital bill is \$12,000, well you still get \$3000. And I suppose --- their theory was that on the averages you would have those that you paid \$3000 and the hospital bill would only be a \$1000, so that would offset the ones with \$12,000. But the problem is that averages don't work well when you don't have numbers, and we don't have numbers.

The other thing that they don't take into consideration here is DRG's are based, the fact that you will have all types of assistance. You know they are thinking about a city like Portland where you have visiting nurses, and you have a mental health clinic, and you have a home health deal, and everything is right down the street two or three blocks. They're not thinking about what happens when you got a rancher where his wife or kid comes in from Denio or someplace a 140 miles away. Obviously the, you know, the doctor, because from what DRG's was meant to do, is to get the person in the hospital and get them out as quickly as possible.

And of course if you've got a lot of other services that can be offered when that person gets out of the hospital, you can do that. Obviously that's where numbers come in to play again. We don't have the volume that supports those other services. So what our doctors do, and I certainly don't fault them for that, but they ended, they ended up keeping our people, keeping our people longer. But we still don't get any money for that.

So as a result after you take the losses, and normally, I don't know, but I'm sure it is still running about that way, between Medicare and Medicaid we'd usually lose two or three hundred thousand dollars a year, just the difference between what it cost us to provide services, and then what we got out of those. And then in a hospital of our size, and the way medicine is practiced today, you end up having a high percentage of Medicare. We usually run close to 50%, so --- and that, I mean traditionally. A lot of your profitable type patients; because everybody wants specialists now, end up being transferred to Bend. And of course the system even then fails you, because if you bring a person in, let's say with a heart attack, and they are stabilized here and Air Life picks them up in two or three hours. You know there is one shot that cost, did cost when I was there, \$2500, you know, and it means the difference between life and death. If they can get it to you quick and dissolve the clot, you probably won't be in the hospital very long. But if you transfer to St. Charles, then they split the reimbursement, and the major reimbursement goes to the hospital that discharges you. So you may have saved their life and put the biggest expense out, but you get the least amount of money.

And then you have the, the other is that a hospital, by both the federal and state regulations, has to have a twenty-four hour emergency room, and you are required by law to see and treat anybody who comes. And, you know, our normal loss in that area is a couple hundred thousand dollars a year from bad debts. We can just about, and I suspect that's about what they are doing now, you can almost break even if you get paid for the services that you deliver. But when you take the amount between what Medicare pays you, and the amount that you lose to bad debts, you're talking around \$500,000 a year. And I don't think there is any way that we are ever going to, you know, if we want to have that service we're just going to have to pay for it.

And I don't see any other alternative because if the hospital goes, I think the

community goes. I think the hospital is coming in with a, they've been on a \$567,000 two year serial levy, and they've told us that they are going to come out now with a \$485,000 tax base. And I don't think that's, you know, is overly generous for them. I just, it's going to be, they'll still have to be very tight to get by on that.

And then, you know, the other part is just the doctor recruitment. Doctors are trained these days to work in a situation where you got lots of support staff, and lots of high tech type instruments. And, you know, they come out here, it's not just doctors too, we try to train --- when we try to recruit nurses we have the same problem, you know. Because our nurses, they're the floor nurse, but they're also the emergency room nurse, and they're the OB nurse, and if we got somebody in ICC they're the ICC nurse. And, you know, we've had to bring, when we was really down, because we went through a spell there when, you know, our general flow of people from the federal agencies and the school you normally get enough nurses coming in to offset the ones that are going out. And we went through a spell there where that didn't work out and we had to bring some in from Bend and from other ---

BARBARA: They had them rotating over here. I know when Ev was in there they had some Bend people in there in ICU.

DALE: Yeah. You know those people were highly trained and really well qualified for the field that they were in. But they were just petrified when they found out, you know, that when you're on the floor, and a lot of times when we are on low census you'll have one RN, and then maybe you will have an LPN and some aides, you know. And when they found out, you know, you not only had to be the floor nurse but you had to be the one that would come to the emergency room, maybe somebody is dying with a heart attack, and while you're trying to figure that out, all of a sudden this gal comes in having a baby. You know they're not trained to deal with it.

BARBARA: Too stressful.

DALE: And it is the same way with the doctors, you know. In the bigger cities in the way they are trained, you know, they come in and say, "Well you know it looks to me like you're having a heart problem, I'll send you over to the cardiologist." Or you got a urinary problem, the urologist, I don't know, they got a dozen "ologists". But when it comes down to the fact that you're here, and you're the only "ologist" around ---

BARBARA: You have to be up on everything, and they aren't probably trained that way anymore.

DALE: They're not. And, you know, what they've got to do, and it scares them, and it probably would me too is, you know, you've just got to do what you think is right at the time and hope it's right, even if you don't have the training. Because, you know, many times as you guys well know, there is no other choice. You come in there and it is life or death, and they do it, you know. The old family practice guys that we had, you know, they got very well at that, and we just got used to them being here and didn't think they got old.

