

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #326 - Sides A & B

Subject: Forrest Sneva - With Video

Date: August 19, 1992

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and we're here today with Barbara Lofgren and Forrest Sneva, at the Harney County Library in Burns, Oregon. Today's date is August 19th, 1992. And following our interview we will be doing a short video of Forrest, and it will be stored here at the Library along with the transcript and cassette tape, the number is 326. Okay Forrest, can you tell us your full name?

FORRIE SNEVA: Forrest Arlo Sneva.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Where were you born?

FORRIE: I was born in Underwood, Minnesota.

DOROTHEA: And when?

FORRIE: This was in, January 14th, 1927.

DOROTHEA: What was your mother's name?

FORRIE: Edith Caroline.

DOROTHEA: What was her maiden name?

FORRIE: Oh, Arneson.

DOROTHEA: Arneson, and how do you spell that?

FORRIE: That's A R N E S O N.

DOROTHEA: And what was your father's ---

FORRIE: George Harold.

DOROTHEA: George. What did your family do for a living, or how did you grow up?

FORRIE: Well Underwood, I basically grew up in Fergus Falls, which is about eight miles from Underwood. And this is a farm, basically a farming community in west central Minnesota. My father and mother both grew up on farms, but in '27, '28, basically they left the farm and Dad started to work in town. And within a year or two he basically ended up working at a lumberyard and that's where he continued to work for the rest of his life.

DOROTHEA: Do you have brothers and sisters?

FORRIE: I have two older brothers, one younger sister, and one younger brother.

DOROTHEA: Could you tell us their names?

FORRIE: Well my oldest brother Byron, then Ervin, then I, and then Gordon, and then my sister Sonja who is sixteen years younger than I.

DOROTHEA: So you kind of helped raise her then.

FORRIE: Well no, at that point in time that was about when the World War II was going on. I was home a year after she was born, and then I went into the Marine Corp.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

FORRIE: To serve in the war.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about the service?

FORRIE: Well my, of course I was in high school at the time that the war broke out. And I graduated in '55, (corrected to '45) but I was unable to attend the graduation as I had already enlisted in the Marine Corp and they had called me up in April. And the graduation ceremonies were in June, so I was in boot camp at the time that I graduated from high school as such.

DOROTHEA: And they didn't let you go back for it?

FORRIE: No, no they didn't.

BARBARA LOFGREN: This was '45?

FORRIE: This was 1945.

BARBARA: '45, okay. And so how many years were you in the Marine Corp?

FORRIE: Well I served just short of two years. I was the very, I was part of the last group that was shipped overseas as the war basically, the war then ended of course in, let's see late '45, late '45, yeah August '45 was V.E. Day I think. And V.J. Day was a little later, and we were basically sent over to become occupation troops in North China.

BARBARA: I see.

DOROTHEA: And what did you do after you got out of the service then?

FORRIE: Well I went back home, became a member of what the so called 52-20 Club, which meant you had fifty-two weeks of twenty dollars that you got the government for reparation work. And I, and then I --- I come back in the fall, and I was on the --- I went with that.

And then I trapped during the winter, muskrats and mink there, because that was something that I had done during my high school days. And then in the spring I finally got work with a local electrician and went on as an apprentice electrician.

DOROTHEA: And did you work as an electrician later then, or ---

FORRIE: Well I worked one year. Well I shouldn't say, I guess I should back off --- that was a little bit later. I worked with the power company for a little bit off and on during that summer, and then I got on the electrician work. But by that time I had married. A year had passed about then, and ---

DOROTHEA: Who did you marry?

FORRIE: I married Patricia Hysjulien, who was out of the same neighborhood, although it wasn't the --- it was a situation where the neighborhoods didn't mix much in terms of play, so I didn't really know her as a child other than that they lived in the other neighborhood.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And how do you spell Pat's maiden name?

FORRIE: This is a good one, most people can't.

H Y S J U L I E N.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Yeah, I don't think ---

FORRIE: And of course those are Scandinavian names, both of them, Sneva and Hysjulien. Because the community we come from was basically Swedes and Norwegians and Finns.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: So you didn't know Pat during your high school years then?

FORRIE: Not really, I knew her sister. Her sister had graduated with me, but I didn't really know Pat, because she was two years younger.

BARBARA: Two years younger. So when you're a senior, a sophomore, you know, you don't pay any attention to them, do you?

FORRIE: No. (Laughter)

BARBARA: So you worked there as an apprentice electrician and ---

FORRIE: For basically one year I worked as an electrician. Now this was a very, looking back on it, it was a very good job for me. I mean in the sense that this was a non-union fellow that had this group of men, and as a result I did many things. If any other kind of work interfered, or was delaying the electrician work, well we just went ahead and did that work so we could get the electrician work. So I basically became very adept at using tools in that, which saves my neck a lot, after I went to school. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Uh huh. And then what made you decide to go on to college?

FORRIE: Well ---

BARBARA: Was the G.I. available to you?

FORRIE: The G.I., yeah, yes the G.I. was available to me. And I had another good friend

that had gone, and followed me into the Marine Corp, and we just decided that we wanted to go to school and become, the ideal, or the vision of the impact was to become a forest ranger, packing horses into peaks, and the mountains and that. And so we both went, wanted to do that. So he came out, and he came out, and he had married a South Carolina girl, and had started school up at North Dakota State. But then he wanted to switch, and we looked it over and we decided to go to Utah State.

BARBARA: And that's in Logan?

FORRIE: That's in Logan, Utah.

BARBARA: What had you heard about that to make you want to come west to go to school? Did it have a good forestry school?

FORRIE: Only that they had a reasonable forestry school. We had talked to someone that had been there, and this was someone that we didn't really even know. And he said it was a nice school. I guess the thing we --- that both Bud and I were married by this time and had our first child, and so we needed, we wanted a small community. We had too many buddies in the University of Minnesota, and up in the North Dakota State, which was at Fargo, North Dakota.

BARBARA: Too many distractions?

FORRIE: Just too many distraction we felt for it, because neither Bud nor I were basically brilliant people, you know, so we had to have a place where we could be ---

BARBARA: Really concentrate on your studies then?

FORRIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you ever give any thought to coming to Oregon State's Forestry School?

FORRIE: No, no, no we never --- I don't know what they had going at that time even, you know. We looked at, Bottineau, North Dakota had had a two-year college in forestry, and we had considered that. But really Utah State was really the only one we thought of.

BARBARA: So you entered the School of Forestry when you came then?

FORRIE: Yeah. Basically at that time most of the schools were grouped under a school of forestry. Because at that time range as such really didn't have a name of its own.

