

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #340 - Sides A & B

Subject: Jackson Minar, D.V.M.; With Video

Place: Minar Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: June 15, 1993

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, along with Barbara Lofgren, and we're at the home of Jack Minar. And the date is June 15th, 1993, and it is transcript number 340. Jack, I'll ask you first your name, and who your parents were.

JACKSON MINAR: Well, my name is Jackson Minar, and my father was Edwin Minar, and my mother was Alma Minar.

DOROTHEA: Well, what was your mother's maiden name?

JACKSON: Her maiden name was Jackson, and I have that for my first name, you see.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And when were you born?

JACKSON: I was born December 5th, 1919.

DOROTHEA: And do you have any brothers or sisters?

JACKSON: I do not have now. I had two brothers, but they are both deceased.

DOROTHEA: And what were their names?

JACKSON: My older brother was Edwin L. Minar, Jr. And my younger brother was David Minar. And --- but they were both, they were both college professors, but they are gone now.

DOROTHEA: Did they teach in Oregon?

JACKSON: No, they taught in the Midwest and in the East. They had fields of study that took them back there. Their fields, there were more opportunities back there, so they ended up back there. And I have five nieces and nephews, but they're all in the Midwest and on the East coast.

DOROTHEA: Where were you born? Were you born in Oregon?

JACKSON: I was born in Portland, Oregon, and I have lived in Oregon all my life except while I was in Colorado in school.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and so where did you go to school most of the time?

JACKSON: Well, I went to grade school and high school in Portland. At that, at the time that I finished high school, my parents moved to Salem. But I was at home very little after that. And I spent, after high school; I spent about, almost two years at Oregon State University. And then I was out of school for a number of years, and finally went back to Colorado to Veterinary School. And I went back there in 1945.

DOROTHEA: What decided you to become a veterinarian?

JACKSON: Well, when I was about a ten year old boy in Portland, which puts me in the '30's, you know, during the depression, and I spent all of my summers on an uncle's farm down there in the Willamette Valley. And there I came to love the farm life and the animals and so forth. So, that was always in my mind that I wanted to do something along that line.

However, and when I went to Oregon State, I was taking an agriculture course. But by the time I got ready to go to school again, five years later or so, I had matured enough to realize that I hadn't, didn't have very much of a future in, that I wanted, in agriculture. Because we had no farm of our own, or capital to buy one, or anything like that. So, and I didn't feel I wanted to be a county agent or something like that. So I got the idea of being a veterinarian, and I could work with animals, even if I didn't have them myself, I would be able to work with them, and probably make a satisfactory living at it.

DOROTHEA: Well, Oregon State, doesn't it have a good veterinarian program, or did they have at that time?

JACKSON: They didn't have at that time. At that time, the only two schools, really in the West, were at Washington State University and at Colorado A. & M. where I went. And even California didn't have a school at that time. So there were only ten schools in the United States as a matter of fact at that time.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Were there waiting lists to get into the schools during that time?

JACKSON: Well, at the time I went, there wasn't much, because it was wartime. It was 1945, the war was still on, and they didn't fill all their classes. My class wasn't full. At that time, they admitted about forty-five back at that school, and there were only thirty-three in my class. Well, there were actually more than that enrolled, but they, some of them flunked out the first year.

DOROTHEA: Is it, you say, they flunked out? Is it a tough program?

JACKSON: Well, yes, it's very tough. It's --- and at that time, I don't know how they look at it now, but they felt they should, if anybody was not suited to that field of work, they should be eliminated, you see. And as a matter of fact, at that time, they felt that way about, in a way, about educating women. When I went to school back there, they'd only been two that ever graduated from that school. And there were, however there were five of them in my class, because they couldn't fill it. But their attitude was that it's very expensive to run that kind of a school, and they didn't feel they should educate these gals along that line, and then have them not use it. And that's occurring nowadays, you see. There are more girls in the school at Corvallis now than there are men. But you will find a lot of them won't practice, or won't practice very long.

BARBARA: Are most of them going to the dog and cat business?

JACKSON: Well, a lot of them do that, that's all right, that's fine.

BARBARA: Stay in the city and take care of ---

JACKSON: But some of them just don't use it, you see. They get married and have children and they don't practice anymore. In a matter of fact, two of the girls that were in my class, out of the five, never did practice.

DOROTHEA: Are any of the girls still living? Are they still practicing?

JACKSON: Well, no, because they are retired. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

JACKSON: I mean, you know ---

DOROTHEA: I mean they, you say they did practice. Did they practice very long?

JACKSON: Well, there was one of them that joined the faculty back there. She was an

exceptional student, and she joined the faculty, and was on it until she retired, probably seven, eight years ago she probably retired. One of the girls practiced almost all her life in Kansas, and she was married to a veterinarian and they practiced there. Another of my classmates was, married one of my classmates --- one of the girls married one of my other classmates, and she practiced more or less part time for many years, while she was raising about six kids. But she and her husband kind of practiced together, but she didn't work full time, you see. So, and then there were two that never did practice.

BARBARA: Did it take a college, a partial college education, to get into veterinary school? Or could you from high school go directly into veterinary medicine?

JACKSON: Well, at that time you, had to have one year of pre-veterinary work in a university or college.

BARBARA: That could be taken at a lot of different universities?

JACKSON: Yes, at most any qualified university, yes.

BARBARA: I see.

JACKSON: And my work that I had done previously at Corvallis took care of that for me, because it was pretty near two years of it.

BARBARA: And what does a veterinary, what is involved in the veterinary school? Do you have chemistry and biology along with these other things? What kind of classes do you have to take?

JACKSON: Well, of course, in this pre-veterinary work that you could take at another school, you take chemistry and you take biological courses. And now they probably demand a few other things, like physics for instance. They didn't demand physics when I went to school. But, so you have a certain amount of preparation.

Well then, when you get to veterinary school, you start in with a lot of basic things, and you do take some more chemistry, what they call physiological chemistry. And you take, you start right in taking anatomy, and physiology, and histology, and a lot of that classroom work, pathology. And then you start working at a, medical things, pharmacology and diseases and things like that. And in your last two years, you're still taking a lot of that medical stuff in the mornings in classroom work,

and then in the afternoons you're in a clinic, you're in the clinic. You're working with animals at a teaching hospital. They bring in animals, and take care of animals there. Well, you work with them, and assist in surgery, and treat animals and take care of them and all that sort of thing. So you have a lot of hands on experience there, as well as your classroom work, that gets into more advanced things all the time.

DOROTHEA: So, how many years does it take you then?

JACKSON: It just takes four years in the veterinary school.

DOROTHEA: But you have to have a pre-med before that?

JACKSON: Yeah. So at that time it was at least five years. I think some of the schools demand two years of pre-veterinary work now, I'm not sure whether they all do or not. There are quite a few more schools now; there is probably at least twenty schools in the country. I don't remember exactly how many there are now. And, but now I chose to go to Colorado, because --- for one thing, I interviewed a number of practicing veterinarians in Oregon here, and, because I had the opportunity to go to either Washington or Colorado. And they advised, I go to Colorado, all of them, even some of the Washington State graduates, because it's in the livestock country back there. And Pullman, Washington, is wheat country; you know, its not animal country, really. So we had a big volume of case load in our teaching hospital back there, and saw lots of cases, and that was a great help. It certainly was to me when I came here and practiced alone.

