

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #338 - Side A

Subject: Wally Welcome Discusses "Tebo" Prim Ortego

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Date: April 30, 1993

Interviewer: Shannon Applegate

Release Form: Yes

SHANNON APPLGATE: My name is Shannon Applegate and I'm privileged to be talking to Wally Welcome.

WALLY WELCOME: Yes.

SHANNON: It's nice to see you Wally. We're here in Burns at the Library. It's April 30th, 1993. And Wally has agreed to talk about a famous character of these parts, Tebo Ortego. But his name is different than just Tebo is it?

WALLY: Tebo, yeah, he never did call him Prim Ortego, it was always Tebo.

SHANNON: Tebo, okay, but his first name was?

WALLY: Prim, P R I M, Prim, I'm not sure of the spelling.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: They called, Prim Ortego, O R T E G O.

SHANNON: I see.

WALLY: But ---

SHANNON: How did he get into this country, Wally?

WALLY: Pardon?

SHANNON: How did he come here to this country?

WALLY: He came up with Peter French. Peter French brought him up in about 1873 I think it was, around in there, from California.

SHANNON: Uh huh.

WALLY: And that's how he got up. And anyway why he worked at the P Ranch all the time. And it was my understanding from when, after he got there, that he could never be fired.

SHANNON: Could never be fired?

WALLY: No, as long as French, I mean as long as he was there, if that ranch was sold ---

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: --- why Tebo was to have a priority to go with it. I mean that was, whether that was a fact, I don't know.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: But it is what my uncle told me.

SHANNON: I see.

WALLY: He said if Tebo --- that this foreman tried to fire him one year because Tebo wanted to go to town (Laughter) and he said, "Well you can't go Tebo, it's a busy season, you know, right now." And Tebo says, "Well, I can't help it, I'm a going." And he said, "Well, if you go, don't come back." And Tebo said, "Well, I'm a going, and I'll be back." But anyway in that, he could stay there as long as Peter French was alive, in that ranch.

SHANNON: Yeah, yeah.

WALLY: So he did about what he wanted to do, you know. So I'd heard my uncle talk about Tebo, you know, and I wondered what, you know ---

SHANNON: What did your uncle say when he talked about him?

WALLY: Oh, he'd tell us different, you know, things that went on at the ranch about it, you know. It's, see that was when, that was in the teens, you see, about '16, '17 in there.

SHANNON: Yes, right. After Peter French ---

WALLY: I was six years old then, you know.

SHANNON: Peter French was gone by then?

WALLY: Pardon?

SHANNON: Peter French was shot by then?

WALLY: Oh yeah, about '97 or 1897 I think.

SHANNON: Yeah, okay.

WALLY: But anyway why, when he had been at the ranch all that time, you know, and he got the mail, rode and got the mail and did whatever French wanted him to do. And of course in that era, you know, on transportation from the P Ranch to Burns, I mean in the teens there was some Fords and stuff, but sometimes the roads weren't good and they didn't go to Burns unless they just had to for some reason.

SHANNON: I see, yeah.

WALLY: So anyway, why I had heard my Uncle Pat, as I call him, whatever time he'd come into Burns, he'd stay at the house, there was an extra room, he'd stay at the house and he'd tell us something about Tebo. And so that was, as I say, about in the teens, and I'd never met Tebo until 1922.

SHANNON: Okay, now how old were you when you first started to hear about Tebo?

WALLY: Oh, about, I suppose I was --- I was born in 1910, about six.

SHANNON: I see, okay, so he must have told you some stories to kind of get your imagination going about what this guy was like, huh?

WALLY: Yeah. He was entirely, my picture of him, I hadn't seen any pictures of him, was far different than he was.

SHANNON: What did you think he was going to look like?

WALLY: Well, I thought maybe he was pretty heavy, you know, or something.

SHANNON: Yeah, yeah.

WALLY: But he wasn't, he was real well built, slender, tall. And a pretty good physique, you know.

SHANNON: Really?

WALLY: And so anyway, my uncle, when he came down to see him, when he got to town, came down to the house, and it was a Sunday afternoon, he had dinner with us, you know. And I'll tell you he did some, one card trick right after the other, you know, he'd do these card tricks. And a

great entertainer for kids like we were, you know, two sisters and myself, and even my mother and father, you know, they enjoyed him. He'd do a lot of card tricks. And so anyway, I met him and he told me, he said, "Young head."