BARBARA: It happens to us all.

DOROTHEA: It happened that we are about out of our old family practice people too.

DALE: Yeah, we didn't know what jewels we had, you know.

DOROTHEA: Nope.

DALE: Those guys they could do almost anything.

BARBARA: Are there some other things that you are involved with, with your job, that you would like to tell us about, major things that are going on, or we can look forward to?

DALE: Well probably our biggest hope for economic development right now are two issues, and they're really tied to environmental. One is the state geologist was just in a couple weeks ago and I was talking to him. And of course we're going through the, we're not, but we're going through the exercise down at the Grassy Mountain site in Malheur

County on this heap-leach gold mining. They feel that if that gets through, and Oregon has probably the toughest mining laws of any state in the union, but those, if that mine gets through, probably hire about two hundred people at, you know, good paying wage jobs, you know, twelve, fifteen dollars an hour. And the state believes that there is, probably will be eight to ten of those located in Southeastern Oregon between Harney, and Lake, and Malheur Counties.

You know Grassy Mountain is probably our best chance, because it is, according to the geologist, is fairly high-grade deposit for the heap-leach mine. Which I guess you don't have to have a heck of a strong amount of gold there to make it pay the way they get it out of there. But if they get that through then, you know, that's going to be an opportunity for us.

Our other major one is the use of geothermal for electrical generation, which basically comes from Anadarko holdings down in the south end of Alvord Desert, around Borax Lake. And Anadarko is wanting to go, and has done some testing already that indicates, you know, that they feel that at least they are ready to go to the next step. And if the next step is what they think it is, they're looking at putting in an electrical generation plant down there that --- Bonneville Power had a study done, and that would basically about double the assessed value of Harney County, that one plant down there.

But unfortunately most of the land surrounds the Borax Lake and they got this stupid chub designated as an endangered species a few years ago. And we don't, and neither does the geologist, or neither does BLM at this time, believe that what would be done, because what Anadarko is asking for now --- they have already drilled test wells. They did a test pumping, the water came out in the lower range, but it was, they were only down a few hundred feet and there are some rules of thumb that the deeper you go the hotter it gets. So they wanted to go down deep in those existing wells and then do

another test pumping out of it. And the test pumping was about eighty or hundred thousand gallons. And they applied to the BLM, and the BLM wrote an EIS and approved it.

But it got appealed by some friends of the chubs, and some other stupid people. And as a result that's in the Bureau's Land Use Board of Appeals or whatever they call it, IBLA anyway, Interior Board of Land Use Appeals. And it has been there for almost a year now, and Congressman Smith is working to see if we can't just get the process speeded up, because they have so many appeals in IBLA that sometimes those will set there for two or three years before you even get a hearing on them. And we would just like to get ours up.

But the thing that makes you so angry is that if those people were really wanting to know, because that had all the protection in there, so if there was any danger or if there was showing any effect on Borax Lake that that testing would be shut down. But what it appears to us is, you know, they don't even want to know what the information is there, or give you a chance to prove it one way or the other. It's almost like we're afraid if we let you go ahead and do this, it might prove that it is no problem, and then we'd have to let you. But if we can keep you from getting the information then you can never go ahead on it. So, but that would provide, over a period of about four or five years according to Bonneville, that would provide us about a hundred additional jobs during the construction, and then there would be about twenty-five additional jobs during, forever down there. Like I say, the plant itself would be somewhere over two million dollars, or two hundred million dollars. And the lease money off of it would be about a million dollars a year to the county. So those are, you know, two real good choices now. I don't know if good is the right term or not, but there are opportunities, I guess, if we can do something.

You know it just doesn't seem to us that Nevada was, or whoever it was that drew

the boundaries between Oregon and Nevada, was so bright that all the mineral deposits are south of that line, and there is none north. It just seems to us that Nevada has been real aggressive in developing it, and Oregon has been aggressive in stopping the development. And if we can start doing a little bit of work there, there might be an opportunity. Of course the other thing that is really scaring us is the effort to designate the Steens as a national park. And, you know, one of the things being in the Western Interstate Region, and talking to those people who have national parks, that it sure gives you a different perspective as to what a national park has for you. Because certain people who promote those say, you know, you are going to have all this tourism, and all this nice jobs that come with it. What we hear is otherwise, is that, you know, you have this tremendous influx of people that come in for about a four to a six-month period. You have to create a lot of jobs, but nearly all of them are minimum wage jobs. So then you end up when the tourists leave you have all these people that are on unemployment ...

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

DALE: I was talking about the impacts of having a national park, and the downside of having those people in here, and the unemployment, and the welfare and things come of that. But not only that you have the tremendous influx of people coming in, you end up with a major police effort, a major search and rescue, that apparently those people do stupid things all the time. And you have major solid waste type of problems. And just, and you know, there is really, you have all of these responsibilities of delivering services, but there is very little that comes to the county or the communities as a result of that except what little business you might get.