DOROTHEA: Did you work someplace before you came to Burns?

JACKSON: No, I didn't work in a practice at all. I did a couple of months of work for the State.

BARBARA: What type of animals would they bring into your classroom, per se, that you would work on? Would it be just horses, and cows, and pigs? I mean what type of animals did you see?

JACKSON: Well, actually all kinds, really, all kinds of farm animals. In that area there was, there was horses of course, and there were cattle. And there were not only, there were feedlot cattle, and there were range cattle, and there were purebred cattle, and there were dairy cattle in the area. So, we saw all those kinds. And there were hogs and there were sheep, and there were feedlot sheep and lambs. And then of course, there were dogs and cats and so forth from the surrounding

community.

And then practitioners, even off at quite a distance would bring cases, refer cases in there that were particularly hard to diagnose or something, you know, or needed some kind of surgery that they weren't capable of at that time. So, we saw just about everything.

BARBARA: Birds and reptiles?

JACKSON: Yeah, birds. We didn't see a lot of that, but we did a little. And we had a little instruction on it, but we weren't very sharp on that sort of thing when we got out of school. There are some veterinarians nowadays that kind of specialize in some of those special things like that.

DOROTHEA: How do you really doctor a bird?

JACKSON: Well, of course, you can, it depends a lot on what you're trying to do. But you can give them injections, intermuscular injections. You can't hardly give them intravenous injections, but you can give them intermuscular, or subcutaneous injections of drugs. You can give them medications sometimes in their feed or water, if they are drinking and eating. And of course, it's possible to dose them a little by mouth, get them to swallow things. But some of those things are hard; sometimes it's hard to dose a cat by mouth. I'll tell you, some of them it's easy, and some of them it's impossible. Maybe even once in awhile, a dog is like that, you know. You just can't, you can't get them to do what you want them to do. All they want to do is bite your hand. (Laughter) But most of them are very amenable to treatment, and easy to get along with.

Well, before I got out of school, in the fall before when I was a senior, I applied for a position with the state veterinarian in Oregon, and was hired; they took me on after I graduated, of course. But in the spring when the legislature met, they lost an appropriation of money, and they didn't have a job for me. So, when I got out of school in June, I didn't have a job.

And so I took the state boards, and I had two or three offers around the state working for other veterinarians, but I hadn't accepted anything. And at that time, there was a big outbreak of sleeping sickness in horses up here in Harney County and in Grant County. And some of the ranchers from here came down to Salem to get the state veterinarian to send somebody up here to vaccinate horses. But they didn't have anybody they could assign on it at that time. And I was in

Salem, and they knew it, so they got a hold of me, and I came up here and spent two months vaccinating horses in Harney County and in Grant County.

And I was all over both counties, clear from Denio to Mitchell vaccinating horses. There were a lot of cases of it here, and of course most of them are fatal. But the vaccination, the type of vaccination that was used at that time, for that disease, was a type of vaccination that the ordinary ranchers couldn't do. So I had to do it, and they all had to be done twice, so that's why I was up here so long.

When I was about finished with that job, why some, a bunch of the local ranchers that were leaders in the industry, you might say here, got me in the corner and said they thought they needed a veterinarian here, "And would I be interested in setting up practice here?" So I said, "Well, I really would." I said, "I've seen the country and met most of the ranchers, and I wanted to work primarily with large animals, so and there was lots of them here." But I said, "I'm just out of school, I'm broke." So they said, "We'll help you get started." So I came back and set up a practice in September, that summer. And ---

DOROTHEA: Where did you have your first office?

JACKSON: My first office was, was in the old Tonawama building. Do you understand which building that is?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACKSON: And Dorman Turner and I had an office together. I don't know if you knew Dorman Turner. He was Allen Turner's brother, and at that time was the first, he was the first executive secretary of the Oregon Cattleman's Association. So, I had an office with them down there, and they didn't have much money either. And so it wasn't much of an office, but we had a telephone there, and that's where we worked from.

We weren't there very long, so we got a, took an office over there across the street from the old city hall, about where that, I think it's that space where that, well, just below where that Simple Food Store is, about the next space there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. What is that the --- I can't remember, I think is it ---

BARBARA: There is a beauty shop in there right now, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: No, it's the ---

BARBARA: The state or something, some kind of office in there, a training ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACKSON: Uh huh. Well, we had that for a number of years. And finally, I begun to save a little money, and I decided I wanted to get a house someplace if I could, and use that for practice and a place to live, because I was paying rent for a little rent for that, and rent for a place to live. And so I decided to see if I could find someplace that was suitable.

And pretty soon, one of the local ranchers came to me and said he heard I was looking for a house to buy, to practice in. And he said, "Well, if you find something," he said, "I'd be glad to lend you the money." He said, "I've got a lot of money over there in the bank that I don't need to use." So, I bought that house down there on --- that Kimble's have.

DOROTHEA: That Kimble's live in, yeah, yeah.

JACKSON: And I eventually paid that off and then moved out here.

BARBARA: Where Jerry Kimble lives?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACKSON: Uh huh. They bought that from me.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right. I live down the street from him.

JACKSON: Oh, did you? You know, at the time I lived there, that North Broadway was a gravel street, and it was a dusty place. It seemed like all the prevailing wind brought it on top of me.

DOROTHEA: Dusty place, and in the wintertime or springtime flooded place.

JACKSON: Uh huh, yeah, it was then. They've got that apparently taken care of now.

BARBARA: Finally.

JACKSON: But the year after I sold it and moved away they paved that street. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah. When did you build the house down on Crane Boulevard there?

JACKSON: Well, when my parents were getting old, and my father was retired, he worked until he was seventy. But then he got retired, and he started to have some poor health, health problems, and

they lived in Salem, yet. So I told my folks, my parents, that I could come down there whenever they had problems, but I couldn't stay very long because I had my work up here and everything. And I suggested that they might be interested in coming up here to live. And they didn't take hardly a minute to say they'd love to come up here to live. They had visited me up here, of course, so they came up and stayed with me while I built that house for them to live in. And I had bought a bunch of lots there from one of the Bennett's; with the idea I might build a clinic or something there, which I never did. But that's why we located there. Part of that property --- and then eventually I sold the other lots off to Bob Dean. And then my parents lived there, of course, the rest of their life. My father lived to eighty-three there, and my mother lived to ninety-three, and she still lived there when she died.

BARBARA: In your practice, did most of your work take you to the ranch, or to the animal, or sometimes they would bring things to you?

JACKSON: Well, I always, they always brought dogs and cats to me. Oh, in the old days, occasionally I would make a house call if there was some older person or someone didn't have a car or something like that, but most always dogs and cats, the small animals, were brought to me. And a few large animals in trucks and trailers. But practically all the large animal work I did was done on the ranch, wherever the animal was.