BARBARA: Did it have a School of Agriculture or ---

FORRIE: Well if they did then the college, many of them had a School of Agriculture, and the forestry was a department underneath it, or a college underneath it, this type of a thing. Even forestry wasn't that big of a deal in those days.

BARBARA: So how long did you stay in forestry before you decided to go into range?

FORRIE: Oh, I guess it was probably in the second year that I decided to go into, out with a range degree rather than a forestry degree. And that really wasn't the only primary reason for that, was that at that time, most of our thoughts I guess, for most of us kids at that time the main, the primary goal was to get an education and get a job and survive.

And so the range degree, as many of the --- the forestry department at that point in time was hiring as many range people as it was forestry-trained people. And plus the BLM was hiring range people as well as the Soil Conservation Service. So those going out with a range degree had a much better chance of being hired than if you went out strictly with a forestry degree. So---

BARBARA: Okay we're talking about, you started college in 1948, is that right?

FORRIE: Yes, the fall of '48. Bud and I hitchhiked from western Minnesota out to Logan, Utah. And then we got housing, college housing at that time, which was Quonset buildings. And our wives and children didn't come out until about two months later. They flew out, we hitchhiked. (Laughter)

BARBARA: And you talked about having a child at that time. How many children do you have?

FORRIE: Well I have three, yeah.

BARBARA: You have three. And their names are?

FORRIE: Pennie is the oldest; she was born in '47, yeah '47. And then Greg was born in Utah in the fall of '51. And Gary was born here in Burns in '54. And we were afraid to move again in fear that we would have another child. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You'd have another baby. Must be something in the move, huh? And so your second year then you decided to work more, primarily in the range?

FORRIE: In the, yeah I went out. And of course this is the way most things work, I mean the first two years you take courses that are pretty standard for anything.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How long was your college course then?

FORRIE: How long?

DOROTHEA: Well like I mean, you know today, it takes you about six or eight years to become a range person.

FORRIE: Well the number of quarter credits was 210 to graduate, plus --- well we had, and that's a high number at that point in time. And it's still is relative to other things. For example if you went out in a regular arts degree type thing, you only needed a 175 credits. The number of credits required for range or forestry was --- the only thing that required more credits to graduate at that point in time was the engineering degree. But we, it took you basically four years plus the one summer, summer school. They had a summer school up in the woods that you had to go to. So it was basically a four and a third of a year. But the requirement was pretty high.

BARBARA: So you graduated in 1952 with your bachelor's degree then?

FORRIE: Yes, I got the B.S. in --- basically I finished up in the spring of, at the end of winter quarter. I run out of G.I. in the fall, fall quarter of '51, and had to finish up. But I had loaded up, I was running in the, in my junior year I run 20 to 22 credits, hours per

quarter, for three quarters there in order to try to get out before my G.I. run out.

DOROTHEA: That's a lot of credits.

FORRIE: Yeah. Plus for the last three years I held a forty-hour job of maintenance work, work in the Quonset huts there as well as carrying my workload.

BARBARA: Did Pat work at all during this time?

FORRIE: No, she was busy taking care of kids, I mean. So ---

BARBARA: And so when you finished, when you graduated from school then, what were your job opportunities, and what made you decide to come to Burns?

FORRIE: Well most of the job opportunities were, well they were jobs available in Forest Service, or BLM, or SCS, in addition to the job here at Squaw Butte. But most of the SCS, the Forest Service, and BLM jobs were range survey at that time. Because this was the big stress at the time of, the federal agencies were trying to find out what they had out here. And for the first time they had methods to, at least some kind of methods on the ground to try to determine the, what the range was producing.

BARBARA: Make accountable as to what they had.

FORRIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: And what they were going to do with it, maybe.

FORRIE: So the big stress was range survey. So most of the hiring's in BLM and Forest Service were in that mode, which meant in those days they went out and camped in tents for two or three weeks at a time, and so you didn't get back. And we'd never really particularly cared to bust up our family that way. And this job here at Squaw Butte at least provided an opportunity to be home every night.

Plus, of course I had come out of Midwest Minnesota, which is a farm community, and I grew up in a small town. So I wasn't really on a farm as such, and the western range was basically new to me. So I thought that the station would provide me with a

chance to get to know the range a little bit better before I attempted some other job. So I interviewed for this job in the winter of '52, January, February.

BARBARA: So when did you move over here?

FORRIE: I came here in April, April --- I think my job started April 12th of 1952.

BARBARA: And did Pat and the children come with you at that time? Did you all come together or ---

FORRIE: Well we basically sold out our belongs at the school. They weren't very much, and Pat --- and well we all went back to, took the train back to Minnesota to see the folks. We were back there, I was back there by about two weeks, and then I come back to Logan and loaded up the old --- I had a '50, no a '41, what we called Nash Can at that time, that I had purchased for I think about a hundred dollars.

BARBARA: Which was a lot of money out of the budget.

FORRIE: And I loaded, I shipped the back seat, and then loaded up the rest of the truck with what belongings we had brought up here, and the books and that. And I drove that up here. I remember that it took six quarts of oil to get me up here. And that was--- I came over at that time, I came over on the ferry at, on the Snake there at, oh up above Twin Falls, I can't think of the ferry, the ferry there. It was still operating, the only way you crossed the river. They were in the process of building the bridge there, Harpers Ferry.

BARBARA: Oh, right. And so was there housing available for you, or did you have to rent a house or ---

FORRIE: No, there was, well I moved, I lived out at the station at Squaw Butte, and there was housing at that time there. We lived in a, well it's a very small, I imagine it's a, goodness --- it's about a twenty by twenty foot building with a basement under, a half basement underneath it. It had one bedroom, and a front room, and a kitchen with a cook stove in it, an old fashioned wood stove. But we survived in it. We had a day bed or a

couch in the front room, and double bunks and the crib in the one bedroom.

Most people wouldn't --- well we've had people that came in there late, for the summer months, just childless couples and they really complained about living in those small quarters. (Laughter) BARBARA: And how long were you out there at Squaw Butte?

FORRIE: Well that --- we would come in every winter, because basically that, end of things basically shut down. The cattle of course move into the meadows. And the offices at that time were located on the second floor in the post office. And we would come in, I would normally come in along about late November, so we would move back in. And then, depending upon the winter, we could move back out as early as February, the middle of February, early February, March, and start working there.

So I wasn't in town very much the first, oh four or five years until we started getting kids in school. Then of course that changed things quite a bit.

DOROTHEA: And so did you have to buy your own home then, or did they furnish a home for you yet?