SHANNON: Young head?

WALLY: He called me young head.

SHANNON: That's great.

WALLY: He said, "I think I can do something you can't do." He said, "You go get a broom." I went and got the broom, and he held that out just like that, and jumped over it.

SHANNON: I'll be darned.

WALLY: So I got ---

SHANNON: Nimble, huh?

WALLY: I straddled it when I tried it, you know, I couldn't do it. But anyway, that's how agile he was. And he said, "I'm 66 years old." He was either 63 or 66 years old, I remember it was in the early 60's; he told me his age. And he said, "I can do something you can't do, young man." And I said, "Well, what is it?" And he said, "You go and get a broom and I'll show you." He jumped over it, held it right on out like that, and jumped it over. He was either 63 or 66; I've forgot what it was, one or the other. So that was my, the first time that I had ever seen him. But then my uncle, he had all kind of stories he'd tell, you know.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: And I suppose that Marcus probably told you some of the stories.

SHANNON: Well I don't --- just some pieces of things. Do you remember any of the stories?

WALLY: I know, remember the stories that he said, yeah.

SHANNON: Well, why don't you tell me one?

WALLY: Well, he said, well usually he'd do that, you know, when there would be visitors come out, or people interested in the Company come out, or something.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: And he'd tell them stories. And he said, the one, he told him one, he said, "You ought to

come out in the summertime and go up on Kiger Gorge." That's south, you know, close to Frenchglen. And he said, "The first time I was up there, you know," and he mentioned another man that I don't know who that was, he said, "we rolled that rock off of the Kiger Gorge."

And the Kiger is --- Burns elevation is 4400 feet or something, and the summit of Steens Mountain is about 9600 feet, and when that gorge comes in, and there is a Big Indian Gorge, a Little Indian Gorge, and a Big Alvord, and a Little Alvord, and different creeks that flow. And so Tebo said, "We rolled that big rock," he said, "it took it all in that Kiger." And he said, "It went down that side, and it went up that other side and it came back that other side, and every time that the momentum --- it would go up and down." And he said, "I hadn't been up there, so I thought I'd go up --- the next time I'd go up to the mountain and see it." But he said, "It was two years before I got back up there on the top," and he said, "it was only about this big around."

SHANNON: Like a silver dollar.

WALLY: Huh?

SHANNON: Like a silver dollar size, huh?

WALLY: Yeah.

SHANNON: Oh, that's great.

WALLY: Yeah, about that big around. And he said, "I can prove it to you," and he pulled out a rock about like that. That was one of them he told.

SHANNON: Yeah, yeah.

WALLY: Another one he told about a cattle drive. He said, "We had a big cattle drive, you know, taking them from the P Ranch down into, through Nevada and into California area." And he said, "So anyway," he tells us, he says, "oh golly a tremendous herd of cattle." And of course, the Company then owned some different ranches, you know, like Quinn River, they owned Quinn River, and the Pickup. So anyway, he said, "We got down there and by golly we came to this river I don't remember," he said, "river, and we couldn't cross it." And so he said, "We had to, we had some saws with us, and we had to saw through those, you know, see to go through." And he said, he was talking I think about the redwoods, probably what he was talking about, how big they were,

you know. And the limbs see ---

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: And he said, "We had to," he said, "limbs," he said, "we, this creek we came to, to get across it, we couldn't do it." "So what we did, we forced this tree, big tree, across that and drove those cattle. And we had, we drove a thousand head of cattle across that, and then when we got across on the other side and took a count," he said, "we were twenty-five cows short." So he said, "We went out, and to trace where they were at," and he said, "the rest of them were lost among the branches of the trees."

SHANNON: Oh.

WALLY: That was another one, see. So that was --- those are about the only ---

SHANNON: Those are good stories.

WALLY: Yeah, only two he'd tell, you know. I mean that I heard these stories from my uncle.

SHANNON: I see, okay.

WALLY: He told the stories when he was telling these people when they came.

SHANNON: Oh, I see.

WALLY: They were, they were talking about big trees or something, so he told them that. Well, that was about, as I say, Tebo, I wished I had of talked to him more.