DOROTHEA: So you did a lot of traveling after you came here, then?

JACKSON: That's right, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Because --- did you still have parts of Grant, too, at that time?

JACKSON: Well, the first, about the first three years I was here, there wasn't any veterinarian in John Day, or in Grant County. So I did quite a lot of work up there, routine work mostly, vaccination work, testing, and things like that. Although occasionally, I would have a sickness problem, and that sort of thing. And eventually, a veterinarian came in up there.

When I came here in 1948 to practice, there wasn't any veterinarian practicing in Lakeview, Prineville, Heppner, John Day, or Burns. You see, all this central part of Eastern Oregon didn't have any veterinarians practicing at all.

But the year after I came, a friend of mine established a practice in Lakeview, and then in two or three years one came into Prineville. And in about three years one came into John Day. So when I first came I was the only one for a long ways.

BARBARA: You had to do diagnosis and things, did you do your own lab work, or did you have to send some things like to Salem, or how did you take care of it?

JACKSON: Uh huh. Well, I did some of the more simple things myself, although I didn't have a real laboratory situation. And some specimens were sent to Corvallis, there is a diagnostic lab there, and there always has been some help there. And --- but my practice was never elaborate from the standpoint of a, equipment and facility.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JACKSON: I had the basic necessities and so forth. And of course, in those early days, we depended on lab work to a certain amount, but not nearly like they do now.

BARBARA: I was going to say, it would take a lot of money, you were just getting started, to buy equipment like microscopes or whatever, in order to try to figure some things out, if you didn't pick up on it in another way.

JACKSON: Yeah. Well, for a few years I didn't even have a microscope, you see, for a few years. Finally, I did have, and other facilities. And I practiced without X-ray. But some cases, I would send away that needed something more than I could handle. I would send them to Ontario or Bend, or wherever they wanted to go, where there were more elaborate practices. And from that standpoint, as far as equipment is concerned.

BARBARA: But it would take a lot of initial capital in order to set up that type of clinic.

JACKSON: It would, you bet, uh huh.

BARBARA: But how did you determine what to charge people when you had to travel to their ranch? Did you factor in mileage to their ranch along with treating the animal?

JACKSON: Well, a lot of things --- well, some things I did, and some things I didn't. When I came here, of course, fighting brucellosis was a big thing, and it still is in a sense. But at that time, there was no compulsion at all, it was just up to the rancher whether he vaccinated for brucellosis or not.

And a veterinarian, legally, had to give it. And the livestock organizations, and our profession were pushing for immunizing all the cattle for this. And so I made it as reasonable as I could on fees. And I did that kind of work on a per head basis, and I still do to this day. Although, the fees are quite different now than they were then, of course. But, if I had to go out just to treat sick animals, or something like that, then I would try to get a decent fee from the standpoint of mileage and time spent, and I still work on that basis. So, if I go out here three or four miles to do a health inspection on some cattle, I can charge far less, no matter how many cattle there are, than if I have to go to Frenchglen, or Diamond, or Drewsey or someplace you see, which would take me a half a day about to do it.

BARBARA: Well, your time has to count in there. You could be here treating several different cases while you were on the road.

JACKSON: Yeah, uh huh. But in the early days, of course, fees were not very high. Partly because, well, we didn't have all the inflation we have now, for one thing. But the animals weren't worth much.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACKSON: When I came here, you know, gosh, cattle prices were way down. They are five times at least now, what they were then, maybe more than that. And so you had --- I was working with, basically at least with the cattle, I was working with cattle that had a, animals that had an economic value. So you couldn't go out and charge a guy a hundred dollars for a fifty-dollar animal.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACKSON: In other words, for one thing, I did very few Caesarean sections on heifers at that time. Because, there was no way you could charge a fee that was reasonable at all, because of the value of the animal. Well then, later on, in later years when prices came up, if you came out and delivered a good live calf from a section, why the calf more than paid for the fee, and you still had the heifer. And you had the heifer and the calf both, you see. So those things had to be figured out, and have changed through the years. But I never have gotten rich here, but I have made a pretty fair living. I've really enjoyed every minute of it.

BARBARA: What are some of the things that you treat over, and over, and over again with the animals?

JACKSON: Well, of course in the fall, we have a lot of trouble with diseases after the calves are weaned, various types of pneumonias and so forth, some of which are fatal, of course. Particularly without treatment, they are. And in the springtime, when the baby calves are born, why there are a lot of diarrheas, scours they call them, and things of that type that are important, and there is a lot of work done with them.

And oh, there are some things that we treat off and on that are common things, that don't occur in large numbers of animals, but just occasional cases, things we have to understand to properly treat. But, that we see plenty of, and are easy to diagnose. We probably did a lot more diagnosing with our eyeballs those days than they do now. Now they depend more on their equipment, and their machines, and their laboratory work and so forth.

DOROTHEA: Well, I think now too there is so many new diseases that seems to be coming that people don't know about.

JACKSON: Well, the disease picture has certainly changed drastically through these years that I've been here. When I came to this country, there were hardly any cattle brought into the country except bulls, and they were purebred animals, usually well cared for animals, but cows weren't moved in and out of the country. But when trucks got common, and things have changed to now a lot of animals are brought in. Cows are brought in and taken out, and they're taken someplace else, and then brought back for pastures and so forth. Well, that's how we bring in new diseases, you see.

And we do have, have recognized quite a few newer diseases that we never had here before. Some of them were occurring in other areas, but not here. And then some of them are showing up that we didn't know ever existed, really.

DOROTHEA: Well, what is, you talk about Brucellosis, so this gets down on tape, so that many people don't know what a brucellosis is. What is it, and what is it caused from?

JACKSON: Well, it's a bacterial disease, and it's --- one of the common names for it is Bang's

disease. The man that recognized it originally in Europe was named Bang, so they called it Bang's disease. And it's, also used to be called contagious abortion. It causes abortion in cows. And anybody that is aware of cattle, and knows about cattle, can understand from that what I'm talking about.

And we, at this time we have a law in Oregon that all heifer calves have to be vaccinated before they can be sold. And they have to be done between four and ten months of age, so we, I do a lot of that in the fall. Last couple of years, I have done eight thousand of them through that fall and winter period, and I used to do more than that. And of course, my colleagues across town are doing some too, I don't know just how many they're doing. I used to do up to fifteen thousand or so.

But in the early days when I was doing that much, it wasn't compulsory, and there were some people that weren't doing it at all. And if an animal gets too old, and is not vaccinated now, the only way they can be sold legally is to go to slaughter.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. You seem to be reading my mind; every question I come up with, you are answering. So, when did the time come when it became a state law that all heifers be vaccinated?

JACKSON: Well, that's just about, I don't remember exactly, but it's about four years ago. And you're not supposed to have any calf, any cow in your herd right now that is not vaccinated, unless they are older, unless they are older than that period of time. In other words, they would have to be five years or older. Any of the younger ones should be, or they're not legally ---

DOROTHEA: Well, I think even now, though, even if you have an eight year old cow and she goes to market, and she is what they call a hot suspect, you're not going to sell her, they'll hold her for quite a while. Are there certain times when these cows are hot suspects? In other words, they will test positive?