FORRIE: No, when we moved into town, of course, we had to rent. And because we were only in town three or four, well sometimes only three months or so those first few years, we just rented. So we've lived in about seven or eight places in Burns or Hines over the years. And it wasn't until the kids were in school that we finally got, decided to buy a place.

And well that, the other consideration was, I mean it was just a decision to buy a house. We had to get a house, afford to buy a house I mean, which was, it wasn't quite as easy in those days as it is today.

DOROTHEA: Well they had school buses running at that time. Did your kids ride the bus from Squaw Butte or ---

FORRIE: No, no, we always, after the kids started school we basically moved in, moved the family in. And then we would --- since everyone else was in the same boat, you might say, we would, when school started up after that they would have to basically commute to work out to Squaw Butte when and if those times occurred. And sometimes we would go out there and lay over for three or four days when we had particular, critical work to get done.

DOROTHEA: Now did you ever work out at the old Experiment Station, which was Section Five, I see as where you worked. And the other one was out towards the ---

FORRIE: Harney Branch, the old Harney Branch Station? Yeah, all three portions of the, what is, what has comprised the station over time was going at the time I came on board.

And the cattle --- the only use that was being made of Harney Branch at the time I came on the Station was that some cattle were held down there. And those that were on particular studies, and they did have small pasture, or have small fenced areas in, some head stalls in that so that they could be fed individually in that. And Farris Hubert, who was the first animal scientist on the station, he had some work going on that, studying larkspur poisoning. And he was feeding larkspur to cattle, and then was dosing them with some treatments that he had developed. And some of my --- the first year, maybe into the second year, I would go at times with Farris and help him handle some of the cattle when he was giving them treatments and that down there.

DOROTHEA: And what did he finally start using? Because I know they have a shot that you give in the blood now. Was he doing this at that time?

FORRIE: He wasn't doing that. He was --- I can't remember what he was, that he was feeding them, but at about that time in '52 Don Hyder, the other range scientist who had come on the station staff, had begun work with the use of 2,4-D, or had expanded the

work with 2,4-D that had been done, some of it done elsewhere, a little bit of it on the station before him.

But we found out that we could --- and then by '53 we had found that we could control larkspur very efficiently with 2,4-D. And as a result there really was no advantage for the reason for Farris to continue the work in his end. Because it was far easier to control larkspur on a plant basis than it was to control larkspur poisoning on an animal basis. And so he discontinued that work.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And Don Hyder then he came in and did the spraying, is this what you're saying?

FORRIE: Well Don, I guess perhaps I ought to back up there. In '49, 1949 Don Hyder came on the staff. He was the first research scientist, and he was range oriented as I was.

Then in 1950, Farris Hubbert came on the staff and he was an animal scientist. And then in '51 Cleo Cooper came on the staff, and he was the agronomist working mainly on the meadow research work. And then I was hired in '52 to assist Don Hyder.

And the research work then in range began, it was, basically it was pretty heavy in two areas, in brush control work, and in reseeding and forage evaluation. Because the primary emphasis on research, or I should say primary need in that particular time was to increase the productivity of the land. Because the range production had been severely reduced as a result of the droughts that existed across the early '30's.

Of course the overgrazing that had existed long before that --- because there was no management on the rangelands as such. And then the other thing is that, impacted on this was that when the war broke out in '39, and continued clear through to '44-'45, there was an intense need to increase beef production in order to feed the armies and this type of thing. And as a result, again we sacrificed a lot of rangeland to

produce beef for the war effort, just as we sacrificed in many other areas of the county at that time.

So the emphasis then was to produce, get forage on the ground, increase the productivity because this was the easiest way to --- well you can't have management until you have something to manage. And at that point in time we didn't have enough forage really to manage. Everything was, in order to survive, everything was being eaten. So we had to get enough forage, and so our emphasis and research was to produce, was to get grasses that produced, and to basically control the brush, which were competing with new grasses. BARBARA: So out at the station, did you have plots of different types of grasses that you were trying to grow, and working on the seeds?

FORRIE: Yeah. One of the things that we were testing --- a lot of different grass species. And we were looking at --- and again the other thing --- that's the first thing. You've got to have a plant that will survive in the country.

The second thing is you've got to figure out a way to get it planted so that it grows, and that it is --- not only that it will succeed, but that it will succeed in most years when you plant it. It's quite easy to --- there are a lot of grasses that produce, but there is not very many grasses that we can get to establish. If we could have a water hose and sprinkle them, we can get them established and they'll do very nicely once we get their roots down. But the tough part is getting the plant established in this country.

DOROTHEA: Well what were some of the plants or grasses that you tried to grow?

FORRIE: Well I would say that over the years, through the first ten-fifteen years at Squaw Butte, they tested just about every grass species in the genre that we know of, that would have a chance to grow in this country. All the agropyrons, all the fescues, all the weed grasses, the alfalfas. All the dry land alfalfas, the wet land alfalfas. You name it; most of them have been tried out there. There are very few that haven't.

DOROTHEA: What was the one that was the most hardy?

FORRIE: The one that is most hardy, is the one we see most, all over in big fields, crested wheat grass.

DOROTHEA: Is crested wheat grass.

FORRIE: There is not another grass that comes close to holding a candle to it.

DOROTHEA: And the cattle like this?

FORRIE: Well in early spring they do. If you're hungry it's great. If you're hungry, they'll eat it any time. And this is what we needed at that point in time. We needed a grass that we could grow and that would produce. We weren't worried about quality. It's not the best grass in terms of quality, and it's a very bad grass from the standpoint of July and August when it's stiff and dry and that. But they'll still eat it, and they'll survive on it.

DOROTHEA: Well they kind of like it after it gets rained on, they'll eat it then too.

FORRIE: Oh yeah, yeah. When it softens up and that.

DOROTHEA: Because it softens it up, yeah.

FORRIE: And they'll graze it well into winter when there is snow and that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Are there basically two or three, four, five, grasses that do well in this country? Or do you stick just to the crested wheat grass?

FORRIE: Well there are some fescues that, hard fescue will do well in here, and it's a finer grass in terms of --- it's a little more palatable in that sense. There are some hybrids that they have come out with, quack grass. Actually quack grass, crested wheat grass crosses, and some of them. I don't know that they have been fully tested yet, because they've only been developed in the last ten years, and most of their development work was done under areas that received precipitation of fifteen, sixteen inches of rainfall. And that's not quite the same as ten or twelve inches. So --- and there is a Russian wild rye

that does quite well, but it doesn't produce as well. But the quality is better.

DOROTHEA: Now is that a hay? Or is it just a grass?

