

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #328 - Sides A & B & C

Subject: Carroll Bennett - With Video

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Date: October 15, 1992

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and today we're visiting with Carroll Bennett at the Harney County Library. Barbara Lofgren is here with us. And today's date is October 15th, 1992, the tape is number 328. Afterwards we will be doing a short video and it will be stored along with the tape at the Harney County Library. Carroll, can you tell us your name?

CARROLL BENNETT: Carroll Bennett.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

CARROLL: Right here in Burns.

DOROTHEA: And what were your parent's names?

CARROLL: My mother was Mary Bennett, born in John Day, Canyon City, but she came here and lived almost all her life here in Burns, Harney County. And Dad was Ellis B. Bennett, E.B. Bennett they called him when he was here in business. And they were here in business most all of their lives.

BARBARA LOFGREN: What was your mother's maiden name?

CARROLL: Mary Katherine Guernsey, Guernsey from the Canyon City area.

DOROTHEA: Now how is that spelled, is that spelled just like cow Guernsey?

CARROLL: Yeah, yeah, G U E R N S E Y.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CARROLL: Some back in the, when we did research on the ancestors, before they came over here,

they spelled it Garnsey, G A R N S E Y. But all the people over here used the G U E R.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Can you tell us who their parents were, and why maybe they came and settled in Harney County?

CARROLL: Okay. Well my mother first, being born in Canyon City, her parents were there, they came there from back east a ways and settled down. And they were farmers and millwrights and so forth. Mother taught school in a little schoolhouse up in Silvies Valleys. Actually, that little schoolhouse is still up there, that some of the people that are still living, I think Hankins went there, Ralph.

But she came down here and she met my father Ellis, and at that time Ellis was working for the Ford Garage, helping drive Model-T Fords. So, she met Dad, and they, from some of the letters we found later on they courted each other while Dad was still working for the Ford, Burns Garage, which was the Ford Garage.

And they finally got married I think in 1916, and then they had, actually had four children. The first baby died in a couple days time, it was --- and so then they had three more, three more children after that which was myself and my two brothers. And my oldest brother was Cleve Bennett and then the youngest brother was Jack, Jack Bennett. He was the youngest of the group, and we called him Baby Jack all the time.

BARBARA: He probably didn't appreciate that over the years, did he?

CARROLL: He didn't like that. Every once in awhile we still call him Baby Jack. That's almost fighting words, you know, so we don't do it too often.

Then over to my dad's side, his folks were really some of the old-time settlers of the first settlers of this, part of this county. But they actually settled in part of Grant County first, it was up in Silvies Valley. This grandfather of mine, William Bennett and his wife Ida Belle came up here from Winnemucca. Actually, they came out from Missouri and they went to Winnemucca. And some uncle down there of theirs talked them into coming to Burns.

So, they had a freight wagon and my grandmother tells this story that she didn't want to come to Burns, and she knew it was more of a desert, just a desert like Winnemucca, and she

always tells the story that she cried every step of the way, and she almost walked all the way from Winnemucca up.

But they were freight people, and they were bringing freight up and sold horses and so forth. So, Grandma Ida Belle and her husband William found a little homestead tract out in Silvies Valley. In fact, part of the building is still, live there, it's right where the Silvies Store is, and across the highway there is some red buildings there, which is now the old Ponderosa Ranch. And he settled, homesteaded two tracts, 260-acre tracts.

And then they started raising their family there. They raised six boys and one girl. And not one of those boys wanted to stay on the ranch. So, all the boys left and went their different directions, all the sons, and so when they left he and Ida Belle sold out and went to a ranch on the Silvies River, just west of John Day, until he died. And then Ida Belle came back to Burns until she died. They both lived to be ripe ages, around in the 80's, late 80's. So that pretty well brings up to date as to how we got here, in this area, and started with Harney County.

DOROTHEA: What were the boy's and the girl's names?

CARROLL: Well, okay, well see we've got the --- these names are pretty well known because most of them lived right here in Burns. We'll start with Merle; Merle was the principal of the high school here for several years. And then he retired from that and went into business with one of the brothers, Cecil.

But Cecil and my father Ellis, E. B., built the Chevrolet Garage, the first Chevrolet Garage that was here. In fact, they were into Hupmobiles and Essex's, and some other odd names of cars when they first started out. But they built the Chevrolet Garage and then Dad sold out to Cecil and went down the street and took over the Standard Service Station, that Burns Garage owned, and had a little garage down there.

And Cecil and Merle then kept running this Chevrolet Garage. And then of course the other brother, which was pretty famous for selling used cars, Frank Bennett --- and of course his son is still in the same business, known as Gerry Bennett.

But Frank always was a used car salesman for the company, and he never did buy into the

company, but he was always the salesman. He made more money selling cars he said than, rather than being part of the corporation. So, he set a record there one year of, I think it's in the newspaper years ago; he averaged a car and a half a day for one year. Every day of the year he sold a car and a half.

BARBARA: Good heavens.

CARROLL: So, it seemed like that anytime anybody got in his used car lot he sold them, no matter what. (Laughter)

BARBARA: That's truly amazing for a small community.

CARROLL: A small community. Quite a record he set with that. Okay, we've got through three of them, Ellis, and Merle, and Cecil and Frank. And then there is Bob Bennett; Bob Bennett was one of the first rangers in the Forest Service up here. He and Alice lived up at Crow Flat, where Crow Flat is. They lived up there in a little house, and they were rangers and they went out and rode the woods and watched out for fires, and took care of the fires. There was just one of them that did this, and now they've only got about three hundred people doing it, taking care of fires now.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Now this is not where the Crow Flat is now, was it? Or did it originally start where the Crow Flat buildings are now, or is it down further up towards ---

CARROLL: It was in the same area, but it was down a little bit closer to the highway, down where, sort of a spring or something was there I believe.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay. Because ---

CARROLL: Crow Flat Ranger Station I think --- you remember that, I mean it was a building there?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's ---

CARROLL: Then they hauled it off.

DOROTHEA: That --- one of those buildings was what started our house in Silvies.

CARROLL: Is that right?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, in fact two of them.

CARROLL: Oh.

DOROTHEA: The animal shed or garage, and one of the houses.

CARROLL: Well anyway, then Bob got with the Taylor Grazing people and then he; I think he retired from that. And Alice was a schoolteacher for several years, and then they both retired and did a lot of traveling. They're both deceased now.

And then there was the last one, the youngest boy, was Chet. Chet, Sr. and he is still living, and he's with his second wife, and they're over in the Enterprise country. And then he has Chet, Jr. that lives in John Day, and two or three other boys. But Chet is still living. I think he is in his late 80's, something like that.

There was another son that we found out about during our genealogical search that was made, and they had, this family of William and Ida Belle had a son, another son that died when it was two years old. And this little boy, he was the first born of the family, and so he wasn't talked about much by the people, by the aunts and uncles, but we found this out and we found his grave. And his grave is up in the area just about where old Fort Harney used to be.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

CARROLL: I don't know, it's pretty hard to find exactly where that fort was. Not too many people know right where the fort was, but I think it was right there where Trainers live now, maybe.

DOROTHEA: Or around in that area.

CARROLL: In that area. And anyway, this grave was up on a little ledge there, and it had a picket fence around it when my wife and I found it. And we decided to take care of it, seemed like other people that was taking care of it had stopped. So, we took over taking --- we've got it fenced off now to keep the animals out. And the little boys name was Bernie, (Bertram) little Bernie. And he was born first, two years ahead of the other children, so then he died. So that made quite a family that they had.

DOROTHEA: What was the girl's name?

CARROLL: Oh yeah, the girl now was Katie. Just Katie, it wasn't Kathryn, it was just Katie, K A T I E, I believe. And she married Mellie Parker, and they were really old timers, and they've been gone for years and years. So, she was the only girl.

And one thing that they did with that family, they have the brand, they had a 7, and then they had a K connected to it, so it was 7 boys and the girl with a K. So, they used a 7K for the brand on their animals for that day. And the brand is still available now. I think Richard Bennett, one of Bob's sons, used the same brand on his ranch down at Jordan Valley.

DOROTHEA: Now Richard Bennett, is that Patty Cowing's dad?

CARROLL: Yeah, yeah that's her dad.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CARROLL: And Richard is --- Richard and Stanford, Myra (also Muriel) were children of Bob Bennett's.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Now I wondered how that came about, and now I know.

CARROLL: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, let's go on with some more of the history, more or less. I know your mother was also a well-known person in Burns. She started some of the things, she was a Rebekah, an active church person, and she started a friendly hour group through the Rebekahs, which was a group of senior ladies that she got together, and they had good times. They had lunch together, and kind of spent some time singing songs, and this. And can you tell us some of the other things your mom might have done?

CARROLL: Some of the what?

DOROTHEA: Some of the other things?

CARROLL: Other? Well, to me it just seemed like she was really busy all the time. (Laughter) Always involved in something. And I don't know if I could remember all of the things she was into. Mother's Club, that was quite, real prominent one year ago, the Mother's Club. Of course, I imagine she was probably president of that two or three times, or whatever. Her and Henrietta Eggleston used to be real active in a lot of these things. And of course, Henrietta's children and my age group, my brothers we're all about the same so the children ran around together quite a bit.

DOROTHEA: And that was Dale and Daryl?

CARROLL: Dale and Daryl was Henrietta's, yeah, children. This--- I don't, like you say Eastern

Star and Rebekahs, yeah, were active in that.

DOROTHEA: Quite a piano player, did she used to play for dances or anything?

CARROLL: Yeah, that was something. I'll never forget when I was a little, small, wasn't quite old enough to do much dancing, but I think I might have tried a few times. But they used to have these, the old time dances they called them, and Mother would play the piano, and her father would play the fiddle. And he was a fiddler from way back. I mean he just, they played the old-time fiddle pieces. And then they would have a drummer sometimes. And they had a hall here they called the Tonawama Hall.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CARROLL: I think it's, wasn't it above the Baird Hardware, is that where that was?

BARBARA: Where the old Burnstowne Apartments were, I think is where they --- isn't that where they say it was?

CARROLL: Yeah, that might have been the Tonawama, where it was.

BARBARA: Is that right?

DOROTHEA: I think, yeah, I can't remember exactly where it started. But it could have been above Bairds, but afterwards it went on to where Burnstowne Apartments are now, across from the Chevrolet Garage there, that's now Fulton's and the video place is.

CARROLL: Yeah, where the motel, sort of a motel, hotel. That's where the building was, that's right.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CARROLL: And it used to be they had these dances, and of course they danced most of the night. They wouldn't quit at 1 or 2 o'clock. And as long as people wanted to dance, they would stay there and play. And around the sides were wooden benches for the, where the people sat that weren't dancing. I can remember going to sleep on those wooden benches many a night waiting for the folks to get through.

And of course, this is where we learned how to, all of us learned how to dance too. The old-time dances, where you could really get out and enjoy yourself. And then of course lots of the

waltzes you would get to hold the girl in your arms, you know. Like nowadays they don't even touch each other.