SHANNON: What did he, now did he have an accent, did he speak with an accent?

WALLY: Pardon?

SHANNON: Did he talk with an accent? Did he still have a Spanish accent?

WALLY: Did he what?

SHANNON: Did Tebo have a Spanish accent? Did he speak English really well?

WALLY: Oh, real good.

SHANNON: Okay, okay.

WALLY: Oh yeah, he spoke good English, yeah. I mean, he was, you could understand him easy, yeah. No problem at all to understand him.

SHANNON: Okay.

WALLY: But he got, when that, he moved to town, that was when I wished I had gone out and talked to him, you know.

SHANNON: Oh yeah.

WALLY: Then I'd had more time. And he moved to town, I think it was about December of 1936, and I think he died in January of 1937, when he died I think.

SHANNON: Uh-huh.

WALLY: And so I say at that time he come down, I worked for my uncle in the drug store, and he'd come downtown and come in, but if I was busy I wouldn't get a chance to talk to him as much as I would have of liked, you know. And so he was really an interesting person, you know, I mean smart, you know. He was a smart man. There is a difference between intelligence sometimes and education.

SHANNON: Yeah, yes, I understand, I understand.

WALLY: And he was pretty smart. I mean like playing cards, you know, he come to town and they had different card rooms. And he played a game, I think called "O Hell Bender," you know, an old game. And he liked to play that, I guess.

SHANNON: "Hell Bender," huh?

WALLY: And they'd get hickeys (sp.?), it wasn't money, you know.

SHANNON: What's a hickey?

WALLY: Rugeon (sp.?) see, hickey, see.

SHANNON: I see.

WALLY: Anyway, if you'd have some of those, I mean if he got, like you want to give them around the kids, you know, playing around town, you know, he'd give them those.

SHANNON: I still don't know, what's a hickey exactly? What's a hickey?

WALLY: Oh, they were good for trade only, you see.

SHANNON: Okay, I see, like a token.

WALLY: Different pool halls had different ones, different names. And there were three in that town of Burns then; it had a Pastime was one, and Crawford's was one, and I forgot the name of the

other one. They all had different rugeons. Some of them called them rugeons, and some of them called ---

SHANNON: Rugeons, huh?

WALLY: Yeah, and hickeys some of them called. And they were good for trade.

SHANNON: Right, okay.

WALLY: Whatever you could buy, cigarettes, or oranges, that one of those ... all had. Drinks, you know, I mean soft drinks and stuff, that's what they could be spent for.

SHANNON: Uh huh, I see, okay.

WALLY: But Tebo would, if he happened when he come in, if he happened to be, you know have some, why he'd give them, a lot of them to the kids see.

SHANNON: Oh great.

WALLY: Go outside and ---

SHANNON: Well, did he have a family of his own?

WALLY: No, I don't think he was ever married.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: No, I don't think Tebo was ever married.

SHANNON: I see.

WALLY: Because he was, see, I think he was sixteen when he came up, when French brought him up. I think he was sixteen, you know, years old. And the way, what I remember about him, when he told me on that broom, he said, "I'm 66 years old," you know, when French came up in 1873.

SHANNON: Right.

WALLY: And he brought Tebo with him, so Tebo no doubt had been, was a kid, you know, sixteen.

SHANNON: Did Tebo know Tom Baker?

WALLY: Pardon?

SHANNON: Do you know the name Tom Baker?

WALLY: Tom, I knew Tom Baker.

SHANNON: Was he kind of a character too, a storyteller like Tebo, or not?

WALLY: I, Tom Baker, I don't know, you know. I mean, I knew who he was, and I knew the family. In fact, some of the kids are still here.

SHANNON: Uh huh.

WALLY: Tom Baker's relatives are still here. I knew who he was. And he was a, related to an aunt of mine, was a brother of an aunt of mine.

SHANNON: I see.

WALLY: So that was the only, that wasn't any relation to me, but it was through an aunt by marriage.

SHANNON: I see, okay.

WALLY: He was a, Tom Baker.

SHANNON: Well, to come on back to, just coming on back to Tebo for a minute. Now, Tebo testified in the Ed Oliver trial didn't he? Did he?