JACKSON: Well, when we vaccinate these calves for this disease, they all become reactors from the vaccine. Then they lose that reaction in their bloodstream about the time they calve. And so, a cow is never, unless it's by mistake, the cow is never tested or bled until she is over twenty-four months of age.

And we had one here last fall, that one of my clients had sent to slaughter, and got a reaction to the, a reactor they called her. But they did keep the tag number, the ear tag number, she had been vaccinated. Well, I just looked up the tag number, when I had vaccinated that animal, and found out that when they tested her, she was too young to be tested. So they just crossed it all off and forgot about it. But you see, they lose that. And it shouldn't ever be --- for instance a six or eight year old cow that showed a reaction from that.

DOROTHEA: Well, the reason I asked that question is because our neighbor had a, I think she was about four or five, and she was pregnant, and she came up positive in a reactor. And as soon as she had that calf, then she was negative. But for some reason or other, before she had that calf, that cow came as a reactor. And we thought that was kind of strange because she was four or five years old.

JACKSON: I don't --- it's a strange story, really it doesn't make sense ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACKSON: --- medically. And now, along about 1959, '60, '61, we tested all the herds in Oregon for this disease. And it was done here, and it started out, and I think we tested forty percent of a herd, at least, unless they wanted to test them all. And if they found any reactors in that group then you had to test the whole herd, and you had to keep testing them until you got two clean tests. Well Doris, Dr. Doris White worked for me those, for a couple years then, and we tested cattle like crazy. Well, I test a lot of cows that were pregnant in the wintertime, and sometimes in a reactor herd, you'd test them once, and then in two or three months, you'd test them again. And some of those cows had calved between that interval, and that didn't cause any problem. So, I don't understand that neighbor of yours at all. It just doesn't fit anything that I've ever seen or heard of. I don't know what's going on with that particular case.

DOROTHEA: Well, anyway, this is what happened with this. And ---

BARBARA: Someone made a mistake, perhaps.

JACKSON: Well, now we didn't force this on people, if they said, well, the cows are too heavy with calf now, with calves now, we don't want to handle them, we'd do them later. But some of

them didn't do that. I tested the herd at Roaring Springs Ranch, they had a reactor herd, they had a lot of reactors. And, we tested a lot of those during the spring when some of them calved between tests, and it wasn't any problem. I mean ---

DOROTHEA: As far as calving.

JACKSON: As far as the pregnancy and so forth. That didn't seem to affect the results at all.

BARBARA: Have the medicines changed that you have to treat the animals with? Like in humans, sometimes after you use something over and over again, you get immuned to it, and you have to go to some other drug in order to get the right results. Does this happen with animals, too?

JACKSON: Oh yes. Animals respond pretty much, generally, like humans to treatments. And some things, in individual animals lose their effectiveness, and we have to use something else.

BARBARA: So, your work primarily has been with the large animals?

JACKSON: Well, that's just because --- of course, for the first, oh pretty near thirty-five years I was the only practicing veterinarian here, so I did everything. I've had monkeys in my office, and birds, and everything. But because this was livestock country, why probably always, at least eighty percent of my work was with cattle.

BARBARA: And that was your preference, was one of the reasons that you did decide to come over here.

JACKSON: Yes, uh huh. That's right.

BARBARA: And the opportunity was here. And you say you practiced from 1948, is when you moved here, is that right?

JACKSON: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And you were the only one. At what period of time, then, did another veterinarian come to this county?

JACKSON: Well, I don't remember just exactly when Dr. Pielstick came in, but it was at least fifteen years ago. I mean --- so ---

BARBARA: And you did mention Doris, Dr. Doris White. You say that she assisted you, or worked with you for a few years?

JACKSON: Yeah, for two years.

BARBARA: I see.

JACKSON: She had practiced before that in Hawaii, and also in Southern California. She had practiced a couple years before that. And her father died here, who was a rancher out at Silver Creek, and so she came home for the funeral, and then she just stayed here. I needed somebody then, because we had all this testing to do.

BARBARA: You had been alone; you had not had any assistants prior to that time?

JACKSON: Well no, I hadn't. I was always alone except for that period when she worked for me.

BARBARA: I see. And you have not had anyone since that time?

JACKSON: Never have had, no.

DOROTHEA: And you mentioned her father was Homer Carlon.

JACKSON: Her father was Homer Carlon, yes.

DOROTHEA: And he had a place out in Riley, at that time?

JACKSON: Yeah, he had a place out there that's now owned by Hoyt's. But there were other owners in between his ownership and now. But Hoyt's have that place now.

BARBARA: Did Doris ever set up a practice of her own?

JACKSON: No, she didn't.

BARBARA: She just mainly worked with her own cattle on their ranch.

JACKSON: Of course, she married Frank White at the time she left me. And of course, I didn't need her anymore after that, you see. The practice was small enough then that I could take care of everything. Of course, I worked long days sometimes, you know, and all that. But I could do it all, except once in a while I would miss an emergency if I was way off here, and it occurred out here. Occasionally, I would miss an emergency.

But no, Doris, she did a little practice after that, and she had a little equipment set up out there, but not much. But, she didn't have a real practice. She --- most of her work she did for friends, old friends, and some of her family, because some of her family was still practicing. You see her sister Betty and Mike were always around with cattle. And her --- the Graves were part of

her family.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. That's Ted Graves, and Betty and Mike Morgan. She still does a little bit I think too, besides her own. Because I know ---

JACKSON: It's possible, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Some of the relatives often get her to come up and do their cows for them. Of course, they're neighbors, so they probably just neighbor back and forth.

JACKSON: Sometimes, she'll come to me for some medication she needs, or something like that. We've always been good friends, you know. But, she has never really made a living at it, or worked at it like that.

BARBARA: She likes raising the cattle, instead?

JACKSON: Yeah. Well, she has raised children and cattle. (Laughter) And she has been a busy person and has done a lot of good things around the community. Has worked with the kids and the 4-H'ers and things of that sort. She has had a good, active life. But she hasn't spent an awful lot of it in medicine.

DOROTHEA: Well, what is your business consisting of now? Do you do a lot, or are you kind of on the semi-retired business?

JACKSON: Well, I think of myself as about three-quarters retired. I do, I do quite a little routine ranch work, which occurs seasonally. Mostly from the latter part of September through the winter. And it's mostly vaccination work, and health inspections and things like that. I do very little surgery now. Occasionally, I do a little bit of very minor surgery. And occasionally, I see a few dogs and cats once in a while if it's a, fairly minor problems. But I --- and that's just because people want me to, some old timers that are used to me. You know how people are about things like that. But, I do very little general practice, really. I just kind of do that routine ranch work.

And those old ranchers I work for, a lot of them I have worked for every year since I have been here. And they're not just clients, they're old friends, and I just love to be out there with them.

DOROTHEA: Well, let's pause for a moment, my light is telling me that our tape is about to run off.

JACKSON: Well good.

