

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #339 - Sides A & B

Subject: Hilton Whiting - 1993 Pioneer President - With Video

Place: Whiting Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: May 13, 1993

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy along with Barbara Lofgren and today we're talking with Hilton Whiting, who will be the 1993 Pioneer President, at his home in Burns, Oregon. This will be stored in the Harney County Library. And today's date is May the 13th, 1993. We also may be doing a short video, and it will be stored in the library also, along with the transcript and cassette tape, the number is 339. Hilton, we'll start out by asking you your name, and we'd like to have you say your full name.

HILTON WHITING: My name is Hilton Whiting.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

HILTON: I was born near Burns, at Burns, near Burns.

DOROTHEA: And when were you born?

HILTON: I was born November 24, 1911.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Who were your parents?

HILTON: My parents were George and Ida Whiting.

DOROTHEA: And were they original Harney Countians?

HILTON: They came here from California; my father did, in 1874. My mother came in 1884.

(Corrected to 1894.)

DOROTHEA: And what was your mother's maiden name?

HILTON: My mother's maiden name was Ida Turner.

DOROTHEA: Was she of the Turners that are, that used to live in Burns, or still do live in Burns?
Is she some relation to them?

HILTON: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And what did your mother and family do for a living, mother and father?

HILTON: They ranched.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HILTON: Milked cows.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Did they have cattle, or did they use horses?

HILTON: Cattle, primarily cattle.

DOROTHEA: Did you know your grandparents?

HILTON: I knew my grandmother on my father's side, and I knew my grandmother on my mother's side. I knew neither one of the grandfathers.

DOROTHEA: Did they live in Harney County also?

HILTON: They did, yes.

BARBARA: Can you tell us what your grandmothers looked like, what kind of people they were?
Did they go to church --- they were busy with their families?

HILTON: My father's mother, as I understand, how would you put it, originated I guess you would say, the first church in Burns. Something to that effect, now I don't know. As to my grandmother on my mother's side, she always lived too far distant from any church to be occupied in that sense.

BARBARA: And what were their first names?

HILTON: My grandmother's first name?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

HILTON: On my father's side, her name was Ione, I O N E.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember your mother's mother's name?

HILTON: Julia.

DOROTHEA: Julia. And what was her last name, Turner, you said?

HILTON: She was married, a second marriage. When she passed away her name was Julia

Hunter.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay.

BARBARA: Do you ever remember doing anything with your grandmothers at all? Did you ever spend summers with them, anything like that?

HILTON: Oh my grandmother on my mother's side had a homestead way up toward Snow Mountain, and my sister and I went up and spent a week with her one time, I remember.

DOROTHEA: Which sister was that?

HILTON: Lottie.

DOROTHEA: Lottie.

HILTON: On my father's side, his mother passed away when I was about ten years old, so I never did have any time with her, really.

DOROTHEA: You mentioned your one grandmother started one of the churches in Burns, do you remember what denomination that was?

HILTON: No, I do not, no.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HILTON: Where in the heck I picked that up, I don't recall. But ---

BARBARA: Oftentimes, they were just community churches anyway. They pretty much served everyone, didn't they?

HILTON: No doubt.

DOROTHEA: Where did you go to school?

HILTON: In Burns.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember some of your teacher's names?

HILTON: I remember Professor Sutton quite well.

BARBARA: We've heard different stories about him. Some people really didn't like him, and some people thought he was great. So where did you stand on that?

HILTON: Well, I got my butt paddled as many times as anybody, and I got as much ---

DOROTHEA: Corrections?

HILTON: --- well wait until I figure. I would rate him right on the top shelf as far as a principal is concerned.

DOROTHEA: He was pretty well schooled in schooling, or ---

HILTON: He had discipline in his school.

DOROTHEA: And what kind of an education did you get? Did you feel that you came out of school knowing something?

HILTON: Well I don't know; I knew enough to chase cows around. (Laughter) Oh, I was an average student anyway.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about how you got to school. Did you ride horses, or did you walk, or---?

HILTON: We had a one-horse buggy we got to school in for a number of years. And then we graduated to a Model-T Ford pickup.

DOROTHEA: You have some brothers and sisters. Can you tell us their names?

HILTON: Older brother was Herbert, and then came Lottie, just older than I, then Wayne younger than I, and younger than me. And Norma, Audrey was the youngest.

DOROTHEA: Are they all still living, or ---

HILTON: No, just my two sisters, Norma and Audrey.

BARBARA: You mentioned about taking horses to school, was there a corral by the grade school that you kept your horses in, and had feed and water for them?

HILTON: Just a horse.

BARBARA: Uh huh. But I mean did other students not come that way too?

HILTON: Yes, yeah, occasionally somebody else would be, have a horse along with you, or the same barn maybe. But Dad always arranged for a barn up town there somewheres close, or at least a shed to keep the horse out of the storm during the daytime.

BARBARA: So actually, it wasn't right there at school, you didn't leave them right at school.

HILTON: Pretty close, pretty close by. Pretty near all those places had a barn or a shed or something like that. Because pretty near everybody had a horse at that time, or had had one.

BARBARA: Did you ever have Lula Hayes as a teacher, Mrs. (Miss) Hayes?

HILTON: Lula ---

BARBARA: I think Wally Welcome had told us he had her in the second grade. I don't know whether you were in the same class with Wally Welcome or not.

HILTON: He was a little smarter, quite a little smarter than I was, so he was a grade ahead of me.

BARBARA: I see.

HILTON: Lula, yeah, yeah I think probably so.

BARBARA: And was Agness Brown in your class, or was she in Wally Welcome's class?

HILTON: She was in Wally's class.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Are there any other people in the community left that you went to school with, that you recall? Pretty much all of them moved away, or are gone?

HILTON: Well, Pete Clemens, seemed like he may have been here in the eighth grade. Oh golly, in high school, yes, there are a few around. But are we thinking of just ---

BARBARA: Well, all the way through your schooling?

HILTON: All through schooling? Frank Hirsch was in high school when I was. Benny West, what the heck is his name, Roy, we always called him Benny. You know him, don't you? You don't?