Now, you know, in some states you might get a little bit more, where you've got a sales tax, where at least they leave some of that. In our case we wouldn't get anything.

But the thing that really scares you, and all of those national parks, they have what they call Class I View Shed, and a Class View Air Shed and all of those things. You know if they get a national park, you would never be able to put a co-generating plant down on the Alvord. In fact you would not have been able to build a mill in Hines if that was a national park. Because with a Class I View Shed you're not supposed to be, you're supposed to be able to look from that national park and not see anything. Well, you know, that maybe works out good when your national park is about the same altitude as everybody else. But in the Steens where that is the highest point, and really the only thing that limits your vision is how far your eyeballs will focus, it would just kill economic development, anything that we might hope to have in the future. So, you know ---

BARBARA: But our weather wise, the access to the Steens is minimal month wise. I mean you're not going to have six months that you can get up there.

DALE: No, that's right.

BARBARA: You're going to have three months, if you're lucky maybe sometimes, to get up there.

DALE: That's right.

BARBARA: So that's a lot of months that you don't have those people coming too.

DALE: But then, you know, the other thing that is happening and, you know, we have to admit, you know, it is a pretty spectacular place. And everybody that goes to it goes and tells somebody else and they come and see it. So I think, you know, that's why Smith has put that NCA in which would still give management responsibilities to the BLM on a multiple use basis. But it would provide, hopefully, usually with NCA comes some additional funding which allows them to do some extra as far as tourist type attractions to maybe improve the roads, and provide some view points, provide for some interpretive material, and maybe some extra parks. And, you know, I think perhaps if we can do that,

then that will take the pressure off of wanting to put the whole thing into a national park. Because if they do that, national parks are just like refuges, they are single purpose type of entities. They can do anything they want after it is in the national park.

DOROTHEA: It's amazing to me how many that do go to visit there. Two years ago I think it was something like 65,000 people had come through the Steens.

DALE: Uh huh. And see the ---

DOROTHEA: That's, I imagine it is even up from then.

DALE: And they have received some money in this year's budget that they are going to be doing some work on the road up the mountain this year. If they get that improved, you know, it is just going to make it that much easier. And certainly, you know, it needs to be improved, that road is atrocious going up there. And there is not much you can do about it, because trying to keep gravel on the road where you are pulling up, you know, your wheels just kick it right off.

DOROTHEA: You just about have to have a four-wheel drive outfit in order to get up there anymore.

DALE: You know, and of course, you know, the other real thing that we are really excited about is we're participating with the community, and the schools, and the cities in this round barn cultural and learning center. You know, it's, maybe in one sense it's a big dream, but on the other I think it's got a lot of opportunity if we can pull it off.

Because I think the high tech technology that is out there is probably the one thing that could help us overcome our distance problems. That you could have people living here and still do their work for somebody in New York or whatever. Because so much of that stuff can be transferred over high tech means of communication.

Plus it would really be an asset to our students that, you know, they could have almost any course that they wanted, that could be made available to them. And it also,

for our businesses, would provide for them the access to all of the various high tech things that they presently don't have.

Of course what the vision is that it's not only a high tech learning center, but they say now, scares me to death, but they say the average person can expect in his lifetime to be re-trained three times because things are just changing so fast that whatever you go out of school trained to do will be phased out and you will have to train for something else, and that will go out, and you have to re-train for that, you know.

BARBARA: I think our timber people can see that as happening during their lifetime.

DALE: Yeah.

BARBARA: And maybe a convention type center also in this round barn that Frank Tuning has dreamed about ---

DALE: Yeah.

BARBARA: --- getting going.

DALE: Would have, you know, a convention center component of it.

BARBARA: Maybe get some concerts in, people ---

DALE: Yeah, do those kinds of things. Conventions, concerts, and then we talked to both the BLM and the forest service, and the refuge about having a major interpretive center as part of it.

Plus the fact that we've also talked to them about having their public affairs officers, as well as the chamber, located there so that you come through town and you're wanting to see something, or if you just wanted to know what is there, you would have the interpretive center that would hopefully be able to give you an overview of what is here.

And then if you want to get more specific the BLM guy is here, or the forest service guy is here, or the refuge person is here. You know that we have had people that come into the, and I guess these are worse case scenarios, but hopefully don't happen too

often, but a person comes in and says, "I want to see this," and they'll stop at the Chamber because that's where it's at. And they said, "Well I think, you know, probably the best thing you just go on out here to Hines and the forest service office is there on your left, and you talk to them." And so they do that, and they say, "No I think that is BLM, you know, they're only a couple miles on down the road here, go out there and talk to them." They said, "Oh no, they say who you really need to talk to is the Malheur Refuge, they're thirty miles," you know. Well by that time, those people are about ready to ---

BARBARA: Stay here.

DALE: Yeah. We've heard all of this that we want. But if we had them together then, you know, we'd have that information where you could have it.