FORRIE: No, it's a grass. And it, I guess some of these grasses have been cut for hay, even crested wheat grasses. In Canada they cut a lot of crested wheat grass for hay. And you can do it down here too, but we generally don't think of it as a hay grass.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And so what did you find that the cows did the best on? I'm sure when you test plotted these different grasses, you fed the cattle, and how did they do on the different grasses?

FORRIE: Well ---

BARBARA: Or did you do that, I guess I should ask.

FORRIE: Well we did --- some of that work has been done. At that point in time in our work we --- we really weren't concerned about how well the cattle were doing. Because we were mainly trying --- they were suffering from hollow belly, and not really from a weakness in quality. It was simply that they didn't have enough feed in their guts. And so the important thing was to get production, and then worry about quality.

They have done a lot of feeding work on quality and that, and there are other grasses than crested wheat grass that are far better in terms of producing and that. But again it's a question of whether or not you can get those grasses to grow and to stay in here, in this dry country.

BARBARA: So mainly then when you came here, it was basically testing grass, or working on grasses that would grow abundantly to feed the cows.

FORRIE: Yeah. And I guess abundantly --- we weren't --- I guess that's really; we were looking for a grass that would do the best for our area. And in that case crested wheat grass, it will produce on the average 700 pounds per acre. Now I don't know if this is an

abundant forage or not. Most people don't look at that as being a whole lot of poundage per acre. I mean not when you contrast it to meadows, which produce a ton or a ton and a half, or if you put fertilizer on them they'll produce three ton. But that's about the best you can do. Because most of the other grasses produce less.

BARBARA: But you're talking just out in the ---

FORRIE: Out in the range, yeah, with no additional irrigation.

BARBARA: And so did you go out there and drill these grasses out in the sagebrush country? Did you get rid of the sagebrush and---

FORRIE: Yeah, the other part of the problem then is once you have found a grass that is suitable, that will sustain itself over the years in the grass, is to how best to seed it. And again the economics, what's the, in order to get --- the basic problems of seeding a range grass are no different than putting radishes in a garden. First you've got to till the soil, then you've got to make sure you get rid of the competition, and then you can seed your radish. But the same applies out in the range. You have to get rid of the competition, you've got to till the soil, and then you can plant. And so that was the other part of the research problem. And we worked with the rangeland drill. Many cases the rangeland drill would do a good job. Many cases it wouldn't, because if you plowed the soil with the rangeland plow for example, you get a very --- in our soils you get a very fluffy soil. The rangeland drill would drill the soil, would drill the seed too deep, and there was no way of keeping that seed at a half an inch level depth of seeding.

So working with the engineering department of the Oregon State Department, Oregon Engineering Department, we developed what was know as the Press Wheel Seeder. And this basically pressed the furrow, and pressed the seed in at the proper depth. And it was designed to work on what we called the fluffy seedbed. And many acres of rangeland were seeded with it. There were upwards of forty or fifty of those

particular seeders operating in the '60's and through the '70's.

DOROTHEA: Now are we talking Squaw Butte now?

FORRIE: Yeah, Squaw Butte.

DOROTHEA: Or is this where you were planting this --- seeds.

FORRIE: Yeah, uh huh. Well the seeds, I mean the plantings were done over. But some of it was done on a research basis. But we developed the seeder there at Squaw Butte.

BARBARA: How many acres of land is involved in Squaw Butte out there?

FORRIE: Okay, Squaw Butte has 25,000 acres. It's five miles on the side.

BARBARA: And is this all-federal land, or is some state land involved?

FORRIE: Well basically it's all federal, except that there are a couple of blocks, small blocks of state land which are basically lands that were homesteaded at one time and then went back. And when they go back, they went back to the state some how or other on that. But they were basically homesteaded lands.

BARBARA: And then how many acres do you have then out by Section Five?

FORRIE: Okay, Section Five is just as its name implies, roughly a section of land, yeah. Because it's in a cock-eyed, one of them cock-eyed situation. It does have, I think, about forty acres more than a normal section.

And then of course in '54 was when they terminated the use on the Harney Branch Station, and that was turned back to the county at the time. I believe that went back to the county, on the county rolls, and we moved everything off from there onto Section Five. Section Five in '52, when I came here, there was only the one little house that they had moved over from Harney Branch. There were some, a couple of cross division fences, and a corral building. Other than that there was nothing there.

BARBARA: So basically your offices were in the Post Office, and then whatever you had out at Squaw Butte?

FORRIE: Yes, that's right.

BARBARA: And what kind of numbers of people were working here at that time?

FORRIE: Well in '52 there were the four scientist, including myself, and then Art Sawyer was superintendent. Then the foreman, and there were probably two or three in a labor category, most of them working with the cattle.

BARBARA: And how many cows did you have out there?

FORRIE: Well we have, normally run in the neighborhood of two hundred, two hundred and fifty head of breeding cows in that area. And then the compliment of --- and that varied over the years a little bit.

DOROTHEA: Now I know that there is some experiments that go on with some of these cattle. Did you have anything to do with this?

FORRIE: Not directly. Most of the work with the cattle of course was done under the lead of the animal scientists. Now there were times when we got involved when they were in a grazing type study where we might do the, measure the forage production associated with the grazing, this type of a thing.

And then in the late, in the '80's I worked with them doing some water intake studies on, working with them to develop some measurements of how they handled themselves relative to drinking once a day, or once every two days, or once every three days. And actually we carried it out to once every four days to see what the impact of withholding water was on these cattle.

DOROTHEA: What kind of a finding did you discover then? Does a cow or --- let's call it a cow, does she need water every day?

FORRIE: We can restrict --- if you restrict them to once every other day a mature cow will decrease its water intake about, I recall about thirty percent. If you go to once every third day, once every three days, then they will reduce their water intake by about fifty percent.

Now when they do this, now then you also --- the water intake and the feed intake of cattle are pretty much directly related. If you reduce one, you reduce the other. Not in the same amount, but it's pretty consistent.

And if you get beyond once every third day, then you begin to get into problems of where they become water sensitive. Now they might, you can, they'll go out here at four days, but they come back in on water and they may, I can't think of the term I want right now, but basically they'll go down, they'll take on water and it will upset their system to the point where they will flounder on it you might say. And they will probably recover from that without injecting them, but beyond every third day then you might get into trouble.

But you could once every two days, and possibly up to once every three days as long as you are consistent. You can probably handle, pull the cows through. Now you wouldn't want to --- this won't hurt the cow as long as she doesn't have a calf on her. And it won't really hurt a grown yearling. But the calf itself will suffer if she is on the mother, on the side, still taking milk. Because the cow, the first thing the cow will do, the mother cow will do when you cut her water is she will cut back on her milk production. And of course then this means that the calf doesn't get its milk. So the impact is there.