DOROTHEA: I don't think so. I'm trying to think who it was.

HILTON: He can tell you more about newspapers than ---

DOROTHEA: Does he still live in Burns?

HILTON: Yeah.

EVA WHITING: Do you want that "Rodeo" to look at?

HILTON: What?

EVA: Do you want that "Rodeo" to look at, for names?

HILTON: Which one, Eva?

EVA: Well, that last one maybe, or those others?

HILTON: Well, if you can think of something, why ---

EVA: Well, what about Wilma Dunten?

HILTON: Well yeah, she was --- yeah; Wilma was in high school there.

BARBARA: She is going to be the Queen Mother this year with you.

HILTON: Yeah.

EVA: They graduated the same year.

BARBARA: I see.

HILTON: We graduated together. Seems like something was said about her going there two years.

But darn it, I can only remember of her being there one year, while I was there. She may have been there two years, though, but not that I recall.

BARBARA: I think she said she went through high school there.

HILTON: Through high school here?

DOROTHEA: Yeah. She went in the ninth grade to Kimball Flat, I think, and then she came into Burns and did sophomore, junior, and senior in Burns.

HILTON: She might have been in a different class than I was. I just got to know her the last year, that might have been.

BARBARA: You mentioned that you didn't participate in sports or activities like that; you had to come home and do chores around your ranch. What were you expected to do?

HILTON: Well, we all had to get home. And so we all had to get home, that's what it amounted to. We didn't --- and there was no way going back to ---

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: What were the roads like then? Were they ---

HILTON: What roads?

DOROTHEA: --- muddy? You didn't have muddy roads? (Laughter) You had trails? What kind of roads did you have?

HILTON: When I first started to school, we just had a dirt road here.

DOROTHEA: Where did you live? Did you live right here in the same vicinity?

HILTON: No, we lived over here at the old place.

BARBARA: And where is that located?

HILTON: Right over here, you can see it right there.

DOROTHEA: It's just east of where your home, house is now. Okay. And that's where your mother lived for a long time, right?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Do you still use that place, the home place?

HILTON: Well, not as a homestead. We use all the facilities there, the barn and the likes of that. Not the residence, though.

BARBARA: Can we back up just a minute? Your folks, your mother and father, homesteaded this property just east of where you're living now, or ---

HILTON: No. I mention a homestead, I think of a homestead of like ---

BARBARA: Your property?

HILTON: Your farmstead, I guess, that's the proper term, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, for your house, yeah.

HILTON: House and barn and so forth.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think so. Did they build that, or was it already there?

HILTON: No, they built it up.

DOROTHEA: They built it?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: You have another property in the hills; can you tell us something about that? Was that a homestead, or who owned that?

HILTON: Well, it is comprised of about, oh, I had it figured up one time, I think --- well, we had better get down to the main --- My father had a homestead, my mother homestead, and then I took up a homestead. And then we bought parcels around it. It amounts to about thirteen or fourteen different original ownerships.

DOROTHEA: The whole thing?

HILTON: The whole thing.

DOROTHEA: Did you build houses on all of this?

HILTON: No.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you didn't?

HILTON: No, they had, I had a cabin on my homestead. And mother and dad had their cabin on their homestead. There it is right up there in the corner. (Shows picture)

DOROTHEA: And is that the one that still has the, that you still use up there in the hill?

HILTON: Yeah.

BARBARA: Is that up by Idlewild? Is that where you are talking about?

HILTON: It's about four miles west of Idlewild.

BARBARA: Off of the railroad, where the railroad went through?

HILTON: It's still on west of the railroad.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Do they call that Poison Creek?

HILTON: It's the west fork of Poison Creek.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: And did you ever live up there at any time, or just ---

HILTON: Oh gosh, yeah, when us kids were little. This time of year, we'd go up there and stay for a couple months every year.

DOROTHEA: That's to move your cows or ---

HILTON: Cows, hogs, chickens.

DOROTHEA: Everything.

HILTON: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you ever notice any incidents on the railroad happening while you were up there? Any train wrecks, or ---

HILTON: We're a mile, two miles from the railroad, yeah, just about two miles from the railroad track. There were a couple incidents when they were building the railroad that we just heard about, though. But my aunt, Susan Whiting, and Frank, their homestead was right on the east fork of

Poison Creek where the railroad went through. And Aunt Susan sold the construction crews milk products, and farm products.

DOROTHEA: She sold their food to them in other words?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Their eggs and ---

HILTON: And she'd come over and get butter from mother to splice out what she had.

BARBARA: How many children were in your father's family? Are there other Whiting families in this area too? Did your father have brothers or sisters?

HILTON: No, he did not. He had two, excuse me; I'm thinking back one generation. (Laughter)

My father had two brothers, Frank and Schuyler. (Also had two sisters, Elizabeth and Ella.)

DOROTHEA: And did they both ranch in Harney County?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And where was, I know where Frank's house was, but where was Schuyler's?

HILTON: He lived right north of Burns on the old original Whiting claim. Where Naomi and Red Walters lived, do you know where they lived?

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Out past, well kind of past and to the east of the Indian Village.

HILTON: Yeah, yeah. That was the first piece of ground filed on around this whole area.

DOROTHEA: Now, is that where Alan lives now? Or it was the original --- well, I can't think of the name, Walter's place.

HILTON: Well, let's see, Walters just had a forty acres of it there. It was, the darn thing has been divided up. There were eighty and eighty, is a hundred and sixty --- probably two hundred acres of it originally, and Walters had about forty acres of it, was all, I think. Then there were two eighties there, Bill Hebner had one eighty, and where Alan lives, that was another eighty, and that comprised the original Whiting place there.

DOROTHEA: Okay. So it was the original Walter place, is where the Whitings started?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Is that house; was that house their house?

HILTON: Oh darn, I haven't been there for seventy years, so I just don't know what's left.

DOROTHEA: It's quite an old house. It's quite an old house. It's probably oh, four or five rooms is all. And it looks like maybe they've built on a kitchen and a dining room off of it.