And you know the BLM has some, BLM and the Refuge have some plans for interpretive centers, which we are not all necessarily on the same wavelength. But I think we're coming. They wanted to place them out at Frenchglen and other areas, the major ones, where our feeling is that we should have the major one in Burns, and then have the satellites out there, and make it so that the people are going to be based in Burns. Or the other part of it was down in Lakeview, would be based in Lakeview. They'd go out from there, make a day circle, and then they'd come back to here where you had your restaurants, and your services, and your station. I think we will get that worked out, you know.

So I think there are a lot of real possibilities that we could do there. And we do have a lot to offer here. I think that, you know, the other thing that a lot of us would not like to do is to see it grow too fast either, you know. You need growth, but you don't need it to become Bend either.

BARBARA: And are you working with the PRIDE group to kind of oversee, or not really oversee, but keeps tabs on what is going on in their thinking?

DALE: Uh huh. Yeah I think, you know, the big thing that the PRIDE group has done is not necessarily anything new, because I can't hardly think of anything that PRIDE has been involved in that wasn't already being done before. But what it has done is it brings those people together once a week in one place so that everybody is aware of it, and then you can work and coordinate with those other people and come up with better ideas and be more efficient. So I think it has been really helpful in doing that. And, you know, it's really, it's one of the things that's hard to do in a community this size, I don't know about a bigger one, is just to keep your enthusiasm up, you know. Because you get involved in something, and you're hoping that you see some results. And you maybe get close, or maybe you don't. People get all fired up when it looks like something is about to happen, and then if it doesn't happen they get un-fired.

And there is at least, when you've got PRIDE, and practically every interest of the community represented, somebody has got a little something that is going on that can get you through to next week at least maybe, you know. Because it is, economic development is tough. People think that all you've got to do is go out, and people are going to knock your doors down trying to get in, but it is just not so. We've worked at it for lots of years. Been close a lot of times, but kind of like the bridesmaid, you just never got married yet.

And that's why we're hoping that the Industrial Park may put us over the edge. We've got three or four pretty good little projects that may go. I guess the High Desert Design people, who have got the knockdown picnic table type of thing, that's probably the closest one to getting up and going.

We've also got a grant from our regional strategies to do an inventory of the amount, and the quality, and the species of these damaged and diseased trees. We had three or four small log mills that come in and indicated interest, but the forest service

hasn't had sufficient data. They say you only have to have at least a ten-year supply of resource out there before they can be willing to come in. So we've got us, Mason, Bruce and Girard, which are timber consultants out of Portland, hopefully will give us that answer by the middle of April. If it's positive I think we'll be successful in getting a small log mill. But, you know, anything will help.

BARBARA: Do you see things in here, maybe coming that will keep our young people here? Or our young people going away to school and have a reason for them to come back here. Does it still look pretty grim?

DALE: It looks pretty grim, you know. And I guess that's the, over the long run I guess that is the saddest thing that really happens. Because, you know, from what we have learned with Hines going down, you know, this is just not the young people, but even those people who had to leave, you know, they were just looking for an excuse to return. And if you give them any hope at all they would come back. And I'm sure a lot of our young people are that way, you know.

The sad thing about it is that we're exporting our brightest young people who are going on to make a significant contribution to someone else. And, you know, they could be doing that same thing just here, you know, if we just had some way we could put that together. Because, you know, I'm sure most of them would prefer to live here.

But, you know, I really think that the best that we could expect is just some slow growth, and we may be just lucky to hold our own, you know. Right now we ---

BARBARA: During this recession it's even harder to work.

DALE: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well my younger people, they call this the older people's town, the retirement center. And, you know, but we've got to have younger people in order to keep it a retirement center even.

DALE: That's right. And I think we're going to, that part I think we're going to see more and more of the retirement. Because it seems like every few days you hear about somebody who has just moved into town for no apparent reason, other than they just --- whatever determined would be a good place to retire. And Kathy's folks that lived in Springfield, and they bought a place out by Sisters, in fact they just built a new house there here last year. But their neighbor, who had been there about fourteen or fifteen years, well he said, "Well I've been kind of looking over towards Burns," he says, "this area here is just not what it was when I came here before," he says. "You know, it is becoming like a metropolitan area." He says, "That wasn't what I was looking for." He says, "What I was looking for was here when I got here, but now it's gone."

And I think that is happening to quite a few places. I think that our challenge is going to be, and that's another problem right now, in fact it will be a problem we'll be glad to have, is to make sure when that day comes, and I'm sure it is going to come, is that we don't make the same mistakes that some of the rest of them do. But we are planned for them to come here, and we do what very few people have ever done previously is saying, you know, we're going to take you up to, our population gets 10,000, but that is going to be the end of it. And that gets very hard to do; because there is always somebody out there that's got a scheme that they can make some money off of that. But, and I'm not all that excited about LCDC because I think it really hinders us in a lot of ways, but, you know, I think as long as we've got to live with it, that might be one of the ways that, if it ever looks like we're going that way, that we could do some innovative planning to, you know, control the limits of the number of people that you have in the community. Of course I guess you would always be accused of trying to slam the door, and not let anybody else in.