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: Tell me some of the names of the old, the first ranchers that you ran into and did business with.

JACKSON: Well, virtually all of the old-time ranch families that were here, and that's an awfully long list.

DOROTHEA: You mentioned Don Hotchkiss. How about the Otleys?

JACKSON: Well, I worked for the Otleys, of course. They were, Henry Otley was one of the leaders, you might say, that encouraged me to come here, and helped me to come here. And I worked for the Jenkins in Diamond and the Thompson's, and the Barnes and the Baileys, all of those old ranchers down there. And of course, in this area, I worked for the Hotchkiss's, and the Culps, and Jim Poteet on the Bell-A, at that time. The Schroder's out at Potter Swamp, and of course, your dad, and the Whitings. Well, just about every ranch that was here in the valley. The Tylers, of course, Lester Tyler was there, I worked for him.

And, I worked on the Island Ranch for the Voglers, they had just come when I came here, and had just been here a short time. And, I worked for virtually all the ranchers in Drewsey, the Sitz, and the Wilbur's, and the Robertson's, and the Howard's, and the Milers, and Mike Acton's, just all of those people that were on ranches there at that time. And ---

DOROTHEA: That's what I wanted to get, some of the old ranchers' names.

JACKSON: And of course in Silver Creek the, Pat Cecil was up there on the ranch, known as the Mayo Ranch now, of course. But he was an old timer, a real pioneer family there at Camp Currey Springs. And, I worked for the Petersons, of course, up in upper Silver Creek. And oh, and of course I worked at the Roaring Springs, and then I worked at the Alvord Ranch, and the Juniper Ranch, and the people down in the South end of the county. There were a lot of ranchers down there that I worked for.

BARBARA: Well, you mentioned that Pielstick's, Dr. Pielstick moved here approximately fifteen

years ago.

JACKSON: Yeah.

BARBARA: Was this about the time that you were looking to cut down your practice a little bit? Or had the ranching business expanded enough that the county really needed another veterinarian here?

JACKSON: Well, at that time, I felt that I could still handle it all, you know. But at that time, and since then, there is a lot more work now than there used to be.

And of course usually when there is, when there is a professional man has a practice, and then there is another one established in the same area, usually the work picks up for some reason or other. But that just happens. And so, he has done well.

BARBARA: I was going to say, how do you split people after that? Or is it the new people coming in, or ---

JACKSON: Well, a lot of that. You see, not all of them, but most of the old ranchers that I have worked for, for many years, I still work for. But there is a lot of ranches that have sold.

Now, John Scharff told me some time in this last year that he had figured out that since he came to the country, there is only something like three, four, five percent of the same families on the same ranches now that were here when he came. Of course, he came quite a few years before I did. So you see, a lot of these people have moved out, are gone from here that were here, and a lot of them have gone since I came. And of course, he was talking about the same ranchers on the same land.

But you see now in Diamond, in Diamond Valley, or in that area, there is only about two ranches in the same family ownership that were here when I came. There is the Jenkins Ranch and the Thompson Ranch on the McCoy Creek. All the rest of those ranches have changed hands.

Well, now when I came, Otleys were there, but they just had come. And they weren't there when John Scharff came, you see. So, there is only about three ranches there, in that valley, that are owned by the same people that were there when I came. So it's changed all over the county like that.

BARBARA: Well, you mentioned when you first came you had your first two little offices, then you went down on North Broadway where Jerry Kimble now lives, then, you moved your practice on Crane Boulevard, is that right?

JACKSON: No, to here.

BARBARA: Oh, to here.

JACKSON: Yeah.

BARBARA: Oh, when you left the place on North Broadway, then you purchased this property, is that right?

JACKSON: Right, uh huh.

BARBARA: And then, your parents were on Crane Boulevard.

JACKSON: Yeah, they were never involved with ---

BARBARA: I see.

JACKSON: I built the house for them, and all that, but I mean, they were not involved in my practice.

BARBARA: I see.

JACKSON: Although for a number of years, my dad helped me, as an assistant.

BARBARA: Oh, you said something about you thought; you bought extra lots there, so I didn't quite follow as to whether you had built a clinic there.

JACKSON: Yeah, I bought about ten lots right down in there, and then with the idea that I might want to build something there, or move there later on when I could afford it. But, before that happened, I moved out here. And when I moved out here, of course, I was still the only practitioner. And so, everybody pretty much knew where I was, you know, because I was unique in the community. So, people came out here with their dogs and cats, and it was fine.

BARBARA: So, your office is right next to this here?

JACKSON: Yeah, I just built a building on that is attached to the corner of the house over here.

BARBARA: And that's where you have your office and do your business?

JACKSON: That's where I took care of my dogs and cats and that sort of thing, and have storage of

drugs and vaccines and so forth. And then, there is one garage stall in that so I can keep my practice vehicle inside in the wintertime, so I don't have to take all my stuff out every night, so it doesn't freeze.

BARBARA: Right.

JACKSON: Which I had to do when I was downtown. So, its ---

BARBARA: Did you ever have any facilities to board dogs and cats, or did you ever do anything like that?

JACKSON: No, it's always just been a medical facility. Treating sick ones and doing surgery, and that sort of thing. I have some stainless steel cages down there where I keep the surgical cases. Once in a long while, I'd keep a sick one that had to have some treatment that the owner couldn't give. But most of those can go home, and they do from here.

BARBARA: Put anything in quarantine? If you treated something that would have to be quarantined at all, did you keep anything like that?

JACKSON: Well ---

BARBARA: If they had other animals at home.

JACKSON: The only thing that we really have to quarantine is a rabies suspect. And there has never been a case of rabies diagnosed in this county since I have been here, for forty-five years.

So --- but the Dr. Pielstick, he takes care of animals that the cities catch. In other words, he runs a dog pound, you might say, there. Well, he has a special area for those animals. They are separate from his practice animals, sick animals.

DOROTHEA: Well, I think he boards animals too.

JACKSON: He does. Yeah he does, surely.

DOROTHEA: For vacationers and things like that. Also, I think he has a spot where he keeps his surgical patients.

JACKSON: Uh huh, oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: And things too --- I've never been back there, but he must have quite a facility back there.

JACKSON: Well, he does, yeah, uh huh. Of course he's, the kind of a practice he is running, he has a bunch of, several people working for him.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACKSON: So, he has the help to take care of those things. And I have always worked alone, and I didn't have a lot of help like that. Of course, when I first came here, I didn't know if I could make a living, you know. And I didn't have anything hardly nailed down.

BARBARA: Though if you are working alone, was it not difficult at times, like doing surgery or something?

JACKSON: Well, yes, but ---

BARBARA: Do it all by yourself?

JACKSON: I did the actual surgery by myself, but I had a gal that worked for me part-time. Down there where I was on North Broadway, right across the street, oh gosh, I can't say her first name now, Pitkin her name was. Anyway, she lived across the street, she was a young married person, and she worked for me whenever I needed her. She was just there, and whenever I needed her, I would let her know, and she would come over and help me. And I had a phone, a phone extension over there; she could answer my phone when I was gone.