DOROTHEA: No, no, I think they're afraid of each other or something.

BARBARA: Did your father play an instrument?

CARROLL: No, he didn't.

BARBARA: So, he just danced with the other ladies while your mother played, is that right?

CARROLL: That's what he did, and he was a dancer. Oh, he was a real dancer. He and mother took several prizes with their waltzes. He and Richardson, the ex-postmaster, what was his first name? Richardson anyway, and Faye's father, Faye Richardson's father, Faye Smith. But they would always have a contest to see who could do the best waltzes at these dances. So, they enjoyed themselves a lot.

Then of course as we grew up we'd do the same things ourselves, because that was just what our folks did, and we wanted to do the same thing and be as good a dancer as they did. And so, we didn't --- until later we got into the different kinds of dancing, but then that was the only thing to do.

BARBARA: Did they go to other people's homes too, besides going down to the hall to perform or ---

CARROLL: Oh, not too much the homes. They'd go to other organizations.

BARBARA: Grange halls, or things like that?

CARROLL: Grange, lots of grange halls, yeah that's one of the big --- Then the grange that they built out here, the Poison Creek Grange.

BARBARA: Did they ever go out to Drewsey?

CARROLL: Uh huh, yes, we'd go to Drewsey quite often and play at the dances there. Of course, the Drewsey people had a lot of their own players. They were a little bit particular who came and took over. They wouldn't let anybody take over; they'd let them join them.

DOROTHEA: That was at the time of the fights, the Drewsey fights, and what have you.

CARROLL: Oh yeah, that was one of the big parts of the evening to go out and watch somebody fight outside.

BARBARA: Who were ---

DOROTHEA: Did you --- oh excuse me.

BARBARA: Who were some of the other people that played with your mother, do you recall?

CARROLL: Well Henrietta played piano quite a bit, and would spell, take mother's place once in awhile. There was a saxophone player, I can't remember who it was, nope. Probably a lot of different people played with them.

DOROTHEA: Did you live most of your life in Burns?

CARROLL: Yeah, most of it. Okay, I was born here in; want me to tell you how old I am?

BARBARA: Sure, if you don't mind.

DOROTHEA: Sure.

CARROLL: Doesn't bother me any. I was born here in April of 1919, and it was a big old two-story house right down where the Chinese people live now, Yee, Quong, or whoever.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

CARROLL: Anyway, their home was right in the same place where our home was, where I was born. My brother Jack and then Cleve I think was born in the hospital, something like that, but we were all three of us were born right here in Burns. And --- want me to just go on from there?

BARBARA: Sure.

DOROTHEA: Sure.

CARROLL: Of course, I spent all my grade school and high school days here in Burns. And those days we didn't have any buses for going to school. We lived way down in the flat there for awhile where, oh just close to where the Harney Veterinary Service down there, where ---

BARBARA: Where Pielstick's are, Pielstick's?

CARROLL: Yeah, where Pielstick's place is, and just up a little bit where those big trees are.

DOROTHEA: Frank and Trilby, or no, Genevieve ---

CARROLL: Genevieve, yeah Frank, where the Bennett's all lived down in that flat down there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CARROLL: Frank and Genevieve, and then Genevieve now, Genevieve Bennett. She --- we lived

there many years ago, and Dad, in fact those big tall trees there that are monster trees, I remember when I was little my dad planted those trees. And we used to have big beautiful gardens there. There used to be a slough that run back through that area back there, that water would be an overflow from the Silvies River. And it was a dirty place, dirty water. We used to go swimming there every day, and we all lived through it. I think we had malaria one time, I'm not sure. But it didn't seem to bother us too much, we'd swim in the Silvies River, we'd swim in that slough, and got by all right.

I remember one time, thinking about the buses, the school buses and so forth --- but we had to walk from down there to the grade school which was the same spot where the school is now, was a big rock building there, three story rock building. Old man Sutton was the principal. We always say old man Sutton, I don't know why we say that, it wasn't very nice. But anyway Mr. Sutton was the principal in those days.

One day, I was walking home from there back to the house, and there was a big open flat just before the house down there, in the flat. And one of these big black clouds came over; it was a hail, a thunderstorm cloud. And it came over and it just let out these big hailstones. And the hailstones were so hard and heavy that when I was going out across the flat, it just flattened me right down on the ground, and I couldn't hardly get up. And my mother was telling me about it afterwards, she said, she was standing in the kitchen window watching me, and she didn't know whether I was going to make it or not. But she didn't want to get out in the hailstorm, maybe knock her out. (Laughter) So she waited and she saw me get up and come on in, so we got through that one all right. And I'll have to talk about --- that was the time in my life when I tried my first cigarettes. And ---

BARBARA: Roll your own?

CARROLL: No, we stole them from my dad, he had some in the house and we would sneak those cigarettes out. And out back of the house a ways there was a bunch of willows, and we made a little play place in the side of the willows where we'd be private.

BARBARA: A little fort, huh?

CARROLL: Yeah, a little hideaway fort. We'd steal two or three cigarettes and we'd go out there and try them out, you know, and get half sick and so forth. And somebody told us if we'd come home and get into the breadbox and eat a bunch of bread it would take the smell of the smoke away. (Laughter) We tried that, but the smell of the smoke didn't go away. And my mother was always the one that took care of any problems of us three boys had, she would be the disciplinary person. And she got my older brother and I in the kitchen and says, "Well, you boys been over there smoking cigarettes?" "Yes, yes," we said, "yes," we didn't lie about it. We knew she had us caught. She had that way with us, I mean we were right straight with our mother, and she --- her way, part of her punishment was to cry. She would cry and make us feel so bad that it was worse than getting a spanking. (Laughter) But anyway, this day she decided to use something a little bit stronger, so she went and got a bar of soap and made us open our mouth, and she washed our mouths out with soap. And I think that was the last cigarette we had for a long time.

DOROTHEA: Didn't like the taste of that, huh?

CARROLL: Nope.

BARBARA: Oh, goodness.

DOROTHEA: I had my mouth washed out a few times, but it wasn't for smoking. My experience with smoking was my mother got a package of cigarettes and I had to smoke the whole thing.

CARROLL: She made you smoke it?

DOROTHEA: Yes. Right in front of her, and oh boy, I never smoked again.

CARROLL: Well, to go on with the rest of it ---

DOROTHEA: Where did you go to school, here?

CARROLL: Yeah, both grade school and high school. And the high school time is where the junior high is now, was our four years of high school right there. That's when my uncle, Merle, Merle was the principal. And he was also a teacher and a principal. Graduated there in 1937.

BARBARA: Do you recall some of the teachers that were on staff at that time?

CARROLL: I can't remember them now. The --- Bullard, I can remember the band player, and Bullard was the instructor of the band because I played in the band part of the time. The first two

years in high school, and then the next two years I was in sports, so I didn't play too much band.

But Bullard and, chemistry teacher, I can't remember his name.

BARBARA: You talk about Mr. Sutton when you were in grade school.

CARROLL: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you, were you afraid of him like some of the students were, or did you like him?

CARROLL: I thought that we had the best person we ever did have, could have for a principal and teacher. But I don't know there was anybody that wasn't afraid of him. It wasn't because he was cruel, or anything like that, but he was so strict that you didn't get away with anything. One of his favorite tricks, and he never missed, he could sit up in front of the classroom and take a great big key ring, had about twenty or thirty keys on it, and he could lift it up and if somebody wasn't paying attention way in the back of the room or anyplace, he could toss that key ring and it would land on the desk right in front of the person that wasn't paying attention. And from then on, they paid attention because that key ring would really shake them up.

One time, I had a run in with him, a session with him. There was a little bit of snow on the ground and we were playing out in front of this big stone school, and we were not supposed to make snowballs and throw snowballs at each other when we was out in front of the school because it might break a window in the school, in the school windows. So, this one boy was throwing a snowball at me, and I reached down to get a snowball to throw back at him and Mr. Sutton had a little bell that had a clinker in it, a little clanker, and this little bell he carried around with him, and he would clank that thing, and when everybody heard this little clanker going, everybody froze. I mean you stopped, and you looked at him to see who he wanted. And I looked up there with that snowball in my hand. He looked down at me and his finger was going like this, come up here, come up here, and I knew that was it. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You were in big trouble.

CARROLL: I know. He put me back in his little waiting room. I know, I think everybody that went to school there had one of these sessions. You'd go in the little waiting room and you'd sit there, and you'd wait, and you'd wait, and wait, when is he going to come and do it? When is he

going to come and do it? Oh, he finally showed up, and he says, "Bend over." And he had this big ruler and you bent over and grabbed your ankles, and he'd give you about four swats, and that took care of the whole situation right then.

DOROTHEA: That was the end of that, huh? Was Lela McGee one of your teachers?

CARROLL: Yeah, yeah McGee.

DOROTHEA: How about a Stallard, Agnes Stallard?

CARROLL: Agnes Stallard was there. I think I missed her part of the time. She came there quite a bit after me. And the lady that had the wooden leg, what was her name? Oh, a wonderful teacher, but anyway she was --- What I remembered about her the most was that she would read us stories, we'd always have a special story read to us once or twice a week. Then there was that blonde girl, blonde teacher. Nope, I can't remember these. I should have ---

BARBARA: Do you remember school as being fun and interesting, or did you kind of dislike going to school? Did they make it interesting for you, did you learn a lot?

CARROLL: Yeah, oh yeah. I loved every minute of it. I never did, I don't remember ever having any feeling of not wanting to go to school. That had to be a combination of my family and the teachers I guess that made you feel that way. Because they didn't, they never did make it to where you didn't want to be there.

BARBARA: Did you have just basic classes, or did you have extra classes like music or shop, or anything like that?

CARROLL: Grade school was very regimented.

BARBARA: Standard.

CARROLL: Standard. And high school got into more; you could go into music and glee club, and stage plays, or athletics, or whatever you wanted to get into. You almost had your choice.

DOROTHEA: Did they start music in the younger school, like they do now, or did you wait until you got into high school before they started?

CARROLL: No, we had music in grade school.

DOROTHEA: Did you?

CARROLL: Yeah. We had a little band there. In fact, the band teacher was a lady that still lives here, out in Diamond. We called her Bezdichek, and that was Mrs. Jenkins. Let's see, what's the boy's name? Anyway, the Jenkins out there, she is still out there on the old original ranch.

DOROTHEA: I think that is, is that Dick?

CARROLL: Dick, Dick, in fact I think his father's name was Dick. I think that's who Mrs. Bezdichek, that was her original name. And she taught all of the instruments, and had this little band there in grade school.

BARBARA: You talk about having plays in high school; did you ever perform in that? Or did they put them on for the whole community, was it just students, or did older people join in that too?

