

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #324 - Sides A & B

Subject: Ethel Kalkbrenner - With Video

Place: Kalkbrenner Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: June 24, 1992

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy along with Barbara Lofgren, and today we're talking with Ethel Kalkbrenner at her home in Burns, Oregon. The date is June 24th, 1992. And following our interview we will be doing a short video with Ethel, and it will be stored at the library along with the transcript and the cassette tape, the number is 324. Now Ethel, can you tell us your full name?

ETHEL KALKBRENNER: Ethel Baker Kalkbrenner.

DOROTHEA: And when were you born?

ETHEL: I was born October the 11th, 1908.

DOROTHEA: Where?

ETHEL: On the ranch out here about, a few miles north of Burns.

DOROTHEA: Harney, or ---

ETHEL: No, in Burns, right north of Burns.

DOROTHEA: Just north of Burns.

ETHEL: Uh huh. I think Doc White owns the place there; it's across from the old Triska place out there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh, uh huh, okay. And what were your parent's names?

ETHEL: Frank Baker and Grace Riggs Baker.

DOROTHEA: And when did they come to the county?

ETHEL: My father came here in 1878, and my mother came in 1884.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Do you know why they came to Harney County?

ETHEL: No, I don't really know. My father was borned in, down around Eugene. And his father, after the mother died, why he decided to come to Harney County. So, he loaded up three of his children, they were just small children, and headed for Harney County. And then the Indians were fighting when he come here, and he went on to Fort Harney where they was all fortified up, you know. And he got a job; the grandfather got a job hauling hay for the Calvary horses. And then he took pneumonia that fall and passed away and left all the three little children, you know. And then they had different neighbors took them in, you know.

DOROTHEA: They didn't have a mother?

ETHEL: No, the mother had died before they left Eugene.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

ETHEL: And so then after the older girl was old enough, then she married Charlie Jones, he was foreman of the PLS Company, for John Devine.

DOROTHEA: And what was her name?

ETHEL: Jane.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: And she took my father, he was the youngest, I think he was eight years old at the time. So, she raised him, and took him.

BARBARA LOFGREN: So, did they go, did they separate the children, or did they all go with one family?

ETHEL: No, different, no different ones took the children and raised them up until they could be on their own. And the grandfather was about, among the first men that was buried out here at the cemetery.

BARBARA: And what was his name?

ETHEL: George, George Baker.

BARBARA: George.

ETHEL: And there was an older boy come with some uncles and settled on Silver Creek. He come a year or two before my father did.

BARBARA: Oh, so that, there was a reason then that the grandfather came, because someone was already over here.

ETHEL: That's probably, yes. That's probably, yeah, the uncles, well his brothers, the grandfather's brothers had been here, or come before and brought that one boy with them, and they settled on Silver Creek. Doug Baker, and Nick Baker and, I guess that was it.

BARBARA: So, was there, did your father have more than the two, the brother or sister when they came? Were there older children?

ETHEL: There was another sister that stayed in, around Eugene with an uncle and his wife, yes.

BARBARA: I see. So, there was five altogether?

ETHEL: There was five children altogether, yes.

BARBARA: And did your father go to school around Harney, or here in Burns, or do you know where he was able to go to school?

ETHEL: I never heard him say much about where he did go to school. But wherever the school --- Egan I guess was the town, you know, out there. But I never heard him say much about that.

BARBARA: And how old was the sister when they came here, do you know?

ETHEL: No, I just don't know just how old she would have been.

BARBARA: Because if she married fairly soon after that ---

ETHEL: Yeah, I imagine she married quite young, you know.

DOROTHEA: And what was your mother's parent's names?

ETHEL: My mother's parent's name was Hampton Riggs. Well my grandmother was Eliza Hampton Riggs, and she was on the wagon train that went through here, you know, in 1845.

DOROTHEA: And what train was that, do you know? Was that the Meeks Train, or ---?

ETHEL: Well, he was mixed up in it, but I've got a --- something there I want to give you, you know, about it that she has said. A fellow by the name of Te'Vault, or Vault or something like that was the head of the wagon train, or the one that got it up, you know, to start out.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something, have they ever said anything about what that train was like? I mean did she ever talk about it, and say what the travel was like?

ETHEL: Well, they had a lot of hardships, you know, she used to tell. But I was just a small girl, you know, and I didn't hear too much what she did say.

DOROTHEA: Like so many of us.

ETHEL: But she was ten years old at the time.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: And I did hear, she had told my sister about when they went to cross the Deschutes River, the wagon bed floated off with all, loaded, you know, with the people. And the scouts were on the other side and they lassoed the wagon box and pulled it to shore. So, they continued on down into the Willamette Valley.

And then as she grew older down there why then she met with Milton Riggs and married him. And he was one of the scouts that lassoed the wagon box and pulled it to shore.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

ETHEL: And she didn't know anything about it until after she married him, you know. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well did they, the whole family make it, or did they have some tragedies?

ETHEL: Oh, I imagine they had lots of tragedies along, sickness, you know. And cholera got in among them, I guess, and a lot of them passed away, you know.

BARBARA: So, your mother was in the Willamette Valley then too before she came to Harney?

ETHEL: No, my mother then, I don't know how long they did live in the Willamette Valley. Then they moved up towards California somewhere, Mount Shasta County wherever that is. And that's where my mother was borned in Shasta County, California.

And then they moved to, over there around Lake County; Paisley and Silver Lake. And then when they come to Harney County, why the father and mother, and my mother and a sister came. And I remember Mama telling about her and her sister drove a pair of mules hitched up to a wagon and come across the desert to Harney County. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Did they have a reason for coming, was there family here? Or did they decide to

just go to a new country?

ETHEL: Well some of the brothers, some of my mother's brothers had come before, you know, and was around here. And I imagine that's why they came over here too, you know.

BARBARA: How many were in your mother's family? How many brothers and sisters?

ETHEL: Oh, they were a, they was a big family of those. I think there was about thirteen or fourteen children.

BARBARA: Oh my.

ETHEL: And the older ones, you know, married and was gone when my mother was just a little girl, you know.

BARBARA: Of course, a lot of them had large families in those days, didn't they?

ETHEL: Yes, they did.

DOROTHEA: Did any of the other family move here after your mother came? Or was she more or less here by herself?

ETHEL: Oh no, she had brothers here, you know. Grandma Riggs, well the boys come first with the Hayes family. There was two brothers that I've heard, and I remember those, and then her sister and her. But the other girls had married, you know, and had families of their own before Mama was ever borned I guess almost, you know.

BARBARA: So, they stayed over in the Silver Lake area then?

ETHEL: Well scattered everywhere, you know, California, around Alturas, California. A couple of my mother's sisters lived there. And over in Lake County, around Lakeview.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us how your mom met your dad?

ETHEL: Well she met him here, I know. But I don't --- probably at the dances. You know they used to ---

DOROTHEA: That's how so many of the --- they had lots of dances and picnics and gatherings like that.

ETHEL: Yeah, like that, and I imagine that's where she met my father.

DOROTHEA: And what was your father's name?

ETHEL: Frank Baker.

DOROTHEA: And had he lived here for quite awhile? Or was he born here?

ETHEL: Well when he come --- no, he was born down in the Eugene area, and then when he come here in '78, he stayed here all that time. He never did leave here.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay, yes, I ---

ETHEL: And then he got the ranch out there, you know, he went into the ranch business after my mother and him were married. Then they got in the ranching business.

DOROTHEA: And he raised horses and mules?

ETHEL: Yeah, and he sold them to, when the World War was on, you know, they bought lots of horses and mules. And he sold them to the army to use.

DOROTHEA: Now, you say your grandmother's name was Hampton?

ETHEL: Uh huh. Eliza Hampton.

DOROTHEA: And how did it come about that, you said something about they named Hampton Station after ---

ETHEL: Her brothers run horses around Hampton Butte country. And that's how the name of Hampton Buttes and Hampton Station got the name. And I remember one uncle, Uncle Bill, was awful lame, and my mother told me that a horse fell around the Hampton Butte country and broke his hip, and he never did go to the doctor and have it set, so he was always lame, you know.

BARBARA: You say your father worked for the PLS Company ---

ETHEL: PLS Company.

BARBARA: --- as a young man.

ETHEL: Uh huh, yes, he did.

BARBARA: Is that how he made enough money to be able to buy a ranch? I mean how ---

ETHEL: Well, I guess that's the way he did it, yes.

BARBARA: In those days, did you borrow money just to start out to buy a ranch?

ETHEL: Well, he probably did, you know, yes.

BARBARA: We think about today, how would we ever get enough money to buy a ranch, to get

started.

ETHEL: To get started, that's right.

BARBARA: I guess land was not that expensive maybe then.