BARBARA: Well we certainly have a good educational system here, so it's a shame that

we don't have our younger people with the small children to take advantage of it. You don't have the problems that some of the city schools have. And we have good dedicated teachers, and we've received a number of awards for our schools. So ---

DALE: Well like your son, you know, there has been numerous kids who have graduated from here that shows that they get the basics that's needed to be successful in whatever area they wish to go in. So it's not that we can't produce the kids, it's just that we need something that they can apply their talents.

BARBARA: They can't come back and raise a family on minimum wage.

DALE: No.

BARBARA: So I think there has to be something else for them to do.

DALE: Yeah, and I think that is the scariest thing that we are facing now, you know, is that we're losing the good paying jobs. There may be minimum wage jobs to replace them, but you know, that doesn't do the job. You know that's, and we're down to about less than 500 in the wood products industry versus about 1100 here about twelve years or so ago, you know. Then they're cutting just about as much lumber as they was beforehand. Only difference is there is about seven hundred families who are not drawing ten or twelve bucks an hour.

BARBARA: Well is there anything else that you see happening with your job that you might tell us about?

DALE: Well the only thing I really see happening is, and I don't like to see it, but it is happening, is that the job is becoming ever and ever more complex. And you're not near dealing with local issues as much as you're dealing with state and federal issues.

You know it used to be if you wanted to put a sanitary landfill, or a dump as we call them, out at Andrews or someplace, that all you had to do was take your Cat and go out and bulldoze a hole and that was it, you know. Now EPA is coming out with new

guidelines and, you know, just everything is regulated, and your ability to really react is limited on those things that you have control over yourself. Which means if you don't get in when those rules and regulations are being drafted and try to get some exemptions, which was what we're trying to do on EPA, is to get a rural exemption. Because what they're saying to provide just the monitoring that they would require, it would cost you \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. They want you to put an impervious liner down, they want you to drill two or three wells around it and put in automatic monitoring, you know. When you've got fifteen or twenty families doing that, you know, it would be better to drive out once a week and pick up their garbage and bring it to town, you know.

But, you know, the problem is --- and maybe, I'm sure everybody has their own specific problem, but we in the public lands counties of the west have a hard time of convincing our states. And one of the things we found out, and I never did realize it before, is that most of the west is more in common than you suspect. You find out if you look, and I've done that after it was brought to my attention, is that most of the west has one or two major metropolitan cities in a state where probably anywhere from fifty to seventy-five percent of the state's population is located in a very small geographic area. And the rest of your state is really fairly rural. And the state policies are generated to the core population, and the core area there, and you're supposed to fit your policies in that.

And then the federal government does the same thing, their policies is generated for the nation as a whole. And if somebody is not there fighting for these special things that exist out here, because most of them don't even know they exist, you know, and if you don't point that out to them, then you end up being saddled with something that is just, just unaffordable.

So I think that, you know, that is going to be the big challenge for the future is make sure that counties stay on top of what is being done at the state and federal levels,

and try to protect their selves as much as possible from getting lost in the shuffle.

BARBARA: What would a person have to do to train themselves to get into a position like you have now? I mean someone that would want to run for a county judge in some of these small communities, to educate themselves to be able to handle these jobs with all the new rules and regulations coming up.

DALE: You know, I don't really know the answer to that, because you know ---

BARBARA: You kind of learned as you went along.

DALE: Yeah, right.

BARBARA: There has been a lot of changes since you have been in this position.

DALE: Right. And I was fortunate that, you know, got in when most of the stuff was just evolving so it just kind of, you just learned together.

BARBARA: You kind of learned together.

DALE: Learned together. But, you know, county judges and county administrators of the future, for our type of communities, are going to be facing about the same problem that our medical community is facing now. Because the training you have is, you know, the bigger counties they have one guy that does solid waste, and they have another guy that does law enforcement, and they have somebody else that does land use planning, and then they have a county manager, or a county judge, or somebody that kind of sits over the top and coordinates everything.

But nobody is teaching somebody that, you know, where you got seven or eight thousand people out there; you still got to do all these basic things. But there is only one person that is going to be able to do it. I don't know how you get that. I wondered that myself, because I, you know, the person that has to come into these kind of jobs without any experience, is just going to be in a tremendous disadvantage, you know.

And the problem that you have all the time is dealing with the so called

bureaucracy anyway, and if you've got the history and background you've got some place that you can argue from, and hopefully have some influence on. But if you come in and you don't have any of that background, and then you have these people and these agencies that have been there for a long time, you know, that's the ---

There is a growing movement, and I can understand that for term limitations both at the local level and the state and federal level, but, you know, if you do that without doing something to curb the power of agencies, you know, the only checks and balances we got now is that we've got people in congress and at the state who's been there long enough that they're knowledgeable at least in certain areas, that they can intercede upon your behalf. But if you don't have them there, what you're going to have is the career people at the federal and state level. And certainly that is nothing degrading about them, but they've got their own little agenda that they're pushing, and they've got a tremendous amount of knowledge in that area. And if you don't have somebody that has some knowledge in that area they are just going to overcome you with the sheer knowledge, you know. As they say, knowledge is the power, and it certainly is. So, you know, I don't really know the answer.