HILTON: Chances are the original Whiting house might be the nucleus of what's there today.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. And I think Serene lives there now yet, in a home, in a mobile, modular home. If you can spell that Barbara, module. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did all the brothers live in a close proximity of each other? Did they have --- I heard something about they had houses similar, and they competed with their houses. Is that true? Do you know anything about that?

HILTON: No, I don't think there was any competition. (Laughter) No, I think that's a misnomer, you must have got mislead there somewhere.

BARBARA: Okay. Well, see we like to get things straight.

DOROTHEA: Well, I think she is right in some respect, because I think Frank's wife was a Baker.

HILTON: She was a Dixon.

DOROTHEA: A Dixon. Okay. But then she was somehow related to Tom Baker's wife, right?

HILTON: Sister.

DOROTHEA: Sister, okay. They did compete in their houses, trying to out build each other.

HILTON: Let's put it that way.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay. Because I know our house, that we live in now, and the house that burned down of Frank's, were quite a lot alike.

HILTON: Yeah, the same ---

DOROTHEA: Except one was nicer than the other one.

HILTON: You're saying one was nicer than the other. The same man built those houses. Do you remember who built them?

DOROTHEA: No.

HILTON: Did you ever get ---

DOROTHEA: No, I'd like to know.

HILTON: Geez. You know how dumb people can be, we had an aerial photo of Frank's place there, and we went and give it to Hoyt.

DOROTHEA: I don't know if they still have that or not. I don't know what kind of things they have kept.

HILTON: I doubt if they even know where to look for it.

DOROTHEA: Okay, on with --- where were we at? How did you end up here, where we are, at your home place? Did your folks come from the mountains to here, and build a house? Or how did you end up living here?

HILTON: Over there?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HILTON: Well, they had leased places around for two or three years prior to the time that they bought that eighty acres there from Harney Valley Improvement Company, which was William Hanley Company. That was in about 1915 or '16. 1915 or '16, somewhere along there, they built the house there, and a shed or two. And then later on, Dad built the barn.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a big barn raising at that time? I understood in some of these places, like of the Clemens and the Bakers, that they had big barn raisings whenever they built a barn.

HILTON: Well, that was true all right. It didn't occur in this instance, though. Dad moved those buildings from over in Section 11, that's across the lane east, to the Red Barn Lane. That barn building set out there in that field, and I got some pictures of Dad and Vern Bossuot moving that over there with a team, teams and wagons in 1928, I think, winter of 1928. And that's how it got there. But in so far as barn raisings, I know that did occur a few times, all right. One instance I can think of was Dad went down to Hull Hotchkiss'. He lived there where Minar lives now, and helped erect a barn, or move a barn. I don't recall, I was pretty young.

DOROTHEA: Is that the barn that is possibly still there?

HILTON: I don't know, I just can't --- like I mentioned, I was pretty darn young then. I don't --- everything was a horseback at that time. I don't have any knowledge, correct knowledge, definite knowledge.

BARBARA: You know a lot of, we hear a lot about people moving their barns or houses from one spot to the other. It seemed to be a common thing in the early days, rather than build a new building; they just up and move it from one field to another or something. Did you find that true?

HILTON: That was true up until a certain time there, when folks moved that, or Dad moved that barn, building. It was a granary originally.

BARBARA: What kind of foundations did they have them on so that it made it easy for them to move? Did they just put them right on the ground?

HILTON: Put them on rocks.

BARBARA: Jack them up?

HILTON: Get some flat rocks; there is lots of flat rocks around the country.

BARBARA: Rocks we know, yes.

HILTON: Very few on a permanent, good foundation.

BARBARA: I just think of it as being strange that we hear about, in talking with different people, about how many people moved places. Like they'd move a house from Harney into Burns. And to me that just seems really rather strange.

HILTON: Did you ever see the house they moved?

BARBARA: No.

HILTON: Well, you ought to go see it. Do you know where it is?

BARBARA: Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: I'm a history person, but I don't know much.

HILTON: They had forty-two head of horses on it.

BARBARA: Oh my goodness.

HILTON: It's a big old two-story building.

DOROTHEA: Where is it at?

HILTON: Well, it's up on the hill, north of, let's see, high school, they call it junior high.

DOROTHEA: Junior High, Lincoln, yeah.

HILTON: Was the Holland house. Belonged to, apparently belonged to PLS Company, Pacific

Livestock Company. And they moved it to town for the bookkeeper, Ike Holland.

DOROTHEA: Ike Holland?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And where did they move it from?

BARBARA: Out at Harney.

DOROTHEA: Out at Harney.

HILTON: Somewhere in Harney, I don't know, it must have been ---

BARBARA: Okay, you've finished your schooling in Burns, you've come back to your family ranch to help out, is that right?

HILTON: Yeah.

BARBARA: And how did you happen to meet Eva, and eventually marry?

HILTON: You better clue them in on --- (Laughter)

BARBARA: We're going to tell secrets here now.

HILTON: Well, it just so happened that she and I attended a field day out at the old experiment station, and she was with her cousin. Is that right?

EVA: Yeah, with Twyla.

HILTON: You were with Twyla. We got acquainted.

DOROTHEA: And Eva's name was Eva Oard.

HILTON: Eva Oard, yes.

BARBARA: You didn't go to school with her then?

HILTON: No.

BARBARA: You didn't meet her until after you were finished with school?

HILTON: Met her before she was finished with school, though.

BARBARA: I see, okay. So you got a hold of one of the young girls, huh?

HILTON: Yeah.

BARBARA: And what did you do when you were courting her? Did you go to dances, grange dances, or movies?

HILTON: Yeah, we went to quite a few dances ---

EVA: Movies.

HILTON: --- around the country.

DOROTHEA: The movies, were they --- Henrietta Bardwell played for them. Were they the still movies then, or had they already started the sound and --- Was it the Ideal Theater, or what theater was it?

HILTON: Yeah, it was the Ideal Theater, and I don't recall ever going to a silent movie, did we?

EVA: Not you and I. I can remember going to them, you know earlier. But no, they were all --- at the Ideal ---

DOROTHEA: They'd gone into sound and everything. And who were the owners then, was that --

EVA: Racine.

HILTON: Combs.

EVA: Oh, Combs.

HILTON: Combs.

