

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #332 - Sides A/B/C/D

Subject: George Renwick

Place: Historical Society Luncheon; plus a conversation between George and Marcus Haines

Date: 1980

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

Release Form: No

MARCUS HAINES: Yeah, George is going to sit right here. We're all ready to go.

GEORGE RENWICK: Howdy historians, and all good friends. I welcome you to this meeting about the fast fading, and about to be forgotten Follyfarm. First, I'd like to apologize for not paying more attention to early people, and parents, and different ones about the old stories and stuff. I just thought well what, who would be interested in that. Why do I want to listen to all this for? Well, I was interested in what was going to happen tomorrow or something else. So, I didn't pay much attention, and now I kind of wish I had of.

Before I started this meeting the other day, well I took a little survey of people in the streets, and I asked them if they knew some of these landmarks. I asked them if they knew where Cord was, Sheepshead, Sunrise Valley, Squaw Creek, Alberson, Buck Creek Butte, and Follyfarm. And I got almost a complete failure on everybody but one or two. You realize that people didn't know much about landmarks or Follyfarm. These are all within a ten-mile radius of Follyfarm.

Before I go any further, we ought to say that they had a liar's contest here a few years back, on the best lie. So, I borrowed one of old Tebo's stories, and I won that liars contest. So, if you see anything out of the way, why don't think much about it.

Well most of you know who I am, I'm George Renwick, second grandson of J. H. and Dorcas Neal who came to Sunrise Valley in 1905, and took up a homestead. And that homestead was what was to become known as Follyfarm. And I'm going to try and give you a little bit of the

early history and the people, and the things that happened from then on.

First there was about J. H. Neal, he was a publisher of a paper in Canyon City for a few years. And he had just finished his school, as an engineer and surveyor and he came up there. And that job was open so he took it for a while.

When the soldiers kind of got the Indian Wars calmed down, and Harney County split off from Grant County, there was a lot of people went swarming to Harney Valley around to pick up homesteads. So, being a surveyor, he thought well he would come over and see if he could find any work. So, he came over to Harney Valley, and sure enough there was more surveying to do than he could do in a long time.

So, while he was surveying around, why he kind of watched for a place for a homestead. But most of the good land had been taken that had water on it. And he finally found one spot over there at Riddle Creek, so he filed on that in Happy Valley. So, then he built a cabin and he moved his family over here then. My mother Ada, and the oldest girl Nora, she passed away shortly afterwards and is buried there in Happy Valley in the Smyth Cemetery.

After they had been there about a year or so, why the third girl Mary was born, the one that married Frank Kueny.

He kept on surveying then for about fifteen years. He built up a little herd of cattle, and all during that time he kept looking for another place for a homestead. So, he found this over in Sunrise Valley, and he sent the soil in and tested it. And it tested good, the only, about the only thing it was lacking was water. It would have early spring runoffs, but didn't have no permanent water. He didn't like that, but he couldn't find anything better, so he talked to his wife, and they thought well we'll go over there and homestead over there, which he did.

So, he still had his first --- see on these homesteads, the original homestead was 160 acres, and then they increased them to 320. I don't know just what year it was, around 1900 and something. And later on, they increased them to 640. Anyway, he had this extra land coming, so the wife hadn't filed her homestead anyway, so they both filed over here in Sunrise Valley then. And they built the house and put a fence around it, and he still had this over at Riddle Creek.

Incidentally, he was quite a hand to name everything. So, he picked out the name of Scrabble Ranch for that Riddle Creek. Why he picked that name I don't know, but that's what he called it. So, Dorcas stayed there at the Scrabble Ranch, and he'd go back and forth to the Follyfarm and improve on it.

And the girls would go to school there at Happy Valley, if it hadn't have been for school, they'd have probably moved over quicker. But, he accomplished quite a bit during this years, while they was going to school. He cleared about five hundred acres of sagebrush, and he built a reservoir dike, from one side of the valley to the other to hold the water back. That dike was about a mile and a half long, and he built that with a team of horses. Well, that's quite a little dirt work to move, especially in the center where it had to be pretty high to hold the water. And then ... put in little dikes then to kind of flood irrigate. They owned part of this, about sixty acres, why he planted some dry land alfalfa. And he got it started and had a pretty good stand at one time.

And then when he, of course when he built this dike well there was other homesteaders coming in, so he filed on the water rights on the Road Gulch, Lambing Canyon, and Quail Creek, that was the three main sources of water. What do you do when you can't read your own writing?
(Laughter)

Well anyway, getting to know a little more about the reservoir, he turned this water out, and the first set of dikes and it went to alfalfa, and then on to the next. And then after the water was out why he sowed the bottom to grain, oats and barley. And he had pretty good success at that, and grew a good crop of grain. Well, he had to build granaries to put it in, so that took up some more time.

Well then here come a dry year or two. So, then the headquarters over here at Scrabble Ranch then, said well you're wasting your time and money over there. See now you done all that work and built these granaries and this barn and everything and you ain't got nothing to put in it. Well, he didn't have no answer of course, but the weather did come back. The reason I mention this, was getting back to why he named it Follyfarm. The girls was studying in high school about Robert Fulton's folly, steamboat. And so, they got to calling this Folly Ranch. And he didn't

exactly like the ranch part, so he changed it and called it Follyfarm. So that's how it got the name of Follyfarm.

Well when the girls got through school, they went to Burns to high school. Ada was in the first graduating class from Burns Union High School, and Mary was in the second. So, when they finished school then they sold the Scrabble Ranch to Rye Smyth, and moved lock, stock, and barrel to Follyfarm.

He had to build up a little bunch of cattle while he was there, and he took them over with him of course. But he'd been watching the sheep industry, so he decided to buy a band of sheep, which he did, and he run them from then on.

People were coming in, and he saw the necessity for having a stocking center for freight teams, and a store for all these sheep men. So, he built a store then, and this --- built some more on the house to make it kind of a stopping center out of it. And the girls come back there then and helped him in the ranch, and they got to be good teamsters. And so, he started freight teams to the railroad in Vale. And I think Ada went down quite a few times, and Mary did too. Whenever they sheared in the spring, there was lots of wool, a lot more wool than there was wagons. So, they had to hurry up and make a lot of trips to get it all hauled out.

And so, he got both girls driving two wagons tied together. And oh, they had about twenty horses on that, ten teams. And they'd go down with a load of wool, and they'd load up with lumber and supplies for the store, and maybe a plow or harrow for some of the homesteaders. Whatever they needed or whatever he could haul back, they'd bring it back.

During this time, I had an ad for a long time with the prices, 1912, here is what they sounded like, if you think we had enough inflation. These red Mexican beans that the shepherders and everybody buys so much, you could get a hundred-pound bag for fifty cents. (Laughter) And you could get a hundred pounds of rice for a dollar. And you could get a hundred pounds of sugar for a dollar. And coal oil, kerosene, as a lot of us know it now, was a case, which was ten gallons, for a dollar. It come in a little wooden box and it had two square cans that held five gallons. Maybe some of you remember that. It was a dollar for that case. Macaroni it come in a, oh it was

kind of a paper, burlap bag, sixty pounds was in a monster bag, it was fifty cents. Flour was a dollar and a half a barrel, that was four sacks, a dollar and a half. And twenty-five-pound box of dried fruit, they had dried prunes mainly, but they did have apricots and apples, that was seventy-five cents a box. And here is one that will kill you, Levi's seventy-five cents a pair. (Ohhhh)

Matches, usually a little square box of matches, oh about an inch and a quarter, we called them Chinaman matches. You had to strike them on the box. And it was a penny a box. Does anybody remember those kind of matches?

MAN: The folks used to have a lot of them, and they'd come in a bunch, all fastened together, a lot of them.

GEORGE: Right, yeah, a hundred in a box.

MAN: ... a little old match ...

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: A lot of striking in the right direction, you could set the whole bunch off.

GEORGE: Strike away from the head.

MAN: You strike the wrong way you had a lot of fire.

MAN: Most of them just fired ... (Laughter)

MAN: I think a good many fellows burned the bottom out of their pockets ...

GEORGE: Well, that was an example of the prices then in 1912. Freight should have been a factor, because it took a whole week to go down to the railroad and back. But still they could go down there and back and haul this stuff in there for that price.

WOMAN: Was the railroad Crane, was the railroad Crane?

GEORGE: The railroad was at Vale at that time. It came on to Crane later.

WOMAN: Oh.

WOMAN: And from Follyfarm ... The girls went clear to Vale?

GEORGE: Right.

WOMAN: ...

GEORGE: Yeah, they went down to Barren Valley, and by Cord, Skylight, Crowley, Fangollano,

that was in Mud Flat, Skull Springs, Harper, Little Valley, and Vale. All these places don't mean much to us now, just a little forgotten thing, but in those days, they was pretty important. You had to, you know, if one of your horses threwed a shoe or something, you could stop there and put another shoe on. You sure didn't want to start up over that mountain with a tender-footed horse, because he couldn't pull much. And some other little thing happen, broke a strap on your harness or thing, why you could always get it fixed. So, these were important little stops in those days. They don't mean nothing to us nowadays, but they were then.

And one or two places they could repair wheels on the wagons. If you happen to spit out a felloe or something, they could take the tires off, and put in a new felloe or spoke or two, whatever it needed, and re-set it.