CARROLL: Well, I think it would be a combination of everything you said from what I can remember. I think most everybody in school had a chance to be in a play it seemed like sometime during your high school days. Then they'd have singing groups, and then they'd have, of course a lot of band groups too.

BARBARA: Did they put them on at the high school, or did they put them on at the theater?

CARROLL: No, almost all of it was at the high school, at the big auditorium there. I guess it's still there, with the stage, yeah. That's where they had all the sessions. And then all the basketball games of course was downstairs in the gym.

DOROTHEA: Did you go to many movies when you were a child?

CARROLL: Well ---

DOROTHEA: Do you remember them?

CARROLL: I can remember that we had two, it seemed that we had two theaters. One was up here right where the service station, right next to the Brown, old Brown Building, where the service station is right next to it.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, where the Texaco is now.

CARROLL: Yeah, the Texaco Station. And the other one was down where the Silver Sage is. Of course, everybody went to all the movies, of course there was no TV. So, you had to go to all the movies, and of course it seemed like there was always good movies too. And this is where

Henrietta and her husband came in. The movies had no sound originally, a long time ago. And Henrietta and her husband, she played the piano and her husband played the fiddle, and they would play all the music for the movie.

DOROTHEA: Now was that Eggleston or was that Bardwell?

CARROLL: Well that was Eggleston then.

DOROTHEA: Eggleston.

CARROLL: Yeah, that was them, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well, I know that Henrietta used to play for the soundless ones down at the Ideal Theater. Did she do that at the Liberty too?

CARROLL: Liberty, most all of those at the Liberty. I think she played both places, but mostly I think the sound wasn't there when the Liberty was on. And then a little later the sound started coming, I think, at the other one.

BARBARA: You mentioned playing sports, what did you participate in, and who did you play against during that time?

CARROLL: Oh, probably most of the same teams. Oh, they've got a lot more teams now that they play against in towns than we did then, like John Day. Once in awhile Bend with the basketball games, and Prairie City, Crane. Crane was considered in our area, in our class I think at that time, because we played them I know in some of the games. And played, I played both basketball and football my junior and senior year. And I had a little, sort of a record, I think I sort of enjoyed the senior year. In our team we didn't have offense and defense teams. The main team, we called it, would go out and they could just keep playing until somebody got hurt or got too tired. They needed to stay in whether it was offense or defense. And this one year I played every minute of every game, all year, so, I didn't get hurt the whole year.

DOROTHEA: You didn't sit on the bench, huh?

CARROLL: No, I didn't sit on the bench. So, I was pretty happy with that one, and not to get hurt, because so many of the boys did get hurt, you know, temporarily.

BARBARA: Get the wind knocked out of you.

CARROLL: Yeah, that's the one that gets you the most.

BARBARA: And were you able to go on to college?

CARROLL: Yeah, now we're leading up to college. My mother being connected with the Christian Science Society here, she wanted her boys to go to the Christian Science College, which was out by St. Louis, Missouri, right along the Columbia [corrected to Mississippi] River.

Now Cleve, the oldest boy, he went out there two years and went to school there. And a beautiful setting, right on the bluffs of the Columbia [Mississippi] River, and it was a fairly strict school. They, in those days they were sending students home for being involved with smoking, or drinking, or staying out late at night, or something like that, they would send, the students would get sent home during those days. Anyway, that school was fairly strict.

So, she sent me out there for one year, right after I graduated from high school, in '37. And talk about a mother's perseverance, or determine, what she is going to make this thing work. They didn't have too much money in those days. That's, that was just barely building back up after the depression I guess they were. We didn't even know there was a depression on, the way the folks took care of it.

But anyway, she said, "Well, we have just enough money to pay your tuition at the school for one year. And to get you out there, we don't have enough money for your transportation." So, she says, "You get your bag packed now and I'm going to take you out here to the junction where the Y is just out of town," and she says, "I'm going to put you out there with your bag, and you're going to hitchhike to St. Louis." Here I am now, eighteen years old, seventeen, eighteen years old --

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BARBARA: Had you ever been out of the state before?

CARROLL: Never been anyplace. And my mother takes me, I can't believe it, she takes me out there and says now you get to St. Louis. (Laughter) And I made it in two rides. I'll never forget it. First ride I went to Boise, and the second ride I got in with this man, old man, he was driving, and he says, "Where are you going?" I said, "I'm going to St. Louis." He says, "I'm going right through St. Louis." And away we went, I got, made a trip.

BARBARA: Did you help him drive?

CARROLL: No, he wouldn't let me drive. He didn't think I was quite old enough I guess.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: We might back up just a little bit and tell about what your parents did for a living, and maybe some of your jobs that you had maybe to help them.

CARROLL: Yeah. Well Dad, of course, was in the car business all the time. Like I said he and Cecil built the Chevy Garage, and then he sold out to Cecil, his brother, and he had this other garage down the street where the Chevron Station is. There is some buildings, that were built right next to that hotel, they had a parts shop, they had a mechanics shop, and then they had --- Albert Cross was the body and fender man, he was down on the end of that complex. And then of course, us boys would work there when school wasn't on, or on the weekends we would work there and try to earn some money pumping gas and selling tires, and greasing cars. And ---

BARBARA: This was also Chevrolet connected to?

CARROLL: No, yeah, no Chevrolet stayed up here with Cecil at the other garage. But Dad then went into the GMC, GMC trucks and Oldsmobile; he sold the Oldsmobile's. That was one thing was real nice in high school, when Dad would sell these Oldsmobile's, but he would always have a demonstrator, a brand new car demonstrator. And he'd let us boys drive it once in awhile, and of course these new cars had a lot of "pickup" value.

BARBARA: You must have really enjoyed going to school and having the girls ride around with you, didn't you? (Laughter)

CARROLL: Yeah, that new car really helped out.

BARBARA: There weren't too many students being able to park new cars on the parking lot, were there?

CARROLL: No. Anyway, then he went on down the street to another location down where the Safeway Store was, there used to be a garage there. And he had another garage with the youngest son, and they finally sold out and stopped the business. And then Dad was in real estate after that.

BARBARA: Did your mother help out in the business too; did she do books or things like that?

CARROLL: She did all the bookwork for Dad all the time. She was a very good bookkeeper.

Yeah, she had gone to college and learned that much about taking care of books so she could help out.

DOROTHEA: You said your Uncle Merle was a principal. Did he go to college to do this, or did they just have to have a certain amount of ---?

CARROLL: He had a college degree in education.

DOROTHEA: Did he?

CARROLL: Yeah, he did.

DOROTHEA: How many years do --- did anyone ever say that it took him to get that?

CARROLL: Well, I don't know how long it took for him to get his degree.

DOROTHEA: Because I know they used to hire teachers here that if they had any college education at all, like my mother had two years, she was able to teach. Now of course they couldn't do that.

CARROLL: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: So ---

CARROLL: Well that's the way mother did too, when she was nineteen years old, I don't know what she had, but she taught in that little school out there in Silvies.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Well, I think some of them with a high school education, if they could pass a certain test, then they were authorized to go ahead and teach.

CARROLL: I think that's what they were doing then, yeah.

BARBARA: And a lot of them in the earlier times too, only hired single people. If they got married then they weren't allowed to teach anymore too.

CARROLL: Huh, yeah, okay.

BARBARA: We've heard that story too.

CARROLL: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: So, things have certainly changed over the years. Where did your mother go to

college, do you know? Did she go back to St. Louis too?

CARROLL: No, she didn't, no they weren't doing that. She wasn't even with the church then, when she was young, Christian Scientist. She went to Boise for one, a couple of years, I don't know, to get some kind of a help, education.

Then she was quite, like talking about she was quite active in playing the piano. She used to teach piano lessons too. She had a little, I'll never forget that, she took a great big table, great big long table, and the system was called the Dunning, Dunning System. And she got this big box of items that, when she laid these things on the table they were notes, musical notes so you could see this big musical note maybe five inches long, big, that would be the same musical note in a book that would, that you would play on a piano. And it would be the same design and everything, and they'd lay them out there and then she would teach the children what those all looked like and what note that was. They would put it on the scale and see what part of the scale and what note it was. And then she would have these children down and teach them these, how to play the piano, what notes were, what it all meant.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever play the piano? Did she teach any of you boys?

CARROLL: Nope. I played the trumpet and oldest brother Cleve played the fiddle for a while. And Jack didn't play at all. But she never did give us the piano. I don't know why we didn't. We should have been piano players, but we weren't.

DOROTHEA: Well, before we go on to where you went from college, let's turn this tape over.

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: Where did you go from college then? I understand that you were in the Air Force, or the Service of some sort. Can you tell us something about that?

CARROLL: Well, I've got that one year in at Principia back there at the Columbia, on the Mississippi River. And the next year, now we're getting close to World War II time, and this is about 1939, '40. Everybody was starting to worry about if they were the right age whether they was going to get drafted or not, or whether they wanted to go to the Service and so forth. And my dad

had a mechanic, automotive mechanic that was working for him, and this fellow was a little bit older man, and he wasn't worried about the draft, but he wanted to give me some advice. He said, "Now, I'll tell you what you ought to do. You had better go to college in this time, for this World War II, you could have two years of college, and then you could go to the aviation cadet program and become a pilot." So, he says, "That's what you want to do, because you've been" ---

I've been flying out here at Burns, and learning how to fly, and enjoying it. And I thought well gee, if I want to go in the Service, I should be a pilot. So, then I went to Oregon State College and got my second year of school, college, so I could go in cadets. And then that gave me the, all the credits I needed to --- all I had to do then was pass the physical and then I could go into cadets.

So, they sent this team around to the colleges and gave physicals to all the boys that wanted to try out. And I passed the physical so I had to, came home and waited for them to call me up in 1941, early '41. Then they sent me to Texas and I took all my training down in Texas, and this was the start of the military program.

DOROTHEA: During this time did you meet your wife, or where did you meet your wife?

CARROLL: Oh yeah, that's quite a story that happened right here in Burns. See, she had a sister that was living here, and her husband, the sister's husband was married to a --- the CCC program was on here in Harney County, the 3C's. And Marian's sister was married to this 3C foreman, and so they were living here in Burns. So, Marian was living in Milwaukie, Oregon, and she came down to visit her sister. And I, seemed to me like here in Burns, any new girls come around, you know, you always wanted to get acquainted with them and see who they were, and everything. (Laughter) So I decided I ought to find out who she was, new girl. She was only sixteen then when she first came to Burns. She told me she was seventeen, but she was only sixteen we found out after she had a birthday, we found out how old she was.

Anyway, I met, through her sister I met her. And we got acquainted and had some dates and we both was shooting bow and arrows in those days. We went up to Idlewild and go up there and shoot bow and arrows and really having a big-time date, you know. And then, I think a month or two later I had, I think I had about four hundred dollars in the bank. I told her I said, "Well, I have

four hundred dollars in the bank, and let's get engaged and we'll get married later on." (Laughter)
She said, "Okay," with no argument, no discussion about it.

BARBARA: She was seventeen at that time?