DOROTHEA: And that was her dad? Mrs. Racine's dad?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Goldie?

BARBARA: And so when did you and Eva get married? Put you on the spot.

HILTON: Got it right here. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: He'll look at his cheat sheet.

BARBARA: You have bases covered, I'm glad to hear that.

HILTON: Correct me if I'm wrong. April 5, 1941.

EVA: That's correct.

BARBARA: Okay, 1941 leads me to think about the military. Were you ever, did you ever serve in the military?

HILTON: No.

BARBARA: Think of the wartime.

HILTON: No I didn't.

BARBARA: No.

HILTON: My younger brother was drafted. No, we were fully occupied with the ranch at that time. So apparently the draft board ---

BARBARA: Exempted you for that.

HILTON: Must have been.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did you sell beef to the military or anything like that?

HILTON: Did what?

BARBARA: Sell beef to the military?

HILTON: Oh, no, not directly, no.

BARBARA: Just to the packers, whoever they sold to, huh? And so, do you and your wife have children?

HILTON: We got a couple ornery boys, yeah.

BARBARA: And what are their names?

HILTON: Tom, Thomas, the older one, was born in '44. June, June what, 13th?

EVA: June 13th.

DOROTHEA: He's younger than John then. John was born in March.

EVA: In what year?

DOROTHEA: '44.

EVA: Oh was he? I was thinking he and John went to school together.

DOROTHEA: No, no, it was Tom.

EVA: Okay.

HILTON: Ronald was born in '55, March 3rd, is that right?

EVA: Yeah.

BARBARA: And do you have grandchildren?

HILTON: No.

BARBARA: No grandchildren.

HILTON: Haven't seen any yet. (Laughter)

BARBARA: They're too busy working to have children, huh? And do both of your sons, are both of them here in Harney County? Do they work on your ranch?

HILTON: No, Ron is here. He has the house here with us, he and his wife. Tom, the older boy, is in Athens.

EVA: Athens.

HILTON: Athens, Georgia.

BARBARA: Is he not --- he decided he didn't want to be a rancher? Or what is his profession?

HILTON: Schoolteacher and librarian.

DOROTHEA: Schoolteacher and books. He likes books.

HILTON: A full time librarian at the University of Georgia. And he teaches English to foreign students, kind of a sideline.

BARBARA: That's wonderful.

DOROTHEA: Does he come home often?

HILTON: Oh, about once every four years, five, something like that.

DOROTHEA: I know it's been a long time since I've seen Tom. I don't know whether I would know him anymore or not.

BARBARA: Is he going to get to come back for Pioneer Days, for your celebration?

HILTON: He intends to, yeah they intend to.

DOROTHEA: What have you done to keep up with ranching? Have you built up your herd, or planted larger crops, and gotten better grasses to grow, or ---

HILTON: Well, we drilled a couple wells, probably as important as anything. And leveled a lot of ground.

DOROTHEA: Did you at one time have alfalfa?

HILTON: Yeah, we did.

DOROTHEA: Do you still have it?

HILTON: No.

DOROTHEA: Did you find that it was hard to keep a crop growing around here?

HILTON: Oh, yeah, yeah. Two or three different reasons, Dorothea. Mainly, we had to use sprinklers for irrigations. The more they sprinkled it the more alkali it gets, and finally had to do something different, and let it revert back to grass.

DOROTHEA: You just let it grow back to grass itself, or did you plant a certain grass?

HILTON: Oh, it's mostly self-seeded, I guess you would say.

DOROTHEA: Into the native grass rather than like Clinton has been planting this --- I call it a weed; he calls it good hay. But he calls it a, I think it is a meadow foxtail, or something.

HILTON: You, what did you call it?

DOROTHEA: I call it a weed.

HILTON: You're a hundred percent correct.

DOROTHEA: He calls it good hay, but I hate it. (Laughter)

HILTON: Well, kind of like Joel Sword said, he was a talking when he should have been a listening. He planted some of the stuff and regretted every straw of it. Over the years, we have converted to better grass stand through better management. Up, right north here we got twenty acres that was greasewood. I don't know whether you remember it or not, but it was just a greasewood patch out there, about the time we moved over here. Bladed that off and started irrigating it, leveled it up, and we put up much more hay there than an average crop. And then again, we've planted quite a little crested wheat up on the hill. The main thing has been better management of the resource, has added to the productivity of the hay land and pastureland as well.

BARBARA: Did your son go to college and learn some different things? Or has he just picked this up as he has gone along?

HILTON: Oh, both, he went to college and majored in animal science, Ron did.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

HILTON: And that has been quite a help to him in as to the betterment of the cowherd.

DOROTHEA: How many cattle do you have now?

HILTON: You're not the assessor?

DOROTHEA: No, no, I won't give it away.

BARBARA: Enough, huh?

HILTON: Too many, let's put it that way. (Laughter) Too many.

DOROTHEA: Too many. Especially when it comes to branding and moving time, huh?

EVA: When you're buying hay for them.

HILTON: We run, we have been running about 350 cows for the last several years. But it just, it's just too many cows on too small a spot, I guess you would say.

BARBARA: Are you leasing any land from Forest Service or BLM?

HILTON: We have a BLM permit, we have a Forest Service permit, we have a permit in the Bell A Co-op. And then we got quite a little pastureland of our own.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So it takes a lot of land in order to take care of your cows?

HILTON: Takes a lot of land for a few cows.

DOROTHEA: And a lot of feed in the wintertime.

HILTON: We had eleven ---

DOROTHEA: Especially when you have to buy it. Eleven --- pardon me. You said you had eleven.

HILTON: Well, I don't know whether I should have said that or not, better strike that.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HILTON: I was going to say we had eleven hundred ton of hay to start out with last fall, and we probably got twenty ton left. That's guessing pretty close, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: Guessing pretty close.

BARBARA: Maybe a little too close, huh? What about the winters? Do you think this last winter compares to some of the winters as you were growing up as a child? Do you remember them as being lots of snow when you were growing up?

HILTON: We had some pretty good winters along in the, during the '20's, and a few in the '30's. Where were you in '36?

DOROTHEA: About a year old.

HILTON: About a year old.