WALLY: That Oliver trial, he did have a few lines, I think, in it, I think he did. I'm not sure. That's up in the courthouse, that trial.

SHANNON: Yeah, yeah.

WALLY: And I think he probably did. There were several witnesses to the murder, not several, but some when French was murdered. And then there were two --- Pete French was, there was two sides. Some of them didn't like him, and some did like him. And lots of the people in Burns liked him, you know.

SHANNON: Yes.

WALLY: When he come in, and knew him, and some of them out around in the other area, they didn't like French. I mean, they said, you know, he was, he wasn't any different than any of the other land barons. I mean land, but I imagine what the, you've heard of the squatters rights on the lake?

SHANNON: Yes.

WALLY: And you know that was what was some of the problems where that land, you know,

where they took up this ---

SHANNON: It's always been trouble in Oregon, the land, you know.

WALLY: Pardon.

SHANNON: The land has always been a source of everything.

WALLY: Yeah. When water receded, why then the squatters came in and took up claims on it. See, it had been a lake before, you know, and that was the difference.

SHANNON: I see.

WALLY: So there was two sides of people, and some on Pete French didn't like him at all. And then the other group, it was about an even go.

SHANNON: Split, huh?

WALLY: Thought he was a pretty fine person, you know.

SHANNON: Well, and so Tebo must have been close to French?

WALLY: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, he was, Tebo was just, he just really did, fond of --- and French liked Tebo, you know.

SHANNON: Yeah, probably got a kick out of him, maybe.

WALLY: Yeah, he got Tebo. And Tebo had all these stories that he'd tell, you know. Ones like those cattle drive across that stream.

SHANNON: That's a great one.

WALLY: And the results of that, they were running short in the account, so they went back and they found them in the branches of the trees, that was one of them.

SHANNON: Yeah. Did he do a lot of waving of his arms and stuff when he told the stories, or do you think he just kind of said it matter of fact?

WALLY: Not, not, no, he just talked, you know.

SHANNON: Just talked it, yeah.

WALLY: Yeah. But he, those stories there, I heard by my uncle. He worked, you know, he was a blacksmith, see.

SHANNON: Okay, I see, yeah.

WALLY: And he was the one that told the stories, you know. I wasn't around Tebo enough to know ---

SHANNON: I see, to hear them.

WALLY: --- as I say the first time I met him was in 1922.

SHANNON: Right.

WALLY: In January when he came ...

SHANNON: Well, how was he dressed? Was he just pretty much ---

WALLY: Well, he, Tebo, Tebo was the head of the Pioneer Association here, Harney County Pioneer.

SHANNON: Uh huh.

WALLY: And anyone originally that had came before 18 ---, you know, before 1880, why then they called it a Pioneer Association.

SHANNON: Uh huh.

WALLY: And they'd meet every, once --- start out meeting, and the first time they met was around the Fourth of July in 1916, that is the Pioneer Association ---

SHANNON: Uh huh.

WALLY: --- they formed. And then that was a yearly event, and so they'd go back to the one that had been there the longest, it would be the Queen Mother and the President, and so forth. So Tebo would come in to ... several of those, you'd see him, Tebo. They had it on the courthouse lawn, you know, and they had, oh mumble pegs, you know.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: And they had what they'd call, they'd take two men, I'm telling what the different things they had, the prizes. And they had just like halters around their head, attack and pull, and have this line, and who could pull the other one over the lines see, things like that.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: And then the older, then ladies too, you know, driving a hammer and so forth, like that. Tebo came into a lot of those. I don't know whether he registered, but he was there, ever since I

was a kid, you know.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: And you'd see him there, you know. And so ---

SHANNON: And would he dress up, or would he just come on?

WALLY: No, Tebo wore a suit, you know, when he came to town he wore a suit.

SHANNON: I see, okay.

WALLY: I remember he always wore a suit. And he dressed up, he had a tie.

SHANNON: Un huh, that's kind of unusual, huh?

WALLY: Pardon?

SHANNON: Was that unusual for the time?

WALLY: Well, no, usually people dressed up for an event they would go to.

SHANNON: That came to, yeah, okay, came to town.

WALLY: Just like Pioneer Day.