When I was a little boy, I was kind of wondering why there was so many tongs around these forges and these blacksmith shops. There would be one blacksmith, and he'd have twenty pair of tongs hanging all around the forges. They all pretty much the same, and what in the world do you do with all them? So, I finally found out one day, he was a fixing a wagon wheel. And he'd put in a couple felloes and a spoke or two, and let them set on there in the right dish, and he measured it around the wheel, around inside of the iron tire, he had to cut out a piece. So, he heat this thing, and got it pretty hot, and put on the anvil, cut it in two, and he put it back together again and put it back in the fire. Got it white hot again and got it out there on the anvil and hit it real hard. It just went right together, just like, when it cooled off, it looked like it had never been cut in two. Welded better than these fellows can nowadays. So, then he got it ready to put it back on the wheel, he heat the whole thing, built a fire around the whole iron. So, then all of us guys been out there standing around, tongues in their mouth and everything, he give us a pair of tongs. I want you to get a hold of that when it gets hot, each one of you, and carry it over and drop it down over this wheel. So, he ... around this wheel, and so he got it hot enough to suit him, well he says, "Okay." So here we all go a packing this tire over there, set it over that wheel, tapped it down over there, poured water on it real quick, and strike up then, and here he tapped it with his hammer, and listened to the ring, and said, "Well, that's okay." Tapped the wood a little bit, yeah, he would

guarantee it. Better than Okay Rubber Welders, or Les Schwab, he guaranteed it. (Laughter) ...

Well these freighters, they was all proud of their horses of course, especially their wheel horses. The wheel horses are the ones next to the wagon. They had a ... on them, and they hooked to the tongues and steer it, and also to hold back the wagon. They had a hand brake there they could pull a wooden block on each side up against the tires to kind of slow it down. If it was muddy, or wet or slick, why it would be, it wasn't enough. So, a lot of you people have probably seen these great big heavy chains laying around these ranches, maybe about eight, nine, ten feet long. They pulled out, wrapped around the wheel, around the felloe, and they'd let it roll under the wheel, or however amount of drag they wanted to hold back. They was made out of, mostly pretty heavy chain, even as high as seven-eighths inch. And if it was real slick and muddy, why they would let it pull on it quite a ways, and then really drag, and the wagon wouldn't run away. Well that's what a lot of these old chains was, if people wondered what they were. They called them rough locks when they put them on a wagon, or used them ---

Well, getting back to these homesteads again, like I mentioned a while ago, most of them, the real early homesteads was on these meadow and springs, and 160 acres. And then they increased them to 320, and 640. And even if you didn't have any water at all, you could also get a desert claim. And then you was allowed the script up to 40 acres like on the spring ... They never used that too much, but once in awhile they did.

... World War I, practically all the flat land had been homesteaded, and most of the good land had been sold to these cattle companies. You know like Miller and Lux, Peter French, and Todhunter, and John Devine. And if you had hay and water why they'd buy your homestead. Well most of these homesteaders came west, didn't have any money to develop or anything, so they was tickled to get something out of it. So most of them sold.

At one time there, Miller and Lux Company, that later became known as PLS, you could start at Harper and stay on one of their ranches every night from here to San Francisco. That's just how much land they had accumulated in Oregon, Nevada, and California. A lot of them wasn't fortunate enough to sell their land to these big companies, so they had to work at it the best they

could, or else give up. A lot of them give up ... World War broke out, World War I. A lot of them went to the service, and a lot of them never came back, they found other things to do. Some of them came back to finish filing on their homestead, or proving up, and then tried to sell it. And if they couldn't well they just left it, and abandoned it and it went back to the county for taxes.

In fact, the county took back so much land there, they didn't pay tax money on, they couldn't even pay their bills, they had to issue warrants for a long time. You had to hold ... to get your money. They had --- because these places didn't pay their taxes.

And Barren Valley there, which is north of Follyfarm, there was sixty homesteaders, most of them had families. Sunrise Valley, Follyfarm, there was eleven homesteaders in there, about two thirds of them had families. Only part of them proved up. Of course, my grandfather, J. H. Neal and Dorcas, was the first ones in there. And then the Gardner's came in, he was just across the line in Malheur County side.

Sunrise Valley, about a third of it is in Harney County, and about two thirds in Malheur County. Gardner, he plowed right across the county line, he was the next one. And then ... and his brother, they come in and filed, they proved up. And Carl Edgar, he was over on the north end towards Barren Valley, just before you go over the hill, he proved up on his. And then Pollock's came in, C. L. Pollock and his sons. Now he used to run a store in Bandon, and he got asthma and the doctor told him to go to a high dry climate, so he come up there, him and his wife Grace filed on homesteads, and his three boys, Tom, and Fred, and Max. They stayed there for quite awhile, and then Tom got of age, he filed on a 640-acre homestead. And then they built a store up there, that's what has become known as the new Follyfarm later on.

The rest of these fellers didn't prove up on --- that was in there. Just go over the hill there on the southwest end of Barren Valley which was only about three or four miles from Follyfarm, there was quite a collection of Seawards in there. In fact, there was two families, there was Steve and Lester. They had a big family of kids.

There is some of the early ones down there --- well there is quite a bunch of girls. In those days, why there wasn't very many girls around, and naturally they attracted lots of boys. (Laughter)

One family of Seaweards, their oldest girl she went with [A. E.] Elza Brown, he was over the ridge there on Indian Creek, he was kind of a successful sheep man. Then the next one married Joe Fine, Vera. Another one married Matt Morgan, so they --- anybody that could catch one of these gals, why he was, kind of raised his stock in society with all these shepherders, and buckaroos, and freight teamsters around. They was all jealous because somebody got her. So, whoever got one, why he was, immediately raised his standard in society.

Well I mentioned, sometimes it was kind of dry, so drinking water and wells was kind of a problem. In those days well, they had to dig them by hand. Well, they put up a windless --- they'd help each other dig these wells. One homesteader, and the other, and when the work was kind of over, why see if they could dig a well deep enough to get water. Some of them was, one there at Follyfarm, Carl Edgar dug his down eighty-four feet and he still didn't have water. There was a lot of flat rocks around that hill, just above his place, so he gathered up them rocks and lined it so the dirt wouldn't fall in. And the last time I looked in that well, why they was all in place, there wasn't a one that give or anything. That was how good a job he done of laying of rocks. If you're over in that country, going down the road to Follyfarm, drop over the hill at Summit Springs, and look over to your left there when you go down that, around that canyon, you see some rocks laid up along the road over there, he laid those rocks in there when they built that road. And they're there today just as sound as they were the day he put them in.

On down a little way further, there is a culvert sticking out, well if it was left sticking out, it would have been right out in the ... but they bent it around, and he laid some rocks over that too. Showed you how good a job he was as a rock mason.

Incidentally why, J. H. Neal surveyed that road up Road Gulch, and up over the hill there. All the roads, and surveying been done since, is pretty much followed that same survey, it hasn't varied very much.

... about these wells, a lot of them has been dug and everything, most of them is pretty much accident free. You might look up there and get an eye full of dirt, or drop a clod on you or something, but most of them got away pretty lucky. But we did have one tragedy. Billy Carroll

over there at Catlow Valley, he was wheeling him up, and something happened and ... down the well he went and broke both his legs. And it was quite awhile before they could go get some help in order to get him out. When they finally got him out why his leg was dead. Gangrene had set in, and one thing and another, and they had to cut them off. So, they made him artificial legs. He was a county clerk for a good many years afterwards.

And there is another homesteader come in there, a name of Hugh Copel at Follyfarm. And he brought a well drilling rig in. And he started drilling wells then and casing them. So, he had the first cased wells, I don't know just what year it was, probably about 1914 or so, in that country.

After, later on why Tom Seaward got a little drill, and he started drilling wells, in fact all around the southeastern part of Harney County, maybe he went over this side.

Well now, what turned out to be the main industry in this, around Follyfarm was the sheep industry. Tom Turnbull, Jim Powell, and ... Scot by the name of McGregor came over from Scotland in the late '80's and started herding sheep. They could see what a wonderful opportunity it was for sheep business. So, they moved back, got all their friends back in Scotland, told them to come over here, it was wonderful opportunities. So consequently, a lot of Scotsmen came into the country right after the 1900's on their word.

My dad he came over and went to work for Tom Turnbull, and there was Charlie Sutherland, Donald McKay, and Jim Jones, better known as Lord Jones, he had a knack for good clothes. He brought all these fine clothes from over in Scotland, and every once in awhile he would get out some of them and dress up and parade around. So, they nicknamed him Lord Jones then. A lot of people knew him by that name.

And there was a McBain and Jim and Bill McEwen, and Jack ... Bill Duncan, Bill and Tom Davies, John and Tom Jenkins, now this is the old Tom Jenkins, not Tom --- is he here today? And then there was a cousin Tom Jenkins that came over later. Pat Linehan, there was a lot more of them, but I can't remember their names. Gordon and Jim McWilliam, ... left him out. But there was a lot more besides that, C. B. McCallum, and I can think of some every once in awhile.

Anyway, they come over and started herding sheep, and some of them bought sheep, and

they got into the sheep business. And then later on then the Bascos started coming in. They came into Boise, over to Jordan Valley, McDermitt, Winnemucca. They started coming in there. Some of them was the Echanis boys that had sheep. Joe and Jack and I forgot the other one's name --- Ben, yeah.

And John Ebar and Pete they were French Bascos, they bought sheep and run them a long time. Pete Elissondo, John and Ben Madariaga, Santi Urcaregui, and the Urizars, and several of the Zabalas. And John [Jesus] and his brother [Jess], Laucirica from Jordan Valley. Jean Harriet, Martin Esnaola, they were, there was a lot more of them, I can't even think of the names.

Anyway, they was all pretty much interested in the sheep industry. Either they would go partners, one would herd, and one of them would stay in camp. And they'd go out here on this desert in the wintertime, and when this browse --- and they could winter them for nothing. And all they needed was a little place to lamb then in the spring, so they'd have water. And then they'd go on up the mountain until they sold their lambs, and come back down in the fall. But this desert out here was the main attraction, they'd all come back down there to get --- they wouldn't have to feed hay unless the snow got real deep.

But about all they had was, especially the Bascos, they'd have a tent which was generally eight foot by ten foot, and they'd have a little tin stove about a foot by twenty inches, twenty-four. Had a little oven in it that they done their cooking on in the tent. If they had a bunch of cooking to do, they generally cooked it in a Dutch oven outside the, in their holes.