DOROTHEA: I'm going to pause for a moment here so we can kind of collect our ideas, and turn the tape over.

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: Okay, you were talking about my grandfather Paul Howes. You said that you stayed on the lake with him. Can you kind of tell us a little bit about that?

HILTON: Well, I just can't remember which winter it was for sure, in the early '30's, '32, '33. I could check it out and get a definite date on it. But anyway, Dad had bought some hay down there, and I was down there feeding the cows. And Paul asked me to come over and stay with him. So, I rolled my bed and went over and bunked with him there for about a month. We had a jolly good time.

DOROTHEA: You were describing the house. What did you say about it?

HILTON: Well, we dug a floor; he had this pretty well put together already. He had dug down a recess in the floor, the lake there, which you might use as evidence that the lake was dry at that time. And then he put a tent over the top of it. We had a dirt floor, and we didn't have to sweep the floor too often.

DOROTHEA: You didn't? (Laughter)

BARBARA: Was it dug in, kind of the side of the hill?

HILTON: No, it was just right in the flat lakebed there. The lake was dry, and nobody was contesting our claim, so ---

DOROTHEA: They didn't come out and tell you to get off, huh?

BARBARA: So, you just staked it out. So, there must not have been a lot of water in the country at that time then?

HILTON: No, no.

BARBARA: Were the winters fairly mild during that time, then?

HILTON: Well, that was a pretty good winter. And not right away after that, why the water started

coming in though, in the lake down there, flooded it out.

BARBARA: Are you talking Harney, or Malheur Lake, do you remember?

HILTON: Well, let's see.

BARBARA: Mud Lake?

HILTON: Harney is the east lake, isn't it?

BARBARA: No, Malheur is the east, Harney is the west.

HILTON: Malheur is the east lake?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

HILTON: Well, it would have been the Malheur Lake then.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

HILTON: It was down below Lawen there, about, oh five or six miles out in there somewhere.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Do you know what he was doing out there in that?

HILTON: Well, he had farmed quite a little patch there that summer. In fact, there were a lot of people, well not a lot --- Duhaimes, Otleys, Ausmus, Heinz, oh there were numerous ranchers that -- All you had to do was go down there and kind of stake your claim and go to work. But Paul had grown a pretty good little patch of grain there that summer. He had a little bunch of cows, and some horses. Horses, everybody had horses. Paul had quite a few horses.

BARBARA: Of course, people had to work with horses during that time. So ---

HILTON: Yeah, there wasn't, you might say there wasn't any.

BARBARA: Machinery, uh huh.

HILTON: Oh, I say there wasn't --- I think maybe Ausmus may have had a tractor. But there were very few tractors around.

BARBARA: Were there any people coming through to cut the grain, and that sort of thing, at that time, or did people mostly just put them up with the horses and the ---

HILTON: There was machinery available, local machinery available to harvest it with.

BARBARA: What about bird numbers during that time? Were there lots of birds around where

our refuge is now, or do you remember that at all?

HILTON: There were lots of birds on the refuge at that time.

DOROTHEA: Now was the refuge, that wasn't a refuge then was it, or had it just started being a refuge?

HILTON: Pretty much just started. There was one guy had the, charge of the whole cheese, a fellow by the name of Benson. Do you remember him, no doubt?

DOROTHEA: No.

HILTON: Yeah, there was one --- I think he was the sole caretaker. There was lots of birds, lots of birds. I don't know whether there is any pictures in the library or not. There used to be some pictures around of white geese on this field we got. Do you recall seeing one of those?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HILTON: Heck photo. Probably a million birds out there.

DOROTHEA: Well when we, when I was a young kid and we drove by here on the bus, the birds used to come in here in flocks, you know in the fall and in the spring. And they don't do that as much anymore. I guess we don't have the water or something that---

HILTON: Well, they tell me they've changed flyways, and that might have, might be the answer to some of it.

BARBARA: Sometimes when the water isn't there, they adjust and go different paths a little bit.

HILTON: There were quite a few birds around this spring for a while.

DOROTHEA: Was there?

HILTON: Yeah, there was.

DOROTHEA: Well, on back to some of your schooling and things that you did, can you tell us what the roads? I asked you once what the roads were like. Was their main streets in Burns graveled, or were they muddy, and when do you remember them getting paved?

HILTON: I can remember when they were muddy and rocky. I can remember when there were boulders in Main Street. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Then, do you also remember the wooden sidewalks?

HILTON: Yes, yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about your childhood? What did you do as a child? Did you play games, or did you work mostly, or ---

HILTON: Oh, we didn't work all the time, no. They didn't need child labor laws then. (Laughter) No, we had a lot of amusement. Of course we, you wouldn't say you were housebound, but then when you didn't have any means of transportation, why we didn't go very far very often. The folks did go to a dance occasionally, a country-dance. But as far as kids, why played amongst ourselves, and played with the neighbor kids.

DOROTHEA: Rode a lot of horses, did you use them for entertainment, or did you use them mostly for work?

HILTON: Well, both, both. Whenever we went to see the neighbor kids, went horseback, no doubt.

BARBARA: You mentioned games, what kinds of games did you play?

HILTON: Oh darn, I don't know.

BARBARA: Play checkers, did you play marbles?

HILTON: Both, both. Fight over any of them.

BARBARA: "Steelies".

HILTON: "Steelies", "Taws", "Migs", "Chalkies".

BARBARA: Yes, you did play marbles. Did you have programs in school when you went, Christmas programs? Did you participate in those?

HILTON: I never did participate in any of them much. I don't recall that they had much Christmas programs, by golly I don't. In these little country schools, they did programs like that all right. But

DOROTHEA: You never went to the country school; you went up on the hill?

HILTON: Yeah.

BARBARA: What was Christmas like? Did your family make gifts for one another to exchange? Or did you receive many gifts?

HILTON: I think our parents saved every penny they could during the year, and then bought us kids a good present of some kind, each and every one of us.

BARBARA: So it made it pretty special, huh?

HILTON: It was really, yeah we always looked forward to Christmas for sure.

BARBARA: Did your families all get together for meals at Christmas time?

HILTON: Just our own.