SHANNON: Yeah, got off the range ---

WALLY: A dance, or something like that, a funeral or something, why they'd dress up, but normally they wouldn't. And Tebo, every time as I say ---

I was down to the P Ranch one time when Tebo was there, that was 1924, and Tebo was still there. But I wasn't there long enough at that time, but I don't think I even saw him that time. And I was down with a man that was, worked in the courthouse, that was going down, and a friend of my parents. His name was Billy Carroll.

SHANNON: Uh huh.

WALLY: And so we went down in Catlow Valley, in that area, and then back by the P Ranch. And I was going fishing see, I mean in the Blitzen there, I mean like that. But at that time, I don't know where Tebo was at, because all I did when we came back was just stopped off there and had dinner, and then come to town.

SHANNON: Well, I've been curious, what kind of a dinner did they put up at the P Ranch at that time? Can you remember what they---?

WALLY: Usually those Companies fed real good.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: They did.

SHANNON: Just give me some examples if you wouldn't mind.

WALLY: Real good --- normally --- when I was a kid, I worked for a haying company, for the PLS Company, the Pacific Livestock, and I worked for Hanley one year. And they had real good meals, you know. The PLS had a cook wagon, you know, and that's where you ate right in it.

SHANNON: In ---

WALLY: In that wagon, cook wagon, and was pulled by it --- I know it was just, they made it and it had tables in there, one long table in there.

SHANNON: Huh, right inside, under the ---

WALLY: And there were seats in there see. And they didn't, that was the PLS, Pacific Livestock Company, they had the Island Ranch. They had cattle down in Las Banos, California, and all around down into --- their holdings were great.

SHANNON: Yeah, yeah. Bigger than Miller and Lux?

WALLY: Pardon?

SHANNON: Bigger than Miller and Lux?

WALLY: Yeah, Miller and Lux, yeah.

SHANNON: Is that right?

WALLY: Miller and Lux was the Island Ranch.

SHANNON: Uh huh, okay. And you worked for Hanley too? Did you work for Hanley at the Bell-A?

WALLY: Yeah, yeah, one summer. I hayed, but I got fired.

SHANNON: You did; why did you get fired?

WALLY: Oh, that was, it was my fault.

SHANNON: Oh, but there has to be a good story there, though.

WALLY: No, it was my fault, you know.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: But we had, we worked mules, you know, at the Bell-A we worked mules. And he gave me, I had a pretty good team, and an older man came to go to work, and he took that team and gave it to this other man, see.

SHANNON: Oh.

WALLY: I didn't like it, so I sounded off and I got fired. (Laughter) It was my fault, you know.

SHANNON: I see, okay, okay.

WALLY: I remember the foreman and Bill Hanley was ... And I was, it was my fault. So anyway, why I lasted --- when I got over, I mean I was mad over that team that he took away, see, and I think that I cussed Hanley out.

SHANNON: You did?

WALLY: And he had some visitors there and they heard me, and he said to Sandy ... said I think you'd better take that boy to town. So he did, so I got fired. The only time I ever did in my life. But it was my fault.

SHANNON: Okay, but gee whiz, a lot of people get fired, but they don't have such a good story to go with it, see.

WALLY: But the foreman was, his name was Lou Willard, and years after that, I mean when he retired and came to town, Willard did, he never forgot that. (Laughter) He'd kid me, you know, he'd never forget that. But he had to take me to town, and I remember he said, "Well, not every boy your age can make forty dollars a month." That's about what we made. But anyway, that was the era of --- like on I say Tebo, every time I saw Tebo he was dressed up, and he always wore a cap, he didn't wear a hat, he wore a cap.

SHANNON: Really, what kind of a cap?

WALLY: With a bill on it.

SHANNON: With a bill on it, even at that time, huh?

WALLY: Yeah, you know, I mean, every time I had seen him. He may have had a hat on that, but when he come to town he'd have a cap. Every time I saw him, he had a cap on, you know.

SHANNON: Was he comfortable with ladies?

WALLY: Pardon?

SHANNON: Was he comfortable with ladies?

WALLY: I don't know.

SHANNON: I mean with your mama or your sisters?

WALLY: Oh yeah, yeah, he was gentile, you know.

SHANNON: Okay.