ETHEL: No, no I imagine it wasn't, it was pretty cheap. I think I heard him say he give five or six hundred dollars, you know, for the place out there. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You can't even buy one acre for that anymore, can you?

DOROTHEA: About where was this at, that was out towards where Doc White is now, is that what you're saying?

ETHEL: Well, yeah, out about, I guess it's about four miles out there. I don't know whether you knew where Ted Graves lived and Mildred?

DOROTHEA: Yes, I did, uh huh.

ETHEL: Well that was the place.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that was the place, oh, okay. That place has changed a lot since your parents lived there.

ETHEL: Yeah, I guess it is. The house is gone I think, and the old barn is gone and all that.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: So, when were your parents married, do you know?

ETHEL: They were married in December of 1896.

BARBARA: Were they married in someone's home, or in a church, or did they go off to Nevada or

ETHEL: I think at her mother's, no, at her mother's house.

BARBARA: At her mother's home.

ETHEL: Uh huh. And that old house is still here. It's up there where Millie Howard and Jim Howard lives, that was my grandmother's house.

DOROTHEA: Oh really?

ETHEL: Uh huh. And it looks just about the same. I think they have remodeled a little, but not much, and that's it.

DOROTHEA: Well, what was school like when you were a child?

ETHEL: When I went to school?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: Well, I started to Poison Creek. And we walked across there about three miles with my three sisters and my older brother.

DOROTHEA: Now is that out where Wes Shepard lives?

ETHEL: Yes, that's where Wes Shepard lives. But we didn't go there but just a short time, that is for me. My older brothers and sisters they went there, you know, for quite awhile. But then we transferred into Burns. And then we drove with buggy and team for a while. Then my father built a home here in Burns, and we moved to town.

DOROTHEA: And where was that?

ETHEL: It's that big house right up, is it Birch Street? Well, let's see there is Main Street, and then the next one to it is Alder isn't it ---

BARBARA: Alvord.

ETHEL: No, it's Alder isn't it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ETHEL: This way.

BARBARA: Oh, this way.

ETHEL: And then, it's the big house right on the corner as you go to turn down Riverside Drive.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

ETHEL: I think that might be Birch Street, I think. But that's where we grew up, up there.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I can't think who lives there now.

ETHEL: Went to school --- I don't know who has got it now.

DOROTHEA: I can't think. I used to know, but it used to be --- oh they had a bunch of boys. I think he worked for the Forest Service or something.

ETHEL: Well Bob Raleigh, you know, lives right on the other side. It's on the other corner.

DOROTHEA: He lives, yeah, on the other side, yeah, yeah.

ETHEL: Yeah. That's the house.

DOROTHEA: No, this guy had a bunch of boys and he worked for the Forest Service, and I can't think of his name, it seemed like. I might have the wrong person yet, but it always had a big family living there it seemed like.

ETHEL: My father had that built. Frank Lazarus built that house for him. That was Delphine Lazarus' father-in-law.

BARBARA: So how many brothers and sisters do you have?

ETHEL: I had four brothers and three sisters. There were eight of us in all.

BARBARA: And what number were you?

ETHEL: Let's see, I was, I had three brothers younger than me, so I must have been the fifth one.

BARBARA: The fifth one.

ETHEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And what were their names?

ETHEL: My brothers and sisters?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: Lulu was the oldest, and my brother Walter was next, Myrtle, Frances, Ethel, Frank, Elmer and Chester.

DOROTHEA: And what are the brothers and sisters still living?

ETHEL: I have Myrtle and Frances, and my brother Elmer.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. But there is still four of you, half of you left.

... (Telephone rings)

DOROTHEA: Where is she calling from?

ETHEL: Over there where she lives.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she lives ---

ETHEL: She lives on the next street.

DOROTHEA: Oh, on the next corner, yeah, yeah, okay.

ETHEL: Uh huh, yeah. So, she probably thinks, well you're pretty good. (Laughter) I told them

when you ladies were coming down; I wanted her and my other sister to come over.

BARBARA: Oh, that would be nice.

ETHEL: My sister is visiting here from Grants Pass. But she went over to visit with her Helen, or her daughter over at Drewsey, you know, so that's where she is.

DOROTHEA: And who is her daughter?

ETHEL: Helen Opie.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Helen Opie, oh. Well you're just related to everybody around here.

ETHEL: Oh yes, yes, I guess so.

BARBARA: We just can't talk about anyone then, can we? (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Now you say your grandfather's name was Milton Riggs. Was he some relation to the Milton Riggs that was married to Helen, later Davis?

ETHEL: That was her brother.

DOROTHEA: That was her brother.

ETHEL: Helen's brother, yeah, Milton.

DOROTHEA: Right, okay. And she was later married to Bob Davis.

ETHEL: She married Bob Davis, and he passed away. And then she married Rhodes, Bob Rhodes. She lives down at Nyssa, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I didn't know where she lived anymore.

ETHEL: Yeah, she called me here the other day. She is the only one left of that family.

DOROTHEA: Oh, is she?

ETHEL: There was four of those children.

DOROTHEA: And that was his sister?

ETHEL: Milton Riggs, Helen was Milton's sister.

DOROTHEA: Sister, okay. And that was ---

ETHEL: They were Matt Rigg's children.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

ETHEL: My mother's brother.

DOROTHEA: Your mother's brother, okay. And they named one of their children then Milton too after the grandfather?

ETHEL: Uh huh, that's right.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: Can you tell us some of the things maybe that happened while you were young and going to school? Maybe something that happened riding in the buggy going to school. Did you have some adventures that way?

ETHEL: Well, other than miring down in the creek, you know, in the spring of the year when the water would get high, when the creeks we had to cross would fill up with water. I remember miring down once going home and had to walk out on the tongue to high ground, you know. But other than that, we didn't have ---

BARBARA: Did you ever have any trouble with your horses or anything like that? They didn't want to go, or ---

ETHEL: No, they were always pretty good, you know.

BARBARA: Did they have a place at the school then to stable the horses?

ETHEL: No, before my father built this big house, there was a corral there, you know, and we would put the horses in the corral there. And then I, when I got out of school early, you know, I would go to my grandmother's house and I would stay there until the older children, the girls come out of school, you know. And then they would pick me up, you know.

DOROTHEA: Well, did you leave them saddled all day, or harnessed up, or ---

ETHEL: No, my brother unharnessed them, and we had feed for them, you know, and water. Then he would harness them up again at night and hook them up to the buggy and we would take off for home.

DOROTHEA: What happened to the horse when you got mired down?

ETHEL: Well, my brother led them out of the ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, out of the mire.

ETHEL: You know, he led them, yeah, they pulled themselves right out.

DOROTHEA: What was school like in those days? I mean did you have one teacher and ---

ETHEL: When I started to Poison Creek, you know, they was just the one teacher in the one big room. And I don't remember just how many pupils they were, I imagine they might have been eight or nine, you know. The Whiting girls, and the Culp girls and ---

DOROTHEA: Do you remember the teacher's name?

ETHEL: No, I don't remember that teacher. And then after I started to school up here, you see, then it was just the one grade, you know, one teacher in each grade. Mrs. Houston was my first-grade teacher up here.

DOROTHEA: And that was at the Burns, what is called the Slater School now?

ETHEL: Yeah, that big old brick building that was up there, you know, I guess they tore it down.

DOROTHEA: Well, they tore down most of it. I think it's still the gym. The gym still exists in the old building. But most of it is gone, yeah.

BARBARA: Who were some of your classmates when you went to the Burns School? Who were some of your friends that maybe you palled around with?

ETHEL: Well Jessie, Jessie Taylor was my chum, you know, and Louise Lewis, and Catherine Gibbs, and Ellen Buchanan, there was quite a bunch --- Wally Welcome, I went to school with Wally Welcome. There is not very many of us here anymore that I was with. Wally and --- I guess and me is about the only ones that lives here now. "Tots" Harkey was one of them.

BARBARA: What are some of the things you did at recess? What kind of games did girls like to play then? Or did you just stand around and talk?

ETHEL: No, we would play tag, you know. And we'd, oh I don't know just what all we did do. About every game that was in them days, you know.

DOROTHEA: Did you jump rope?

ETHEL: And jump rope. Oh yes, I really could jump rope too.

DOROTHEA: You were one of the ---

ETHEL: I could really jump pretty high. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Double ropes too?

ETHEL: Yeah. I liked to jump rope too.

BARBARA: Did you like school?

ETHEL: I liked school, yes, I did. And I liked my teachers, we had good teachers. I remember I went through the second grade, and then I went into the third and the fourth, and then I skipped the fourth grade and went up into the fifth from there. I just went a little bit, and then they put me in the fifth grade then.

DOROTHEA: Did that seem strange to you, or did you just go on and was it real easy for you?