DOROTHEA: Did you actually put cows out on pasture and see how they would react without water?

FORRIE: Uh huh, yes, yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: You did that?

FORRIE: We had them, well I worked all, I worked two summers. One summer I worked basically with them in a trailing situation where they trailed, where they had to go a one or a two mile trail before they got to water, and forced them into this kind of a situation. And then other times I just, I had lids on tanks that I would have to go and open every third day or every second day, this type of a thing. And we were monitoring their blood

constituents, and this type of thing.

DOROTHEA: Well our little blinker is going, so I've got to turn this tape over, so we'll pause for a moment.

SIDE B

BARBARA: Basically when you started at the station when you first came here, and the time that your retired, what kind of jobs did you do, and how did your work progress or what different types of things or phases did you go through during those what, nearly thirty years or whatever it was?

FORRIE: Well it was basically thirty, twenty-eight years total. Well when I first came on the station of course, I guess we weren't called; none of us were called scientists at that time even though the position was in research. We were just range conservationists. Actually my first three years the employ was Bureau of Land Management, because they were the federal component on the station. Actually up until 1955, then the station was changed from Bureau of Land Management to Agricultural Research Service.

But when we came on the station the tools of the researcher were pretty limited. We had, we did not have, well I'm sure the meat market down town here, or the grocery store, had better scales than what we had. Because all we had were the little old, just spring scales that you measured things with. We had a pair of clippers, paper bags; we didn't have any drying ovens. So everything we had to do was on an air-dry basis. We had to hang the sacks up in --- we had hooks in the ceilings to hang the bags up and dry our forages there.

We had very limited chemical analysis work. Of course we did not have a chemical laboratory as such. So anything we had done was sent over to Oregon State. So we were pretty limited in terms of the tools. There was, we had no computer. I mean

we had some adding machines so we could --- and we had, later we did get a computer, it was called a computer at that time. But it was one that was manually operated. You had to flip the dial over in order to square a number. You had to punch one number in, flip the column setting over and then flip and hit another button and then flip it over again, and then it produced it. It was quite a long way from today's computer.

And so we worked, like I say, our three phases of work was brush control, we were working heavily in work with 2,4-D, and 2,4,5-T. Nearly almost any chemical coming out of the chemical grinder at that time that showed any opportunity for plant response type thing, well we basically tried. I find that, in this sense, rather amazing, you know, I probably worked with more 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T than a lot of people that have ever seen. I mean I sprayed 2,4-D every morning for three or four weeks in the early spring, and I was soaked. All we ever wore was coveralls, you know, and sprayed right ahead of us, maybe eighteen inches out in front of us on small plot basis. And this was every formulation that they put out of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, and so I have a hard time when they talk about Agent Orange in which they --- and the people are claiming they got terrible things from it. I have a hard time handling that because if anyone should have psoriasis or something, problems from 2,4-D I ought to. And as far as I know there were a dozen or so similar scientists throughout the west that I know of that were doing also very similar work. And none of them I know of had any problems from 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T. We all had kids, and none of them seem to be adversely impacted. So I don't know.

BARBARA: So what are some of the good things that you see having come out of your work here?

FORRIE: Well ---

BARBARA: And what are some of the things that you were disappointed in too, maybe

give a range here.

FORRIE: We accomplished in crested wheat grass, we accomplished the initial purpose of the station I think, and that was to produce, to increase the productivity of the land so that it provided room to manage it. And between 2,4-D for brush control, which increased grass production three to four times on those particular lands, and the inclusion of crested wheat grass --- now it wasn't so much that crested wheat grass out produces the rangeland grasses, but the thing that it did it allowed the rancher to graze those particular seedings earlier in the season than native grasses, and still maintain that grass as a system. Because this is something that the native grasses don't stand, is that early spring grazing.

So between the two of them, we accomplished that particular goal in terms of providing the rancher with an opportunity to increase the range production so that he could begin to initiate a management program, have enough room to play with.

The other thing is that over the years, one thing that I should mention is that the station that started in '35, in that particular year when they started, they set up five acre exclosures in each of the ranges. There are thirteen of those five-acre exclosures. None of them have basically seen any grazing inside of them. And they, a lot of people in the east, and even some locally, have the impression that if we just remove the cow everything will be peaches and cream, and that all we'll see is grass and no sagebrush.

Many of those people need to go out to Squaw Butte and take a look at those thirteen five acre exclosures, because they look the same today as they did in 1935. They're still full of brush. If we're going to get rid of the brush in this country, you have to do it either manually or chemically, or by fire. It doesn't go away by itself; it's a part of the system here. It might be a little thicker than it was before, but that's the ups and downs of it, but it's here, and it's here to stay.

DOROTHEA: I think probably that this is the same true fact about the old forest, because all they do is just get denser and dirtier more or less.

FORRIE: Well --- of course range management is not particularly different than forest management in many ways. And in terms of the ecology of things, things move to the top whether they're in range, or on the prairies, or in the forests. And the old growth system, whatever you want to call it, it has several different names, old growth, ancient forest, or you can call it climax in the ecological terms, and once you get to the top you basically have a stagnant system, and most stagnant systems are not very productive.

DOROTHEA: Right.

FORRIE: And they are susceptible to some very catastrophic situations.

DOROTHEA: Now do you think they'll ever go to using those, or are they absolutely those thirteen plots --- are absolutely non-useable?

FORRIE: Well you mean, well they were set up basically to show succession over a long period of time, so they'll maintain them as such. They'll keep the cattle off from them.

DOROTHEA: Continue keeping animals off?

FORRIE: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: So you felt that you basically accomplished getting your production up by the work that you did. What are some of the things that you feel that didn't work out that you were disappointed in maybe, some of the things that you tried while you were working?

FORRIE: Well of course one of the goals, we've, along with it, we've always looked and kept our minds open trying to figure out

--- well it would be great if we could get cows to eat sagebrush. And we've tried a lot of things too, to encourage cattle to eat sagebrush. We sprayed syrup on sagebrush, and we sprayed sugar and water on sagebrush, and all we ever was able to do was to attract the ants to the sagebrush, and they ate the sugar off or licked the syrup off and that's all.

We also tried a lot of different things. For example the concept was that if we could basically spray the sagebrush leaves black so they could absorb more of the sun's heat energy, it would require them to suck up more moisture in order to keep themselves cool, and in a sense they would in time they would desiccate themselves. Well in theory it sounds great, but it don't work that way. (Laughter) We tried that.