DOROTHEA: And I can't remember her name either, but I know who you are saying.

JACKSON: Oh, she was a --- I think you knew her; she was a real pretty girl, and real nice gal. And her mother was Marie Kvekskas, owned that house across the street there. But after, after my parents came up here, my mother answered my phone.

BARBARA: I was going to say, did you ever have anyone to do your bookwork for you?

JACKSON: Oh, I always did that myself. I had a period; there was a period of three years before I, immediately before I went to veterinary school, when I worked for the First National Bank. And I felt capable of keeping my books and so forth, and I do it to this day. I get out my statements and so forth.

DOROTHEA: Okay, you mentioned you moved out here. Can you tell us where this is?

JACKSON: Well, this lane out here is Hotchkiss Lane, it's the official name on it, the county has

labeled it now. But, I've known it as that for years, and years, and years. In the phone book, when I moved out here, I put down Fairgrounds Road because there weren't many people in town that knew this was Hotchkiss Lane. It wasn't labeled as such or anything. But there was never such a road as Fairgrounds Road, but I put that in the phone book just so people would have an idea of how to head out, because everybody knew where the fairgrounds were.

Well, as I said, this was the original Hotchkiss Ranch right here, where the old timers lived. Then, of course, as the boys grew up, Don, and Harley, and Newton, and Pete, why they spread out. And Pete, being the youngest, apparently was the one that ended up here. And this particular ranch wasn't very big for modern standards, and Pete worked at the mill and ran his ranch on the side. So they worked hard and long.

DOROTHEA: And you said this was the Hull Hotchkiss place?

JACKSON: Right, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. How many acres do you have here now?

JACKSON: Oh, I believe the assessor says its 7.7 acres. I just have a little acreage here.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so you didn't buy the whole place?

JACKSON: No, no, huh uh.

DOROTHEA: The Hotchkiss' kept most of it?

JACKSON: Well, they didn't keep it, but they have it now. It was sold. When Pete sold it, he sold it to people outside the family. And then eventually, his brother Don bought it back, bought it from them. And at that time, they had no use for these buildings that I have, and so they just sold off this acreage and the house. And then later on, I got it, but I wasn't the first owner there.

BARBARA: Does this old barn have a history to it?

JACKSON: Well, it was the barn of this, of the, this old Hotchkiss family, and it's surely a hundred years old. A lot of it is put together with mortise joints, and oak pegs, and so forth, you know. And there is square nails in it, and so forth. It's been there a long, long time. And people like Dorey, oh you know ---

DOROTHEA: Burden.

JACKSON: Burden, yeah. I want to call her Munson, because that used to be her name.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's what I call her too, but it is Burden now.

JACKSON: Yeah, yeah. She grew up here, played in the barn when she was a kid. And of course her brothers, they're all dead now except Pete, they grew up here and played in the barn when they were kids. So, it's probably a hundred years old.

DOROTHEA: So, who did you buy this place from?

JACKSON: I bought this place from Leonard Bergseth; you may not have known him. But, he was the guy that built the TV cable system in town, the original one, and was the head of that company or group that did that. And, I thought I was going to get this place one time, but it didn't work out. And I knew this Leonard Bergseth real well, and in the meantime, he had gotten this place. So I told him, you know, that I thought I was going to get it one time. And he knew that I had a desire to have it before that.

Well, when he decided to leave the area, and he moved to California to take a hold of a big TV outfit down there, he came to me first thing and said, "Are you still interested in moving out and having that house out there?" So I just made a deal with him and bought it from him.

I had a hay ranch down the country that they called the Greenhouse Ranch, across from where Peila's Ranch is. And the people that owned this, and lived in this house at that time was a ranch person, and he propositioned me, or talked about trading this place, which included some of the ranch that he still had, for my hay field down there. And I thought that would be great, and I was really eager to do it. And before, the next thing I knew he had sold it to Hotchkiss's, to Don Hotchkiss. (Laughter) So, I didn't get it. But it's funny how those things happen.

DOROTHEA: Well, did you ever use your barn to keep animals in, or do you use the barn at all?

JACKSON: Well, on a very few occasions, I have kept a horse or something there for a few days. But it really hasn't been used as a facility for me in my practice. I kept a horse here of my own for quite a few years, but I don't have anymore. There are some horses here, but they are just boarders, they're just using the pasture.

BARBARA: Is the barn safe at this time?

JACKSON: Well, it's basically very sound. You look at it, the roof is just as straight as can be, and it's very sound. The shingles on the roof are getting bad, it needs a roof. But ---

DOROTHEA: And these winds that we are getting anymore doesn't leave shingles on many places.

JACKSON: But, structurally, the barn is very good, uh huh.

BARBARA: We might back up just a little bit, you mentioned after you went your two years to Oregon State, you worked at the bank for a while before you started veterinary school.

JACKSON: Well, I worked for, worked for quite a few different jobs during that period. I had a little spell of sickness when I was in school in Corvallis, and had to leave school. And when I got over that, I was told I could go to work, but I couldn't do manual work, couldn't do hard work, and that's about all I knew how to do was farm work. So, I took a lot of different little jobs, and the last one was the banking.

And I, you know, banks in those days would take you on without, you didn't have to know anything about it, they'd teach you. And so, I could do that, I could qualify for that. So I started in, in the banking in Salem. I started in as a messenger, and I guess I worked there about a year and a half, something like that. And that was wartime, and I was 4-F because I had had this sick spell. And so, all those young men that were out working in the teller windows, and so forth, went into the service, or just about all of them. So I started in as a messenger, which wasn't a very exalted position, I'll tell you. But I only worked there a month and then I got, and then I became a bookkeeper. And I worked there for three months, and then I became a teller. And then I worked on all the different kinds of teller windows they had, and then I became assistant to what they called the chief clerk, who kind of ran and audited all the bank all the time, you know, and was the boss over the tellers and all that.

Well, I worked at that for a while, and then I transferred up to Heppner, to their branch in Heppner, and this was the First National Bank. And I was the second man up there, and was kind of a junior officer in a small branch.

And I got, I really got my health back, I was fine. And I decided, the manager was scared to death of the head office in Portland, and had stomach ulcers, and I knew how much money he

made, and I said, "Boy, I don't want to stay with this." And so, I decided it was time to go back to school, because I was raised with the idea that in order to amount to anything in this world, you had to go to college, you had to finish college in something. And they didn't tell us what, but at something.

BARBARA: And was the veterinary school, was it a twelve-month, I mean year around, or were you off in the summer also?

JACKSON: My first year, they were still on an accelerated program, and it went through the summer. I went through the spring and summer and took care of the first year. And then they started on the regular schedule, three semesters.

BARBARA: So what did you do during your summer break time then?

JACKSON: During all the summer break times, I came back up to the Heppner area and worked in wheat harvest, and mostly drove trucks and hauled grain into the elevators, and that sort of thing. Because I had a lot of connections, you see, I had been up there for a while in the bank, and I knew quite a lot of people. And that paid pretty good then.