ETHEL: Well it kind of slowed me down a little bit, you know, where you skip the grade.

DOROTHEA: Kind of made learning a little harder?

ETHEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And did you go to high school?

ETHEL: I never went to high school. My father got sick and I had to help with my mother, you know, then. The other girls had married and gone so I was helping my mother.

DOROTHEA: And what did you --- help with the cooking and ---

ETHEL: Yeah, and the housework and things like that.

BARBARA: Was she still on the ranch then, or was she in town?

ETHEL: No, we had moved to town.

BARBARA: Did your family sell the ranch?

ETHEL: Yeah, they sold the ranch. But my brother and father went back as long as he could go. They would go back and forth to the ranch, you know. And then they finally got rid of it because of his health.

BARBARA: And did he work elsewhere then when they came to town? Did he ever have another job?

ETHEL: No, he never could work anymore.

BARBARA: I see.

ETHEL: He got down sick, you know, and was sick for about twenty years I guess.

BARBARA: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Did your mother do cooking or housework then, or ---

ETHEL: She did it all, you know.

DOROTHEA: She did it.

ETHEL: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did she ever work outside of the home?

ETHEL: Oh no, my mother worked outside at all.

BARBARA: So, the kids then had to kind of go out and earn a little money to help the family, did they?

ETHEL: Yeah. My sisters used to work in the hay fields, you know. And my oldest sister worked in the telephone office for years, you know, before she married and moved to Winnemucca. I had two sisters marry brothers and they moved to Winnemucca and lived.

DOROTHEA: And talking about married, you were married to Pete Elmore.

ETHEL: Pete Elmore.

DOROTHEA: And how did you meet him?

ETHEL: At the dances.

DOROTHEA: At the dances.

ETHEL: At the dances. Oh yeah, we loved to dance, you know, and I really loved to dance.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about the ---

ETHEL: Went to the dances up at the old Tonawama Hall, you know. That's where I met Pete.

BARBARA: And how long did you go with him before you were married? What kind of a courtship did you have?

ETHEL: Oh, I imagine I went with him about a year before we married.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us some of the funny things that happened while you were courting? Or did anything happen?

ETHEL: Yeah. (Laughter) Well, I went out with another fellow and he come to get me, you know, and I had gone to the show with another guy.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

ETHEL: (Laughter) So that kind of made things --- But it was just all in fun though. We patched it up and went ahead and got married.

DOROTHEA: And when did you get married?

ETHEL: Oh, lets see in '29, 1929.

DOROTHEA: 1929.

ETHEL: In March, in March of '29. And we married here at the Baptist Church, and Rev.

Waterhouse was the minister that married us.

DOROTHEA: And did you have kind of a shivaree, they used to give a lot of shivarees in those days.

ETHEL: Yeah, I know they did. No, they didn't shivaree --- there was a few of the neighbors came in after --- we went to Boise and was married.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

ETHEL: Or I mean for our honeymoon, I mean.

DOROTHEA: After you were married.

ETHEL: We was married up here, and we drove an old Model-T Ford. And then there wasn't any road, highway through like it is now. We had to go to John Day and down that way to go to Boise.

BARBARA: Is that right?

ETHEL: That was the way the highway was then.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: But we went to Boise on our honeymoon, and come back and then we went to work.

DOROTHEA: How long did it take you to drive to Boise that way?

ETHEL: Well we left, I think we was married along in the, about 2 o'clock, and I think we got into Boise about --- oh it was evening when we got to Boise.

DOROTHEA: You got there the same day?

ETHEL: Yeah, oh yes.

BARBARA: So, did he have the car then when you got married, or was some of the family?

ETHEL: Oh yes. He had, no, he had bought a brand-new Model-T, Roadster, it was a Roadster.

DOROTHEA: Had he bought that here in Burns?

ETHEL: He had bought that here in Burns, when he worked; he worked at the Island Ranch, you know, for the PLS Company. And he took the money and bought it from, I imagine the Ford Garage that sold the Fords.

DOROTHEA: I imagine McGowan or somebody.

ETHEL: Yeah, I imagine it was Archie McGowan.

BARBARA: Was he a ranch hand for the PLS, did he work horses, or

ETHEL: He buckarood, he buckarood, he was quite a --- well he done everything. Hauled lumber from Lowe's Mill up there with a mule team. And he'd haul lumber to the Island Ranch. And he buckarood and worked cattle with them, you know, and he worked there for quite a long, quite a few years, you know.

BARBARA: And did you have children?

ETHEL: I had one girl, Bonnie Smith; she is married to Jack Smith now.

DOROTHEA: They have a ranch out at Harney. Have they always lived out there?

ETHEL: Yes. Jack's mother, you know, lived --- Jack's mother had a ranch out there, and they got one down just below the ranch out there.

DOROTHEA: And what was her name?

ETHEL: Ole Smith.

DOROTHEA: Ole.

ETHEL: Ole and Frank Smith.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

ETHEL: Bonnie lived on the ranch there with them for a while. And finally, she died, Mrs. Smith did, and Frank sold the ranch then to Don Toelle, you know. That's where Don Toelle lives. And Bonnie and Jack started up on another ranch down below there. That's where ---

BARBARA: So, they didn't have the original family homestead then?

ETHEL: No, no.

BARBARA: They bought their own.

ETHEL: Uh huh.

BARBARA: What are some of the things that you did as a young married person? Did you go to work then too?

ETHEL: Well I went --- the first year we were married he took contract down there putting up hay and I cooked for the crew in Potter Swamp. They put up that hay. Then he went to work for the Edward Hines, Pete did. And then we got this place here, and we just had a little two-room house for quite a long while. And then we finally built this house here. But I never worked out then, you know, at all. Pete worked and made the living for ---

BARBARA: What was it like cooking for a hay crew?

ETHEL: Oh, it wasn't bad at all.

BARBARA: Did you have a little camp or cook shack or --- on a trailer?

ETHEL: We had a, we had kind of a, yeah, the company furnished kind of a cook wagon, you know, it was. It wasn't really nothing extra then, you know. And, but it was handy enough, you know. Didn't have too big a crew.

DOROTHEA: How did they eat, I mean did you have a cabin that they ate in, or ---

ETHEL: No, right in that little cook shack, you know.

DOROTHEA: In the cook shack.

ETHEL: Well, the cook wagon we called.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ETHEL: And I think there was, well then, we had a place where we slept out in a tent I guess it was them days.

BARBARA: What did you feed them?

ETHEL: Well beef, and meat and potatoes, and just good wholesome food.

BARBARA: Did you enjoy cooking?

ETHEL: Oh yes, I always loved to cook.

BARBARA: Make beans?

ETHEL: And beans and pies.

BARBARA: How did you make your beans? What did you put with them?

ETHEL: Oh, I would just cook bacon, put bacon in them. Sometimes I put a can of tomatoes in them, you know, and season them up that way.

DOROTHEA: Did you have beans every meal?

ETHEL: Not every meal.

DOROTHEA: Not every meal.

ETHEL: No, not every meal.

DOROTHEA: Because at my ---

ETHEL: We kind of changed off, you know, and had lots of meat and potatoes and ---

BARBARA: Gravy?

ETHEL: And gravy.

BARBARA: Did you make biscuits too?

ETHEL: Biscuits, yeah, we had biscuits for breakfast, you know.

DOROTHEA: What was a normal day like in the hay field? I mean you were the cook, but what was your normal day like?

ETHEL: Well, you started out pretty early of a morning, you know, to get breakfast. And kept you busy.

DOROTHEA: Did they eat at 6 o'clock, and 12 o'clock, and 6 o'clock, or what were their hours?

ETHEL: Yes. No, that was about what they did, 6 o'clock breakfast, and noon, and then about 6 o'clock in the evening when they would have the ---

DOROTHEA: So, you would have to get up about four in order to ---

ETHEL: Yeah, well about 4:30, 5 o'clock.

DOROTHEA: In order to have breakfast on.

ETHEL: To have the breakfast ready for them, you know.

DOROTHEA: Did you have to pack water and things, or ---

ETHEL: Yes, I did then, you know, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did you have barrels of water, or how did you pack your water?

ETHEL: Yeah that's what we had, we had a barrel that we, we kept a barrel filled up. That was in the, when I cooked there. I just did that one season there in summertime.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you just cooked for the hayers?

ETHEL: Yeah, just that one summer, you know.

DOROTHEA: One summer. And then what did you do? You moved into town?

ETHEL: Yes, then we moved in here, uh huh. And Pete worked at the mill, and I just kept house here, you know. And then after Pete passed away, you know, in 1948 ---

DOROTHEA: Well, did he get ill or ---

ETHEL: He had a sudden heart attack.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he did?

ETHEL: Uh huh. And then in about a year later I married Jess Kalkbrenner, you know. And then is when I hired out for the road crew, you know, for the county, and I worked for seventeen years there, you know.