CARROLL: Yeah. So, then the war got involved, the --- going to the cadet program.

BARBARA: Well maybe before we go into more of your training there, you mentioned just a moment ago that you had done some flying around in Burns before. Maybe you can tell what you did, and who you ---

CARROLL: Yeah, missed that part, right.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

CARROLL: The boy that was the instructor here that taught an awful lot, several of us that lived here in Burns, was Daryl Eggleston, Barbara's husband. And he was, well he was an instructor, then there was a couple others after that, considered to be old timers there. But he taught a lot of us our first flying. And we learned how to fly in a little single engine Taylor Craft, aircraft, little Luscoms. And right out --- the airstrip was out about three-fourths the way out toward the other airport, it's a little piece of land out there, and you can still see the little strip, where the grass strip out through the sagebrush, right out in one of the fields out there. That's where we all learned how to fly.

So that was my feeling for flying, I knew that I wanted to stay with it. So, I got to do that, and build up a few hours there. Of course, that wasn't anything compared to the planes that the military is going to use, but it did show that a person was interested in it by having a few hours in the smaller aircraft.

BARBARA: Where did you fly around here? Just right around Burns, or did you make any trips at all?

CARROLL: You didn't go very far in those days. The plane would only fly about two hours in gas, and we'd just fly around the county here. Once in awhile I made a couple trips to Portland, and I thought that was a pretty big trip going down to Portland and back. And maybe over to Boise or something like that. Go out in somebody's field out, somebody's ranch, and that's about all they did

in those days.

BARBARA: Did you get a license at that time?

CARROLL: Yeah, I had a solo ticket first, and of course the only thing you had to do in a solo ticket was take a physical, and pass the physical, and show them that you could see, and hear, and talk. And then a private license after that, and the private license you would get so many hours. It used to be back then about thirty hours, you get about thirty hours of flying then you could get a private ticket, and you're eligible to haul other passengers. And that's about as far as I went then, during that period of flying.

DOROTHEA: Did they have a plane that would haul more than one person here?

CARROLL: We had a two-passenger plane was all they had at that time. They had a, we had an open cockpit airplane that Dale Eggleston and I bought one time. You could put on helmets and goggles and go out and fly in it.

BARBARA: The Red Baron, huh?

CARROLL: The Red Baron type of flying, yeah. We never had any larger planes then. They came a little later. I'll have to remember to tell you about my --- Dale Eggleston and I, we established the first Oregon Airlines. That's quite a little story in itself. Of course, we went Chapter Eleven bankruptcy. (Laughter) That comes later though.

BARBARA: Okay, so it's 1941, you finished two years of college and you've gone to Texas.

Where --- you left a --- you had an engagement and left a girl and went to Texas, is that right?

CARROLL: That's the way it went. And got down to Texas and went to Ballinger, Texas and San Angelo, Texas, and Mission, Moore Field and Mission, Texas. Had three bases in those days, you'd have three stages that you had to go through, primary, basic, and advanced to get to be ready to be an Air Force pilot. And I was very fortunate, I think, I got to go into the fighter group, the fighter type of flying and stayed with the single engine planes. And it took nine months to go through this training program. And when you go in there, it was a little bit like the military academies in a way that they had lower classmen and upper classmen. And when you were a lower classman you had to wait on all the upper classmen and be sure that you didn't snub them and do anything that they

didn't like. Because they would haze you a little bit, and make you do a few pushups and so forth. It wasn't too bad. Of course, you got to be an upper classman after awhile, and then you could get even.

BARBARA: Take a little revenge.

CARROLL: Get even, yeah. But it was some of the most thrilling and interesting times, days of my life as far as I'm concerned. I could just go and do it over and over and over if I ever had a chance or something like that. I just loved every minute of it; it was just so exciting and thrilling all the time.

BARBARA: And how long was your training there, was it nine months?

CARROLL: The training was nine months, yeah. And then you graduated and you got little, second lieutenant gold bars, and a pair of wings. And of course, when you dress up with that uniform and put those wings on, you walked downtown, you were pretty fancy type people.

BARBARA: You stand pretty tall.

CARROLL: Yeah.

BARBARA: Was the Air Force connected with the Army at that time? They didn't have a ---

CARROLL: Army Air Corp.

BARBARA: Uh huh, they were not a separate Air Force?

CARROLL: That's what it was called, Army Air Corp, right, during those days, right. And then while I was down in Texas, before I graduated see, one of the requirements was that you weren't supposed to be married when you went in to be a cadet. But the war got so heavy, and they weren't really watching people too closely. A lot of us cadets decided maybe during the last days in the advanced training that we'd maybe get married a little early before we graduated.

So, I mentioned that to Marian, and she was in Milwaukie, and the next thing I knew I had a telegram that says that I'm on the train, I'll be there in five days, I think it was, it took the train to get out there to Texas. But she rode that train out there and met me down in Mission, Texas, which is way down in Southern Texas.

And being on the cadet system, we had --- we'd get off Saturday, during Saturday and

Sunday, and had to be back on the base Sunday evening. So, we made the arrangements that I'd come in Saturday --- Friday night, we got married Saturday, and then Sunday I went back to the base and we didn't see each other again until the next weekend. So that's the way we started out our married --- we was making seventy-five dollars a month.

And of course, there was just --- several of these girls that came down and were married, all the cadets there, they all stayed together in town and they had a good time living in little apartment houses and stuff waiting for the men to come in on the weekends.

BARBARA: She had just finished high school during this time, or had she been out a little while then?

CARROLL: Yeah, she had been out a couple years is all, yeah.

BARBARA: I see.

CARROLL: She didn't get a chance to get any more education though.

BARBARA: So how old was she when you got married then?

CARROLL: Oh, let's see, that would make her nineteen I think, make her about nineteen when we got married. Yeah, so we've been married, this is our fiftieth anniversary year, '42 to '92, yeah. We just had our anniversary last May, in May. We did something a little different on the anniversary. We went to the ocean beach and it was real beautiful weather in May, and we went there and celebrated our fiftieth, all by ourselves on the beach at the ocean. That's another part of the story.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: Well, that's pretty nice.

CARROLL: I had to put it in there while I remembered it. You know fifty years you start forgetting some of these things. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: So where did you go from Texas then, did they ship you out?

CARROLL: Well, okay, yeah --- no, we stayed in the states for a while; we started flying the fighter aircraft. This is where I built up a lot of time in the single engine fighters. In fact, our outfit, they decided they wanted to make us instructors so we could start training other new students to be fighter pilots. And here we hadn't even been in combat, but they said well we'd flown enough that

we knew how to fly the plane and would be fighter type flying. So, we stayed in the states about another year and a half. I didn't get overseas until --- that was '42, graduated in '43, late '43. That was almost a year and a half before I got overseas. Then I went to England and got in with the mustang, the fighter aircraft, a P-51 mustang, which escorted the bombers, and then we got to do a lot of dog fighting and strafing down on lower altitude work.

But I'll have to go back just a little bit before I went overseas to relate the only time that I was in an aircraft, a pilot of an aircraft, I mentioned this at the top --- didn't say it at the top, but there is only one time that I was a pilot of an aircraft where the aircraft got damaged in over 20,000 hours. I had never been involved with a damaged airplane, but this one time was down on the dessert on maneuvers. The army was having some maneuvers down there, and we were supposed to be working with the army and strafing and simulating strafing on them, and dropping bombs on them, and things like that, so they could get army, or desert practice.

And we had this one aircraft that was a, it was a two-place dive bomber type of plane, single engine, and you had a little gunner sitting in back of you, had a little seat back there for him, and then you flew the plane. You had a little telescope on this thing, and this thing was called a dive bomber, and you just, that was called A-24 Dive Bomber. And it would carry bombs, and you go right straight down and then you release the bombs by looking through this telescope to see where you're going to drop them.

Nowadays they do everything by electronics, you know, and they see if the electronic screen is right, time to push the button. But then you had to see what you was diving on. So, we were flying these planes and they didn't even have any radios in them, because they hadn't gotten around to getting radios in this plane. They were shipping most of the radios out to the war zones.

We was out flying around doing some practicing, and I had a boy with me that was, the first time that he had ever been in an airplane, and he wanted to take a ride. Okay, we got up there, got ready to come back in and land at this little air base down in California, down in Blythe, California, close to it. And there is a lever down here right beside you on the floorboard, a little lever that you pulled out and pulled it up and that would release the wheels and the wheels would go down and

lock into position and then you could make your landing. Well this lever was stuck, it wouldn't come loose, no matter what I did with it the lever wouldn't come loose.

So now I'm up in the air with no radio contact, and no way to tell the people on the ground what was the trouble. And so, I happened to have a handkerchief in my pocket, it was a white handkerchief, I wrote a note on it with a pen on the handkerchief. I flew over the airport and dropped my handkerchief down to these people so they could read my message.

BARBARA: Oh my, wonderful, what a story.

CARROLL: Yeah. So right away the fellow took off in another plane and he had written a message to me on the side of his airplane with chalk. What a communication program! So, he wrote this message, now he says, "Do what I do." He says, "Do what I do," and he would dive the plane, pull it up real fast to try to shake the gear out of the box. It would pull back real fast and it would try to throw that gear out. I shook my head that I had already done this about ten times, already tried it, so it didn't work.

So, he went back down and landed, and pretty soon he come back up and the sign on the side of the plane says follow me. And we were quite a ways from Blythe, and Blythe had a great big airstrip, lots of fire trucks and ambulances and things like that to take care of any crash. So, I knew then what they was going to do, he was going to have me go down to the big airport and make a belly landing, which is the only thing left to do. If the gear won't come down, you just make a belly landing and hope you walk away. And so, I wrote another note, I had a piece of paper, I wrote another note to the boy in the back seat, and I says, "We're going down to Blythe and we're going to make a belly landing, and I want you to be ready to get out of the plane just as soon as we slow down." He just laughed and shook his head, and oh he thought that was funny. He just knew that I was fooling him.

BARBARA: Oh gosh.

CARROLL: He just knew that I was just trying to make him scared. (Laughter) So I said, "Okay, okay." So here we flew down to this airport, and here all the ambulances, red lights, and everything, fire trucks out on the side of the runway. I turned around to look at him and now he has

turned white, he knows it's the truth. So, the one big thing we did was, whatever you do, as soon as we slow down, have the canopy open and get out and run away from the plane in case it catches on fire. Okay.

So, we went around and I lined things up, they had a long runway there. So, we get out to the end of, off the end of the runway, and what you do is you, when you're going to make an emergency --- of course we've used up almost all of the gas so there is very little gas left in the plane. And you get out to the end of the runway and you know you can make it, you're going to glide in, you turn off all your switches, and all your gas lines and so forth so there will be no electrical sparks and things like that. So, we turn everything off and it got real quiet, I mean it wasn't noisy at all with the engine shut down.

BARBARA: Like a glider.