WALLY: But that's about, as I say, I could have --- I'm sorry that when I was gone those years at school, and then when I came back, I came back, and then in the summer of 1936, and Tebo died in January of 1937. And he had just moved to town that fall.

SHANNON: Did he live by himself in town, or somebody ---

WALLY: No, no, there was a lady that kept boarders, most of them bachelors, you know, and that was later. Where that was at is where the Safeway parking lot is at now. It would be right on the north side of the Safeway. And she had that house, and she would keep different single men, you know, and board and room.

SHANNON: Yeah. Basques, were there a lot of Basques?

WALLY: Pardon?

SHANNON: Basques?

WALLY: Yeah, uh huh.

SHANNON: But Tebo was Mexican, he wasn't Basque?

WALLY: Oh no, and this other house wasn't Basque either.

SHANNON: I see, okay.

WALLY: No, Tebo was Mexican, Spanish, I think, whatever they was.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: But he was, he must have been about, he was a good six feet I think, tall. Seems to me, I mean ---

SHANNON: Yes, when you look at him. Was he a good rider or roper, good cowman?

WALLY: I don't know how good he was. They had some though, I mean there was another one I guess, although I never did see him rope, but they had I think one better than any of them. I can't think of his name. You know, he was at the Whitehorse Ranch, Alvord Ranch, different ones, I can't --- I'll think of his name in a minute maybe. And he was a relative of, and I think he was a relative maybe of French some way, a cousin or something. I can't think of his name. Augustine Gilbert.

SHANNON: Oh, Augustine Gilbert.

WALLY: Yeah, that was his name, Augustine Gilbert.

SHANNON: Okay.

WALLY: And he was, they called him vaquero, you know.

SHANNON: Oh, the vaquero, yeah.

WALLY: And they, he was supposed to be, from what I'd heard, I don't know, never did see him rope. But he had the, at least of the, probably the outstanding one in the county, you know.

SHANNON: Yes, yeah, the one everybody talked about maybe, huh? So did you call them vaqueros, or did you call them buckaroos?

WALLY: Buckaroos, cowboys, yeah buckaroos.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: Yeah, we called them buckaroos, cowboys.

SHANNON: I don't understand something, I don't understand something. When you were working with the mules, the mule team at Hanley's Ranch?

WALLY: Uh huh.

SHANNON: What were you doing with the mules?

WALLY: I was on the rake.

SHANNON: Okay, raking hay?

WALLY: Yeah, you see they had mowers ahead, mow it and then rake. And there was only two companies that had, most rakes were twelve feet, but the PLS Company and, the PLS Company and Hanley --- I know --- PLS Company had fourteen-foot rakes, you know.

SHANNON: I see.

WALLY: And they had mowers with seven foot sickles, you know, they were seven foot sickles. And they --- when I worked at the PLS they had, we started out in Potter Swamp which is just south of Burns here, and then we moved from there. We moved, and they had a cutting crew, and a stacking crew. And the cutting crew they had, let's see I think they had seven to ten mowers, and two rakes, and two bunchers, bunch the whole ... They'd cut it, mow it, rakers would come down and rake it in wind rows.

SHANNON: Yes.

WALLY: Then the buck would come by with the teeth and put it up in a bunch, see.

SHANNON: I see, okay.

WALLY: Then that was the cutting crew.

SHANNON: Was that all wild hay, I mean that was ---

WALLY: Yeah, wild hay.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: Then the stacking crew, they have a separate, and the stacking crew would come along and they'd stack it with a net and Jim wagon, they called it, which is a pull up. And had a chains, and they'd have a, on the net we'd have that pull with the chains on it that side, and then one on the other side. And then they called the stackers, would be on the stack, and they'd give a signal to pull the line to dump the --- So they had that, that was at the PLS --- they had that at Island Ranch I mean. And the Bell-A, that's the way they did it too, only they weren't as extensive as the PLS.

SHANNON: Yeah. What did you think about old Hanley?

WALLY: Oh.

SHANNON: Did he have a good reputation, was he like a French?

WALLY: Yeah, he was a, he was a, Hanley was a --- I didn't have anything against him, I needed to be fired, you know. But he was, he had came up from around Jacksonville, came out here. And he, and his wife was a Cameron and she was a real fine lady.

SHANNON: Clara.

WALLY: Yeah.

SHANNON: Yes.