DOROTHEA: And what did he do?

ETHEL: He was a heavy equipment operator, and he started out, and then he got to be the road foreman, you know, under Herb Fawcett.

DOROTHEA: For the county?

ETHEL: Uh huh, for the county, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Where all did you live while you were working?

ETHEL: Then I think I moved all over Harney County with the ---

DOROTHEA: With the road crew?

ETHEL: Wherever the road needed repaired, you know, or build a new roads. And they had, the county had a big, it was a big cook wagon.

BARBARA: I didn't realize that they would feed out on a job like that. Now you think of people just going out to work wherever the job is, and then you come back to town at night.

ETHEL: Well, that's the way they do now, yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: They don't, there was a girl told me that they never take the cookhouse out anymore.

BARBARA: Uh huh, uh huh.

ETHEL: But we took the cookhouse out, and we had the big cookhouse. And then we had a smaller one where we slept. And then the big bunkhouse for the men to sleep in.

BARBARA: Well that's interesting.

ETHEL: And my first job was down there at Follyfarm. I think that was in 1952 when I started out. And we had to carry water then and kept it in a big can there. And my hot water was a big kettle that was on the back of the stove. But we did have a butane stove, you know, we used the butane stove. And the gas lanterns for lights. And as time went on though, we had, we got a little more modern, they finally got a light plant, you know, and piped the water into the cook house whenever we could, you know. So that was a great improvement. And I hadn't been at Follyfarm but about three days; we had moved in there, when one of those wind storms come. And the sand just blew everything full of sand. The table was just coated with sand, you know.

BARBARA: Oh my.

ETHEL: And the little outhouses we had was blowed down, you know. So, it was quite an experience, you know. But that wasn't the only time that I was in those storms either. After then we moved, well we didn't move from Follyfarm then, we moved back to the Double O I think it was, and Silver Creek, and several different places. And then we moved down next, pretty close to the Mann Lake Ranch. And we got up on the hill there, they put it up on the hill, and one of those storms come down there. Oh, it really blew. It would just pick up those butane tanks that were empty, and you know they are quite heavy, and it would just throw them around like toothpicks.

BARBARA: Oh my.

DOROTHEA: Had little hurricanes then, or tornados or whatever ---

ETHEL: I tell you, that was the cleanest camp I think we ever had because the wind would just sweep it just like a --- But it really blew. Then I was camped on the Alvord Desert once, and I

looked out across the desert and I thought well here comes three men a horseback. And I watched, and they never got any closer, and they never got any closer. And I guess it was one of those mirages, you know, that they ---

BARBARA: Oh dear.

ETHEL: They never did come. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You were really seeing things, huh?

ETHEL: Yeah.

BARBARA: So, did you do this just in the summertime, or was it a year-round kind of thing?

ETHEL: Well, sometimes it's on how the weather was. If in bad storms, you know, in the winter why then they laid off. And then I'd be home maybe two or three months during the winter and then start out again in the summer. And that's the way we worked that.

DOROTHEA: How did they pick where you were going to set up camp?

ETHEL: Herb Fawcett, he was the roadmaster, you know, and he went ahead and would pick the places to camp.

DOROTHEA: And that's where you stayed during the whole ---

ETHEL: Uh huh. Until we finished the road, yes.

DOROTHEA: Road session, or whatever.

ETHEL: We made a lot of roads there. We made that one into Drewsey, and ---

DOROTHEA: So, you always stayed at the same place? Now like if they, you didn't start at one place and follow the crew up the road? Or you mostly stayed at one place?

ETHEL: No, no, whenever they repaired that stretch of road why I stayed right there until the road was finished, you know. Maybe it would take a couple, or three months maybe. And then we moved on. And when I --- when I first started out why you didn't have too big a crew, until it was just the equipment operators, you know, the blades and the cats. And then they had to put on the trucks to haul the gravel when the road, when they got the roadbed graded up, you know. Then they would put the trucks on, and there would be seven or eight trucks so then I would have a big crew, you know.

But as times went on, why then they got more modern, they got equipment that would take the place of those trucks, you know. And you didn't have so many; you didn't have so many truck drivers then to cook for.

BARBARA: You said you made pies too?

ETHEL: Oh yes, pies, cakes, everything that, everything that was good. I had a good crew, and I never had any trouble with my crew at all. They ate anything, and they were good.

DOROTHEA: How did you get your groceries? Did you do the shopping, or ---

ETHEL: My husband and I come, we come in on the weekends, you know, we'd --- we had Saturday and Sundays off. And we bought the groceries on Sunday and would go back down at Tiller's, and then we'd go back to camp, you know.

But like when we was camped at Drewsey, they had a good store in Drewsey and we bought our groceries at Drewsey. And the same way in Diamond Valley, they had a good store in Diamond and we went down there. And the Fields Station, you know, down there they had a good store. Bill Finley run the store at Fields. And the same way over in Catlow Valley, why we traded at Frenchglen. Wherever we were camped, you know, we patronized the little stores, you know, to help them out too.

BARBARA: ... public relations then too when you gave your business to them.

ETHEL: Uh huh, that's right, that's right. And if I needed anything extra why when they would come to town for supplies why the storekeepers would get something extra, what I needed, you know.

DOROTHEA: What kind of supplies did you have to have, did you have to have several gallons of milk, or ---

ETHEL: I bought in case lots, you know.

DOROTHEA: In case lots?

ETHEL: Uh huh. Yes. And the county furnished the meat, and beef, you know, and we had it, or they would have it butchered and put it in the cold storage. Then we'd pick up great big baskets of meat, you know, and we did have a refrigerator, and I could keep it with a little cold storage up

above, and I could keep a week's supply, you know. So, it worked out pretty good. But I enjoyed my cooking days. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you have any hobbies or things that you did in your spare time while you were there?

ETHEL: Oh yes, yes, in spare time I liked to embroidery, and I made lots of pillowcases and done a lot of embroidery work and things like that.

BARBARA: Did your mother teach you how to embroidery, or do you remember?

ETHEL: I think my sisters did, yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: But I never crocheted. My eyes weren't too good, and my sisters they done the crocheting for me. And when I'd embroidery these pillow cases then my oldest sister she would put the edging on them for me. So, I had some pretty pillowcases and tablecloths and things I made while I was ---

BARBARA: Did you learn to sew as a girl? Did you make your own dresses or blouses?

ETHEL: I never, when I was a girl, but after I married then I went to sewing when I had the little girl, you know. I made all of her clothes for her. When she went to high school, I made her prom dresses and all that.

BARBARA: Oh, that's neat.

ETHEL: She was in Rainbow, and I made her, for the advisor dress for her, you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: But ---

BARBARA: When was Bonnie born? Did she ever go out on these road trips with you too as a girl?

ETHEL: No, she was married then.

BARBARA: She was married then, I see.

ETHEL: Yes. Bonnie was born in 1934.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And when did she get married?

ETHEL: I think around '52 I guess it was. After she married then, I went on the road.

BARBARA: I see. Got rid of the girl, so you just went ---

ETHEL: So, I went out on the road.

BARBARA: Did Bonnie go to college? Was she able to go to college?

ETHEL: No, she didn't go to college. She graduated up here at the high school. She got married. She was going to be a nurse, you know, even had signed up for Good Samaritan Hospital, you know, for training. But she decided to get married instead.

BARBARA: And how did she go about getting her business things so that --- she uses in the bank. Did she start out as a teller; was that one of her first jobs with the bank?

ETHEL: Uh huh. She started out as a teller, yes.

BARBARA: And then just took training from the bank?

ETHEL: From there, that's what she did.

BARBARA: To move on up?

ETHEL: And when Jack was in the Service, you see, then she worked in the Dime Store in Long Beach, when they was stationed down there.

DOROTHEA: She moved with him when he went into the Service, she went with him?

ETHEL: Yes, she went, let's see his first one was, I think, at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, you know. She went down there to him, and I think that was the first time. And then they moved up to Long Beach or wherever he was transferred.

DOROTHEA: Let's pause for a moment while we turn the tape over.

SIDE B

BARBARA: ... grandchildren I mean?

ETHEL: No, no grandchildren.

BARBARA: Bonnie didn't have any?

ETHEL: No, she didn't have children.

BARBARA: So, I noticed that she is, that she is the assistant manager, is that correct, at the bank here?

ETHEL: Yes, she is assistant manager.

BARBARA: And would she have to move if she were to move on up then in the ranks of the bank, to another bank or town?

ETHEL: She probably would if she was offered, you know, but now she is getting pretty close to retiring, you know.

BARBARA: I see.

ETHEL: So, I don't think she'd have to do that.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: What do your sisters and brother do? You say one of them lives in Grants Pass.