But, I was going to say that when I applied to the school and got accepted, and I knew I was going to go back to school, I quit the bank right away. It was, that was May or so, and I went out working in the hay field, and made more money in the hay field than I had been making in the bank. (Laughter) So ---

BARBARA: Did you get scholarships, or just have to pay, or ---

JACKSON: No, huh uh.

BARBARA: ... money in order to get through.

JACKSON: No, I had about five horses that I sold, and I sold my car, I sold everything I owned that was saleable, and went to school. And so, I don't know, I had fourteen or fifteen hundred dollars when I went back to school. And when I graduated I owed about that much. (Laughter) But I worked all the time I was there, and worked summers.

But you see, I wasn't in the service so I had no G.I. Bill or anything like that. They didn't have all the helps those days, you just fought your way through, and that is what made us stronger.

Nowadays things are too easy.

BARBARA: You had part time jobs and all that sort of thing. When you came back, were you married?

JACKSON: I married Maurine Minar in 1979, and of course she is gone now, she died a year and a half ago. A lot of that period, a good part of that period, I was single.

DOROTHEA: You have no children?

JACKSON: No children, no. I inherited a big family though from my wife Maurine, who is gone.

DOROTHEA: Did she have children?

JACKSON: She had two boys, and one of them is an attorney in San Diego. And the other boy is a handicapped boy, and he lives in Portland, and goes to a, lives in a group home, and works in a sheltered workshop down there. And two of Maurine's sisters live in Portland, and they kind of watch out for him. And of course, his brother in San Diego is very attentive toward him, and he'll be going down there next week to spend a week with them. And he still comes up here. He still feels this is home, and he was up here about a month and a half ago. He calls me on the phone about once a week, and we talk. We get along great.

DOROTHEA: Did she have --- do they have any children?

JACKSON: Yeah, the one in San Diego has three boys, and the two older ones are married and have, so there are great-great-grandchildren there. And there are three great-grandchildren already down there.

BARBARA: So, you really have an extended family.

JACKSON: I really do. And all of Maurine's sisters' families, I'm close to all of them. And I talked to one of her sisters this morning on the phone, and I'll be going down there the 4th of July to a big family gathering. And, I was down in San Diego, oh, about a month ago I guess. I kind of lost track of just when it was, three weeks ago I guess, spent a week with them, and they're all very close. The men have come up here several times and spent about a week with me, and we go up on the Steens Mountain and camp and fish, and we're all very close.

DOROTHEA: That's another --- what are your hobbies, and have you had time to do many things?

JACKSON: Well, I've had quite a lot of time, because the nature of my practice always was slow in the summer. When the cattle are out on the ranges, and they're comparatively healthy and out of reach and so forth, there is very little cattle practice. And so, I always had some time in the summertime. And so I hunted and fished a lot in the early days. And of course, in the summer it was fishing, and then in the fall I always did some hunting. I always managed to do deer hunting, and some bird hunting. And then I'd steal a little time about in November and go elk hunting. I was a little too busy to do it then, but I always managed to do it, not as long as I'd like, but I did it. And in the summertime, I played golf, I've always been a golfer.

DOROTHEA: Do you still golf?

JACKSON: Yeah, uh huh. I golfed last evening. And I didn't, the last few years, I didn't play very much. Maurine wasn't, wasn't really very well, and I played some, but I didn't go as much as I used to. But I've always enjoyed that. My father and grandfather both golfed when I was a boy down in Portland, and I kind of got introduced to it then. But, a lot of years, I didn't golf at all, because I was too busy doing other things, and I couldn't afford it anyway. (Laughter)

BARBARA: It's always a great sport to fall back on.

JACKSON: Oh yeah, and you can play it all your life.

BARBARA: You can pick it up.

JACKSON: You can play it all your life. I've played quite a lot through the years with Bud Eshelby, and you know Bud.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACKSON: Bud is still playing; he played last night. And later on this month, Bud is going to be eighty years old.

DOROTHEA: Well, I know he is getting ---

JACKSON: And he's still working down there in the store.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

JACKSON: This age business doesn't mean all that much. You shouldn't look at those calendars; it's just how you feel. You've got to keep doing something.

DOROTHEA: Right. You know that's like Hilton Whiting, we talked to him the other day, and what did we figure out he was what, 82, something like that. And he said, "You know, I can't quit, because if I quit I wouldn't have anything to do." So you know as long as you feel like, and you're able to do it, well ---

JACKSON: That's right. Well, I've got a lot of work to do right here, you know. You know how that goes.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: If you have a house, there is always work to do.

JACKSON: Even if you just have a house, though, and you've got a few acres and so forth, and some posts rotting off, and all kinds of things, there is no end of things to do.

DOROTHEA: No, that's for sure.

JACKSON: Well, of course, you've got my age, because I told you when I was born, but I'm 73, you know, and I'm in very good health nowadays. And so I don't feel like that.

BARBARA: You say you have some free time in the summer, have you been able to do traveling? Did you and Maurine do any traveling?

JACKSON: We did some, not any real extensive traveling. We'd occasionally go, once a year or so go down to her son's place in the San Diego area, and we'd go to Portland a number of times and visit with her family and so forth. And, go over to the coast where one of her sisters has a home.

And, we'd go to meetings, professional meetings, and --- but we didn't, one year the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, it was the year I was the president, went to Mexico as a group and met with the Mexican Association. And so, we took a trip down there and went several different places.

DOROTHEA: Well, tell us how you met your wife.

JACKSON: Well, that's kind of an interesting little story. My wife lived here at one time, and her first husband was a musician, and he was the music man at the Burns High School and taught band, and run the band.

DOROTHEA: What was his name?

JACKSON: His name was Robbins, C. Dale Robbins. That would be before your time, I think. (Laughter) I'm sure it would be. But people like Wally Welcome sure would remember him, you know, and some of the old timers. Well, they were here; they must have been here at least four years because her son in San Diego went four years to school here. And her other boy was born here in Burns, the one that is, disadvantaged boy in Portland. But she kept contact with a few old friends here, and one of them was Lois Voegtly, and one of them was --- Well, several of them that she remembered, that are still here like, well, Sue Dalton and Kathreen Woyak, and a number of those. And of course, Wally Welcome was a friend of her husbands at that time. Well anyway, she kept up this, some relationship with these people.

She lost her first husband from cancer, must have been about, well pretty near thirty years ago. And she ran a studio down there, and was teaching some artwork, and so forth, just a private thing, you know. And she came up to Portland to work with an artist up in Portland, and was there and visiting with her sisters, and some way or other she got in contact with Lois Voegtly. And Lois said, "Well, why don't you come up and spend a few days with us, and there is a Christmas party at Christmas time."

So, Maurine came up here to visit, and they acquired me for a blind date for her. (Laughter) And the Voegtlys knew me a little, or Ray did, but not real well, and he knew me as Jackson, because that's my full name. So, I was introduced to Maurine as Jackson. So, she never called me Jack, she always called me Jackson, and all of her family calls me Jackson. But people that have known me a long time, like yourself, call me Jack. (Laughter) But that's how we got acquainted, and it went on from there. And pretty soon we were married, in a year or so, actually.