And the camp tender he'd take care of the pack string. He generally had a saddle horse and three or four mules and a burro. And of course, the herder he watched the sheep, he had at least two or three dogs. And they just roam around, and go from one place to the other. I've seen them, one band move a camp out, and the next day somebody else move right in behind them.

And they was --- at one time there was close to a hundred thousand sheep out there on what they call the Owyhee Desert east of Follyfarm. They went up the Crowley on the north, and down the Blue Mountains on the south. Owyhee River on the east, and then back to the county line on the west at Follyfarm.

To get an idea of how many sheep there were, and how big an industry it was in those days, Crane down here had the record of the most pounds of wool shipped out of any railroad depot in the United States. Now that's got to be pretty good when you figure out that there is so many sheep in Montana, and Wyoming, and Idaho. They had the record of the number of pounds.

ROY HEINZ: ... At that time there was just over two hundred thousand head of sheep in Harney County.

GEORGE: Roy Heinz just said there was over two hundred thousand sheep in Harney County. I knew there was a lot of them, they had four hundred thousand out there on that desert several times in the wintertime.

Well, after they got them wintered and they found some water to lamb them on, the next big problem was shearing. And there was some of these sheep went to the valley, they wasn't interested in the desert, they would buy alfalfa, and they would feed their ewes on alfalfa, and lamb in February. Idea of that was they could turn out earlier. These lambs would come out on the green grass, and they ... quicker. And it always seemed like that the early market was oh, two or three cents a pound more. So, they was trying to get that better price.

Another thing they'd trail up the country, why they would have them ... before they got very far away from the railroad. So, they'd ship the lambs and then go on either to the Blue Mountains or the Steens, whichever way they wanted to go. And the ones that lambed later on, well of course they had to go on to the mountains then to get their lambs top out, and then bring them back.

I start out to say about the shearing plants. Well there was several people were on the shearing crews in those days. One that, Charlie Kuhl he started in down at Skull Springs, and he'd shear up to Riverside, Crowley, and generally wind up at Crow Flat at my dad's plant. It was J. H. Neal to start with. Then those other people that run the other crews, too. Jenkins, they built a big double plant there and they could shear two bands of sheep, one on each side, and had it covered over. They could put enough sheep in there, if it started raining, to shear for another day. But some of the operators got a little skeptical about that, they went ahead and sheared a time or two under those conditions, they turned them out and then they got chilled in the storm and they lost some.

Well your turn to come in, why a storm come up, you kind of hesitated. Well you go in, you go ahead. The rest of the time, they wanted to always be first.

There at Follyfarm they started shearing, they didn't shear there real early, but later on some of these other plants closed down, why they started shearing at Follyfarm. And one year there Efeard Bradley was running the store then, well he was in town there, and he was getting beer for the shearers. He said, "I can't haul enough in my pickup." And I had mine, so he wanted to know if I'd haul some of it, and okay. So, between the two of us we had over three hundred cases of beer among us. We took it out to Follyfarm. By gosh it come up a rainstorm, and they couldn't shear for a while, and believe it or not they run out of beer. (Laughter) They had to make a rush trip to town and get another fifty cases. All during that rainstorm why most of those shearers liked to gamble, they had some frantic poker games there. You could win a fortune or lose a fortune whichever you wanted to.

WOMAN: How many days would it take to shear all those sheep? ... without the beer? (Laughter)

GEORGE: Well, they didn't shear them all at one plant. They had a, oh, on this two hundred thousand sheep there was probably about five plants working on it. They would --- real good shearers, if you got up to two hundred sheep in a day why you thought you was a pretty good shearer. I don't know, Roy and I tried a long time before we got two hundred.

MAN: I got ... sheep died. I'd never do it again.

WOMAN: ... (Too far from microphone.)

GEORGE: Right.

WOMAN: ...

GEORGE: Granddad.

WOMAN: ...

GEORGE: Yeah, I think I've got ---

WOMAN: ...

GEORGE: I've got some here later on.

WOMAN: Okay. Sorry ---

MAN: ... they sheared over a hundred thousand sheep there one year.

GEORGE: Well, there is quite a few plants that sheared --- I think Jenkins up there, in their plant sheared right at a hundred thousand a time or two.

MAN: In 1916, sheared a hundred and ten thousand at Riverside.

GEORGE: A hundred and ten.

MAN: That's the year I retired bull riding, started shearing. (Laughter)

GEORGE: Yeah ---

MAN: ...

MAN: Then the next day we sheared almost, around a hundred thousand, and I helped shear those. And I don't think they've sheared ten thousand there since.

GEORGE: Well, they did for a while. They sheared a lot of sheep all those places.

MAN: They had too many sheep, by the time they trailed them in there and trailed them out there, the ground was ...

GEORGE: Yeah.

MAN: There wasn't no grass left ...

GEORGE: Could have, I don't ... talk about them, and I don't remember. Well let's see, I guess we got most of these sheep sheared. ... tied up in a ... somewhere.

MAN: ... a long time too.

GEORGE: Well getting back to, I mentioned, started out on how big an industry it was. From 1900, and 1910, and 1920, three decades there, it was the leading industry in Malheur, Harney, and Lake County. And then they voted in this famous Taylor Grazing Act. Anybody know anything about that?

MARCUS: Who doesn't.

MAN: ... and that's what started the Taylor Grazing Act. ...

MARCUS: Tell us about the old cars, George, we've got the sheep pretty well under control.

GEORGE: Well, not yet, I've got to take a dig at this, the Taylor Grazing, BLM. (Laughter)

MARCUS: I don't think we've got an employee here, so it won't help any.

GEORGE: Well better check here, I don't want ... see Dale, he don't want to ruin the county. Well anyway they came in with this Taylor Grazing Act. A lot of dumb fool sheep men voted for it themselves, so they got what they asked for. (Laughter) They had a meeting there at the Follyfarm one time, and they took a vote on it. There was twenty-five people there, and most of them sheep men, twenty-three of them voted for it, and two of them voted against it. I was one of them that voted against it. All the rest of them voted for it.

Well anyway, it came in after they enacted it a year or two later. It came in with these permits. They had three classes, we had all three classes there at Follyfarm ourselves, one, and two, and three. Well after the first or second year, I don't know, maybe second year, they just wiped off class three. Well a year or two later, wiped off class two. Well that ... you might say the Bascos ...

TAPE 1 - SIDE B

GEORGE: ... but these regulations up until they got rid of every sheep in Harney County. Except what's on the ranches on the deeded land. I guess Henry Vogler and I have got quite a little bunch, and this summer I understand he took them to Steens Mountain, so maybe they won't come back.

Now getting back to this, they done away with sheep that ruined that Owyhee Desert. I was back out here just a couple years ago, looked at --- this browse will grow up kind of a little bush about oh, anywhere's from six, eight, ten inches high, and it would grow up every year. If the sheep ate it clear to the ground, next year it would come back up. And the sheep, or deer, or antelope, that sort of animal was the only one that seemed to eat it. Horses or cattle wouldn't eat it unless there was nothing else and they were half starving.

Anyway, they took all these sheep off of there, that browse tried to grow out around it for a year or two. It sent up stocks outside, and it would go up and die there, and kind of leave a dead bush. And now, I'd say it is better than three-fourths of it's dead, and nothing left on that desert like it used to be. I don't know whether it is possible to bring it back or not, it would probably be pretty hard.

MAN: ...

GEORGE: Yeah, she's got several different names, that's one of them. She's got some other names too, Latin and so on.

Well I've got some, a lot of items down here about Follyfarm and around. There is Alberson, I was going to mention about it. This is one Jess Alberson, homesteaded around the south end of Juniper Lake. He built a store there, and he'd sell groceries and supplies to the sheep men on the mountain. While the railroad was Vale, why they'd bring the supplies up to there, and then they'd come down off the mountain and pick up their supplies and go back. That got to be quite a berg there for a while. And at one time there was four saloons there. Can you feature four saloons out there on that desert? (Laughter) And they also used to have girls there. The first, well I won't say bawdyhouse in Harney County.

MARCUS: How many girls, George, was there? (Laughter)

GEORGE: Well, I heard quite a few stories on that. There was several. The sheep men would come down the mountain in the summertime, why there wasn't much to do, the herder would watch them, the camp tender would come down. He'd stay a couple days, three, then he'd go back up, and then the partner would come down. They ... pretty good business there for quite awhile.

The railroad come on up to Crane, then the ... come on up to Crane, and then they built a store in Diamond and they started going to Diamond. And the sheep men, it was closer from Diamond down to the store, so they quit going to Alberson so much. Then Alberson went to Diamond, so that kind of killed Alberson then. But that store was built out of rocks there at Alberson. There was kind of a quarry on each side of the valley up on the hill.

After the store closed and the roof blew off of it, well then, the rocks started to tumble down, and everybody went along and got them a souvenir or two. A lot of them even brought them into Burns. Maybe some of you folks have got some in your patio.

Well, even though the railroad went on to Crane, Follyfarm was still winter headquarters for the sheep men. As soon as the ... came so they could get on the desert, why they went out on the desert. If it got to be kind of a bad year, why they'd come in and get corn, they'd have corn shipped in. And they'd come in, in pack string and take out a load of corn and feed their sheep.

And a Grandpa J. H. Neal, he run the store there at Follyfarm in 1916, and he sold out to my dad. My dad he didn't like the store business very well, so Charlie, C. L. Pollock, Charlie we called him, why he was interested in the store so he kind of got him to start selling groceries and so on. And when Tom got his homestead, well then, they built this big store; I call it big, big for Follyfarm. They moved it up there, and that's where they call new Follyfarm. The old ... Tom's homestead.

Incidentally, Grace Pollock, she was quite a talker, she was a little old woman. She was just like a phonograph; she could run Nellie Miller a close second. Pollocks run the store then until they bought the Juniper Ranch.