BARBARA: Just your own family.

HILTON: Just immediate family.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And what about birthdays, did your mother make you birthday cakes? Did you have presents?

HILTON: Oh golly, she had been making cakes all the time.

BARBARA: So, it wasn't anything special, huh?

HILTON: Oh, no doubt she made us a birthday cake occasionally.

DOROTHEA: And probably cooked your favorite dinner.

HILTON: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you exchange gifts on birthdays like some people do now?

HILTON: No, no, we did not.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a special family pet, like dogs or rabbits, or pigs, or ---

HILTON: Over the years, yeah, we always had a dog around. Had a picture here of the --- Norma and Audrey had the dogs hooked up pulling them around on the sled.

DOROTHEA: Did your mother have a big garden?

HILTON: Always raised a garden, yeah. We always looked, couldn't wait until the radish got ripe, or edible. Yeah, yeah, they always raised a garden.

DOROTHEA: So, you probably had most of your food on the table out of your garden. Did you eat a lot of beef at that time, also?

HILTON: Lots of hog, hog.

DOROTHEA: Pig.

HILTON: Beef was hard to use.

DOROTHEA: Not having a refrigerator.

HILTON: Not having any refrigeration.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. Did you have a cellar, like, so you stored your ---

HILTON: Yeah, always had it full.

DOROTHEA: Your garden stuff in it? Your mother probably did a lot of canning.

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I know my daughter-in-law she grows a big garden, and they're very proud of the fact that a lot of the food that they put on their table comes out of their garden. And of course, we butcher our own meat, so almost all of their meals are homegrown.

BARBARA: Do you happen to remember the first automobile ride you had, or the first car you drove, or first car you owned?

HILTON: I can remember the first car we owned, all right. And no doubt, just to pinpoint the first ride we had in it, or I had in it, why I don't. We had a 1916 Ford, so I wouldn't have been very old. I remember Dad bundled us all up and took us to a silent movie. I remember that as a silent movie all right, sometime during the wintertime.

DOROTHEA: Did they not have doors on them at that time? Or just the canvas tops, or how were they built? I remember a car that Daddy had only had canvas tops and those isinglass windows, or something.

HILTON: Isinglass side curtains.

DOROTHEA: Wasn't very warm.

HILTON: Yeah, we had a '26 Durant that had side curtains. That old Ford though, I don't recall, yeah, we had side curtains for that then. Of course, they didn't last very long though; that isinglass about one year, you know ---

DOROTHEA: Cracked.

HILTON: --- cracked. You remember, don't you?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I remember it, and I'm not that old either, but I do remember it. I see a

picture up here of some horses all hitched up to what, a buggy, a wagon?

HILTON: Guess again, give you one more guess.

DOROTHEA: Okay, a plow. (Laughter)

HILTON: Well, in a sense is a plow. Why it's a road grader.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

BARBARA: Oh goodness.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about that picture?

HILTON: Well, Dad and I bladed road for the county three years anyway, the spring of the year, a long about. Well, it would have been a little earlier than this. We'd blade about, oh let's see, thirty, maybe fifty miles of roads, mountain road.

DOROTHEA: Where was that at?

HILTON: Oh, from Burns on up through the, what is now the Indian Camp, and on over Willow Creek Flat, and on over the summit, and down Cricket Creek. On up to Emigrant Creek, and then we bladed this Lone Pine Road.

DOROTHEA: Is that how they went to John Day, or what was that road used for?

HILTON: Oh, just ranchers, ranch use mostly.

DOROTHEA: Just for ranchers to get in and get out.

HILTON: Of course, that road that went up through, and on over to Emigrant, it served, it went on over the hill to Izee.

DOROTHEA: And Izee at that time was kind of a logging camp was it? Or ---

HILTON: No, that was before logging was thought of pretty near. More of a cow town.

BARBARA: How many horses did you have on that grader?

HILTON: Eight.

BARBARA: Eight of them. How long could they work without changing, how many hours could you work them?

HILTON: Oh, we put in about six or eight hours.

DOROTHEA: With one set of horses?

HILTON: Yeah. Never shod a one of them. Worked right in the rocks all day long.

BARBARA: They have tender feet?

HILTON: Nope, no. Had feet like iron.

BARBARA: Did you shoe any of your horses?

HILTON: Saddle horses.

DOROTHEA: A lot different than we have horses now. I think we interbred them too much or something. Their feet won't stand up.

HILTON: Well, they're raised around the corrals. These horses were raised out in the rock; they grew up in the rocks.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HILTON: If your horse grew up in the rocks today, why they'd be just like that. But we raise them in a corral, and they stand in a corral all the time.

DOROTHEA: Their feet get like platters and soft. Do you, you said there wasn't much logging going on then. I remember a picture in the paper showing something about logging. Can you tell us something about that?

HILTON: Our own personal ---

DOROTHEA: Is that what it was, your personal logging?

HILTON: It depends on which picture you're referring to, maybe.

DOROTHEA: Let's see, I should have brought it with me. It was a picture; it was talking about logging. It's --- when was it, just, it's been in the last year. And there was a big article in the paper about logging.

EVA: Do you want me to get those pictures?

HILTON: Oh, really not Eva, no.

EVA: Because I have an article out of the paper.

HILTON: We've been doing a little logging on the mountain ranch there, the last several years. And that picture was taken about four years ago, I would say.

DOROTHEA: With horses?

HILTON: No.

DOROTHEA: This one was with horses.

HILTON: The one you're thinking of? Well I don't know, darn that picture Dorothea was taken down on the Kaibab Forest in Northern Arizona.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay. So it wasn't around here then. Did you run those horses?

HILTON: A fellow we worked for, or excuse me, worked for us. He went down there and worked in that logging concern, and he sent me that picture.

DOROTHEA: How they logged with horses?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And sometimes they do, yet. And of course, the times now, and the times then were a little different. Because the horses have to wear diapers now, which is pretty comical.

HILTON: Incidentally, this fellow down at the mill, what's his name Eva?

EVA: Huntley.

HILTON: Huntley, do you know Huntley down at the mill?

DOROTHEA: No.

HILTON: Gosh darn it anyway.