ETHEL: My sister lives in Grants Pass, we're all retired.

DOROTHEA: You're all retired.

ETHEL: We're all eighty; we're all eighty and passed. My youngest, my brother Elmer, he was eighty just here the 29th of May. And then I'm next, I'm eighty-four, and my sister Frances is eighty-six, and my other sister is eighty-nine.

BARBARA: That's wonderful.

ETHEL: So, we're all in our eighties.

BARBARA: You're long lived then, aren't you?

ETHEL: (Laughter) You know it used to be kind of, they was five of us then I think, maybe all, let's see, maybe more than that, maybe six of us. But my sister used to have to go up to Dr. Snook, you know, and he was just amazed that there was so many of us and we was all in our seventies and eighties. (Laughter) He couldn't hardly believe it.

BARBARA: He wanted to know your secret.

ETHEL: He couldn't hardly believe that we were all living, you know, and all of us in seventies and eighties.

BARBARA: Yeah. Well, I was going to ask you, after you were on the road crews and everything, then you retired from that, you came back to stay in Burns?

ETHEL: I retired here, yes.

BARBARA: And what did your husband do then?

ETHEL: And then my husband he was retired too.

BARBARA: He was retired too?

ETHEL: He got sick and --- Oh he worked I guess about a year after we retired, that is he went back for the county. He always worked for the county.

BARBARA: You didn't say how you happened to meet him.

ETHEL: I met him at a dance.

BARBARA: At a dance too, huh?

ETHEL: Yeah, we was dancing. (Laughter) I met him at the dances, yeah. He come from South Dakota.

BARBARA: Oh, did you know him when you were previously married? I mean was ---

ETHEL: No, no, no he came to this country about the time my husband died.

BARBARA: It was after that.

ETHEL: When Pete died.

DOROTHEA: And you just kept right on dancing, huh?

ETHEL: Yeah. And I would yet, if I could. (Laughter) I love to dance.

BARBARA: What are some of the things that you have done since you retired?

ETHEL: Well I ---

BARBARA: Do you belong to any organizations, or church groups, or things?

ETHEL: I was in the Rebekahs, you know, but I took a withdrawal because I wasn't around, you know, to attend the meetings. But I went all through the chairs in the Rebekahs, you know. So, I just made my --- I loved yard work, you know, I loved to work in the yard.

And then my oldest sister got sick and I took care of her. And then my brother, I had my brother here for over a year until he passed away. He got sick too, you know. So, I've been kind of busy anyway. And go out and cook for Bonnie and Jack in haying, you know.

BARBARA: Oh, uh huh.

ETHEL: I used to always go and cook for them through haying, while they hayed, I done the

cooking for them.

BARBARA: How many people did they have come to help?

ETHEL: But they didn't --- well they didn't have only about, maybe one extra, you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: Not over four.

BARBARA: But it's just nice not for them to have to come in and do that then?

ETHEL: Uh huh. Well yes, you know.

BARBARA: Well, that's really nice.

ETHEL: I would be out there now, but then Bonnie said oh maybe it would be a little too much for me. So, she ---

BARBARA: You say you like yard work, did you have a garden too?

ETHEL: Oh yeah, I used to make a little garden out here too.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did you put up vegetables and things?

ETHEL: And can, oh yes, I used to can lots for Bonnie and I both, you know. I put up fruit for her. Go over there and pick cherries at Kimberly, and peaches, you know, and can them up.

BARBARA: And did you do much traveling when you were married, other than being out on your work crews and things? Vacations ---

ETHEL: Well when I was married to, my first marriage to Pete, we didn't do much traveling other than going to see my sisters down at Nevada. And, but when I was married to Jess we went back to South Dakota and we traveled around quite a bit then, you know, different places, Montana and places back that way.

DOROTHEA: Did you get your vacations at the same time so that ---

ETHEL: Yeah. They would --- well sometimes they would shut the crew down, and everybody took a vacation. Then if they didn't do that, then they would hire a woman to come in and cook for me while we got a couple weeks vacation.

DOROTHEA: And that's when you did your traveling?

ETHEL: Uh huh, that's when we went back to South Dakota and back that way, yeah.

BARBARA: Your families, as you grew up a little bit, did your families get together for reunions? The ones that had moved away did they come back for family reunions?

ETHEL: Yes, oh yeah, the girls always come back and we'd all get together, you know, pretty often. We were a very close-knit family, you know.

BARBARA: Did your other sisters and brothers, did they have large families or small ones like you?

ETHEL: Well, my oldest sister just had the one boy. And my sister Frances had two girls, and my brother had three children. And another brother had just one. So, there wasn't --- three I think my youngest brother had more than any, he had three.

BARBARA: Well maybe growing up in a big family they decided they didn't want all those kids around like when you were growing up, huh?

ETHEL: (Laughter) I guess so. Oh, we had a wonderful mother and father though. My mother was hard of hearing, you know, and we'd talk to her, or she could read lips, you know.

BARBARA: Did you play; have music in your home as you were growing up? Did someone play the piano or accordion or banjo?

ETHEL: Well, not too much. We wasn't too much that way, you know.

DOROTHEA: You weren't musically inclined, just danced a lot, huh?

ETHEL: Just danced a lot. (Laughter)

BARBARA: What are some of your hobbies now that you have retired? What kind of things do you like to do?

ETHEL: Well I still like to embroidery and make quilts. And you know, yard work.

DOROTHEA: I see you have a lot of bird figurines.

ETHEL: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: You must like birds.

ETHEL: I love birds, and I like my horses up there.

BARBARA: And plates, you've got ---

ETHEL: Well, I'm a plate collector too.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: I started out collecting Norman Rockwell. I've got a lot of the Norman Rockwell. And I've got a lot of, I've got all the mother goose plates there, there is eight of them. And ---

BARBARA: You have some dolls.

ETHEL: So, I've kind of drawed the line about collecting, I'm getting too many of them. And Bonnie gives me those Mother's Day plates, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: They are Danish, and I've got them in the kitchen there, a whole wall of them. I've got every one of them since 1969.

BARBARA: Oh, my goodness, that's wonderful.

ETHEL: (Laughter) Yeah.

BARBARA: You have some beautiful things, really nice. Takes you probably all day to dust them.

ETHEL: Well, they need dusting too, you know. There is a lot of dust.

BARBARA: Well in Harney County, we all have lots of dust in our homes, I think.

ETHEL: And that doll collection belonged to my oldest sister, and she gave them to me.

BARBARA: Oh, that's nice.

ETHEL: I love dolls, I kind of had a small collection too, but she had a little more than I did.

DOROTHEA: You have a, quite a menagerie of collections. You have dogs ---

ETHEL: Well my husband liked the dogs, that was his. And mine was the horses. And the wildlife, the zebras and those they were just both of us I guess.

DOROTHEA: You have saddles and bridles on all of those. Did you make those?

ETHEL: No, they come, they were on there.

DOROTHEA: They came with them.

ETHEL: Yes, I think they came --- Some of them don't have them. But I loved horses, you know, and do yet.

BARBARA: Did you ride as a young girl?

ETHEL: Oh yeah, we all had horses, you know, and rode when we ---

BARBARA: Did each one have a special horse? Can you remember your horse's names?

ETHEL: Yes, we did, we did. We had our ponies. I remember my sister; we had a little mare called Molly. She was kind of an ornery little thing. And Frances and I had gone in the barn and we got on her to ride her down to the watering trough. And as we went out the door, the barn door, my other sister Myrtle hit her over the rear end with a, I think with a romal or something, and she threwed us both off, and I hit the beam on the barn and knocked me out, and I was out all afternoon.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh, my word.

ETHEL: Never brought me to the doctor, you know.

DOROTHEA: Just let you lay out.

BARBARA: If she lives, she lives.

ETHEL: That's it. I remember when Mama put me in bed, you know, I laid there all afternoon.

BARBARA: For heavens sakes. Have a big lump on your head, did you?

ETHEL: Yeah, kind of dizzy I guess.

BARBARA: Kind of playing tricks on one another. Do you remember some of the, maybe tricks that brothers and sisters played on one another?

ETHEL: Well they was always a playing tricks on each other about something. I can't remember just now what some of them were.

DOROTHEA: You have a rug down there; did you make that?

ETHEL: No, my sister Myrtle made that.

DOROTHEA: Your sister made that. Looks like it's a ---

ETHEL: It's made out of wool pieces.

DOROTHEA: Oh, is it?

ETHEL: It has to be wool to make it stand up, you know. She tried it with other material, but it won't stand up. But they are made of wool. My sister Lulu I think started that, and she got it from them. But she had, my sister Lulu had some awful pretty ones. But her boy took those after she passed on.

DOROTHEA: And how do you spell that, is it L U L U?

ETHEL: L U L U.