During the last depression my dad had the Juniper Ranch and he lost it during the depression and the drought. And Pollocks were able to buy it. And they bought it, and then they rented the store then, a couple named of Efeard and Annabelle Bradley. Annabelle was a Baker from up here. I think Efeard came from Idaho. He ran it three years, or run it three years, and then he turned it back then. And then they rented it to Lula Leake for a year. Leake turned it back, and then I took it for a couple years until the war broke out. And then A. J. ("Shorty") Cummings, he took it then and run it until he died. And that was the end of Follyfarm then. When he died nobody else took it. So, Pollocks moved part of the buildings, ... they all disappeared.

Well, getting down to where I entered the picture. I was born in Boise, Idaho. An older brother passed away, and so after they got things straightened out well I got that fever, "Go West Young Man". Well, I was really a young man then. So, I got on the train and I came to Crane. And I think it was either, probably August 1917.

I got to Crane, and Crane was really a booming. And they was building new buildings all over, everybody could drive a nail was driving nails. And they also had a new ... come in. New names that people wasn't used to here. Used to call them ... houses, well they became known as hotels. And ... took the name of the boarding house, or restaurant. So, they kind of got new names then. This big rush then, why they got rid of most of the square nails then. They had round nails for years before, but they couldn't get rid of them all. These merchants still had them, but with this

big boom, why they finally got rid of them all. It went on from Crane, went for a buggy then to Follyfarm. I was the first pioneer that come to Follyfarm by railroad. I was joined there later by both my brothers Bill and Jim. They was born there in the ranch house. There was also another girl born there, Roberta Robirts. She was born in November 1928. Her mother was teaching school. They let school out that day, while she went over to be a mid wife. The kids thought that was pretty good to get a holiday for that.

I went down to the Juniper Ranch for five years, and then we lost out on everything. And after we lost out why then we didn't have no place to go much, but we did rent, ... rented the old farm house back to live in.

Vivian Pollock was the only one left out of the Pollocks now, and she has acquired all the land and property in that area. So, she's got to be kind of a little empire built up down there. I don't know what you'd call her, she ---

And I've got a few little items on Indians here, everybody likes Indian stories. There was a couple Indians come along; I'm not sure what year it was now. They had a couple pinto horses and another odd colored horse. They wanted to stay all night, and they was a going through the country, and so after they got camped why I went out and visited for awhile, wasn't anything else to do. I didn't, it was hard for me to tell how old the Indian was, but I think that oldest one was probably in his 70's, although he didn't look like it. The younger one was about 30. And he was telling a few little things of early days. He got to mentioning the deer, he said, "You never kill your doe deer, because they are the leader of the deer." ... Said the Indians used to go back behind them, and the bucks and the young ones sometimes would hang back, and they'd take a drive and scoot along behind the does and take them to the desert and they never had any winter kill like we do now.

He said they had a big camp there on Duck Creek. And they used to grow a maize there on the Duck Creek, that black dirt there, a wonderful maize. And they would come in the wintertime, why they would come down there and camp, and they'd go trapping out on the Owyhee, and put in the winter there. And some would stay there and raise maize too in the summertime. They made their camp there for a long time according to him. I don't know, just after the early 1800's

evidently.

And they had this Duck Creek Butte up there, he had, that was their fort to fall back on in case they were attacked. They had a burial ground over there somewhere, I never did know exactly where, but had one there someplace. Around the mouth of Duck Creek there, just above the road about three hundred yards there is some Indian writing on the rocks. I don't know what it says, but -

--

Well these Indians, they'd kill these mountain sheep. They had lots of mountain sheep there. I asked this Indian how many there was, and he wouldn't say. He said, "Many, many, many fine rams." I don't know what that meant, but apparently there was quite a lot of them.

But something, they had this hoof and mouth disease, these wethers they trailed in from Montana here, talking about, a fellow brought in, two of them brought in four thousand head of them. And he trailed them in here and they got this hoof and mouth disease started, and it killed off all those mountain sheep and a lot of the other sheep. They had to build dipping baths, and everybody rushed around and built dipping baths. Jim McEwen built one, Jenkins built one, and they had to dip these sheep two or three times. And I think they had to do it two seasons. And they finally got rid of it then, got rid of them two fellows that brought the wethers in too. They didn't come back. (Laughter)

MAN: ...

GEORGE: Well they had this hoof and mouth disease is part of it too.

MAN: ...

GEORGE: And this Indian said also there wasn't too much sagebrush in the early days. There was a few pockets around. They said you could go from Burns to Bend with just waving bunchgrass. And he counted, or figured that the sheep had scattered the sagebrush and got it to growing everywhere.

Then along about, after the First World War they got another grass came in here, cheatgrass. Everybody is ... to that now. And that kind of took the country. It turned out to be kind of a fire hazard. You get it in there, just like, it gets hot wood, almost explodes. Get a fire started with that

you couldn't get it stopped.

And in 1928, the year we went to Juniper Ranch, they got one started on Juniper Grade and burned down to the Stone House, and almost burned up all the fences, and most of the ranch, and all down the side hill there. Just about wiped everything out.

MAN: When I was a boy there was no cheatgrass and no tumbleweeds and Oregon thistle. ...

GEORGE: After all these fences and everything broke down, or burnt down, my dad decided to rebuild it with woven wire. He had the idea of fencing with woven wire to keep the coyotes out. He couldn't find anything to stretch it with. He read in the "Country Gentleman" ... manufacturing company making Handyman Jacks. So, we sent back and got two of them, from back in Bloomington, Indiana, I think it was, to stretch that fence with. Then they found out that it was good to jack cars out of mud holes, and one thing and another. And about everybody in the country then had to buy one.

And we built that fence in '28, that's fifty-two years ago. Last time I looked at very much, why it is still standing in pretty good shape. Also, there was some of them real old posts, we used to drill a hole through the posts and have a single wire for a fence. An old cow would get in there, and just scratch and go on through. Well then, they invented the barbed wire and put them two strands together and put barbs on it and nail it to each post, and that kind of slowed them down a little bit.

Another little, on the Indian side, Chief Winnemucca, they was trying to get a hold of him, and had him cornered over there in Idaho, in the corner there in the Owyhee River where it comes into the Snake. And they captured his family and quite a bunch of his braves. But some of the, the Chief himself and a few more of them swam the river, and they come on out then and they came up to --- well the soldiers thought they was going up the south side of the Owyhee, so they cut through there at Jordan Valley trying to catch up with them, but they went to the north side and went up in Mud Flat and into Barren Valley, up through that way, so they didn't catch up with them again until they got way down in Nevada. They apparently weren't trying to do any damage, although they burnt the bunkhouse down at Crowley, and they got blamed for it. Oh, I've heard stories that maybe

they didn't do it. But anyway, they got blamed for it.

We had followed them on through into Nevada and they went down in the, way down in the corner by the Humbolt River there, and Sarah, that was his daughter, she went out there and pleaded with him, and finally got him to surrender.

In the mouth of Squaw Creek Canyon there above the Juniper Ranch, the soldiers was following the Indians up through Oreana Flat, and went up Oreana Flat and the Indians dropped down to Squaw Creek. And they fought the soldiers and was going to follow them on down. The soldiers went up the ... two miles the other side of Oreana Flat and dropped down Juniper Grade, come around behind. The Indians spotted them a coming and so they fled then and they didn't have no battle.

There was a whole bunch of them little rock forts, oh about as high as these tables, and they just built up a little kind of a half moon rock ... I don't see how it would stop a bullet or anything, I guess it was just a hiding more than anything else. They had these all built in there, and of course they didn't get to use them, when that fire burned that brush off, they was very visible and I didn't figure out what good they was. I'm going to skip some of this; I think I'm getting too long.

MARCUS: I was going to suggest that, when George is still turning over here, would you like to finish up the rest of your story another day here, George?

GEORGE: Well it is making longer than I thought. You want to --- come another time.

MARCUS: Well, we'll plan on that.

GEORGE: Okay.

WOMAN: We'd like to hear it in its entirety.

MAN: You're going to have to write a book. (Laughter)

GEORGE: I'll give it to Joanie here, and let her ---

MAN: ...

MARCUS: Well by golly, thank you George. (Applause)

... (PAUSE IN TAPE)

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

MARCUS HAINES: Okay, George is already if you folks will --- hello Jessie, by golly you got here after all didn't you?

JESSIE: ...

GEORGE RENWICK: Well, I'll try and finish up from last time. I got stopped right in the middle of things. I'll mention a little bit more about the Neal's, I didn't say too much about them. Dorcas Neal was a quite large woman, almost as big as her great grandchild Shirley. She was a hard worker and raised a big garden all the time, and canned. Had a root cellar, and she had over a thousand jars of vegetables, fruits and stuff in there all the time. So, come along the depression, she was ready for it.

And she always had a bunch of chickens, and she put eggs down in --- she had some kind of a brine that she covered them with in the spring, and they would stay good and fresh clear into winter. I never did figure out how they done that. I know as a kid we had to wash them in the wintertime, lots of times, take the Monkey Ward and Sears Roebuck catalog and wrap them, pack ... sheep men. But the eggs was still fresh and as good as they were in the spring. She had a greenhouse and she always had green stuff all through the winter. It was the south side of the house, and about twenty feet long and twelve feet wide, and she had lettuce and onions and radishes in there all the time, chard. That was kind of unique in those days. Didn't have like we have nowadays, fresh produce that came in every day.

The girls, they like to, she kind of cracked a pretty sharp whip when she popped it, and they liked to get out and go work with their dad. They'd rather go harness up a, twenty head of horses, or feed a load of hay to the cattle or sheep, or whatever, and get an excuse to get out of the house. That's how come they got to be such good teamsters and such outside workers. They was hunting for a reason to get out of their house.