And of course in '52 the brush beating was in vogue. The first brush beaters came on the market in the early '50's, and they never really worked out simply because they cost too much. The cost was, I mean from a standpoint of looking at it from spraying, spraying was much cheaper than brush beating. And the interesting part is today that there is a lot of brush beating being done today. Well I shouldn't say lots, but there is quite a bit of it being done. And I'm sure that the cost must be tremendous because it still, it takes gas and a big tractor to pack it. And the labor situation in terms of cost is still high. So --- but they do not have the alternate chemical option really anymore, so they're forced into a high productivity cost there. So that's one thing. The other thing is that over the years we maintained running measurements of productivity over time. And we have, and we also have in terms of the cattle, they also have long-term cattle production records, and a lot of other records associated with that in terms of the health and this type of a thing by cattle. And it's been pretty much a closed herd in that they keep a pretty firm grip on the genetics of the herd. And so they have a lot of these records that they can tie back to genetics. This is one of the strong things of the station. The long-term productivity record has given us an opportunity to look at production, grass production records, relative to the climate. And as a result of that work I did develop some programs that are used in adjusting survey yields and this type of thing that are still being used today, and will be used for a long time because until someone else starts measuring productivity over the years so that they get a base to work from, they won't be able to really produce a

valid response line for that work.

BARBARA: During the time that you worked out here, were you required, or was it encouraged that you write papers for journals, or like the "Journal of Range Management" and scientific papers and things like this, were you encouraged to do that? Or was that just part of your job?

FORRIE: It basically is part of the job. Of course the purpose of research is to increase our knowledge about something, and it's not sufficient that you just increase your knowledge. If it doesn't do someone else some good, then it's not very effective research. So basically the extension of the information is part and parcel of the researcher. The extent to how far that extension is made, sometimes it gets in --- conflicts with the role of the extension agent in that sense. But so, sometimes depending upon how active the extension agent is, and how active the researcher is, depends upon who presents some of this kind of information that you get. In our situation we never really had a problem when we came here. Ray Novotney was the county extension agent, and we were able to work very closely with him. And much of the chemical work, and the seeding work and that, we presented at the county level, and through Ray. And at the state level through various, oh the Society, the section meetings of the Society, and at cattleman's association meetings, and then of course at the national meetings of the Range Society in those days.

But we were expected basically to publish, and publish in scientific journals where the work was in essence peer reviewed so that you weren't just presenting your opinion, but had to present your conclusions and basically back them up with solid data as indicated by whether or not other people could challenge you and prove you were wrong or not.

BARBARA: And basically you are working with the federal government and with Oregon

State University Extension, is that right?

FORRIE: Yes. Yeah, the station, the Squaw Butte Station was owned by the federal government, the Section Five Unit was operated by the state, and the funds were basically put into a single pot, you might say. Initially the superintendent was employed both by the state and by the federal government, drawing a fifty-fifty salary type thing.

Then when Art Sawyer retired that was discontinued and the superintendency basically went on full time state, a hundred percent state pay. Some of the range scientists have always been federally employed, but not all of them. Because I think there are, one today that is state employed now. I think Rick Miller is employed by the state. The animal scientist was normally state employed, primarily because the state owns the cattle as such. And the meadow man, because that was always state ground --- well I shouldn't say that because he was federally employed, Cooper was ... and all of the meadow agronomists were federally employed, but they always worked on the state land and that. So it was a mix of things.

And we never had any particular, we were one of the few stations that had that kind of a joint tenancy over the years in the western states that had, basically had no problems with operating with two sources of funds, and spending those funds as we saw fit to spend them here. Other places have tried this and they have just failed miserably. And a large part of it is, I think, due to the personnel that have been on the station at the time.

BARBARA: And how has your results of your research and your work here been accepted and been sought after by the local ranchers or state people? I mean they come to you and see what has happened so that they can in effect take your results and put them to use on their own land.

FORRIE: Yeah. It --- for a number of years, in the early '50's when we started out having

field days and that, and we had rather poor success in drawing local ranchers. But over the years, and part of this is that there is a reluctance, the western rancher was, has always been an independent person, and has never particularly been a strong supporter of government as such. And so we've had to earn our keep here. But I think we have done that. We have made some very strong ties to the locals over the years, and they have found out that the work at Squaw Butte is recognized as good work, and solid work, and many of them have adopted a number of the principles that we have put out.

There has been a lot of crested wheat grass seeded around here, and there has been an awful lot of sagebrush that has been controlled under the, using the recommendations that we have made out. And there is a number of people that have went to fall calving as a result of Bob Raleigh's work, the animal scientist's work. And nearly all of them feed on, do their winter-feeding on the basis of the feed work that has been done by Harley Turner. So they have all benefited by the work there, that we have done there. And we have been recognized other, other wheres. I was recognized as an outstanding researcher by the Range Society in '81 as a result of the work done here at the station.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about that? How are you picked, or ---

FORRIE: Well it's picked by the --- well I should start out by first that the Range Society is the Society of range orientated people, both ranchers and researchers, and men in the field working SCS and BLM. And it's about five thousand strong, and is now basically an International Society and has been for about twelve years, I believe now, that it went International.

And they have, of course, committees for this and committees for that, and one of the --- they present several awards each year. The outstanding achievement award, they present two or three in any given year. And this basically goes to people that are in the

area where they promote activity, range activities, or are in research areas, or teaching in schools, or this type of thing. And I assume that someone nominates you, I guess is the procedure. And there are probably twelve or fifteen people sitting on a committee that vote on the nominees, this type of a thing.

DOROTHEA: So did you know about it before it was presented, or was it a surprise?

FORRIE: No, no, it was a surprise to me. I didn't know that --- I assume that I probably might have been told, had I not been going back to that particular meeting when it was being awarded. It was awarded to me back in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the annual meeting. But the award itself was a surprise to me, yes.

That I might just say, one of the other things --- we do a lot of different things in the research, and I guess part of the reason that the terminology of range, one of the things that we have, it's pretty broad, and we work, researched into many areas of things. And I might just point out that when Mount St. Helens blew, I was, I got permission, you might say that I just indicated that I thought we should do some work with St. Helen ash, because it's an opportunity that comes in only once in a lifetime. So that within five days after Mount St. Helens blew, I was up in Washington with a one-ton pickup, and then the next four days I drove back and forth and hauled in better than five ton of ash back here.

And this --- I then set up a program in which I employed Dr. Mailand over in the Twin Falls, at Kimberly, at Kimberly Research Laboratory of ARS in which he did, he is a very strong chemical analysis soils man, and he did a lot of detailed chemical soils analysis work on it.

And then I contacted the two ARS researchers in Reno, Nevada that are equipped very well to do seed germination studies, and I shipped down soils, or ash from here, down to them, and ash over to Hank Mailand, and they did germination studies, and Hank did the chemical studies.