DOROTHEA: L U L U.

ETHEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: There is L U L U, and there is L U L A, and so you ---

ETHEL: She had one boy, and he lives in Albuquerque. He's coming up in August to see me I guess.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Were many of your family able to come for the Pioneer Day Celebration when you were Queen Mother this year?

ETHEL: Just that one sister from Grants Pass came, was all.

DOROTHEA: How was your day down there?

ETHEL: You mean Pioneer Day?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: Oh, I really enjoyed it, I really enjoyed it.

DOROTHEA: Were you able to dance at all? Or did you just get to watch?

ETHEL: No, I never went to the dance.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you didn't go to the dance.

ETHEL: No, I didn't go, I didn't go to the dance. But I really enjoyed it, and I met quite a few that I hadn't seen for a long time, you know. There was a big crowd over there. It was really nice.

DOROTHEA: Do you go to the Pioneer Day Celebrations every year?

ETHEL: I hadn't been over there for a --- no I hadn't. I hadn't been to a Pioneer for quite a long time.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about how you are chosen as a Pioneer Queen Mother? Are you chosen down the line, or ---?

ETHEL: Now I just don't know about that, you know. Twyla Turner, you know, she called me and told me, she asked me to be that. She says your name is at the top of the list. But I don't know

whether they take the year that you are born, or I really don't know how they pick the Queen Mother.

DOROTHEA: I guess some day we will find out if any of us ever get chosen, well we can ask.

ETHEL: Yeah, that's right. You're a pioneer, aren't you?

DOROTHEA: Oh, I'm a pioneer, but I haven't gone very much.

ETHEL: Well that's kind of the way with me. I never went too much, you know. I used to go when I was a little girl. My mother always liked to go, and I used to take her when she was a living. And they used to have it up there at the courthouse, you know. And they had it at the courthouse lawn.

DOROTHEA: Had a big picnic.

ETHEL: They had it outside.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Is that right?

ETHEL: Uh huh. Everybody brought something, you know, and it was on the lawn, I remember that. But now it's nice. And then they had it up there once at the, I went up to the museum clubroom. They had it up there a few times.

DOROTHEA: Several years, yeah.

ETHEL: I think I went up there twice, up there. When Jack got to be a pioneer he wanted to go, so we went up there.

DOROTHEA: Is Bonnie a pioneer?

ETHEL: Oh yeah, she is a pioneer, fifty-eight years. (Laughter) Oh yeah.

BARBARA: Was Bonnie involved in a lot of school things when she was going to school here?

ETHEL: Yes, she was. She was in ---

BARBARA: You mentioned Rainbow.

ETHEL: In the Rainbow, and the Pep Peppers.

BARBARA: Did you have to travel around with her to games and things? Did you take them to ball games?

ETHEL: Well, I never went too much, but some of the others, you know, that she was with would take her and I didn't go. But I went to all of her, everything that was here, you know, I would always go to her doings and things.

DOROTHEA: Well the Pep Peppers were the --- oh let's see ---

ETHEL: Oh, they marched in front of the band, you know.

DOROTHEA: In the plaid, in the plaid outfits, weren't they? Uh huh.

ETHEL: Yeah.

BARBARA: How has the town changed since you were a child? What do you think of Burns as changing?

ETHEL: Well, it's changed quite a bit. A lot more buildings, you know. I can remember when we didn't have any lights, you know, and everybody had a well. We got our water out of the, out in the back yard at the well. So, it's come a long ways since then.

DOROTHEA: What was some of the first things that you can remember you got when the electricity came to town?

ETHEL: Probably an iron.

DOROTHEA: An iron.

ETHEL: (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: How about an electric stove?

ETHEL: No, I didn't get an electric stove for a long, long time. In fact, I was still cooking for the county when I got my electric stove. I had a big range stove, you know, and that's what I used.

BARBARA: A wood stove?

ETHEL: Uh huh, a wood stove.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Oh, and didn't it get hot in the summertime?

ETHEL: And I didn't --- Oh yes, you bet it did.

DOROTHEA: That's when you only build fires, little fires to cook fast.

ETHEL: Yeah, that's right. But no, I didn't get an electric stove for a long time. Washing machine probably too. I used to have the old gas washer.

BARBARA: A gas washer.

ETHEL: Uh huh. Fill up the gasoline engine and step on it, and start the little engine and it would run the washing machine.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

ETHEL: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Was it an old ---

BARBARA: I don't believe I've ever seen one.

DOROTHEA: Was it an old round tub?

ETHEL: Yeah. In fact, I've got one of the tubs, the tub to it out there with some flowers planted in it.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right? That's a good place for it.

ETHEL: Yeah.

BARBARA: You mentioned having a wood cook stove. Was it hard to regulate the heat like in cooking bread, or pies ---

ETHEL: Yeah, you had to ---

BARBARA: --- or things? Did you really have to watch it?

ETHEL: Uh huh. Yeah, you had to watch it pretty close, you know. But it was a nice oven, you know, and it baked bread really nice.

DOROTHEA: Did you do a lot of bread baking?

ETHEL: Oh yes, I used to make light bread all the time.

DOROTHEA: Out on the ---

ETHEL: Even on the road, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Road.

ETHEL: I baked once a week, you know, sometimes twice a week.

DOROTHEA: Did that last you all week then? Make enough to last all week?

ETHEL: Well yes, just about. I'd make biscuits, you know, hot rolls all the time.

BARBARA: Did they have the old pumps in the middle, or wells in the middle of the street for

fires and stuff when you were a child?

ETHEL: I can just barely remember that. I remember when the livery stable got on fire. I think that was in 1914, and burnt up a lot of horses, you know. Us kids, we used to come down by there a lot because it was right next door up there where we had the big house, it was right close. And we'd pick out a favorite horse, you know, and we felt real bad about that when they burned up.

BARBARA: Did they lose a lot of horses then?

ETHEL: Burned up, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Now that was about where the TV place is now.

ETHEL: I think, yes right in there.

DOROTHEA: Right in that area.

ETHEL: Right in, yeah, right in there was where it was at.

BARBARA: Hard to think of a livery stable being in that part of town, doesn't it?

ETHEL: Right in town.

DOROTHEA: Right in town.

BARBARA: Times have changed.

ETHEL: Yeah, right in town.

BARBARA: Do you remember some of the other big fires in town? Like maybe the Arrowhead or the Welcome Hotel or ---

ETHEL: Oh, I remember, oh yes, I remember the Arrowhead, or the Welcome Hotel when it burned down, you know, it burned all day. I think that fire burned all day, it seemed like. They just couldn't get it out or something. And then the Arrowhead, I knew when it burned down.

We never had any fires in our home, you know. My grandmother burned out lots of, you know, she had lots of burnouts I guess. But our family never had any burnouts.

BARBARA: We've had some people telling us about when it would get really cold in the winters, and pipes would freeze, they'd torch them up, and then they'd set the house on fire.

ETHEL: Yes, that could be easy done with blowtorches, you know.

BARBARA: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: How were some of the winters that you remember, were they really cold, or ---

ETHEL: Oh yes. Seems like the winters when we were all kids on the ranch, they were cold and lots of snow, you know.

BARBARA: Lots of snow.

DOROTHEA: A lot deeper I think than it gets now.

ETHEL: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Because I remember even as a kid myself, we used to have piles and piles of snow, you know, and they'd have to blade the roads in order for us to even get through them.

ETHEL: Oh yes, uh huh. We sure need that now, you know.

DOROTHEA: Very seldom have that bad now.

ETHEL: We sure need it now; the ground is so dry, you know. But yes, and then I remember the one year we had such an outbreak of the flu, you know, I think that was in 1918 and the schools had to close. We all stayed on the ranch, you know, they shut the schools and everything up. Nobody could come to town; they had ropes across the lanes out there.

BARBARA: Is that right?

ETHEL: They didn't want anybody coming into town because of that outbreak of that flu that time. We stayed on the ranch and never had it. Then the next year we moved to town and all of us got down.

BARBARA: ... germs.

DOROTHEA: Germs.

ETHEL: And we all got down but my father. And he tried to take care of us, and then that old lame uncle that I was a telling you about that broke his hip out there at Hampton Butte, he'd come and help us too, you know. He was staying that winter with my grandmother. But it was kind of bad.

BARBARA: The doctors just kind of make the rounds trying to help people as much as they could?

ETHEL: Uh huh. That was when Dr. Smith first come to Burns was that year.

BARBARA: That was Bob Smith's father?

ETHEL: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And what year was that?

ETHEL: Well, it must have been around 1918; it was when the war was first ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, was he here that long?