CARROLL: Yeah. We went in and in those days, they didn't have any foam. Lots of times they will have foam and put on the runway so you can skid along. There was no foam. We went right down the runway and on the ---

Underneath the wings of this plane there is a little rack, one on each wing, and this rack is used to carry bombs, so when we was down on the ground this little rack scooted along almost like a skid underneath the wings so it didn't touch the wings at all, didn't bother the wings at all. Of course, the prop hit the runway and it bent the prop. But we're scooting down the runway and the smoke was coming up a little bit in the cockpit, and we slowed down enough to where I figured well I'll turn around and tell that boy to get going, you know. I turned around, and I looked, and he was two hundred feet back of the plane just running as fast as he could go. I never saw him again, he never came back. (Laughter) He didn't wait for me.

BARBARA: He had already baled out, huh?

CARROLL: He didn't wait for me, he didn't wait for me. And so, to tell about what happened to the airplane, they took it in the hanger and jacked it up, there was no other, very little damage to it. But what they found when they got down in, underneath the floorboard, there was a big bolt, there was a big cable goes around a big pulley down there underneath the floor board, and this bolt had

gotten down in there somehow or other, and had locked right into that pulley so there was no way in the world that that thing could have been, you know, moved. It just had locked the wheels, that was it. So that was my only damage that I had in my ---

DOROTHEA: All your hours of flying.

CARROLL: Over twenty thousand hours flying, so I felt pretty good about that. I think the good Lord flew with me quite a few times. I really believe that, that's part of my philosophy of life.

DOROTHEA: Well, you ended up somehow or other in Germany, is this where you ended up?

CARROLL: Yeah, well ended up in England.

DOROTHEA: England I meant, yeah.

CARROLL: And did all my escorting work out of England. Of course, most all of our flights was over Germany, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CARROLL: And this is where I got, I got two or three German fighter aircraft in dogfights, and got credit for destroying them. But one big thrill I had was the, being able to be one of the first --- the way it was on the records I was one of the first five that was able to destroy a German jet. Now this German jet aircraft, fighter aircraft, was an airplane that if Hitler would have put a thousand of them in the air, like the German Air Force General wanted, they'd have wiped out England and the United States aircraft. It would have wiped every bit of them out, all of them out of the sky. Because this German jet was just phenomenal. It had cannon fire power out of the nose. It was a hundred miles an hour faster than any of our aircraft, and they could come down from high altitude and wipe out probably three or four bombers every time they'd come through the formation.

Well, they got into what was considered a dogfight, of course we didn't dog fight with them because they were too fast. But we were briefed that these German jets would come over and meet the bombers at a certain place when they were in the air. And then they would come through the formation, and then they would go down and they wouldn't have enough gas to climb back up to altitude. So, they'd go down, try to find some clouds, and then sneak back to their home base. So, we knew that they were going to do this, and we knew where their home base was, so when they

went down through us we just happened to have the right kind of clouds, little billowy clouds with lots of space in between them, and we waited for the jets to come back, headed home, because they were only good for about twenty minutes after they went through this formation. And so here we are sitting up above them, maybe five thousand feet above them, and they're down below us and we can see them, and so we can dive on them. All we have to do is dive down, because they've got to go one direction, they don't have time to try to dog fight or get away from you or not. They'd do a little evasive action, but they have to keep heading for home.

So, I got to damage one air jet real bad, and then the other one I got him burning, so I got credit for one and a half jets that day. And then this was sort of an elite club to be able to get into because very seldom the German jet would come up, so you were just lucky to be in the air at the same time he was, and to be able to get to shoot at him. So, it was, we got quite a few write-ups on that.

And the --- I found this outfit that I was with there, the 339th, they have a reunion and I caught up with this reunion, and I've got this tape here we're going to put on the tape later. But this one fellow that did the history research, and he looked up all the German jets and all the pilots that were shot down over there in Germany, and then matched the dates they were shot down to us, to some of us that got credit, that took, saying we had shot somebody down that date. And this fellow found the date that I got my man, and they found the name of the pilot, and they sent me the name of the pilot, and what outfit he belonged to, and he was still living in Germany. And I'm going to make a trip over here one of these days I hope, and maybe go look him up. I'm going to try to find him, because what happened to him, his plane didn't blow up, but it was destroyed enough that he had to go right down to the ground and he made a belly landing on the ground away from the airport, and it destroyed the plane. I didn't get to see this, but this is what the write-up was about afterwards. And he climbed out and walked away from the plane. So, I didn't really kill a man, I just got credit for his airplane on that one. Some of the others we did.

DOROTHEA: Do you suppose he would meet you gracefully, or do you suppose he would say thank you?

CARROLL: You know I got to thinking about it, I think I ought to call him before I go out and talk to him. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Do you know where he lives?

CARROLL: Yeah, I have his address in Germany there, out of Hamburg a ways. But when I get over there I'll have to do some telephone calling, see if I can locate him. See if he --- according to how old he is too, you know.

BARBARA: You say one and a half, did the other one crash and they didn't find out about it?

CARROLL: No, we don't know what happened to him.

BARBARA: They limped back to the base or whatever?

CARROLL: Oh, they don't know, didn't have the report on another plane. He probably made it back to the base, otherwise it would have been a destroyed plane, or a crash, they would have had a record on this sheet they sent me. So that was one of my fun times. You know being a fighter pilot that's what you consider fun.

BARBARA: Right.

CARROLL: But it was just like, the feeling, people said, "Well, didn't you have a feeling of being scared up there?" I think the people in the bombers, those bomber boys, you know, we've all seen pictures of the bombers and how they got blown out of the sky and all. Just thousands of them got blown up every time they went on a trip. But in our fighter flying it was so individual that you didn't seem like you had anything to get worried about. I guess if I'd have gotten shot up two or three times, and had to bail out two or three times, I would have probably changed my mind, but I didn't, I didn't ever get into that position where I had to bail out. And one-time anti-aircraft fire blew up underneath of us and knocked us up in the air about a thousand feet, and we thought sure we was all hit and getting blown up at that time, but it didn't destroy us. So, we made it.

DOROTHEA: Well, where was your wife all this time? Was she still in Texas or come back to Oregon?

CARROLL: She was, we went out of, when we was out back east and I think Florida, I believe it was in Florida or Georgia, but that's when we got sent overseas from that point of those bases back

there. And so, she came back here and stayed in Burns. We had two children when I went overseas; we'd already had two children.

BARBARA: You didn't mention her maiden name.

CARROLL: Yeah, Louden, L O U D E N, Louden.

BARBARA: Marian?

CARROLL: Marian Louden, yeah.

DOROTHEA: And what are your children's names?

CARROLL: Yeah, then the oldest girl was Carolyn.

BARBARA: Where was she born?

CARROLL: She was born in Blythe, California while we was down at Blythe. And then the next one was Roger, he was born in Georgia. Then Kathleen, Roger and Kathleen were both redheaded children after my mother.

DOROTHEA: Take after Grandma, huh?

CARROLL: After Grandma. But she was born in Portland. Then the last one was after, well the last two of course was after I come back from the war. He was born in Honolulu in the military, when we was in the military over there. So, three of the children were military ---

BARBARA: And his name is?

CARROLL: Three of the children were military children, babies, and one of them was born in a civilian hospital.

But another part of the story that Roger tells, Roger being redheaded would --- we had a girl call us from Chicago, Illinois just about a month ago, and she says, "I think I'm your granddaughter," and she is twenty-six years old. Now we didn't know we had this granddaughter at all. (Laughter) So I ---

DOROTHEA: She got red hair?

CARROLL: Yeah, red hair, from redheaded boy. My son Roger had been in England during the tour with the Air Force, and it seems as though he left two children over there, one boy which we had over here as a grandson for awhile, an English boy. And then this other one we didn't know

anything about. We knew that there was a girl that he was going to marry, but he didn't. So, this girl finally found out who her biological father was. And she looked us up, and she said, "Are you going to accept me as a granddaughter?" And I said, "I sure am, you're our granddaughter." So anyway, that's another little ---

DOROTHEA: Well what was your youngest son's name?

CARROLL: The youngest one is Jeffrey. He is living over in Eugene, and he has a family. He is the one that took over this girl, lived in Bend, Mary Hampton, she had broke her neck in a diving accident and she was quadriplegic, and my son decided it was his duty to take care of her. And he moved in with her, and a couple years later she was, got pregnant. And boy, everybody, oh she can never grow a baby in that body, and have a perfect baby come out. And at the end of about seven and a half months they decided they had to take the baby Caesarean because it was laying on some of her blood veins and so forth. And they took the baby, and the baby was only three and a half pounds, and it turned out to be perfect. And now that little boy is twelve years old and just one of the prettiest, perfect little boys there is, you know. Everything came out fine. And well anyway the girl died finally, and she got to raise that boy for ten years, so that was something special over her being quadriplegic to be able to raise that boy before she died.

And now my son is married to another lady down in Eugene, and they're having a little family down there now. So, they're doing real good.

BARBARA: Well maybe we can kind of continue on from when --- and come around to maybe the military after you were in England and the end of the war or whatever, what happened to you.

CARROLL: Yeah, okay. We can end the war, and my wife says whatever you do, don't get out, come on home and we'll talk about whether to stay in. Because they give you a choice if you have so many points you could get out if you wanted to. I got to the east coast and they said, "Do you want a discharge?" And I went and said, "Yes." For some reason, I don't know, I've never been able to figure out why, I wanted to come home and be a civilian. Here I am, a fighter pilot, a captain, one of the most elite outfits, you know, in the military and I come home and want to be a civilian in Burns, Oregon, you know. (Laughter) How do I do that?

BARBARA: And do what?

CARROLL: Yeah, and do what? That was it, and do what? I came home and ---

BARBARA: What year was this?

CARROLL: '45, end of the war, right after the end of the war '45 and '46. I lasted one year as a civilian, and then I says, "I'm going back in the Service." So, we went back in the Service. And I think when I was here I was, I stayed here in Burns and started a little parts store with Walt Dickenson and everything, we had our first little parts store out here.

Oh, that's during the time when we started the Oregon Airlines. I had better mention that a little bit. The first airlines I think in the State of Oregon, the first Oregon Airlines in Oregon. There was other airlines here, but --- Dale Eggleston and I had a boy come through here with a twin engine plane and he says, he said he was going to have an airline, he's got everything all set up with all the cities and he wanted us to be his partners. And it cost us \$2,000 a piece to be partners in the Oregon Airlines. So, we went, this lasted about, oh we started in flying routes around here to Portland, Bend, Redmond, Burns, and Baker, LaGrande, Pendleton and around the horn like that.

Pretty soon we found out that this boy, he was the president of the organization, and he hadn't paid a bill since he started. All the bills caught up with us, and so we decided it was time to go bankrupt and stop doing it, the flight. But it was fun while it lasted.

BARBARA: Did you have many customers?