And then I, we put field studies out here on the ground and did some other work. And this report then was written up in a joint report and presented to this annual meeting which was occurring only --- well let's see, Mount St. Helens blew in '81 I think, and I think this meeting here was in '82. And so we presented, we had a five team report that we made back there at Tulsa.

Which was, I felt rather, at this point in time the ARS was trying to push team research, and this was a good example of it. But it wasn't only that, it was also a good example of timely research of trying to jump on an opportunity that comes along and doing it.

It just so happened that just about six weeks after I had gotten the --- well it wasn't that long, it was while I was up actually getting the ash from there, that the department heads in Oregon State had called a meeting of the station superintendents and that, at Oregon State in regards to the St. Helens blow up, and they wanted to know what was being done in terms, for Oregon State. What we knew about the impact of a volcanism if it should happen to Oregon, and wanted to know what was being done.

And fortunately Bob Raleigh was able to say well we've got a man up in Washington getting ash and bringing down to conduct studies. And if it hadn't been for the works that we were doing, they would have all had egg on their face over at Oregon State. So that was one of the things.

And as a result of that work we also got, two years later we got a \$50,000 grant money through ARS that basically paid for Marshall Haferkamp coming in and doing his work up --- we went up there and selected a site just before I retired, and he did research up in Washington on some of those ash soils as a result of that work.

DOROTHEA: What did you do, mix it with the dirt, or what did you do?

FORRIE: Well most of it was just the impact of the ash on, at varying depths on the

existing grass stand, and what happened to it that way. And we followed that for a number of years.

DOROTHEA: Does it smother it, or what did you find?

FORRIE: Well some of it makes a little difference because the ash varies a little bit as you move away from the source of the volcanism. And this particular case up there at Yakima has sort of a very sandy ash, and it's just like fine sand. And you get up to Moses Lake and there it's just like flour. And so the sand, of course, doesn't really pose much of a problem, most things can push their way through it unless you were to get four or five inches of it on top of something. But for the most part a couple inches has very little impact on anything other than the fact that it's there. The other one, where it's ground up like flour, of course if you get rain on it then it crusts very badly, and makes it very difficult for anything that isn't extremely stiff and sharp pointed to push through it.

So the overall findings of it, that unless extremely deep, most of the ash didn't have much of an impact on the vegetation, the existing vegetation. The biggest thing in terms - -- it probably had more impact on the machinery operating in the area because of the grittiness, and it just wiped out the bearings and this type of thing, and the fact that it was hard to filter from the air filter systems. And then a creation of problems for people that had breathing problems already.

BARBARA: You mentioned that you did retire from your government service in 1981, and then you continued on maybe on a part time basis to do a little research for a short time after that?

FORRIE: Yeah, I finished up some of the programs that were going on. We had some work with paraquat going on that we continued. And then there was, they set up this electrical study over in Madras on the power lines that basically Bob Raleigh was in charge of. And I helped work on that particular program for --- and that extended out for

about six years.

BARBARA: So in about 1986 then you were completely retired were you?

FORRIE: Completely retired, yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And what are --- getting away from your job related things, what are some of the other things that you have been involved with in the community, or --- I know during the Christmas time you like to cook lefse for the church, down at the bazaars.

FORRIE: Yeah. Well of course ---

BARBARA: That one of your hobbies?

FORRIE: Yeah. Well of course in the early days, the kids in school, and we did belong to PTA, and I was president of the Slater PTA for one year. I think I put the first talent show on up here with part of the PTA group. And other than that, I haven't been involved greatly in community things. Part of it was my job, because I was sitting out at Squaw Butte most of the summer, and not able to, I mean in the early days we didn't have extremely good cars to go running back and forth. We weren't very ---

DOROTHEA: You didn't travel back and forth every day. You came in once a week, huh?

FORRIE: Yeah. And we basically made it in on Sundays to church. We belong to the Lutheran Church, and we did --- I've been active in that, in that area of things. Then as you pointed out that here recently through the church and that, and through the bazaar that the county extension developed that held the Christmas time --- well I do like to cook. I have no problems with it. And I make many of the Norwegian dishes that I'm familiar with. So I make lefse and krumkaka, and some of them.

BARBARA: Did you learn to do this at home as a child, or did you pick it up later as an adult?

FORRIE: Well I picked it up as an adult, but basically it was all from memory work that

my, as I seen my mother do it, and we helped her. I don't know how much help we were, but at that point in time I think we probably thought we were helping, you know. We were probably more in the way than anything. But it was just watching her, but watching her every year for seventeen years, you know. And then you started doing it, and then you remember that you --- It didn't turn out quite right, so you asked her in a letter how you do it. My mother is still alive yet.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

FORRIE: She is ninety years old this year, and still lives by herself. But ---

DOROTHEA: And takes care of herself you mean?

FORRIE: Up to this point in time she has. But she had to have a knee replacement here about six weeks ago, and her recovery has been a little bit slow. And we just don't know, this may be the end of her living alone. But she has been crippled. We lost my father in about '60, in the early '60's as a result of a truck accident at work. And she has --- well my youngest sister then was fourteen at the time. And so Mama has been alone, but she has been troubled, she's had arthritis real bad, and has trouble with that. But she is a terrific person and has never let it get her down, and she done her own cooking and ---

DOROTHEA: Well it's miraculous, you know, to live up to that age and still be able to take care of yourself.

FORRIE: Yeah, yeah. And she has never been able, as a result of her arthritis, she doesn't go out of her house more than, other than when the kids go home and take her out in the wheel chair and that type of thing, because she can't walk very far without being tired. So ---

So that is really the extent, I guess our kids played in little league or whatever it was they had in those days.

DOROTHEA: Did they do much bowling? I know Pat bowls.

FORRIE: Oh yeah, of course we bowled, Pat bowled, and I bowled there for a number of years. Gee, I guess it would have been in the '70's somewhere I guess, I think we probably were bowling about, Pat was bowling three or four times a week in different leagues.

BARBARA: I know I bowled with Pat when we first came here too. Went to state tournaments together.

FORRIE: Yeah, and then --- but she doesn't do it anymore. She cross-stitches a lot now. We do a lot of ---

BARBARA: Ride your bikes a lot I notice.

FORRIE: Well I do. Pat has given up bike riding a little bit. Our --- we have grandchildren back in Fargo, North Dakota, and they go to a Christian College, or Christian High School. And they have a bazaar type thing each fall in which they try to raise money to help the expenses of the school and that. And so we do a lot of handicraft work for that, mostly in the sewing area. Over the past two years I have had to find out how hard --- I admire people who sew well. Because I now know how hard it is. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well your wife is a very good seamstress, I think, she sews for other people.