ETHEL: Uh huh. He had first come, and I remember my dad got him to come down, we had another old doctor, Geary, was taking care of us and he was quite old. And my sister Myrtle got the pneumonia and we had to take her out of the house to the hospital. And the hospital was up there where Sandy Anderson's house is, you know, that was the Catholic Hospital. And we took Myrtle up there with the pneumonia, you know, and Dr. Smith took over then I remember.

BARBARA: Now where was this house?

ETHEL: I think Mrs. --- its Crider's Foster Home now up there, you know.

DOROTHEA: Where Ronnie and "Tykie" (Melva) McLean are.

ETHEL: Yeah, McLean they have it now, yes.

DOROTHEA: It's up, about a block up above the old Penney's Store, which is the Farm Store now.

ETHEL: Uh huh. Sandy Anderson had his shoe shop up there for a long time, he lived there.

BARBARA: What were some of the businesses you remember on Main Street, or whatever, that you used to go to, or beauty shop, or---

ETHEL: Brown's Store, I never remember any beauty shops.

BARBARA: You didn't have perms as a young girl?

ETHEL: Well yeah, I guess I got a perm before I married, you know. There was Mrs. Fred Haines started up a beauty shop down there close to, oh where would it be, next, next down there from the Ford Garage I think there was a little place that she had a shop.

BARBARA: Was it the hot, the hot perms?

ETHEL: Oh yes.

BARBARA: That burned your head?

ETHEL: You know they had to watch them awful close.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Not like they are now. Put ourselves through a lot at that time, didn't we, just to get beautiful?

DOROTHEA: Did they have, was that when the Beauty Nook came in?

ETHEL: Well yeah, it was before the Beauty Nook.

DOROTHEA: Before the Beauty Nook.

ETHEL: Mrs. Fred Haines had it. And I don't quite remember just who the others were that had it later on.

DOROTHEA: That was quite a discovery of giving perms, wasn't it? I mean, you know, what would we do now without our curls?

ETHEL: That's right. (Laughter)

BARBARA: I can remember as a little girl my mother used to have a kerosene lamp and a hot iron, and she would stick it down ---

ETHEL: Oh yes.

BARBARA: She'd stick it down in the ---

ETHEL: And curl your hair. Oh yeah, we did that.

BARBARA: --- and get it hot and then she would curl my hair when I was just a little girl like that. Or tie it up in rags at night, and I'd sleep on the rags.

ETHEL: Yeah, that's right, I remember those too.

DOROTHEA: My mother didn't put it in the lamp, she laid it on the wood stove and it would get so hot, and you'd put it on your hair and it would just go "psst", and you wouldn't have any hair then.

ETHEL: I bet, it burnt it.

DOROTHEA: It would just --- there was your curl, right on that curling iron.

BARBARA: Oh gosh.

ETHEL: Then when Bonnie was a baby, my sister Frances, she was good at finger waving, you know. And she'd finger wave Bonnie's hair. She didn't have much hair, but Frances used to finger

wave Bonnie's hair and it really looked nice.

DOROTHEA: They did a lot of finger waving in those --- a lot of ladies wore their hair that way.

BARBARA: Did you go to movies a lot as a young married person?

ETHEL: Yes, we did, we used to go to the movies, the old Liberty Theater up there. Let's see, it would be in there where Cyc Presley's Service Station was, in there, they used to be.

DOROTHEA: Or the Texaco on the hill is.

ETHEL: Yeah, you know, that we used to go to the movies.

BARBARA: Go to cowboy movies mostly was it?

ETHEL: Oh, any kind.

BARBARA: Any kind that came.

ETHEL: Oh, any kind that come along.

DOROTHEA: Were they silent then, or were they ---

ETHEL: They were silent yes, and Henrietta Bardwell and her husband Eggleston, they would play the music, you know. They furnished the music for those theaters for years, you know.

BARBARA: What did they play ---

ETHEL: They played, she played the piano ---

BARBARA: --- piano or organ?

ETHEL: --- and he would, Alex Eggleston played the violin, and they furnished the music along, and you would watch the old black and white movies, you know.

DOROTHEA: With the words underneath it?

ETHEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And the bouncing ball?

ETHEL: Oh yeah, it was quite something.

BARBARA: What kind of Fourth of July celebrations did they have then, or fairs, or parades?

ETHEL: Oh yes, they would always have a Fourth of July, a parade, you know, and a float with horses. We used to ride the floats, the school kids, you know, would ride the floats.

DOROTHEA: Did they have many fire works and that in the earlier days?

ETHEL: I don't remember too many fire works. But my father always brought us into the Fourth of July celebrations.

DOROTHEA: Did they have dances and picnics or ---

ETHEL: Well I imagine, I don't remember the dances then, I was too small, you know. But I do remember the parades, and the band. We had a band, you know.

BARBARA: Did you go to the fairs and rodeos out at the fairgrounds too?

ETHEL: Yes, we used to have ---

BARBARA: Were you interested in that?

ETHEL: Yes, I was, I used to like to go down there. They used to have quite big fairs. I guess, well about like they do now I think. Then they changed it to rodeos and they quit the fairs and had the rodeos. And of course, we went to the rodeos because my husband Pete, he performed at the rodeos.

BARBARA: Oh, what did he do?

ETHEL: And my brother-in-law.

BARBARA: Uh huh, what did he do?

ETHEL: Rode bucking horses.

BARBARA: Oh, uh huh.

ETHEL: And my brother-in-law did too, you know.

BARBARA: Ever break any bones, did they?

ETHEL: No, he was always pretty lucky, he never did.

DOROTHEA: Did it make you nervous to watch him ride?

ETHEL: A little bit, yes it did.

DOROTHEA: Kept thinking, oh ---

ETHEL: Yeah, that might be it. But he loved it, you know, he loved to ride the bucking horses.

Oh, I like rodeos. We go every year to Pendleton, you know.

BARBARA: Oh, do you, to the Round Up?

ETHEL: Been a going to Pendleton I guess for the last twenty-five, thirty years I guess, or maybe

longer.

DOROTHEA: You and Bonnie go, or ---

ETHEL: Well Bonnie and I, we go now, you know. We start out pretty early, Bonnie holds back a week of her vacation. And Jack can't come, you know, until later on, so we take the trailer house and we go to Pendleton about every year. We've got our tickets already now, you know.

BARBARA: Well good, you're all ready.

ETHEL: Alabama is going to be the concert, you know. We have fun; we camp in the schoolyard there. They open up the schoolyard there for the trailer houses.

BARBARA: The town really gets to hopping, doesn't it?

ETHEL: Oh yes, you know, it's really packed in there too. And those other schoolhouses, they must be, school yards, there must be three or four that opens up for them, the rodeo.

BARBARA: At Christmas time, do you remember any special Christmas? Did you as children make your gifts to one another, or to your parents?

ETHEL: Yeah, we used to go to the church programs, you know, had the Christmas trees at the church and exchanged gifts.

BARBARA: Did they have candy and fruit that they gave out?

ETHEL: Oh yeah, they furnished the candy for the children.

BARBARA: I can remember getting candy and oranges when I was little going to church programs, Christmas programs.

ETHEL: Yeah, we always went to the church programs.

DOROTHEA: What was Christmas like at home? Did you get a special gift, or did you have two or three?

ETHEL: Yes, we always had, we always had Christmas at home. And not too many gifts of course, but my mother always had a big dinner, you know. Cooked a big turkey, and we always had a good Christmas at home.

DOROTHEA: Did she spend a lot of time making everybody a special gift, or what kind of gifts did you get?

ETHEL: Well, she'd make a lot of things for us, nightgowns. And she done quite a bit of sewing, you know, and things like that. But we never had too much money to spend on too many gifts, you know.

BARBARA: And birthdays, did you have birthday parties, cakes and things?

ETHEL: Not too much, no.

BARBARA: With that many children, make any special occasion out of a birthday like we do now?

ETHEL: No, no we'd have a cake, you know, and maybe Mama would cook a little dinner for us, you know, but just the family.

BARBARA: Uh huh. What are some of the things that you remember learning from your mother as you were growing up, things to do? Did she teach you anything special?

ETHEL: Well, I learned everything from my mother. Cooking, and housework, and everything, you know, from her.

DOROTHEA: What are some of the traditions that you have carried on? Do you still do some of the things like your mother did it, or have a special dinner like your mother had, or ---

ETHEL: Yeah, when we have a special dinner, I get out some of the old dishes that my mother always had on our table. We do that.

BARBARA: That's nice.

DOROTHEA: When my family gathers together, we always say the prayer that my mother always said at mealtime. Do you continue with that, or --- did you have any ---?

ETHEL: Well not so much. We never did that too much.

DOROTHEA: You never did that. Now just the other day my brother and sister were here, and we all had to say the prayer before we could eat, because it's just a family tradition.

ETHEL: Well, that's nice.

DOROTHEA: I don't do it when we're not all together. It's kind of --- but it's just when you sit around the table and you're all together, nobody touches a thing until that prayer is said.