CARROLL: Yeah, we were having, he had printed up a whole bunch of tickets, just like a big airline's coupon tickets. And had pilots, and we had --- he bought uniforms for all of us so we'd be --- oh we were pretty big time at the --- But, you know, it would have been a good deal if we'd have stayed with it I think. But that was during the civilian time, then I went back in the Service.

DOROTHEA: Now did you use the airport that's still here, or where did you have your ---

CARROLL: Yeah, the Burns Airport when the military built that big airport for the P-38's. So, we used the Burns Airport here.

BARBARA: So, in '46 or '47 was it you went back into the ---

CARROLL: Went in '46, went back in. And now when I went back in, instead of going, sending

me to Texas to be in the jet fighters--- now jet fighters were just coming into their own, for the Americans. They had sent me overseas, and they didn't let me go to the jets, so I got into the four-engine aircraft, and this is where I got into the four-engine military air transport, and I got away from the fighters. But I imagine if I had stayed with the jets and the fighters in those days, I'd probably be dead anyway, because they lost a lot of people in the fighters and in the jets in those days.

So, I enjoyed my transport time in the big airplanes. It was real fun flying, and I got to go all around the world several times and flew with a lot of special people.

DOROTHEA: So then how many years were you in the Service?

CARROLL: Twenty-five, twenty-five total years.

DOROTHEA: And so that makes what, '70 something when you finally got out?

CARROLL: No, I got out in '66, '42 ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

CARROLL: Forty, fifty, sixty, yeah, twenty, twenty-four, twenty-five, pretty close to, yeah, twenty-five. And so --- Just want a couple highlights of that military flying?

BARBARA: Sure.

CARROLL: Because one of the most special ones was of course when Vice President Nixon took his trip to South America, and the airplane that we were flying at that time was the type of plane they wanted for him to use to go down there. And in my outfit, it just happened that two or three of us had the right paperwork and passports and visas that we could be the pilots on his plane. So, we were very fortunate, we got to travel with him, and fly him down all-over South America, Caracas, Curacao, and Lima, Peru and all around.

And one of the best parts, parts of the whole trip was when we got to Rio, Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil. We got down there and they came and told us, they says well now Nixon is going to get on a limousine and he's going to travel around the countryside for eight days, and you boys have to stay here in these apartment complexes, which was right on the beach, and you just stay on the beach for eight days. Stay on the beach for eight days in Brazil, or in Rio, was a real tough ---

BARBARA: Tough assignment, huh?

CARROLL: (Laughter) That was in the days when the bikini was really starting to be popular.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: Naturally, there were a few ladies had to show them off for you I suppose.

CARROLL: Yeah. We had, almost a tragedy on that part of the trip though. We'd go down there and go swimming at the beach, and there was a little sign on the flagpole, says when the flag is up, the tide is real bad and don't swim. They was telling all the Americans this. Of course, it looked like these lifesavers, they didn't like the Americans too much I guess. But here we went swimming and we were out there floating in the surf a little bit, and the tide was just one of the worst ones they ever had, a rip tide, and it just pulled us way out. And these lifeguards was laying there on the beach just laughing and having a big time over all of this.

There was five of us out there, and we started swimming back. And it was so heavy a tide that we couldn't swim in. And the commander of the whole outfit was with us and he'd just had an appendectomy operation, and he still had the stitches and he couldn't exert himself see. So, I was looking at him right next to me, I said, "You can't make it, can you make it?" He said, "No, I can't make it, I can't swim that hard." So, I said, "Okay, turn over on your back and lay there and paddle and I'll get some lifeguards out here." So, I started hollering for help see, and I waved at these guys and they were standing there looking at us, you know, laughing, you know. And I pointed at my partner there, I said come out like that, come and get him. Because the rest of us were all right we thought.

So, these guys they walked down to the beach, they took off their shoes, they put on their flippers real nonchalantly, you know, of course nobody was drowning yet, so they weren't really worried. And they put on their flippers and two of these great big husky boys came out, they swam right up beside this commander, but they didn't touch him to see if he was going to panic. And they left him on his back and then they got on each side of him and then towed him in backwards. His head went backwards. And of course, they swam with one arm, and had their arm underneath his arm, that's the way they towed him in.

And it took those two boys, I mean just swimming as hard as they could swim, to swim against that tide. And so, they got him in, and all this time now the rest of us was swimming as hard as we can, and we still hadn't got in, because we're swimming against that tide. And I'm about ready to give up now, getting pretty tired. So just getting ready to --- there were two of us left out here now, maybe you ought to come out and help us. And getting ready to holler, and one of these great big breakers that come in off of the ocean ever once in awhile, came in and picked us up and threw us up on the beach. And so, we were saved that way and we made it. So that was a real interesting trip.

BARBARA: I should say.

CARROLL: We had another trip down in South American, and I never did find out the name of the man that we picked up. We went down into some real small little country down there, and this was all hush hush. They wouldn't tell us anything, who the man was. But we landed at this little airport, just like a cloak and dagger situation. They parked us way off on the far end of an unlighted field, and all of a sudden, an ambulance drove up and they carried this little man on this litter in, and put him on our plane and we took off and came back to the States. And he was supposed to have been some big dignitary from one of the countries and we were sneaking him out to the states so he could have a special operation. But they didn't want the Americans involved, so they didn't tell anybody on that trip. Never did know who that man was, or whether we saved his life or not.

But being in the four-engine transport, we had several trips around the world, and that was so interesting, and just got to go to so many countries and see so many different things.

BARBARA: And where were you stationed during most of this time?

CARROLL: Well the first part of the time for the Korean War, we were over in Japan. Well we were fortunate, the family got to go with me and we lived in Tokyo, right in Tokyo and had a Japanese home, which was built on a western style, and we lived in this big Japanese home. And we had a big wooden fence around it, and we had two maids and a gardener, and a man that stood at the gate and let us in and out of the gate to this complex. So that was ---

BARBARA: You were living high on the hog.

CARROLL: That was really, that was really a nice tour living over there.

BARBARA: You were there two years, or one year?

CARROLL: A little over a year, and then we had to come home. We picked up a lot of different items while we were over there too. We had these maids and we lived right with these folks, and just lived with the Japanese people mostly.

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CARROLL: This one fellow lived up the street not too far from us was a son of the Emperor's; in fact, he is the brother to the new Emperor now. Anyway, he was a square dance fan, and he would have square dances in his home, and we got invited up there one time. And we got to go into his home and square dance with all the local, some of the local people, local younger people. Now this is back in the '50's. So, this wasn't very long after occupation, you know, as far, in '50 and '51 the Americans hadn't been there too long yet. So, they were all trying to be real polite. And so, we danced with them, and we pulled a boo boo that night. We didn't know what the custom was, and when it got midnight we thought we should go home, and we went ahead and went home. And our maids told us the next day they said, "Oh, the folks there they really felt bad because you left so early." And the Japanese custom is that you stay until they say it is time to quit. You're supposed to let them say it before you leave. So, we sent word back that we were sorry that we did a faux pas over that one.

So anyway that's --- we did a lot of, we'd had, before this tour in Japan we had three years in Hawaii in the military, so that was pretty interesting. People over there didn't go for the American soldiers too much, so it wasn't too, it wasn't real pleasant, I mean. It was so confining when you lived over in Hawaii for a long time, you know. You do the beaches a little bit, and then there is nothing new. Lots of rain and all that. And ---

BARBARA: And where were you stationed when you finally retired?

CARROLL: Oh, came back to the states and out to New Jersey for a while flying the four-engine

plane. And then we moved out to McChord up here in Tacoma, Washington, and this is up in the closing years before retirement.

And up there is where my wife started in doing her parachute jumping, and she become quite a parachutist there. And finally ended up breaking her knee, but she had about two hundred jumps before she quit. She belonged to the Women's National Parachute Team. She was just practicing, practiced one day too many and the wind blew too hard and she broke her knee. But anyway, that's where we retired up there at McChord.

BARBARA: Did she ever learn to fly?

CARROLL: Yeah, she had her private; she has her private license too. She doesn't do much now. I still do quite a bit of, or not a lot, but some instructing in the small planes. I keep my instructor's license going.

BARBARA: So, you retired then in Tacoma?

CARROLL: Yeah.

BARBARA: And did you decide to come back to Burns then, or where did you think you wanted to really retire in 1966? What did you want to do with the rest of your life?

CARROLL: Yeah, that's what we --- we had our cabin, mountain cabin up here we bought before we retired, and that seemed like that pulled us back here. But first we were going to stay in Tacoma, and then we was going to Portland, and then we was going to Bend, and then we came to Burns.

And so, we decided well we'll come here and be close to our mountain cabin. That's part of the reason we came back, I guess. We would still have liked to have been closer to the military, where the military hospitals and things like that. We've enjoyed it, being back here. It's --- we've lived in so many metropolitan areas and lots of people and everything, and we were quite a bit isolationist type of people, so that is one of the reasons we came back here to get away from the social life and the things like that. Because the military was just, I mean you ---

BARBARA: You're required to do a lot of things.

CARROLL: You just had to live that social life, you know, twenty years of that was enough.

DOROTHEA: Tell us about some of the history of the cabin that you live in.

CARROLL: Yeah, okay. This cabin, on the map it's called the H & Y Cabin. And that stands for Hendricks and Young, Joe Hendricks that most all the old timers knew here. And Joe Hendricks was quite a popular man here, and one or two ways is that he was a junior league softball umpire and coach for a while. I guess he taught a lot of kids how to play ball. And then he had two or three taverns here in town, and that was his whole life living in those taverns and playing poker and taking everybody's money. (Laughter) He was one of the best, considered one of the best poker players that ever-hit Harney County, I think.

And Clarence Young was the water master and surveyor, county surveyor. So, they built this cabin, oh back in the '40's, two story cabin up at the head of Pine Creek, up north of Burns about thirty-seven miles, and nice big beautiful log cabin. So, two years before we retired we came home on leave and my father said this Joe has a cabin in the mountains and he wants to sell it. And so, we went up and looked at it, and of course as soon as we looked at it, a hundred and sixty acres of beautiful timberland, and a log cabin and a creek. And he said they want twelve thousand dollars for it. And of course, we couldn't hardly drive back to town fast enough to get the money to buy that cabin. So, we bought the cabin then and we've been --- we stayed in Burns when we first came home, we stayed in Burns about oh six or seven years.

BARBARA: What year was this that you did finally come back to Burns?

CARROLL: Well, we came back right away, '66, yeah.

BARBARA: '66, okay.

CARROLL: Yeah. And I was with the Job Corp; I was with the Job Corp out here for three years until Nixon shut it down. And then I worked with BLM, and then I worked with the Forest Service in the summer jobs and did a lot of fire control and things like that. But we lived in town for a few years, and then we moved up to the cabin about twenty-two years ago, twenty-three years ago, and we've lived up there summer and winter now.

BARBARA: Since about 1970 then, huh?

CARROLL: Yeah, just about '70. We've gone through a lot of four and five-foot winters, and

we've gone through three or four winters with no snow.