They got caught up with the work, they had a couple of Russian wolfhounds, and they would go out a horseback and chase coyotes. Their dad would give them fifty cents a pair for these ears off of these coyotes. And that was their main sport then. These two hounds would run up on a

coyote pretty fast. A lot of that country ain't too high with sagebrush. They wouldn't kill them or anything; they'd have to kill them. And finally, they got a third dog that would kill a coyote, it was some kind of a cross between a shepherd and --- but that was after a year or two before they got that. But that was their main sport then. They'd take their horses and dogs out and catch some coyotes.

John Neal himself, he was a real small man. He was only about five foot six. Wore a beard all the time, a full beard. He was a quiet man, didn't have much to say. You'd come visit him, why he would probably look in the newspaper, he'd listen to what you'd say, but he'd hardly ever answer you or say anything. Somebody asked him once, well how come you don't talk? Why don't you tell us something? And he finally said, "Well, somebody has got to do the listening."

One time, he'd tell this story on him, went down Juniper Grade, he had this old car, called it Sagebrush Annie, and it didn't have too good of a brakes on it. He had a drummer with him, that's a salesmen nowadays, they called them drummers. We used to take them around to the store, and start down the Juniper Grade, well the brakes wasn't too good on it, and we got to going pretty fast. And this drummer said, "Mr. Neal," he says, "say if you'll stop this thing well I'll get out and walk down." And along the hill they went faster, and faster, and bumpty, bumpty bump. By gosh he kept it up end though and got clear down to the bottom and got stopped. He looked around at this drummer --- well if I could have stopped it, I would have got out and walked down too. (Laughter)

Well the last meeting I was telling about some of these lucky girls, getting these buckaroos, the sheepherders, the homesteaders, I don't know where I stopped with this. I'll mention a few more. Agnes Ward she captured an intruder. Her dad was working with the sheep, and had a homestead up on the north end of Steens, head of Coyote Creek. And everybody made it a point to stop at Daddy Wards and get the news, they called it the sentinel. If you had any news you'd give it to him, and if he knew of any he'd give it to you. So, they kind of kept track of each other there, if you stopped at his place.

Well then Agnes married Hugh [Tudor] and they had a homestead down by, south of Juniper Lake. And Hugh was kind of a hard luck fellow, Hugh was. He decided when he sold his

sheep why he'd build a barn. And him and Agnes quarreled over it quite a bit. She wanted a new house; all she had was just a little old 12 x 14 rock house.

So anyway, he won, and they built this big fancy barn, they was going to have some freight teams and so on. Well, about that time the freight started shifting to the other side, and started slowing down, and it turned out to be kind of a bad investment. So, to add insult to the injury, why the wind come along and blowed the roof off of it.

That spring why he decided that instead of clearing brush like all the rest of the homesteaders do, he'd plant that lake bottom. So, he plowed the lake bottom up and sowed his grain in there. Well, it turned out to be dry, and the wind blew a lot, started blowing the dirt out of the lake bottom, out over the hill, and been doing it ever since incidentally. The grain kept trying to grow and come out of there in, about three inches high, the roots were still trying to go down into the ground, and still trying to grow, but he didn't get much out of it though. So that was about all Agnes could take, so she took off for a while, and I think poor old Hugh he didn't know what to do.

So, then he wound up, why it was about the time the PLS Company went broke, why you could buy them places, ... these bonds for a little bit of nothing, and he got one of the cheapest ones. We got the Crooked Creek Ranch and bought it for only twenty-two cents on the dollar. Some of the others made pretty good buys too. The Griffiths from up to Anderson Valley, I think they paid about twenty-five. If they sold it, why then the bonds come up and increased. I think the Pollocks got the Juniper Ranch for around thirty, thirty-one, thirty-two cents on the dollar. And that's where a lot of those Company places went then.

MARCUS: What year would that have been George?

GEORGE: That was, let's see, that would have been about '33, just shortly after Roosevelt took over, after the Hoover depression. But now, I'll go on to some more of these lucky gals. Adele Horstman she got Jimmy Paul, and they moved over on Paul Creek for awhile, then finally they bought the Jim Mahon property in Anderson Valley and moved over there. They raised a couple of girls, Dorothy and Henrietta. Dorothy married ... cousin Tom Jenkins. Henrietta married a Quier the first time, and then Frances Venator the second time.

Alphena Venator, he got two of them, he started out with LueElla, it didn't last too long. They had two girls, with her, Eunice Voegtly and then Helene; she passed away when she was pretty young, about fourteen. And his second wife, he had Francis and Stanley, two boys.

And Laura Luce, she married a sheep man, Pete Egoscue, they had four children, Harold, Pete, Ruth and Lee.

Ada Neal, she captured a big redheaded Scotchman, William Renwick, and they had four children, Don, myself, and Bill, and Jim.

... he didn't trust his gal around anybody, nobody ... so he just hopped up and went back to ... and got Margaret and brought her out here, and they had three children Tom, and Dick, and Mary. Mary married Wilbur Haines the first time.

And Seaward, there was a lot of those Seaward girls, I'll mention a few of them. Bessie Seaward, she married Matt Morgan and they had four children, Don and Dick, Irene and Edith.

And Vera Seaward, she married Joe Fine, and they had seven children, and three of them burned up in a fire. And they had Pearl, and Cliff and Jack and Fred afterwards.

I got down here the first divorce. That was a bad thing in those days. You was supposed to stay with your man forever. Anyway, Bill Duncan and Gertrude they married, they had one boy, and he was quite a boozehound this Bill was. He liked his booze a little. She didn't like that too well, and Tom Murchison he was a sheep man, Murchison and Robertson, he slipped in there and stole Gertrude away. So anyway, they had this divorce then. She had one child with him, Alan.

And Tommy Turnbull he went back to Scotland and he brought back his brother's girls. They was just small then, in fact the youngest one was just a babe in arms.

Bill McEwen, he married Eleanor, and they had five children. And Jim McEwen married Mima, and everybody knows Walt McEwen that runs the place now.

And Hazel she married Mike Hanley over at Jordan Valley ...

And Charles Dowell married the other girl, there was three of them, and they had seven children, Tom, Ed, Bob, Charlie, Larry, Margaret, Hazel.

Then there was a lot more of the, those Seaward's yet; I think I'll just skip them.

Elza [Armestead Ellsworth] Brown ---

MARCUS: Have you got a little more scandal there, George?

GEORGE: Yeah, yeah. Elza Brown, he married, oh Annie, I can't think of her name. And he was a sheep man, and he developed his place and made a lot of money and done quite well. And the rest of the Seaweards, they was having a hard time, struggling over there, and they was going out and swiping cattle, and re-branding horses and sheep, and about everything. And he didn't approve of that, so he kind of made a rule that --- his outfit would stay on his side, and they'd stay on the other. I don't know whether, if he didn't get along with the rest of the Seaweards very well after that.

... done quite well though, he developed the place, and had the first big alfalfa field in Harney County. There was some smaller ones up here around Burns and Harney, but he put his whole place into alfalfa after he built the reservoir. He started March lambing, and built sheds clear around that place. Little old sheds were kind of funny looking deals, but ... got to lambing in March, and he'd get his lambs sold a little earlier, a little better price. He done quite well.

Back some more, the Seaweards though kind of got caught, they was branding, they'd take these cattle and they would ... so they could go over top of it. But Ed got quite a few, been all right, but they got a little hoggish then and go on two or three hundred of them. So, it got a little too obvious then. Well then, he got caught then, and they sent Ben to the pen. And they was supposed to take care of his wife and the boy, he had one little boy. Well he went to the pen and when he got out, I think he got out in about five years, he come back, well they hadn't taken care of his wife and his kid. Well gee; they had a heck of a time trying to exist even. And so, he got pretty upset and so he squealed, and so then another one had to go. Well the next time they was going to ... so they took care of her while he was gone. (Laughter)

MARCUS: You give Bill Cramer some ideas. (Laughter)

GEORGE: Well, I give the BLM heck for annihilating the sheep industry on the Owyhee Desert. But I'll give them another lick now on horses. We had lots of horses in the early days, everybody had a few, and quite a lot of them had a lot of them. Over in the Follyfarm area Everett Mickey had

over a thousand. Dowell's had several thousands. Everybody had a hundred or so. And the BLM come along, why they said you had to get rid of them. So that's what happened was, only a few of them left now, four or five hundred or so. We had more in one corral than there is in the whole county now.

I remember when I was a boy, the first big roundup I went on, they had over a thousand head in this roundup ... took to the corrals. We built a corral at the Follyfarm but it wasn't quite big enough, so we went on to Skylight, they had a great big rock corral there, and plus a lot of holding corrals. And then down there we corralled them. And boy if that wasn't a circus. All them studs in there biting and a kicking. Walt Disney would probably give his right hand for a movie of that.

MARCUS: Were those wild horses?

GEORGE: Yeah. They aren't as wild as they are now, because they handled them some, but they were wild horses. Those old studs, some of the older studs would have a pretty good bunch of mares. There was ... for anybody else to be around that bunch. Boy they would really get to fighting and kicking, better than any movie you ever saw. Some were yelling, ... leg broke and so on, ornery colts ... Had my first trip with them, and I didn't think much of it.

Well let's see, that post office was ... When the railroad come on up the country, up to Juntura and all, everybody got excited about post office ... They had had one or two places get mail, but after they got better service, well anybody that wanted to take care of it, well they could have a post office. Well, there at Follyfarm, they got one in there in 1909. Down in Barren Valley they had one at Crowley, and Cord, and some of these other places all gone, Oroville, ... But anybody that would take care of it could get the mail that way.

First one was really at Cord. They had a couple of soldiers stationed there before the Indians was entirely settled. And they had, Indians, the soldiers guarded against the Indians coming in there. I don't know just what year it was; it was in the '80's there somewhere.

Then after, it was up on the first little raise there, had a pretty good view of everywhere. And after things settled down, they moved it down on the flat then, on the Seaward place. That's where it was until it finished.