BARBARA: It's going to be hard for people to, well not many people are going to want to tackle these jobs, because it involves so many different things. So who are you going to get to go out there and run?

DALE: Yeah. You know it's mainly; it's very interesting just because of that, because there is always something new and exciting to do. It would be a little more exciting if you won a little oftener. But it is exciting, you know, it's not just the same stuff everyday. But, you know, things have become so more complex. I just don't know how, you know, I know all the business schools where you would expect the schools of government to, you know, they're training people for a Portland or a Multnomah County, or something like

that. That is a good question; I just don't know the answer.

DOROTHEA: And like we say we don't have the younger people to come in and do these kinds of jobs anymore, we're getting to be the retirement people.

DALE: That is right. And, you know, the younger people are the ones that, you know, usually are the ones that become involved in the community and want to help make things happen and see change take place. But as we become more and more aged we get a little complacent and want younger people to do it. And if there is no younger people around there, I don't know who is going to do it.

BARBARA: I know you've handled the juvenile problems in the community, what has happened over the years with our kids?

DALE: It has just changed dramatically. Not only in numbers, but in the types of cases. And, you know, I'm not sure that that's because people are any different, I think maybe it is because people are more knowledgeable of things that happen.

BARBARA: More aware of what is going on.

DALE: I think I was county judge for five years before I got my first abuse case, and that was some guy had stopped his pickup in the middle of the road up toward Idlewild and took the bridle reins and was whipping his kid out in the middle of the road, when somebody bigger than him come along and put a stop to that. But, you know, about in '80, '81 when the mill went down we just started out with these sexual abuse cases, which have just not ended, you know. Like I say, I was probably there seven or eight years before we had sexual abuse cases, and we probably have ten, fifteen of them a year now. And I mean they are not just sweet little sexual abuse cases either, you know. If they go --- the ones I guess you normally think about is a thirteen or fourteen year old girl being abused by a live-in boyfriend or something like that. Not to say that that is not bad, it certainly is. But, you know, when you have a little two or three year old

girl being abused, now that is almost more than I can comprehend.

And I really got, I thought I was going to use the Wisdom of Solomon on about the first one, and this was a more typical one, so I still wasn't quite shocked. But had this gal, had a live-in boyfriend, she had a twelve or thirteen year old girl that he was abusing. And so I, you know, thought well I'll just solve this real easy. I turned to the woman and said, "Well I'm just going to give you your choice, you know, I'll either take your daughter from your home, or you have to kick this guy out to protect her." Well she just turned around and looked at me and says, "She is yours judge." And boy, you know ---

BARBARA: A whole new world out there.

DALE: --- I didn't have an answer because I was just sure, you know, that she would say all right, you know, nobody is more important to me than my girl.

DOROTHEA: Well this is something that I see changed since I've been into my adulthood, let's say. I went out to the high school too, today, and I remember when I was in school and you were in class, and you were at attention, you know. You were being taught something. I was in the classroom today, there was kids running all over the place.

DALE: I know.

DOROTHEA: In and out the door, not doing anything. One girl was laying in a corner sleeping. Another one was eating her lunch, and another group were having some kind of a discussion. And the teacher wasn't doing anything. And I just couldn't understand that, because I thought, my how time has changed. And she was, at one time the teacher says, you know, "Let's quiet down a little bit." Let's --- and these two girls was over in a corner fighting, and she said, she mentioned the girl's name, and the girl immediately came back and corrected her because she had called her Susie instead of Sue. And that wasn't the name, but anyway that is the same principle.

But I thought, you know, now where have the kids taken over. And actually the kids

have taken over. And they have no respect I don't think. And a lot of the parents don't like their kids like we were brought up, I mean, you know, like our parents cared for us. I don't understand a lot of it.

DALE: Well I don't either, you know. And of course I do hear from the school side of it from my kids is that, you know, the society has so limited their ability to correct, you know, that a lot of those teachers would like to teach, and they, you know, they'd like to be, you know ---

I remember when I was a freshman a bunch of us boys were acting up in the back, you know, and Del Scott was coach at that time, you know, he was about six three or four, and weighed about two fifty. And of course there was only about four rows of chairs, we didn't have a very big class. But before we knew it, he had, fortunately it wasn't me, but it was a guy right in front of me, he had him by the neck and had him about that far off the floor just shaking him like a rat. And shook him for awhile and slammed him down in the chair, and he says, "When I tell you guys to shut up, you better be shutting up." You know we got the message pretty quick, you know.

But, you know, what would happen if you did that today? The kid would be home, the parents would be suing you, and the school board would be suspending the teacher, you know.

I can tell you the one thing that I have seen this through juvenile, you know, the breakdown is not the juvenile, the breakdown is the home. Yeah.