DOROTHEA: Some mild ones.

CARROLL: So, it's quite different living up there.

BARBARA: So, have you fixed it up? Do you have any ---

CARROLL: Any improvements on it? No, we haven't done too much to it. We had, we built a lot of corrals and stuff that --- we've raised a few horses and cows and Marian's main ones was goats, and she had goats and everything. But her last goat just died, so she's about ready to stop with the goats now. And of course, the last ten years of our lives now have been involved with the ancestral genealogical research, you know, we spend almost all of our spare time on routing out our roots so to speak, of our ancestors. We've made two trips to Europe looking for ones that we've found where their homes were and so forth. This is our main hobby, and we just really enjoy it. It's a lot of fun, really.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about the Job Corp. You said you worked with them for a while. What did you do, and what were they here for?

CARROLL: Yeah, I really believed in that system. That Job Corp, I wished they would, one of the presidents, one of the congress would get back to it. I don't see why we're staying away from that part of the program where we could take care of so many younger boys that need help. They brought them off the streets in all the cities --- they brought those boys out there, and actually these boys were sixteen to twenty-one I think it was, and they weren't hardened criminals yet. And you could still mold them a little bit, so to speak.

And they'd come out here, and of course they didn't like living in the desert, but the things we had to offer them would make them, the ones that really wanted to, would stay and learn something. Of course, this program was really good, and I started out there as the, what'd they call, the Corpsman Supervisor. You'd have a, well I think there was five barracks out there, and we had a man in each, in charge of each barracks at nighttime mainly. And then being Corpsman Supervisor I was in charge of the, each five, all the total five houses which included all the men and then all our workers here from Burns that were house fathers so to speak. And these boys were

mostly colored boys, a few Mexican, very few, and then just a few scattered White boys. And of course, the White boys would take a beating from the colored boys once in awhile. But this was one of the things we learned how to take care of after awhile. It took about three years to really figure out how to make this system work. And of course, the boys would go to school a half a day, and work a half a day, that was the program.

DOROTHEA: Did they have the schools right there?

CARROLL: Yeah, we had school right there, we had our own teachers, accredited teachers, and they'd give them basic, real basic education. These boys, a lot of them didn't know how to read or write or do mathematics. And we figured, we considered if we could get them up far enough in their education that they could pass the real simple entrance exam into the army, now that's real basic, that we had accomplished part of the goal of having them there. Because a lot of them wanted to get into the Service, but they couldn't read the paper to do the exam. Just like for the driving test, they couldn't read the paper for taking the driving test. So, these were the basic things that we taught these boys, and we got them to where they could do it.

And like I said, it took us about three years to figure out the system, what we needed to do. And discipline was one of the tough ones because they liked to beat up on each other, and they liked to cause each other, you know, serious problems. And what we were doing originally when we first had them there, if one of them would break one of the rules we'd write out a bus ticket and bring them to town and put them on a bus and send them home.

And you can imagine what it was like for that kid to get sent home. Oh, it would just break our hearts thinking about it afterwards. You know, here this kid was, he had been living this way all his life, that's his life, he comes out here and he does it and he gets sent home, you know, where he wanted to leave home and get away from it.

Anyway, we finally just found out that that was the wrong way for punishment. And we were just really making the new system work. When they were really bad and do something that those --- a little bit revolting and so forth, and we would have an assembly in the gymnasium and have all the boys come over there and sit there and have these bad guys up on the stage and have

them stand there, and a microphone, and tell all their buddies what they did bad. And that really did get to those boys, and it was one of the most, best disciplinary actions we could ever have found to take. And they would never, whatever they did; they would never do it again. Because they didn't want to get on that stage and have all their peers looking at them, you know.

Then we had gangs in there, and we learned how to control the gang. We told the gang, okay, you can have your gang system, it wasn't really real tough, but it was controllers, but you control the way we tell you to control. You go ahead and control the rest of these little guys out here, but we'll give you the rules to follow, and then you follow the rules and take care of your little guys. And they did it, and that worked. They had full control of the camp, we didn't have to control the camp, they controlled the camp. But they controlled it the way we asked them to do it, and it really worked. So, that was a good program.

DOROTHEA: With these fights, I know you trained some regular boxers.

CARROLL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: How did that come about?

CARROLL: Homer Richey, Homer Richey was one of the boxing instructors, and he was out there. And when the world champion, George Foreman, okay George Foreman was one of our boys out here at the camp for a while.

BARBARA: Is that right?

CARROLL: Yeah, yeah. And Homer Richey was really --- the wonderful thing that he had a chance to work with that fellow for a while. And then he'd become such a good boxer and everything, that they transferred him to some other places. I never did follow him where he went, but then he got into the world class fighting, and then he went right on up. But it was one of our main ones.

BARBARA: Where was this camp located?

CARROLL: Well you go out, turn off the road to go down to the game refuge headquarters.

DOROTHEA: It's what the field, Malheur Field Station.

BARBARA: Oh, the Field Station.

CARROLL: Yeah, yeah, out toward the field station. And then off to the south of that road they built this big camp. Beautiful barracks, a big mess hall, built a gymnasium, and we had quarters there for some of the workers, some of the civilian workers lived out there with their families.

BARBARA: How long were the guys there, what kind of a term or were they usually there a year or six months, or what?

CARROLL: Yeah, it took a year, a year and a half to get them ready, because we got them ready, yeah. And a work program of being heavy equipment operator, they learned how to drive cats and graders. And they helped dig some of those canals out there where that big bucket thing that digs the big ditches, and makes big ditches for the canals. And drivers, bus drivers and things like that. And then their education, so most of them were a year, to sixteen months.

BARBARA: And what was your role as an educator, or what was your job then at the center?

CARROLL: Oh, just the book work on the disciplinary action with all of the boys, plus these workers that took care of the boys. The civilian workers that took care of the boys, I'd do all the scheduling and work with them. I had a real good feeling with those boys. I never was afraid of them. I'd walk into the barracks sometime and there would be a fight going on, and guys would have clubs in their hands. I could walk in and sit down and talk to them.

And I think those boys, the way they lived; they had learned to detect discrimination. They knew what discrimination was, you know, we don't, we get very little touch of it around our, most of our lives. But this discrimination, they could, well you could almost say they could smell it. But I had a good feeling about them. In fact, I had a lot of them up to my home in the mountains, and kept them overnight and all that. So, when I'd go in and talk to them I could walk down there, and I would never get hit with the clubs or anything like that. They would sit down and talk to me. So, this is the kind of help that we tried to keep out there with all the other workers. Everybody would try to develop this type of feeling to be with them. And so, they would get to trust "Whitey" so to speak for a change, you know, they never did the rest of their lives.

DOROTHEA: How many years was that here altogether?

CARROLL: There was a four-year program, they was here four years, yeah. You know these kids,

just one other thing about them though; they came from about four generations of welfare. They were all, four generations back of welfare. And it's hard to try to make them believe that they should do something different.

DOROTHEA: Do you ever hear from any of these boys yet?

CARROLL: Yeah, we've had correspondence with about three of them, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Are they leading a good life?

CARROLL: Yeah. One of them disappeared, I don't know if he ended up in jail or what. But the other two they kept going, they were, kept their jobs and was working. That made it okay.

BARBARA: Well, can you tell us now where your children are, what they ended up doing? Are they all married, do you have grandchildren?

CARROLL: Yeah, well I told you about a couple of grandchildren. The oldest one has two redheaded children, a girl and a boy, and they both are married. The grandchildren are married, and we got three great grandchildren now.

And then the oldest boy is the one that has been married about four times. He's working over in Bend now, has a family here that they divorced. But he has been by himself and doing some work over there.

And then the youngest boy is a --- or the middle girl, the second girl Kathy is living in Cascade Locks over there on the Columbia River, and her and her husband have a motel there. And they don't have any children. He had two before they married.

And then the youngest boy is the one I told you about with the crippled girl, and they live in Eugene. They have, she had one girl of her own, and he has the boy, so they have a boy and a girl. So, we have grandchildren and great grandchildren around the area.

BARBARA: What did your children think of moving from place to place during the military years? Did they look forward to a change, or were they, was it very hard for them?

CARROLL: I think they enjoyed that part of it a lot. The part that sort of hurts me a little bit was, it seemed like that they had a feeling of --- I was somebody that just came and went once in awhile because I was flying so much in this transport. I was gone almost half of, at least half of the time.

This was the big drawback of course to having a family and being in the military when you're flying, because I was gone so much. But they made a remark every once in awhile, well are you going to stay home awhile or something like that, you know. (Laughter)

But they're liking the, they have talked about it now that they really felt good about some of the places they got to live, and seeing other parts of the world. And I think it's been a pretty good education for them really.

DOROTHEA: Do you ever have a house full of kids, or do they only come once in awhile and separately?

CARROLL: Oh, when they all come back?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CARROLL: Yeah, we used to have pretty good get togethers, especially when hunting seasons were still good here. The kids would come home and come up in the mountains and would all be together up in the mountains and we'd get together. When the deer started, when the hunting started to getting bad, the kids started falling away, and they don't seem to come back much now.

But what we do now is just go visit them ever so often. And this is part of our life now, is just going to visit the children and grandchildren. And then you go there and visit for a while and then when you get tired you just leave see, you don't have to stick around. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah. That's the good part about being Grandpa.

CARROLL: That's the best way, yeah.

BARBARA: So, what are your days like mostly up in the cabin?

CARROLL: Yeah, what do we do, what do we do. A lot of people ask us, what do you find to do up there in the mountains?

BARBARA: You don't have TV?

CARROLL: No, no TV. And, but we got used to that. In fact, I think we probably feel better not having TV because you get so riled up. I can get so riled up when I watch TV, that it takes me two or three hours to unwind sometimes at night, you know, when I'm off someplace else and watch it. But we have little projects that we have been on up there. In fact, we're so far behind now it seems

like we can't catch up. We're trying to get ready for the winter, you know, and it's just like a, almost like the people on a ranch. It seems like you're always having things to do.

Of course, ours is a different type of thing, we don't have animals now. But we're moving some stuff out of one building into another building. And we're trying to get that ready before winter. And of course, you have to get your winter wood in each year, because we run almost all of our heat supply by wood stove, our big kitchen wood stove for cooking. We do have gas up there, propane, but we only use that when we don't have the wood stove running. Gas propane lights, and we have a generator up there. We turn the generator on when we have a lot of company and lots of people around, we start the generator up and run the generator, and then we can --- I'll run it once in awhile and show some of my movies, running on the little TV I've got up there, just to see the movies for ourselves. And I don't know, just seems like you have something to do every day.

DOROTHEA: You have a telephone system that you only turn on once in awhile.

CARROLL: Yeah. We were years up there without any contact, communications. And first we set up a CB program, a CB and we'd have a booster on it, we could get into Burns once in awhile. But usually we couldn't reach anybody.