The mail for the Follyfarm came in at Riverside, Crowley, on up to the Follyfarm, through there in the early days. In 19 --- I think it was '29, why it changed then and they brought the mail out of Crane through to Denio. Then the old mail used to go up at Princeton, up through Adobe Flat, Anderson Valley, and over the hill to Juniper Grade. When that fire burned all that brush off in the wintertime, boy that snow down there, ... drifting, it would plug the road. Got so it ... possible to get it through there. Well then, they decided to change then, and they brought it around to the Follyfarm, and on down to Denio. They eliminated Anderson Valley, over the hill. I think all these post offices was all closed now, none are functioning.

Well then, a bunch of tragedies, of course, like any community. The first one we had was Henry Miller's grandson; boy [Henry Nickel] started out to the Whitehorse one winter, and it was down below zero. Everybody told him not to go, but he was bull headed and decided to go anyway. And the next day they found him froze to death.

And we had, our sheriff he got killed over there at the Follyfarm. This Cody stole some horses, wrote some bad checks, and he was probably going out of the country I guess. He came by and stopped there at our place, Follyfarm. Our dad was gone up the mountain with the sheep, of course us little kids with big mouths, we run out there, called oh daddy is gone, nobody is here but just Mommy and us. Then ... watered their horses and so on. He wanted to water his horses, so we said, "Yeah, go ahead and water them." So then after we give the information, he wanted to trade horses with Mother, buy them, and oh this and that. Finally, she stepped back in the kitchen and got her thirty-three and come out and sat there and said, "You get your horses watered and get on down the road." So, he did. She didn't know she was monkeying around with a murderer.

He went on up the Follyfarm, and Goodman come along and he was coming to the Juniper Ranch and found out he had stayed there. He went on --- so the new Follyfarm was over on the Malheur side. Well he was Harney County Sheriff, so he went and told him, said, "Well, I've got a warrant for you over in Harney County, but I haven't got one for Malheur. As soon as I get where I can, I'll just call in and get it." Well he said, "I guess I'll have to go, maybe I'll go." Said, "I'd like to turn the horse loose first." Well, he said, "Sure." So, he went over to the corral over there about

sixty, seventy yards. And he had a rifle in his scabbard there, and he just pulled it out and whirled around and shot, hit him in the thigh. Hit the keys and blowed up and made a heck of a wound, I guess.

Why it scared everybody, Pollocks there, the only safe place they could figure to go was down in the cellar. So down in the cellar they went, barricaded the door. Then they was afraid to come out, they didn't know what was going on. So, they stayed in there until, oh it was an hour or two later I guess.

One of the neighbors come along, Frank Ynda, and found him laying there in the door, and he was dead by then. He actually bled to death, it didn't kill him outright. So, then they was trying to find the rest of them, happened to go down and holler down in the cellar, and then Pollocks wanted to know if it was safe to come out. Well they come out then, and then they started going to a telephone to tell them. The nearest telephone was at Elza Brown's, about twelve miles. They went in there and called for the deputy up here at Burns then.

And he got on his horse then and he rode up Lambing Canyon, and started up the mountain. And Everett Mickey had a real good saddle horse, they called Homestead. He always claimed the best horse in the country. Evidently, he had his mind set to go steal that horse, and he started up the country.

And that night why they started getting everybody alerted. The next day they had posses started out from Juniper Ranch and Diamond, a lot of different places. They intercepted him up there, end of Riddle Creek then and captured him. They brought him back then and took him over to Vale for trial.

WOMAN: Can I ask a question, was that guy ever brought into Burns?

WOMAN: Yes.

WOMAN: Was he tried in Malheur County?

GEORGE: He was tried in Vale, yes. So, he was brought before ...

WOMAN: ...

GEORGE: Had a big old black hat, I can remember that black hat.

BILL CRAMER: Isn't he the one that Clarence Young said was the first man ever executed by the electric chair, I think it was, in the Oregon State Pen?

WOMAN: I believe it was.

GEORGE: It could have been.

WOMAN: ...

MARCUS: He was like a barracuda; he had a double row of teeth.

BILL: Is that right?

MARCUS: Uh huh, had double row of teeth.

BILL: Maybe he was half white shark.

MARCUS: Must have been.

GEORGE: Well incidentally, while you're talking about it, Harney County never did execute a man. Had to go somewhere else if you wanted to execute anybody. That doesn't sound very good for the legal profession.

WOMAN: Well, I came along the day after he was killed.

GEORGE: Did you?

WOMAN: ... had a Model-T Ford, and he kept running off in the ditch, and I was afraid ... And Mom was telling me to get out of the South End of the county, there were murderers down there, come home. And we went, we stopped at Follyfarm and Tom took me out to the barn and showed me all the blood. (Laughter) I wasn't very bright ... all the way.

MARCUS: Well ... must have been scared too, running in the ditches.

BILL: ...

WOMAN: Oh no, no, I was just in the ... But see they told ... to get out of there when ...

GEORGE: Yeah. Well, they had everybody scared to death.

WOMAN: ...

GEORGE: Well, I've got some more people got killed too, a little bit different, some of them.

Jerry ... he was, he got drug to death by a horse. He was kind of mean to his horses. If he even threw a ... why he was liable to take the gate and whip them in the belly or something. Anyway, or

other he got fouled some way or another and they drug him to death, down there by the Crowley.

Let's see, we lost some of tick fever. Now we get back to another murder here, Tom Pollock. This fellow, Charles Rogers, he went by out here, he had been out here two or three years, worked for Pollocks, worked for us, worked for Walter Anderson and ... Been just in that area for quite awhile.

Anyway, he was working for us at the time, April 1940, and something, I don't know why, he took off. Anyway, he took off a horseback, and I don't know whether something happened or what, but anyway he went down to the Juniper Ranch and Tom was gone. Well, they was all gone working, Fred was out to the cattle, and Max was sowing grain, and Tom was up, I think was building fence. He went down there beside the stream with the car.

Well, he met the car and took off, and about that time why Tom come back. He couldn't figure out where the car was going. He went up to the barn there, and here was this horse tied there. So, he knew something was wrong and he took after the horse then, took after the car down towards the neighbors, he'd seen the car turned and go down towards Anderson's. Go down there, why he went in there and Anderson was gone too, and he broke in the house and took a gun.

So, Tom went on down to the next place and Merle Cummings, he was there, and he got in his car then and went on to the Alvord and got Ted Carson and the three of them got Ted's car and went on to Andrews. He'd been there, but he didn't buy no gas or nothing, went on.

Went on to Fields and Cecil Doan was running it then, and they passed him on the road there. They went in there and they wanted to borrow the gun ... So, Cecil give him his gun, and while he was in there, he went on by. So, they passed him again and went on down to Mustang Smith's place there, what they call the Poor Farm. And they met him there with a truckload of hay. And he said, asked him if he would stop and block the road. Said, "Yeah." So, he pulled up there beside him and blocked the road. And pretty soon he drove up behind him, and he told him to ... went up there beside the car and told him to get out of his car. He had this gun in his face, and Rogers he just let the door swing open, and he had this other laying on the seat and he just spun around and shot Tom.

So, then he backed up and went around another road and took off down to Nevada. And Smith's run down to the house there and they got a rifle and started shooting at him, and they hit the car a time or two, hit this Rogers in the foot with one of them, one bullet from the ...

Anyway, he went on then and he got down there in Nevada and he got mixed up on the roads. He started, evidently wanted to go on south ... (Pause in Tape)

GEORGE: ... he started out west there, into California evidently, and he wanted to go south. So, he came back, he came back to this CC Camp. He hadn't put any gas in since he started, so he decided he had better put some gas in. And he come back to this CC Camp and stopped there at this service station to get gas. By this time, the alarm was being put out in Nevada and all around, and the service station attendant recognized him, so he told Rogers, said, "Well I haven't got my keys, I'll have to go back and get my keys." So, he went back inside and get his keys, he just went back to turn in the alarm and alert people that he was here. So, he stalled around awhile and come out with his keys, and by that time why the authorities and different ones had got there. They surrounded him and told him to surrender, which he did, he seen he was caught. So, they took him to Winnemucca then and held him until the Burns authorities could come and get him.

MARCUS: ... Malheur County, George, and was sentenced to hang. Did he hang?

GEORGE: No, he was tried in Harney County, Burns. I was thinking about Cody when I said that.

MARCUS: Oh.

GEORGE: He was tried in Burns and they sentenced him to life in prison. And he went to Salem and he served about, I don't know how many years, he finally got out on parole. The last I knew he was working at a service station in Salem, still on parole.

MARCUS: Did --- he killed Tom Pollock right on the spot there?

GEORGE: Right. Yeah, Tom, when he approached the car, slowly the door opened and had this gun laying in the seat, and he just up and shot him right straight through the heart. Tom just slumped to the ground.

MARCUS: It killed him instantly then?

GEORGE: Right.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: Died instantly.

MARCUS: Well while we're down in that area there, tell us a little bit about Sonny Hollis, George.

GEORGE: Well, Sonny Hollis was an Englishman, and he was pretty well educated. He run a little --- well he fixed tires, and just kind of a handy shop deal there at Fields. And he took care of his money, and he made a little money all along, pretty well off. He was kind of interested in the women. The women didn't seem to be interested in him. Well, they had a schoolteacher come down there, by the name of Flora Potter, teaching school there at Fields. Well, the story goes that he peeked through the window, I don't know, she was in her bedroom or something, and she brought suit against him then. Sued him for I think forty thousand dollars, and she won the suit. So, he had to pay off then.

And so, he went on then, just quite awhile, year's later, different schoolteachers. He finally got married then, I think he was married for quite awhile. But he ... he got to be, they appointed him as a ---

MARCUS: Justice of the Peace.

GEORGE: Justice of the Peace. And if you've got any trouble, why they would take you up there, and he'd fine you or whatever. Got a traffic ticket, or hunting ticket, or whatever, and he was pretty well versed on the law, pretty correct on most things.