DOROTHEA: I don't know anybody.

HILTON: He came from down there where that picture was taken. He knows all about that, down in Fredonia, Arizona. I've got a logging picture or two that were taken way back when, up at Sayer and Horton Mill at the head of Cricket Creek. Do you know where Cricket Creek is?

DOROTHEA: No. I need Clinton here to tell me these things see; I don't know where any of this stuff is.

HILTON: Well, that picture, well, it's around here somewhere. But it was taken way back during the wintertime, sled logging, teams, bobsled.

DOROTHEA: Was that done for yourself, or was that for Dickensons, or ---

HILTON: No, that was this Sayer, John Sayer had the mill.

BARBARA: Sayer, you say?

HILTON: Sayer, S A Y E R.

BARBARA: Oh, okay.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, okay.

HILTON: He had a mill right just across the bridge, you know where ... Al Welcome lived there for many years?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

HILTON: There was a mill there. Dad floated logs down the river to that mill a couple years.

...

BARBARA: What about grange, were you ever active in the grange around here?

HILTON: I was a member of the grange for two or three years. Then I got to where I was off by myself so darn much of the time --- maybe courting, I don't know. But --- It just kind of interfered with my work, I guess you would say. So I wasn't ---

BARBARA: It wasn't a high priority for you?

HILTON: No, no.

BARBARA: What about the rodeo and the fair in town? Did you ever ride in the fair, or rope?

HILTON: Yeah, we did, yeah, we did. Eva and I rode in the fair one-year, or two years. Two years, didn't we, dear? And then Ron and I rode one year, and Tom and I rode one year. And then I showed three or four horses in their futurity, come home with two or three ribbons, couple ribbons anyway.

EVA: Took cattle in there.

BARBARA: Show cattle, too?

HILTON: I never did show much cattle.

EVA: Well, you took them there and exhibited, for people to see.

HILTON: Like what, dear?

EVA: Well, some of your cattle, you took down there, different times. Cows, calves and things.

HILTON: Well ---

EVA: Open stock.

HILTON: Yeah, yeah, open class. That was a long time ago.

DOROTHEA: Well, the boys were both in 4-H weren't they?

HILTON: Yeah, they were, yeah.

DOROTHEA: And ---

HILTON: Yeah, and you might say they put in a full term, each one of them, didn't they?

EVA: Yeah, as long as they could.

DOROTHEA: They usually start when they are about, what?

EVA: Nine.

DOROTHEA: Nine or ten, something like that.

BARBARA: Were you ever a 4-H leader?

HILTON: No, no. No, I did help both of them though, as long as I was able. Always helped with 4-H kids down there in different ways.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us some of the hardships your family suffered during the hard winters?

Did you have trouble getting out, or did you ever get snowed in, or anything happen like that?

HILTON: All I can say is, we always had wood to keep us warm, and we always had plenty to eat. So as far as hardship is concerned, I ---

DOROTHEA: You don't remember that much hardships, huh?

BARBARA: The depression didn't mean much to you then either then, if you had plenty to eat.

HILTON: We didn't have any money, and the neighbor didn't have any. So ---

BARBARA: So, it didn't mean anything.

HILTON: It didn't mean a thing.

BARBARA: If you don't have it, you don't miss it. Do you remember when you got electricity?

HILTON: Yes, we do, yeah.

BARBARA: Was that a pretty big deal for your family?

HILTON: It solved a lot of problems, yeah. It made life much more comfortable for \$5.40 a month.

BARBARA: Don't we wish.

DOROTHEA: Didn't they, didn't you have to pay a contract at that time when they run the electricity to your house?

HILTON: Yes, yeah.

DOROTHEA: You signed up, I think it cost my folks \$15.00 when they finally got it, and that was a lot of money.

HILTON: That was a lot of money.

DOROTHEA: But they went for it. I can remember my mom getting her refrigerator, and we thought that was the most wonderful thing in the world. So ---

HILTON: Deep freeze and refrigerator, probably the biggest items, and a washing machine that you didn't have to crank.

DOROTHEA: I think my mom might have brought some of that stuff with her when they moved out here. Because I remember they had an old Maytag, and it sat on the porch for a long time before we ever used it. So --- but see, they had plants, you know, I mean, what did they call them?

HILTON: Plant?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HILTON: Yeah, Kohler.

DOROTHEA: Something like that. And they'd go out every night, and they'd start it, and we'd have lights. And we also could run an iron on it and a toaster. And I'm not too sure that maybe she hadn't run the washing machine at the same time. Because I know, once in a while, she would go start it during the day. So --- but you didn't use it very often, because it took a lot of fuel.

HILTON: Charge up the batteries.

DOROTHEA: Charge up the battery and push the button. Did your folks have, whatever they're called, plants? Is all I can remember is a plant system. Did your folks have that?

HILTON: What was that again?

DOROTHEA: Kind of electric, like that?

HILTON: Oh, we had a, yeah, you bet, we had a carbide, carbide lights.

EVA: Carbide.

HILTON: Did you ever see them?

DOROTHEA: I think they were over in the Baker house, yeah.

HILTON: Yeah they were, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. They were kind of like a gas, is that what it was?

HILTON: Well, kind of like a candle.

DOROTHEA: Candle. (Laughter) Did you do a lot of reading with your candlelight?

HILTON: No, not a lot, no. We had to get our studies, and mother read to us some, if time was available.

DOROTHEA: What did you think about the change in school, from the time that you went to school, and the time that your kids went to school? Did you think that they were taught a lot different?

HILTON: Oh darn, in that interim, I don't think that there was that much change.

DOROTHEA: Like there is today?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Because the kids are all using computers today.

HILTON: Instead of their head.

DOROTHEA: And --- well, I think you have to know how to use a computer, but they're doing a lot more things with the computers. And like you say, instead of their head. But they have to know how to insert the programs in the computers. But I notice my grandchildren, and I thought my children too, were learning things a lot earlier than I did. In fact, when I went to school, you learned algebra in the seventh and eighth grade. They were leaning algebra in the third and fourth grade.

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So I thought there was a lot of change between the time I went to school and the time the kids went to school.