WALLY: She was a fine lady. And so, the Hanley cattle had a good, I mean stock buyers, they said they wanted to buy the Hanley cattle, was well fed and everything as I remember.

SHANNON: Uh huh.

WALLY: But I didn't have, see I worked, the last year I hayed was 1926, and that was at the PLS. And the year before, 1925 when I started out at Hanley until I got fired ---

SHANNON: Well, you learned something in that year, I bet?

WALLY: Well, I went to work for someone else. After that, I came to town and got hired and went down and worked around in the Lawen area until school started.

SHANNON: Well, Wally, when was the last year they took natural hay off the fields? At what point did they have to start planting?

WALLY: Well, the wild hay they didn't plant at all.

SHANNON: Right, I know. And then it lasted until when, what year?

WALLY: Well, it all depends on the season. Because they would have to depend to get that, to get the wild hay, there would have to be a runoff, you know, I mean, the mountains would have to have the --- like the Steens.

SHANNON: Yes, the runoff, yeah.

WALLY: Or up in the Blue Mountains up here, and it would have to come off and flood it before they could get --- I mean, they'd have, it would depend on the year. And you'd have dry years or good years.

SHANNON: Yeah. But they're not taking any wild hay off now?

WALLY: No. Well, they still, I think they, I think they do.

SHANNON: Yeah.

WALLY: Yeah, no, I think they do, I think there is still wild hay.

SHANNON: Okay, that's what I wondered. Well, I really appreciate your coming and talking to me. Those are two good Tebo stories that you told.

WALLY: Well, there is some more of them, but I, those are the only ones --- I've forgot some of them. The ones I can remember ---

SHANNON: I know, yeah, that stand out.

WALLY: Because, as I say, I heard them through my uncle.

SHANNON: And what was your uncle's first name?

WALLY: Pat.

SHANNON: Pat.

WALLY: Pat, P A T.

SHANNON: Donegan.

WALLY: Donegan. D O N E G A N.

SHANNON: Okay, and he was the blacksmith for Peter French?

WALLY: No, he was, he didn't become a blacksmith --- Peter French got killed, and he didn't come out to Burns until 1912.

SHANNON: Okay, so he was many years after Peter French.

WALLY: Oh yeah, yeah.

SHANNON: Yeah. Well, who did he work for at the P Ranch then?

WALLY: He worked for the Eastern Oregon --- they had the Eastern Oregon Livestock. But there was another company involved, there was two companies, Eastern Oregon Livestock Company, there was Swift, it was Swift really.

SHANNON: Okay, uh huh.

WALLY: Well then, they had a, they had a leader, what I remember about them, and then they had a, when the train came, everything was kind of, railroad was a real important thing back in that era. And when the train came into Crane in 1916, and didn't come to Burns until 1924.

SHANNON: Wow.

WALLY: But those --- now like the amount of hay that year that I worked for the PLS Company, we started to work in the Potter Swamp I think on the first of June, and that was just a cutting crew. And then we cut Potter Swamp, after Potter Swamp we moved to the Wicks, which was about

eight miles out of town. From the Wicks, we moved down into, and they pastured some, see the PLS Company had a lot of land. But they didn't cut all of it, they pastured some of it.

SHANNON: I see, yeah.

WALLY: Well, we went down after the Wicks, the next place we went down was to, was the Frye field. And that was on the, next, almost to Wright's Point, on this side of it.

SHANNON: Okay.

WALLY: And they turned down, and there was the Mace field there. And they pastured that, and there they had, Rimrock, Island Ranch, the houses was in the Rimrock.

SHANNON: Yes.

WALLY: Rimrock field. And we cut the, Rimrock didn't take long, didn't have much hay. And then from the Rimrock we went along the river to the Brandon Field, and that was about two miles from Lawen, there at the town of Lawen, you know, there is a store there. And that Brandon field had a lot of hay in that. And most of the crew was kids; there was about twenty high school kids. I was out of, that year, out of my sophomore year in high school. That was the last year I hayed. But they had a lot of hay.

SHANNON: Well, I've got to --- this is telling us to stop here.

WALLY: Oh.

SHANNON: I see, I've got to stop her. Figure out how to do this. I think I just go ----

(END OF TAPE)

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