One time the story goes, John was telling me, the state cop he was patrolling up at Trout Creek and he found a bunch of fishermen up there. Well, there was four of them from over around Klamath Falls, and John walked in on them. Counted the fish and they had over four hundred of them. So, he wrote them up and took them into Fields. And old Sonny Hollis, he confiscated their fishing poles and whatnot, and fined them, think it was over five hundred dollars. Well they wasn't going to pay it, said they was --- well it was big businessmen from Klamath Falls. One of them says, "I know a lawyer, he'll get me out of this, I won't have to pay it." Well then, Sonny fined them, they paid the fine, but they filed a protest all right over in Klamath Falls. But they didn't beat Sonny, he made it stick.

MARCUS: He had a blind brother didn't he, that lived with him there at Fields?

GEORGE: Yeah, he lived there for a long time. Well, he left finally, I think he passed away, I don't know just where though, but it was California somewhere I think.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

GEORGE: Sonny himself couldn't see too well, he had real thick glasses.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well whatever became of his wife there, Lucille was her name? She taught over at our school there at the Sodhouse in the early '40's.

GEORGE: The last time, I think she went back to Salt Lake. I think she came from Salt Lake originally. I never heard anymore after she went back there. So, I assume maybe that's where she --

MARCUS: Well, George there was another fellow down there that was pretty famous; his name was John Roux a Frenchman.

GEORGE: Yeah, John Roux, he was ---

MARCUS: Tell us something about him.

GEORGE: He was, he worked with the sheep and saved his money and got to be pretty rich, pretty well to do in the sheep business. Then he quit running sheep and he got a, took up a homestead up above Fields there, in one of those canyons. He lived up there. He liked his wine, and was just kind of retired.

Lots of people used to borrow money from him. He'd loan them money, most anybody if you had anything to loan on, why he'd give you money. A lot of people wondered where he kept his money. He'd got stories go around; he had it buried around in jars and cans and so on. When he died, a lot of them wondered if it wasn't a lot of it still buried somewhere. I don't think anybody has ever been able to find anything. They still speculate on it.

MARCUS: Well, he came to Burns and married Mrs. Jenkins, didn't he?

GEORGE: Yes, he married Mrs. Jenkins, and lived with her awhile. I don't think she got all his money away from him either. She didn't ...

MARCUS: (Laughter) Maybe old John decided he wouldn't die until he could figure out how to take his money with him.

GEORGE: Yeah, take his money with him. Well, nobody knows for sure what he done with it. They seemed to think he didn't spend it all.

MARCUS: Uh huh. I've heard that it was supposed to be buried around where he lived there somewhere. I never knew just where his place was.

GEORGE: I guess several went up there and dug around and looked for it, but they didn't --- as far as I know nobody ever found any.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh. Well is there anybody else we need to talk about down there in the South End?

GEORGE: Oh, let's see, there is lots of --- even from way down there all right. Did we mention anything about the Borax Works? I think we did.

MARCUS: Yeah, we did, we talked a little bit about the Borax Works. Uh huh, yeah, I think I asked you about the Borax Works. I think I asked you when your folks came whether they were still; the mine was working down there.

GEORGE: Let's see, what else.

MARCUS: I don't recall anything else. I wanted to ask you a question about the Dufurrenas, Tom and Alec.

GEORGE: Tom and Alec Dufurrena. Well, they were further down by Denio.

MARCUS: They were in Nevada, weren't they?

GEORGE: Mostly in Nevada, yeah. I didn't know too much about them, I've heard ... talk about them.

MARCUS: I sacked wool for Alec in 1932.

GEORGE: '32.

MARCUS: Uh huh. And Clarice was there at home, and she was married to the sheep foreman at the time, Manuel somebody, I've forgotten what his name was. It would be Sissy, Allen's, Sissy Williams' father.

GEORGE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And Mrs. --- her mother then was married to Alec and she had a boy, and they were

both about the same size there.

GEORGE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: They were real fine people. We got rained in there for a week and couldn't --- you know what that was like.

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: We had a dance there in the house every night, yeah, really enjoyed it.

GEORGE: Let's see, Tom and ... shucks, can't think of their name.

MARCUS: I never knew Tom, he was a little farther down I guess too, wasn't he?

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well, I think maybe we got it pretty well covered, George.

GEORGE: I can't seem to think of anything else.

MARCUS: Anything else that you wanted to add.

GEORGE: I know we're missing something, but ---

MARCUS: Well George, when was the road put over the mountain there at Summit Springs?

GEORGE: Well that was, let's see, about probably be just before the World War I, I believe. Elza Brown built the road from Indian Creek over to Blackbull. Of course, that was, built that when he was going into court Annie all the time.

MARCUS: Built a road to get to her, huh?

GEORGE: Build a road to get there. And all the business went down through Barren Valley to Vale. There was very little need to go there, the Harney side through Follyfarm.

MARCUS: Yeah, I bet.

GEORGE: And the first road that they had went up Road Gulch and Widow ... Pass and up, oh connected up to this road that Elza Brown built. And after J. H. Neal got the Follyfarm, he had more idea of more things on the west side, so he decided to build a road up over Summit Springs and come down Johnson Reservoir into Virginia Valley. Actually, the problem a little bit, actually the building I think would probably been around maybe 1916 or somewhere in there.

MARCUS: In order to come to Burns then, George, prior to that road, did you go back to Juniper

Grade and come over?

GEORGE: Yeah, they went that way some, and also went over the hill to Quail Creek and into Burnt Flat. ... homesteaded up there while they built a road up over there and then they go down Anderson Valley and ...

MARCUS: George, this fall I was down to Vale and when we came up to Harper we took that road and come out through by the Shumway place and the Hole In The Ground and on down Bishop Creek and through there. And I hadn't been through there since 1934, and there was a Coyote Wells out there at that time. Tell me something about Coyote Wells. There is no sign of it now I guess, couldn't see it anyways. Right along the road as I recall.

GEORGE: Yeah, it was, oh let's see, come over the hill going into the Hole In The Ground, it was right in that area in there where it was.

MARCUS: It wasn't too far from the Shumway place was it?

GEORGE: No, not too far from there. Of course, our way we came all the way to Mud Flat, where you'd be ... Where Sam ... lived, and ...

MARCUS: Oh, yeah.

GEORGE: And then they come on up to Crowley. We didn't, myself I never did go much into Hole In The Ground or in at Princeton or ...

MARCUS: No, but you've been to Coyote Wells though?

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Was there a place to stop there?

GEORGE: Well there was, of course it was close to the others that wasn't very prominent in those days, but you could stop there. They stopped more; they'd come up Skull Springs and those places on the main line when they come up through there. Then they went up ...

MARCUS: Yeah. You know I never could figure this out, I'm twisted, spent a lot of time in that country too, but I'm twisted around a little bit. How they got over into Road Canyon, going to the Follyfarm and that country. That's the thing that I never could understand.

GEORGE: Road Canyon, what you call Road Canyon ...

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MARCUS: Well it come out up there by Star Mountain, up there by Star Spring where Charlie Chapman and Dora lived.

GEORGE: Well I, that ain't a very good way to go, actually.

MARCUS: Well no.

GEORGE: You can go all right. Let's see, you could go up, well you could go up back of Crowley, go up Soldier Creek too, I guess.

MARCUS: Well see, it was a pretty good road back in those days. We used it back there --- Charlie went up there in 1931, Dora and Charlie, to Star Mountain. And at that time Winn Seaward lived out on what was --- would it be the Frying Pan that he was on? Andy Robinson had the place.

GEORGE: Andy Robinson had, yeah.

MARCUS: Was it the Frying Pan?

GEORGE: Yeah, I think they did call it Frying Pan.

MARCUS: And we used to go out there some, and they'd visit with us. They'd go up and down Road Canyon and then talked to the different people tell them about freighting through Road Canyon and all. And then in 1972 I think, I went out there in that country and made a trip up Road Canyon. The BLM had redone the road there, and come out up there at Star Mountain.

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: But the guy said going to Vale, the Vale way, why it seemed to me like it just throws you clear out of whack. But Charlie used to always talk about going through Road Canyon. And he went to the, they roped in the Alvord one time and --- and to Ontario, that is where he was raised, and he worked in there as a clerk, and tells about riding through Road Canyon there and the snow would drag his stirrups on his saddle and whatnot. But I could never, and I looked at the map and all too, but I could never get that lined out.

Now, there was another fellow that lived out there in that country too, a long time ago, by

the name of Harry Littlefield, he was around Skull Springs.

GEORGE: Yeah, he lived at Skull Springs. He lived there for a long time, and his mother Mrs. Elliott lived there. In fact, I think it was her homestead, and then he lived there with her for a long time.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: And that was at Skull Springs, that was kind of downhill, you know.

MARCUS: I've never been to Skull Springs. There is a reservoir there and they do quite a lot of fishing in, ... was telling me about.

GEORGE: Yeah, I think they put in a bigger one. When I was going through there, there was just kind of a small one, a pond.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: But they, everybody stopped and watered their horses.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: It was, it would be quite a stock pond.

MARCUS: Well then Jim Bunyard had a place on; we called Skull Springs, or Skull Creek or something.

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: I don't know whether that was the, one in the same, I never was sure about that.

GEORGE: I don't know either. He was out of there before I got acquainted with it, actually.

MARCUS: Yeah, well he was there in the early '30's, and then Frank Drout (sp.?) got it. Yeah Peggy Drout lived at --- well ... she died, you know. And you went right by the Star Spring. And when you got on to the southeast there, oh three miles such a matter, the road forked there and you took the left-hand road and went on over to where Drouts lived, I was over there one time back in the '30's, a long time ago.

GEORGE: Well, I was never to their place, I knew about where it was, but I was never to it.

MARCUS: Yeah, that was it.

GEORGE: And then they came on up to Crowley there. They went up there awhile just before

Buck ... was in there.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

GEORGE: I think that was at least a year or something. George Anderson had it for a long time, then I don't know how come they

--- when we quit well then, well Dick Warrens ... Most of them didn't have enough money to handle it.