FORRIE: Yes, yes. I have a hard time convincing her that she is.

DOROTHEA: That she is.

FORRIE: But she is her own worst critic.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Most people like that are. That's why they are good.

FORRIE: But I can do the little, I can do soft books, and these pillows, pillow quilt things that are on the market now, I do those kinds of things.

BARBARA: Well wonderful.

FORRIE: Along with other things that I mess around with.

BARBARA: And have you traveled much since you retired?

FORRIE: Well not in the ---

BARBARA: Other than visit children?

FORRIE: --- yeah we visit children. We've got grandkids, well our grandkids in Tucson, and grandkids in Salem, and grandkids in North Dakota, so ---

BARBARA: So you might tell us where your children are now.

FORRIE: Okay. Well Pennie is back in, basically in Fargo, North Dakota, six miles out of the town there.

BARBARA: What is her married name?

FORRIE: Hatlestad. She married Jerry Hatlestad whom she met when she was going to junior college back in --- she was living with my mother then in Fergus Falls, which is only fifty miles from Fargo. And Jerry is from that community. So she is basically back in the country that Pat and I grew up in.

Greg works for the State of Oregon in adult services, and currently he is over in Salem. And he has, he married Cathy Kivle, and some will remember the Kivle name because her father came in here for two or three years and was the hospital administrator, and then moved on down to Lakeview. So they're over in, and they have one boy who is, Timmy is eleven years old.

DOROTHEA: Does she spell her name with a K or a C?

FORRIE: That's a C.

DOROTHEA: C, Cathy.

FORRIE: Yeah. And we just come back from Seattle where Greg and Cathy and Timmy and Pat and I had been up there. And Timmy got to ride on the space needle, and went

to see the Mariners and Twins game. That's really what he wanted to see.

BARBARA: That's wonderful.

FORRIE: And then Gary is our youngest, and he is the one that is down in Tucson, and he married a Bend girl that had previously been married and had two children. And they are Corbett and Catrina and they are sixteen and seventeen years of age. And then they have their own little one that just came on board a year ago, Janna. And they went down there, he was in the insurance, but he ended up, when that sort of bellied up on them, he went in, they went into the catering business on a --- I don't know what kind of a situation you might call it, sort of a survival type situation. And they are doing quite well in it. At least they are making a living at it, and growing.

But currently, right now, they're sitting up in LaGrande with some of their catering operation, praying for some forest fires so that they get some work. Because there isn't, not very much work in Tucson right now because of the heat. Now they will have to go back because they have some big parties in September coming up. But they're sitting in LaGrande, of course there has been fires in Idaho and fires in Washington, fires all over in Oregon, but none in LaGrande. So it's sort of ---

BARBARA: You just never know.

FORRIE: It's funny how things work out sometimes.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they should have picked Lakeview.

FORRIE: Yeah, yeah, any place but LaGrande. He said he went down there and told them, he said that he would go down to Klamath Falls for just a flat fee, he said. I'll guarantee you won't have any fires once I get in there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, because I stop fires huh?

FORRIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well you came here thinking you were going to be here for a few years, and

ended up staying a long time. Have you any regrets in not transferring someplace else, or did you really like living in Burns?

FORRIE: No, I have always liked Burns. Pat had some reservations early on. She was -- of course when we came; we had no idea what this country was going to look like when we came up here. We had never been in this part of the country before. And we came in 1952, and for those who remember 1952, it was a beginning of a very wet year, and a wet cycle. A matter of fact, you drop off the mountain by Buchanan, and the first thing you hit was a flood in April, a flood over the highway. And it was flooded in a half a dozen spots between here and Burns. And I couldn't imagine what kind of a desert --- and I come over it at midnight.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

FORRIE: Yeah, I come over at midnight, and I couldn't imagine what kind of a country, what kind of a desert it was that had water like that in it. And then when I, the other hilarious thing about it, I came in at midnight like I say, and I got a room at the Central Hotel at that time, which was across from the Ford Garage, where it still is today, that part of it, and got a room there. And the next day I parked in front of the theater, which was directly across from the post office, and I went up to the office there above in the post office. And I come out an hour later and I had a parking ticket on my car. That's the only time I ever had a parking ticket in Burns, the first day I came in.

DOROTHEA: I believe that's probably the only year they gave them too. (Laughter) They used to do a lot of that. They don't do that anymore so much.

FORRIE: So then anyway, then I drove on out to the station. And again I had to go through water over the highway at, well where Riley is, where the station is today. And then on up where Chickahominy crosses, I went again through water that was oh about six inches over the highway. And then when I turned off to go into the station, I was hub

deep in mud all the way.

DOROTHEA: Fighting mud, yeah.

FORRIE: So it was strange. And then Pat came a couple a months later. She wasn't all too enthused about this, but --- Right now, it takes almost a crow bar for me to get her out and get her out of Burns anymore. And she is always ready to come back home. So things have changed.

BARBARA: So I think you're going to stay here as you retire.

FORRIE: So things have changed, yeah. Well we, we're pretty much permanently located here I think. We haven't found a place that we would like to move, that is better than it is --- Over the years it has been a pretty good place to live really.

DOROTHEA: Well with that, I'll have to say our little light is blinking, which means we have come to the end of our tape again. So we'll ask you if there is any other interesting things that you'd like to share with us, or can you think of anything that you would like to tell us that maybe you left out?

FORRIE: Well I guess what I would --- I'm glad that you give me the opportunity to --- there is from a standpoint of the history of the Squaw Butte Experiment Station, Art Sawyer who was the superintendent over all the years that I was there, did write up a historical account of the station. It's called the, "Squaw Butte Experiment Station: Its Development, Program and Accomplishments from 1935 to 1969". And this is in a Special Report Paper 599 of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. And copies of this would be available for anyone that wanted one of these down at the headquarters of the station down at Section Five. And I would assume that perhaps the library here has a copy of it. If not, they certainly should have one.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we'll find out and ---

FORRIE: Yeah. And it details everything that has been done in general, and who has

been here in what capacity. And it's a good historical accounting of the station.

DOROTHEA: This brings me a question, and I don't know whether we've got room to answer or not, but what do you think they are going to do about the Squaw Butte name? Do you really think they're going to change it? I understand that this is embarrassing some of the Indians a little bit. And what do you think they may be calling it?

FORRIE: Well, of course the original name Placidia Butte, for any of them that have looked into the historical record will recognize that this is what it was called in the earliest White man's history.

DOROTHEA: Right, yeah.

FORRIE: But evidently it was, while that was its name, the general reference to it was always Squaw Butte. And I guess I ---

(END OF TAPE)

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