When I get a kid that comes in there and has done something and the natural mother and the natural father show up and they are saying, you know, "Whatever you need to do, you need to do that, just let us know when you're through because we've got a few things for him when he gets home, or her when she gets home." I can just guarantee you the number in the last eighteen years on one hand that I've seen them the

second time. It just never hardly happens. But if you get somebody that comes in there and the mother or father, or one will come in there and this is my kid and don't you dare do this. It's the law enforcement, or it's the schools, or it's society, and my poor little kid. They're going to be back. Nobody wants to assume responsibility.

BARBARA: They blame everybody but themselves.

DALE: You know the reason I didn't get in more trouble than I did when I was in school was, I didn't worry so much at school, I figured I could handle that. But I didn't want to get the trouble I was going to get when I got home, you know. I wasn't so sure I could handle that. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That was how it was with my family. My mother's tongue was quite sharp, and the wrath.

DALE: You know, but gee, it's amazing how people, you get those kids dead to right and they're right in there defending. You know, you didn't read my kid his rights, or you didn't do this, or you didn't do that. It's not whether the kid is guilty or not, it's just you can't touch my little darling. And until we resolve that, I don't know. But the result is you're just seeing more and more kids come.

I talked to Newt, you know, when he first started in there, and of course he was there for twelve years, you know. He said he probably didn't average one case a month, and most of those were curfew violations or something. It just keeps getting worse and worse.

DOROTHEA: We had a lady come and talk to us on HOPE and she was talking about our community is really high in abuse, both from mother and father, and for wife and husband.

DALE: Although I really think, you know, and I've seen those statistics, that's in Morrow County, or the leader on sex abuse at least. But what I really believe that is, is that the

community has done a good job of conveying to our children that if you report it, you're going to be protected, and we will give you some help in resolving your problem. I don't really believe that we've got a higher percentage of sex abuse. I think we have a lot higher percentage of reported sex abuse, and that the kids feel comfortable in doing it.

Because I tell you, you don't want to be --- I wouldn't want one of my girls to be sexually abused and go through the system. Because, you know, the first thing you end up doing, you got four attorneys there right to start out with. You got the D.A. prosecuting, you appoint an attorney to represent the girl, the mother has got an attorney, and the father has got an attorney, or whoever the guy is. And he is trying to try it in juvenile court, because you don't try the --- you're not there to judge his guilt, except he is trying to form the defense so that when he goes into circuit court he has gathered something out of it, so he is there. And, you know, here is this poor little kid that has been abused. Then you have the mother, nine times out of ten, sorry to say, is that they end up having so many emotional problems their selves that they are not able to help defend their daughter or protect them because they say, "Gee, you know, I wonder what was wrong with me. How come he would want to have sex with my child instead of with me, and so, you know, there must be something there." So, you know, they are so confused they can't do that. And then if there is any brothers or sisters they say, "Well why didn't you just keep your mouth shut because now we're getting all this problems." And the poor, I mean it's a horrible experience. I don't know what the answer is.

We sat there one day and had this little ten or eleven year old girl in there, and her mother said, "I don't see what is such a big deal about it, I was sexually abused when I was that time, and look how good I turned out." Yeah, it's --- I mean it is ---

BARBARA: It blows you away, doesn't it?

DALE: Yeah, you just can't hardly --- I guess I was raised in the wrong family or

something, you know. And the other thing, you know, I was talking to Newt again, that some of the kids that he had when he was there, I'm now having their kids, you know. And so somewhere we're not accomplishing ----

BARBARA: You're not breaking the chain.

DALE: No, not breaking the chain, because they're just coming right on through. So I don't know what the answer is, I just know that there is a lot of kids out there that ---

BARBARA: That's what they say, if one is abused they are more than likely going to abuse their children, if they don't get help as a young person to turn that around.

DALE: Yeah. Yeah, that is really amazing. And it's amazing where the abuse, you know, things that I would have never believed, you know. And the Baptist Church is one of the bad ones. The Baptist and the Mormon Church has got the highest percentage of abusers of any of those who have a strong conservative religious philosophy that, you know, that stresses the fatherhood of God, and the father as the head of the home. It follows through that, you know, that's the authority figure in whatever that says. And, you know, a lot of your sex abuse comes out of the places you would never think of it.

BARBARA: Maybe some times they are too strict, and then they lash out on whoever is closest to them.

DALE: Yeah. No, it's been an eye opener for me. The only thing that I wish that, you know ---

BARBARA: You wish that wasn't part of your job?

DALE: Yeah. Well that, and I wish I'd of, if it was part of my job I wish I had had it before my kids were teenagers. Because you'd, it sure gives you some good insight, you know.