MARCUS: Uh huh. That's a big ranch.

GEORGE: Yeah, that was a big ranch.

MARCUS: A good one too.

GEORGE: A good ranch, you bet. They put that reservoir in up there.

MARCUS: Well, this fellow Bumgard, he's done pretty well with it I guess, hasn't he?

GEORGE: Yeah, I think he's doing all right.

MARCUS: Yeah. Do you know him?

GEORGE: No, I don't.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: No. I've kind of got out of it, you know, after I had polio and moved to town.

MARCUS: Yeah.

GEORGE: Yeah, didn't get out there much anymore, and I really kind of got lost.

MARCUS: You're talking about thirty years back there since you left, about?

GEORGE: Yeah, yeah, soon will be.

MARCUS: I know the country kind of changes on you for some reason or another.

GEORGE: Sure does.

MARCUS: Well George, when spring comes and we can get around, I was going to do it this fall, going to come down and get you and then we had that rain. We'll go through the Visher, and up through the Hickey Basin, and through Hole In The Ground, and Shumway Place, and go out through the forks of the road there, and then we'll turn back and go into Follyfarm country from there. It goes around to the Crowley --- and what I'd like to do, I guess when you get around there

to where Cord and that was there is quite a country back, about south of you out in there that you don't see when you follow down along the edge of the hill the way the main road goes.

GEORGE: Yeah, there is a lot of desert country there.

MARCUS: Yeah, there is roads all over I guess in there.

GEORGE: Yeah, I think they got roads pretty near everywhere now.

MARCUS: Yeah. And I think another trip that I was always going to make with Bob Maupin, and that was out, you look down on the Rinehart Ranch. He said there is a good road from down there at Cord, along in there somewhere you take off ten or twelve miles and you can take right off in there. Was you ever in that country?

GEORGE: I've been out a horseback in there, wasn't much in a car. We used to run horses out, and we'd go clear to the rim and --- get the horses. Well that's quite a feat to look down that rim.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what he was saying, yeah. Yeah, you bet.

GEORGE: Some ... Oh, I think it is several thousand feet down there to the river, and it is almost straight down.

MARCUS: Well Conley Davis was in that country there, wasn't he?

GEORGE: Yeah, Conley Davis, he run horses in there for a long time. In fact, he run in there with the, up the Rinehart ... Ben Odell used to have quite a few horses in there too.

MARCUS: I knew old Ben; he worked for Charlie quite a bit. He had a wife out there living with him; I guess they were married, supposed to be. He took her down to the circus to Ontario and she run off with a circus performer. (Laughter) Old Ben came back without her.

GEORGE: Came back without a wife.

MARCUS: We used to laugh about it.

GEORGE: Yeah, that used to be great horse country out there.

MARCUS: Oh yeah.

GEORGE: Everybody had a lot of horses, and some of them had big bunches of horses. Well like Dowell's places, the old man Charlie Dowell had a thousand head, and then the kids they got their own irons and started branding, and they got near a thousand a piece too. Everett Mickey had a lot

of horses. When he got older why he couldn't handle them and he sold them to Dowell's.

MARCUS: Well then old Obenchain he was a horseman, wasn't he?

GEORGE: Obenchain, yeah, he went over there, he bought the old Seaward place, and the old Company place there at Cord. He brought over ... purebred stud, and I can't think of the name of it, can't think of it, Samuels. And he started breeding, trying to raise good horses. Register them and paper them, but he couldn't take care of them very well, and they got to running with wild ones. A lot of good horses out there if you could catch them out there.

BLM, they come along then and outlawed them, and everybody kind of quit branding them and then just let them run again. If they branded them, why then they trespassed you. That's what they did to me; I had about five hundred there at the time. They flew over my area with a plane and counted five hundred horses, and sent me a trespass notice for five hundred. And then we had the hearing and finally I asked him well did you see George's iron on these horses? Well no, we was in a plane. So, they had to throw it out. So, then they came out in the pickup then and took their glasses, and of course I had a lot of these red roans and ... well you could see the iron pretty plain on them. In the wintertime when the hair was long well it was kind of hard to see irons. And they counted down to three hundred, and trespassed me for that. When they come in, well the lawyer asked him, "Well, did you see George's iron on all three hundred horses?" "No, but he had seen it on quite a lot of them." Well then, they threw it out on a technicality again. Well, by that time it was pretty near spring, and ... where you could have stock on the range. And then they come out and he told me he said, "Well, you either get rid of them horses or we'll take your cow permit away from you." Well, I told him, I gathered up a big share of them and sold them.

MARCUS: What year was that George?

GEORGE: Oh, let's see, that was --- I came back after the war, that was probably '46 or --- '47 I guess it was. They hadn't trespassed me until I was in the service the first time. And a lot of them wasn't branded yet, but some of them maybe had been ... in the service. A lot of them wasn't branded. But anyway, I got rid of a big ... of them then. I had to get a plane, and it got so it cost more than they were worth.

MARCUS: Yeah, they weren't worth very much about then, were they?

GEORGE: No, they weren't worth, about a few cents a pound.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, you bet.

GEORGE: Now they're worth quite a lot of money when you ... as much as a cow, you know. Be a good business to be in now. The Taylor Grazing ...

MARCUS: Yeah, you know you talk to, telling these people that we used to run horses just like we did our cattle. You went out in the spring of the year and cut the studs and branded the colts, and you got your horses in for haying.

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And you broke your own horses.

GEORGE: Just a regular procedure.

MARCUS: You bet, just like you take care of your cattle.

GEORGE: That's the way you ---

MARCUS: Studs, you had fine horses.

GEORGE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And then it just got down to tractors started crowding them out, and there was no market for a horse then, and people just got ...

GEORGE: When I first started riding when I was a kid why, they just, the first thing you started out why they'd gather the studs up and get them marked first thing.

MARCUS: Yeah.

GEORGE: Mark colts about the first of April, and just made a great big circle. We started at Follyfarm and go, well whichever way we went, generally up on top, and get most of our horses. And swing on around and get Elza Brown's and ... and that country, and then ... Dowell's, and all around to the Crowley.

MARCUS: These horses, they were always corralled and taken; you always handled them. You had a fellow around; they knew what they were doing.

GEORGE: Yeah, they boarded there, full time. I think I told that before. A bunch of us started in

there above Follyfarm, went up the hill up on top, the Stone House, and swung around through there, and we had over, corralled there at Skylight, they had a big rock corral there, and a bunch of other corrals. And we had right at a thousand head in that bunch.

Some of those studs, they'd get to fighting. That was, we had a whole bunch of studs, you know, regular stud colts.

MARCUS: You bet.

GEORGE: Had twenty mares, some had more than that. Get up to forty or so sometimes. We'd keep the other studs out, and boy they got, when you got them together they'd really get on with a fight.

MARCUS: You bet. ... I was going to ask you something else here, but it's kind of gotten away. But I guess we've done pretty well anyway, we must be just about --- well we've got a little tape left.

GEORGE: Tape left.

MARCUS: Got a little tape left.

GEORGE: Well, the horse industry is just like the sheep industry, it's a thing of the past. Another thing on that range deal, we had all those cattle, and all those sheep, and all the horses, and deer and antelope, and they all had plenty to eat, and none of them died of starvation. Now in their management, they've just got a few cattle and less grass than they ever did, seems like.

MARCUS: Well George, I think you told us about the weeds that grew out there on the desert, would be out near Rye Grass country and around in through there that you used to winter on. The deer went out there in the winter.

GEORGE: Yeah, that was that browse.

MARCUS: Yeah.

GEORGE: Yeah, it seemed like that browse has to be harvested or it don't come back very good. And it grew up in there in little clumps, and sheep and deer and that thing, they done real good on it.

MARCUS: Yeah.

GEORGE: And they eat it down every year, and every year it come right back up. And it was

tender, and it seemed the sheep would survive good on it.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

GEORGE: And now that's all died out. When they had two hundred thousand head of sheep running in Harney County, why that cattle didn't care much for it, so that browse grew up and just stood there. And the next year it come outside, and finally just ---

MARCUS: Yeah, and then the ... insects then. Bugs will eat it up then.

GEORGE: Yeah, it's just died out.

MARCUS: I always remember down on the rim above the Riverside country there, from Granite Creek, we used to hunt down in there, Charlie Chapman and I. No water in the country, and the horses would get in there some, but my gosh the bunchgrass would drag your stirrups all through there, you know. It was never touched.

GEORGE: That's another thing, bunchgrass. You can eat that in the wintertime and it don't seem to hurt it.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: The horses and everything winter on it, and paw it out of the snow, eat it clear to the ground, but it don't seem to hurt it. But you put a bunch of cattle on it in the spring while it's a growing and it seems to kill it out. And that was real noticeable on that range right behind Follyfarm when I had it. There was bunchgrass all over, you could mow it for hay if it wasn't for rocks and sagebrush.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: And when we done away with the horses, why then the Jenkins go in there with their cattle, well they put them in there in the spring when it was growing up, and in just a few years time well that bunchgrass was pretty near all killed out.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

GEORGE: It just pulled all the grass that was left, just in the rough places where the cattle didn't go. Horses didn't seem to bother the bunchgrass. In the spring they chewed on something else. But in the wintertime, they'd come back to it then.

MARCUS: Well a horse bites it off for one thing, and a cow --- maybe does something to the roots of it. I don't know; in the spring of the year when it's around the stock ... I don't know.

GEORGE: I think it's, it needs to develop ... It has to grow up and develop or something, or the roots die out. But anyway, it seems --- I've seen a lot of places where it has been grazed hard that way.

MARCUS: It don't come back very fast either.

GEORGE: No, it don't.

MARCUS: No. Well I was going to tell you about this area down there by the Riverside Rim. The section crew lost a fire down there on the railroad, the right of way, and it come up over there and burnt that whole country out. And ...

(END OF TAPE)

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