ETHEL: Until you get the prayer.

DOROTHEA: And it's kind of funny because any other time everybody is busy eating, you know, they don't wait for the other one. It's kind of, you know, we don't wait on each other. So --- but ---

ETHEL: Yeah, that's real ---

BARBARA: Have you enjoyed growing up in Harney County?

ETHEL: Oh yes.

BARBARA: Or do you think of any other place that you would have liked to have been? Or in traveling around is there another place that you would like to live?

ETHEL: No, I don't think so. I've always been satisfied right here, you know.

BARBARA: A lot of people say they enjoy going around and seeing other things, but they are always very happy to come back home again.

ETHEL: Oh yes, I always like to take trips, you know, and we went to the coast every year, my husband and I. We'd always made a trip to the coast, and I liked that, you know. But I was always glad to get back home.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So, what do you plan on doing the next few years? Do you have anything special up your sleeve?

ETHEL: No, I guess just go on like I've been a doing.

DOROTHEA: Embroidering and taking care of the cooking and ---

ETHEL: Yeah. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: And visiting with your sisters.

ETHEL: I'm kind of stove up with the arthritis, you know. I really need a hip replacement, and I don't know, I don't know whether to go get it or not.

DOROTHEA: They're no fun.

ETHEL: I guess not.

BARBARA: But sometimes if they can help you get around, you know, it might be worth it too, it's just hard to know.

ETHEL: Well, yeah, that's right too, you know.

BARBARA: There is always pros and cons with everything you do, I guess.

ETHEL: That's the truth.

DOROTHEA: My daughter is going to have a second one here in October.

ETHEL: Oh, she is?

DOROTHEA: She had to have one six years ago, and something happened.

ETHEL: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: And the ball of the joint turned so she has to have it replaced, and so she will be having a second one. Hopefully this will be the last.

ETHEL: Well the younger, you know, they have to have them replaced when they are too young that way, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. But she was twenty-four when she had her other one, twenty-three, something like that, she had waited. She had gotten sick when she was eleven so she'd waited quite awhile to have hers done. And this was supposed to be the only one she was going to have to have. But something happened, so she is going to have it done again.

ETHEL: Oh yeah. Did she have it done at Bend?

DOROTHEA: No, she lives in Colorado.

ETHEL: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And she will have it done right there. It just happens to be that one of the world's specialist lives in the same town so she is real lucky to have that so handy.

ETHEL: My neighbor over here, I think she is over there now getting the second one, Eunice Gregg, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she is?

ETHEL: She had, it's been about a year ago that she had one, and she told me here just about a month ago that she was going to have another one, the other hip, and a knee. And she is gone, and I imagine that's where she is at.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Well, how about us getting down and doing our little video, unless there is something else that you'd like to tell us about.

ETHEL: No, I think I've just about told you everything I know about.

DOROTHEA: You can think of, huh?

BARBARA: You've spilled your life to us, huh? (Laughter)

ETHEL: I have. You know I've got a couple articles in that envelope that I think would be pretty nice for that news letter, you know, that comes out.

DOROTHEA: Oh the ---

ETHEL: You know the historical ---

BARBARA: Oh, the Historical Society?

DOROTHEA: Historical Society does.

ETHEL: You know its, my father wrote one of his days down there at the Island Ranch when the fire was, at the Island Ranch. And my nephew had to have kind of a history, essay or something, when he was in high school. So, he had my father write this little article about his days at the, down there at the Island Ranch, the PLS Company, you know. And they had the fire down there and ---

BARBARA: Well what was that about, I don't know that I have heard about that?

ETHEL: And so, I had Bonnie, and he wrote that for his grandson, you know, for that, that he put in the paper, or for his school. So, I had Bonnie take it up to there and, or she typed it. So, it's in that envelope there, you know, and I thought it would be kind of an interesting thing for the newsletter, because it's a true story, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ETHEL: And then the other one is about my grandmother, it was her funeral, but she had told before she died a lot about this wagon train business. And beings as next year is the celebration for that, I thought it would be quite ---

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

ETHEL: And that's it there. And so, Bonnie went and photostatted the copy for me. So, you can take those to use, whatever, whenever you think ---

DOROTHEA: Now do you want these back?

ETHEL: No, you can have those because she had two or three ---

BARBARA: Can you tell us about the fire at the Island Ranch then? What was that about?

ETHEL: Well just from what he had said there, you know. He was a little boy about eleven years old, I think he said. And he was a living with his sister and her husband and they were working at the Island Ranch, you know. And they had all come up here to the dance, I guess the sister and her husband had come horseback to the dance for Christmas Eve. And him and another old guy that worked down there was supposed to come the next day for Christmas, to spend Christmas here in Burns. Well, it wasn't Burns then, it was Egan. And she had laid his clothes out for him, and Uncle Charlie Jones had given him a pair of brand-new boots, you know. And so anyway the place got on fire and burnt everything up and he lost his boots. He had to jump ---

BARBARA: This was the house, or the bunkhouse?

ETHEL: No, it was the, well I guess it must have been the bunkhouse, or where they lived. It was in where they lived at the Island Ranch. And he had to run and jump out the window, you know, and lit on the snow.

And he tells it there in the story there about it. And it is quite interesting, you know. I thought it would be kind of nice to put in that newsletter, you know, about it.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Yeah, Eugene Luckey does the typing of the ---

ETHEL: Is he the one that does that?

DOROTHEA: He looks up the history and he writes some of the articles. So, I'll see him in a couple days, and I'll just give these to him and ask him if he couldn't use them.

ETHEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And he probably can use them. I don't know what he is doing this week, but have them for next time.

ETHEL: And then I've got another one that my brother, when he stayed here with me, but I'll have to kind of go over it again. Those cow drives that he used to take to Fort Klamath, you know, they drove a thousand head of steers to Fort Klamath, you know.

BARBARA: That would be interesting.

ETHEL: It would be quite interesting. Then my other brother, Elmer, if you could ever get him to tell a lot of those stories. Because he went on a lot of those cow drives, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. We want to do one of these with him. But I never can catch him home. I have a hard time getting him on the telephone.

ETHEL: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: I call and call and call, but I never can seem to catch him home.

ETHEL: Well, he comes over there to my sister Myrtle's pretty often. You know she cooks dinner for him.

DOROTHEA: Oh, does she?

ETHEL: He won't cook for himself, you know, after he lost his wife. He will get breakfast, but he don't like to cook. So, she cooks for him, and he comes over there every day to her house. And he goes up to Shelby Petersen. Did you ever get Shelby in on one of those either?

DOROTHEA: He won't.

ETHEL: Elmer is kind of like Shelby, so I don't know.

BARBARA: Well maybe we ought to get them together, do you suppose?

ETHEL: I don't know. He might.

BARBARA: Maybe they would open up then if they would talk together.

ETHEL: But he could tell some really, some good stories about those cattle drives that he went on, because he went on a lot of them. I know John Crow was one of them too, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, well we got John Crow.

ETHEL: You probably got John.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we got John Crow. He was --- Pauline did him.

ETHEL: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And I think he was grand marshal or something.

ETHEL: He was, yes.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ETHEL: And he was president once of the Pioneer.

DOROTHEA: Was he?

ETHEL: Yeah, the year that Teresa Guinee was the queen mother.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's right, that's right, yeah. Well, I think we've got him on video also.

ETHEL: Oh, you probably have, yes.

DOROTHEA: Well now see, we just dug out another story out of you. So, is there anything else that you can think about?

ETHEL: No, I guess not. (Laughter)

BARBARA: This has been fun. I've enjoyed visiting with you.

ETHEL: Well, it's kind of interesting, you know, some of these old tales, you know. And they get kind of tiresome too.

BARBARA: Well not to us. And if you don't get people to talk about them, all these stories are gone ---

ETHEL: Well that's right too.

BARBARA: --- and then we have no history of them. So that's why we enjoy getting this down.

ETHEL: Yes, they do. You know I miss my brother, he was, my older brother, and he was sharp as he could be about everything. And I miss him terrible about when I want to ask him about something I read in the paper there in those centennial days, you know. I want to ask him about what happened, and he knew, you know. But so, I really miss him on that account.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Yeah, we wanted to get him too, but you know what we do is, I'm a procrastinator, and I just put them off and put them off until it's too late.

ETHEL: Well that's what we do too. You know that's what I did about a lot of things.

DOROTHEA: Well, the light is blinking, so that means we're about to the end of this tape, and we'd like to thank you for the afternoon, and spending some time with us, and catching us up on some of the history. So now we'll stop and do a little video of you.

ETHEL: Well now what are you going to do about the video?

DOROTHEA: Well it doesn't bite either.

ETHEL: I don't think ---

(END OF TAPE)

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