And the one thing I've really learned through the whole process is that kids want discipline, and kids want boundaries set, and they want somebody to tell them what they can do and what they can't do. Now, you know, they'll argue to the death that that is not

true, but when you listen to them through it, you can see that, you know, kids want that, kids need that, you know. And we as parents know that, you know. They are continually bumping up against the boundary, and see if they can't push us back. But they don't want us to go too far, they want us to know what is right, and how far they can go. And they will use the argument on you, you know, everybody else is doing it. Well if you ever check out everybody else isn't doing it. But they need that, you know. We had one little girl up there, she wasn't twelve or thirteen, I mean she was wilder than a March hare, and we had all kinds of problems with her. And I finally told her that we had come to the end. She came back in, she was going to Hillcrest. And that was Friday, and by Friday night she was lost in the piles of Bennett Motel someplace when that thing was the den of inequity. And we didn't get her back, the police didn't finally get her drug out of there until Monday or Tuesday, and we had a hearing, and so I sent her to Hillcrest. The little girl she didn't blink an eye, but her mother just started screaming and crying, my poor little darling. And that little girl turned her eyes on her mother and looked to her and says, "You shut your mouth," she said, "you don't care for me, you don't love me, you never did. If you really was worried about me you would have made sure I was home at night, you'd have made sure you knew where I was at. You wouldn't have been letting me go with these older boys, you would have been saying you can't do that." She says, "Don't you be crying now, you know." Those kids are not that dumb.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. And I think a lot of that really early started with both parents working.

DALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Where they didn't know where that child was.

DALE: Yeah, that is where the main problem ---

DOROTHEA: And that's where your economic comes into it. It costs so much to raise

children, it costs so much to live, that both parents have to work just about anymore.

DALE: Yeah, yeah, and I guess probably we are a little to fault, I know. I guess we wanted all of our kids to have something immediately, instead of having to wait for it, you know. And so now they do it, and as a result of doing that, you know, the things that we waited for a long time to get they want it the day after they are married. And the only way they can do that is for everybody to work. And then along comes the kids and they still got to work.

DOROTHEA: I see so many younger parents raising their children in day care centers.

DALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Grandma and grandpa, things like this. They don't really get to enjoy that childhood of their children at all. And it's a sad situation, really. Because if they were to really sit down and say do we really need this, they would find out they really didn't need it.

DALE: Well, you know, if you --- of course all my kids are, the girls, and as well as Ron's wife work, you know. But I think if they would really sit down and figure out the day care -- - instead of coming home and cooking, everybody is tired so we'll just go downtown and eat, or we'll order something. You know I think if they, and the extra clothes and stuff, I'm not sure if they're saving that much when it gets all done. But it's the thing to do.

BARBARA: But they are fulfilled as a person getting out there and doing what they feel is important to them too. So that's ---

DALE: Yeah, I think that is a lot of bull personally. But I got one daughter who is real woman's libber, so I've got to be careful about that. (Laughter)

BARBARA: To each his own.

DALE: I don't know. I'm not sure we made all that progress or not, you know.

BARBARA: Whether we're making progress or not.

DALE: Judging from what I've seen in juvenile, we're not making progress, we're heading the other way. But, you know, our problems are --- talking to the other juvenile judges around, you know, our problems are minimal because I've never had a murder, or an attempted murder, or anything like that, you know. Most of ours is just thievery, or doing, you know, mischievous things. It's really not that bad.

In fact a lot of it is stuff that, you know, got handled by the schools, or the neighbors, or the police when I was a kid, you know. Because they, you know, they had some authority, you know. Gee I remember when I was in high school, I was a hot-rodding around town and the chief pulled me over and I thought I was going to get a ticket. You know by the time he got through with me I'd have been glad to have received a ticket, you know. But, you know, and the police can't do that now either. I mean they used to be pretty effective, you know, in doing those things.

DOROTHEA: Well really parents can't do that much anymore without being turned into the authorities too. So, you know, everybody has got their hands tied.

DALE: Yeah. And we have some of those, and those get to be difficult as to whether, you know, the kid is just using the system, you know. Because, you know, I don't believe, I always spanked my kids if I thought they needed it, and I don't think that's abuse, you know. If you beat the kid that's something else. But if you have to correct them, you know, because ---

BARBARA: Need to get their attention from time to time.

DALE: Yeah, yeah. We had, you know, we had --- our oldest daughter, you know, all you had to do was talk to Linda, you didn't have any problem. With Kathy, was pretty good, she tried to lie her way out of it first, but if you make her confess up she was all right. But Ron, you know, he'd just look you in the eye, and phooey on you, I ain't going to do anything until you got his attention, you know. And, you know, you didn't get his attention

by talking to him either, let me tell you. So, I don't think that you just say that you can't lay a hand on them.

DOROTHEA: Well here we are again with our little red light blinking, and we have taken up most of your afternoon.

DALE: That's okay.

DOROTHEA: So why don't --- unless you have some more to say, why don't we close now and do our video. And we'd like to thank you for the afternoon, because it's been very enjoyable and informative.

DALE: Okay, enjoyed visiting with you.

DOROTHEA: So thank you again.

DALE: Well you got your thank you in.

(END OF TAPE)

bl