So, there is a company out of Bend that put a repeater station up on King Mountain. And this repeater station goes off into the Burns system, the 573 system. So, we bought this little telephone system, it looks something like a CB, and you can punch the first number, the bottom number and it will go through the repeater and the dial tone will come on, and it's the Burns dial tone, and it's just like a regular telephone from then on.

So now we can, we have a regular telephone. But it runs off of the battery power, the battery power runs it when you're using it. And then this company charges fifteen cents a minute for the repeater. So actually, the biggest part of your bill, the monthly bill, is the repeater time. If you talk in the daytime, it's thirty cents a minute.

But it's a very special thing for us because now we have contact during emergencies if we need it. And we can call any place in the world just like anybody else, when we once get the Burns dial tone. So, we have that radio there. And we have a little dog; it's just about all we have up there

now.

DOROTHEA: Well you have get togethers once in awhile too, where you all get together and have a big dinner, and things like this I understand also, and a few neighbors.

CARROLL: Yeah, okay, with the neighbors. Yeah for a long time we had no neighbors, you know, except for down in the bottom of the hill in Silvies Valley. It's nine miles down there. But anyway, now we have Norman MacAtee and his wife, they live over the hill from us. And by car it's about six miles. And then another couple that built a house about a mile and a half closer than the MacAtees, they're the Jennings. And this Tom Jennings came down here from Springfield, Eugene and Springfield, and he built this little cabin, house. Real nice little place. So, he and his wife are living there now, and they're a little bit closer, and they've got one of the telephones too, so we talk on the phone once in awhile. And then the phones up there, there is about eight people on this system, and it's a party line. You can turn a little switch and you can listen to everybody else talk.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

CARROLL: Yeah, that's just like the old system. So, every once in awhile I'll go over to visit them, I'll tell this lady I said, "Well what happened to so and so that you were talking to the other day?" She said, "Were you listening to me?" I said, "Yeah, yeah, I was listening." She said, "Well, I listen to you too." (Laughter) Okay. And then right next to them is Junior Hurd, and what's her name?

BARBARA: LaDene.

CARROLL: La ---

DOROTHEA: LaDene.

CARROLL: LaDene, LaDene, they have a mobile home up there that they've got for a little mountain cabin. They're close to these others, so our closest neighbor is five miles. And we do have monthly get togethers, and dinners, and invite some friends in once in awhile.

We're about ready to do some match making. This Jennings have got a son that hasn't been married, and he's over there with them, he's about thirty-two or three. And we've got a girl that's,

she is a sister to some people we know, girl we know here in town, and she is not married so we're going to get them together the 25th during the big dinner and let them get acquainted. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Hope you can get some sparks going.

CARROLL: Yeah, see if we can get things changed a little bit. His mother, this boy's mother I think will be real happy if we can find somebody for him, because he is living there with them, and you know, they'd like to see him get married and have children.

BARBARA: Move him out, huh?

CARROLL: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well, can you think of some other stories that we have missed, that you have thought of along the way here today that you might like to share with us?

CARROLL: We've probably missed some of the stories all right.

DOROTHEA: We've almost got two hours in.

CARROLL: Well let's see, what stories have we missed? Oh, the jets, and Vice President Nixon, all the big stories. I don't know if we've missed anything special.

DOROTHEA: Well, you said something about instructing a little bit. Do you have any students right now that you are instructing, or---?

CARROLL: Well, I just finished up a couple of girls, working with a couple girls, the Ausmus girls. And one of them just last, a year ago. But the new one is supposed to be starting right away, two of them is supposed to be starting right away. So, I'll probably get back to getting a little more active than I've been for about six months, I've been, haven't been doing any.

But mainly what I do in my instructing is in the light, small aircraft, is that I wait until somebody else has an airplane, because I don't own one myself. And then when they want to learn how to fly or get a different license then I work with them in their own airplane, and it makes it work out pretty good that way.

DOROTHEA: Now do you fly with them when you're first teaching them, or how ---

CARROLL: Yeah, when you start teaching somebody, of course the people that learn how to fly cannot fly by themselves until they have taken instruction from a licensed instructor, and then he

has to decide that they are safe enough to fly by themselves. Then he signs their ticket. They have to have a physical. All they have to have to solo is the physical, really. There is no exam or anything. And they get their physical, if they can pass a physical then the instructor says okay in about eight- or ten-hours flying time, he signs this little ticket and then the man can go fly by himself.

BARBARA: Do you do the ground school instruction?

CARROLL: Yeah, I don't have a ground school class, I used to a long time ago. Now they have such good video programs. They have, all these classes are on video now. And if a person, a pilot is really interested to get a real good ground school and do it at his own pace, he doesn't have to go to a setting into a classroom and be there at a certain time, and then wait for the instructor and this and that. You can get these videos and study at home, and it's just beautiful. Everything is right there, shows you the whole picture, and then teaches you all about it.

So, the next license courses, the license they call the private pilot, and you have to have at least forty hours of flying time, and then you can take up a passenger, you can take a passenger plane. And when you become a private pilot is something. You can fly any place in the United States, is what your license says. Of course, most people don't go around the big busy commercial airports because they aren't used to it. So, they'll do all the flying around the little airports. But you can, you can take a passenger. You can't charge him with a private license; you can't charge him for the ride. But you can get your next license, which is called a commercial license, and you have to have over, a couple hundred hours for that, and then you can charge people for taking them up, and going to the charter work and so forth.

But I like to do it, and work with people that is just starting. You don't make any money at it really, because you spend so much time getting people ready, talking to them, and so forth, and then you go up and ride for an hour, and you usually only charge them for that hour of time in the air. And so, you don't, like I said, it isn't a money-making proposition, but it's gratifying.

DOROTHEA: Have you ever turned somebody down and said no, I don't think you're going to make a pilot?

CARROLL: Yeah, one person, one person. And she was, this one lady was, we talked about her a while ago, the one that taught me how to play the coronet, Mrs. Bezdichek, Mrs. Jenkins. She was sixty-seven, or seventy, sixty-seven I think it was. Her son Dick and his wife both flew with me in super cubs and 182's and so forth. And they've both got their license and got out on their own and do their own flying. In fact, they've got their own helicopter now, and do all that flying.

So, I was flying with Helen, Helen Jenkins was her name, okay, Helen and I, and so she said she wanted to fly. So, we flew for almost a year and a half in a super cub, a 182, back and forth, back and forth, and we went to school together down at Troutdale, and took the ground school and all that. And she didn't want to fly by herself, is the way I think about it. And so, I never did sign her ticket off. So that's the only person in all the --- I imagine maybe a couple hundred people that I've flown with that I didn't sign the ticket.

DOROTHEA: Well, I don't know about anybody else, but I'm about to freeze.

CARROLL: It is cold in here, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: It is.

BARBARA: It is. I don't think Peggy turned the heat on.

CARROLL: Not in here, nope, nope.

DOROTHEA: Well is there anything else you can think of that you would like to share with us?

BARBARA: Would you do anything different, or are you pretty content with how your life has gone?

CARROLL: Just the one thing I would have done different. I wouldn't have gotten out of the Service after the war; I'd have stayed in. That's the main thing that I wouldn't have done.

BARBARA: That one year you should have stayed in, huh?

CARROLL: Yeah, I should have stayed in that one year. And you can look at it two ways too, you can say well if you'd have stayed in you'd have got into jets, and you'd probably be dead. Or, if I'd of stayed in and been in jets, been a pilot which is the elite of the air force, and to go up in the ranks, you just about had to be a pilot, in the pilot status going up in the higher commands. So, in the ---

BARBARA: Might have been a desk job then?

CARROLL: Well yeah, later on it would have been a desk job. But you'd have been one or two things, you'd either have been a general, or you'd have been dead. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you come out a captain?

CARROLL: No, lieutenant colonel.

BARBARA: Lieutenant colonel.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever think about flying passengers?

CARROLL: Commercial?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CARROLL: Yeah. I would have liked to changed that too. I should have gone into commercial when I retired. I'd been gone so much from home I thought well maybe this is the time to stay home, so I didn't go because, mainly because of that reason.

I'd liked to have gotten into these tankers that drop retardant on the fires. Those big planes are the ones I flew for years. And I had a lot of time in them. I should have gone and joined them, but I didn't join them. I don't know if I got too old or not. They might not take me now.

DOROTHEA: Well there too, you know, those people don't fly much either. So, you probably picked the right choice.

CARROLL: Well, yeah, okay. Oh, I can't hardly think of anything else that --- you've asked all your questions, haven't you?

DOROTHEA: Well I'm pretty well, pretty well out. If you don't have anything else, then let's go on with the video. And we'd like to thank you for the afternoon. We might want to get you back and maybe put some words with that video if we can get it all on. I'm not too sure how to operate the camera just --- I haven't done it for a long time. So, we might want to have you back to do that. For now, though, let's say thank you, and we've enjoyed the afternoon and your visit, and we'll get on with the video then.

CARROLL: Well, I think you've got a real good program here. I think it's real good to get all the local old timers of the county.

DOROTHEA: Well, we really don't call you old timers.

CARROLL: No, well I ---

DOROTHEA: You know it gives us history.

CARROLL: I haven't really joined the old timers yet. But every time I see an old timer, I tell him to quit dying because I don't want to take his place.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, right.

BARBARA: Good thought.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, good thought. And not only that, it's people like you though that know some of the history of Harney County that we like to get to talk to, because some of the old people can't remember anymore.

CARROLL: Oh, have you done Merv?

DOROTHEA: No.

CARROLL: Get him.

DOROTHEA: I don't know if we could ever get him to talk.

CARROLL: I'll bet you. When you know a thing about Merv, that you've got to ask a question and not say anything, and never interrupt him because he will lose his train of thought. But I've set by the hour up there with him, and why I haven't taken the tape recorder, maybe I ought to do it and then just pass it on to you.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, that would be good.

CARROLL: Oh, that man has the history of everything in his head.

DOROTHEA: I don't know whether he'd talk with me or not.

CARROLL: Oh, okay. Well maybe I ought to try it with, just get it ---

DOROTHEA: Probably ought to.

BARBARA: That would be wonderful.

CARROLL: Yeah. And then just put it in the file.

BARBARA: Sure, sure.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CARROLL: Because he remembers everything that has happened in Silvie's Valley, the date, and the person's name.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And see like we couldn't even remember, and I've been sitting here trying to think of Richardson's first name, and I'm not coming up with it. Well I thought about it when you mentioned it, and then it slipped my mind, and I cannot come up with it.

CARROLL: I remember one night he caught me parked up there in front of the grade school, parked one night, and was with a date, and he came up there and the folks was looking for us. He came up there and he drove up, and he knew where we were parked up there. He came up there and he says, "Say, your folks are looking for you, you better get home." (Laughter) This was a high school time.

DOROTHEA: Okay, let's get on with our video then, and like I said, thank you again.

CARROLL: Thank you.

(END OF TAPE)

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