HILTON: The change I see, kind of come to light, a lot of the stuff that we memorized and learned along during grade school, why they don't even teach it today.

DOROTHEA: No, they have a whole different system of teaching, I think.

BARBARA: Our world has changed so much, and expanded so much, that everything is different. Whether it's good or bad, I'm not going to comment. But things do change. Did you ever play a musical instrument? Did your families have get togethers and have music sessions or anything like that?

HILTON: No, no, no.

BARBARA: When you had, after dinner at night, and the dishes were done, and you say sometimes your mother read to you if you had time, what else did you do in the evening? Or was it pretty much time to go to bed by the time you got all your chores done?

HILTON: Well, when the lighting system as it was, why you didn't do a great lot of reading, and there wasn't that much time available either, after everything was all put together for the day, put away for the day. Dad and mother were always ready for bed, for sure.

BARBARA: They were long days for them, I'm sure.

HILTON: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: And when did you pretty much retire from your ranch? I don't know, did you turn a lot of the responsibilities over to your son?

HILTON: Tried to.

BARBARA: As much as he would take? So, what have you been doing in the last few years now?

HILTON: Harassing the cook, I guess. (Laughter)

BARBARA: She doesn't look any worse for wear.

DOROTHEA: I think Hilton still does horseback riding and helps with the feeding. I don't think he has really retired, has he?

EVA: I'll say he hasn't.

HILTON: No, no.

BARBARA: Okay, tell us what your day is like now. What do you still do here?

HILTON: Well, I've been having to get these cows fed all winter. Got a tractor with a cab, heater, did you get that?

BARBARA: A heater, all right.

DOROTHEA: A great heater, huh? I know you have had several horse accidents; you might tell us about some of that.

HILTON: I'd rather not mention that.

DOROTHEA: Okay, let's now go on to a different subject, then. I know you've had several horse accidents, but you still are riding, and you just recently broke your hip about what, a year ago?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And still you are out riding and moving cows, and branding, and feeding. I suppose you will help with the haying this summer?

HILTON: Hope to anyway.

BARBARA: So that's your life, you really feel that you need to get out there and be among what is going on?

HILTON: Well, there is a lot more enjoyment in that than there is in ---

BARBARA: Sitting around the house, huh?

HILTON: Well, what else would you do, darn it?

BARBARA: Yeah.

HILTON: If a guy is able to travel why you might get some, no doubt would get some enjoyment out of traveling. But neither Eva nor I are able to travel much. So, that is more or less out of the question, so we make the best of what we've got.

DOROTHEA: Do you get to visit much with Norma?

HILTON: Quite a little bit, quite a little bit.

DOROTHEA: Does Audrey come over very much?

HILTON: She comes over, but she don't stay very long.

DOROTHEA: She's in a big hurry, huh?

HILTON: Doesn't stick around long. But we visit over the phone some, and write back and forth some.

DOROTHEA: If you're like most families, well, now we visit mostly on the telephone, and do not do much writing. My kids both call me on the telephone once a week. And so we do a lot of

telephone calls.

HILTON: Seems like the darn telephone, you don't anymore and hang up, and you think of, or I do anyway, think of what you called for.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: What the original purpose of the phone call was for, huh?

HILTON: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well, do you have any other stories that you might like to tell us about that have happened over the years to you, that you would like to share with us?

EVA: Hilton, what about your folks going to John Day for their apples, and things like that.

HILTON: Which was that, Eva?

EVA: Going to John Day for your fruits and things in the fall.

HILTON: Oh. Well, that was interesting for sure. I think I was in the fifth grade I would guess, possibly the sixth grade, Dad took me with him to, took a four-horse team and went to John Day to get the winter supply of fruit and vegetables. I think we were gone about a week.

DOROTHEA: Did you pick them yourself?

HILTON: Yeah, yeah. Of course they had squash --- no squash, cabbage maybe, something like that, why that was already, had already been harvested. What was, kind of, don't know how you'd, don't know the word --- about fifty years, well it was after Eva and I moved over here, Jim Bamberry come one evening and introduced this guy as Homer Berry. It took me awhile to get it run through my mind. But where my dad and I had picked up this fruit at, down below John Day town --- and this boy was the same age as I was, and we kind of played around together there a little bit, two or three evenings, and it was this Homer Berry. And it was about fifty years between then.

DOROTHEA: When you saw him again, huh?

BARBARA: Well, that's interesting.

HILTON: You know this gal worked in the forest office down there for a long time, receptionist?

DOROTHEA: Helen --- Helen Brown Hart?

HILTON: Well, he was Helen's uncle.

DOROTHEA: Oh, really?

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Must have been ---

HILTON: Helen's mother was just a little black-eyed gal then.

DOROTHEA: And she is up in the nursing home now, I think. Well, our tape is running out, do you think we've got enough stories to go on to another tape, or shall we close off for the afternoon?

Is there anything special that you wanted us to have told about you that you can remember?

HILTON: Oh, a lot of things I shouldn't divulge, maybe. Well, darn, I don't know. You people have given me leads on different things here that may ---

BARBARA: Jog your memory later?

HILTON: Maybe --- well, I've answered about all that you have come up with here.

DOROTHEA: Well, if you think of something else, well, give me a call. Other than that, we'd like to thank you for the afternoon and your visit with us. It has been enjoyable.

BARBARA: We hope that you have a wonderful day on Pioneer Day and have a lot of your family and friends come and help celebrate with you.

HILTON: Well, I thank you for that.

DOROTHEA: Are you looking forward to being the President? I understand that President and Queen don't do much, the family gets the work.

HILTON: Well, they'd better, somebody! Oh, I'm pleased with the fact that Wilma is going to be there.

DOROTHEA: I guess her family is going to all be there. Her brothers and sister and her kids are all going to be there too.

HILTON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So if there is ---

HILTON: Means about as much to me as anything, that it's her, because I know her, and have known her all these years.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Were you surprised when they called you and said, "Hilton, we want you

to be the President?"

HILTON: Well, yeah, I wasn't looking forward to it by any means. But I thought out of respect for the family, why I ---

BARBARA: You'll take your turn, huh?

(END OF TAPE)

bl