DOROTHEA: Well, that was nice, because now you have a nice family.

JACKSON: Uh huh.

BARBARA: The bachelor got hooked, huh?

JACKSON: Yeah. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Now, your wife did some painting. You said something about she was teaching painting, artwork. Did she do a lot of the work that I see hanging on your walls around here?

JACKSON: Well of course, these three are hers. That's a copy up there with a deer in it, but these two are originals. This is Jean Scrivner's.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

JACKSON: Maurine bought that from Jean. And then there are, some things in there are her work, and some things aren't. There is a portrait of her right there that I can see there, that was done by a portrait artist in Portland.

One year, oh I don't know, twenty years ago probably, I went to Alaska on a moose hunting deal with a couple of my friends from here, and while I was up there she sat for this painting in Portland. But she did all kinds of artwork. She painted in acrylics and oils, that's acrylic. I think that's acrylic, but some of her work is in oils. And then in the front room, there are four watercolors that her mother did. Her mother was an artist, and her mother worked in watercolors.

But she, in her studio down there, I don't think they did any actual painting of pictures. But they did, oh, they did, fixed up furniture, and antiques, and stuff like this. Did all that kind of stuff.

DOROTHEA: Did she do that here?

JACKSON: Oh, she did a little for herself. She didn't, you know, she'd create, she'd have a place in the house that needed something, and she'd create something for it. And so --- and then she just, she did a lot of painting of pictures, and there are some around the community that people have. And her family has all got stuff of hers hanging on their walls and so forth. I ended up with a few, but not all of them. There is a lot of real dandies that aren't here.

This picture has kind of an interesting story. The first time I took her up on the Steens Mountain, and her son from Portland was here at the time. We camped there, where that scene is, and that's up at the, kind of the headwaters of the Blitzen River. There is an old homestead there that, well, it belongs to the outfit at Roaring Springs, but it's a cow camp, up this way from ... they call the Huffman Place. While her son and I went down and fished in the creek, which doesn't show up very big there, but it's a pretty good-sized little stream down there a ways, and we caught a bunch of fish. While we did that, she sketched that, and then she came home and painted, made that painting. So it's got a lot of --- and I'd camped there a number of other times before that, you

know, with some of the men. So, it has a lot of sentimental value that --- That's the first place we camped.

DOROTHEA: You mentioned going up on the Steens in your earlier years and doing hunting, did you ever go up and hunt with a party? Or --- Clint's Uncle Paul used to, and Jim Howard used to, what do they call it, do --- they took people out hunting, anyway.

JACKSON: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever get in contact with any of them?

JACKSON: No, I don't believe so. But we did have two fellows that grew up down in that country that went with us, and one of them was Johnnie Smyth, you remember Johnnie Smyth?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACKSON: And the other one was Judd Currey, I don't know if you knew Judd. He used to have the Richfield Oil Agency. They both grew up down by Andrews. And Johnnie Smyth's father had a store up on the Blitzen River in the summertime, in the early, early days when there was lots of sheep up there. So he knew that, they both knew that country real well. And we hunted deer for twenty-five years up on top, above Andrews, and that country they knew. They just taught us a whole lot of that country. And Johnnie --- do you know Margie Shull?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACKSON: She's Johnnie Smyth's sister, you know. She told me that she was there when they were building that homestead cabin that is, just the remains of it there. And one year, Maurine used that on her Christmas cards, a copy of that on our Christmas cards. And she'd sent one to Marge, and of course I've know Marge, I worked for them down there when they were ranching at Andrews. And then she belongs to the Presbyterian Church, which we belong to, and so we'd see her up there from time to time.

But I was really interested that she was there when they were building that. Some of their relatives had some homesteads up near there. It's --- Johnnie and Judd knew all that country and they knew who had lived here and there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACKSON: And we were all over that country before they built these roads, before the BLM built that road and so forth.

DOROTHEA: Now, let's see, did Judd have some children?

JACKSON: Yeah, he had a son and a daughter.

DOROTHEA: And Buster was one of them?

JACKSON: Buster was the boy.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Because Buster has moved back here now.

JACKSON: Oh, is he?

DOROTHEA: And he's living out in the old Bertha Solomon house.

JACKSON: Is that right?

DOROTHEA: He is going to put a doublewide trailer out where Johnnie used to have, Johnnie Wood used to have his place. Well, I guess it was his parent's homestead out on the Crane highway. And he has been farming, and farming, and farming, he's just crazy about it.

JACKSON: Well, I'll be ---

DOROTHEA: Just loves it. Yeah.

JACKSON: I didn't know that. I'm surprised, I didn't know that.

DOROTHEA: He is retired now.

JACKSON: Because he grew up right next to Eshelby's, and I'm around Eshelby's a lot, and talk to Bud a lot.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

JACKSON: I'm surprised I didn't know that.

DOROTHEA: Well, they just came back, just, oh, a couple months ago.

JACKSON: Oh, I see, a short time.

DOROTHEA: Just about a month ago. Because, yeah, he has just gotten here. In fact, he got here too late to put in the alfalfa, but that is what he has been doing. He's going to get this alfalfa growing. And they're going to put a double wide out there. But right now they are living there at Bertha Solomon's house.

JACKSON: Well, I have been wondering who was living in Bertha's house.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah. Well, they have ---

JACKSON: Apparently, he just have the whole ranch then, huh? Thad Geer had that leased, or something.

DOROTHEA: No, well --- see they are just living there in the house.

JACKSON: I see.

DOROTHEA: And they're farming Johnnie's place out there, the old Wood's homestead.

JACKSON: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Do you know where that is?

JACKSON: No.

DOROTHEA: Well, I'm not too sure myself anymore, because they've moved around that property so much. But it's probably about twelve miles out of Burns, on the Lawen-Crane highway.

JACKSON: On the Lawen-Crane highway.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and it's on the east side of the highway. And it used to be a little old pink and white, I think, trailer, singlewide that set there. And he and Nadine lived there for quite a while, until they moved to Burns. But Buster and Delcy is going to move out there as soon as they get it farmed and settled, so that they can put a house on there. But they're really excited, and I'm ---

JACKSON: I don't see how they can make a living out there.

DOROTHEA: Well, he is retired, and this is what he wants to do.

JACKSON: Oh well, when you're retired, you know, you can probably do anything.

DOROTHEA: So, you know, I mean --- I don't know what he did, they came from California, and they sold their place down there and decided to come back home.

JACKSON: Look at that, he is just --- I can remember when he was just a little guy.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, yeah. What is he ---

JACKSON: And he's retired.

DOROTHEA: But he is what, he's probably 59 or 60.

JACKSON: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, believe it or not.

JACKSON: That's too young to retire. But if you are doing something you don't particularly want to do, why that's the time to retire, I guess.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, right, right. But this is what he wanted to do, he wanted to come back. And there was a chance and he was at the age where he could retire, so this is what he did. And, you know, I mean this --- I'm glad to see him come back.

JACKSON: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I don't know whether it will work, but hopefully. But Delcy's dad is getting, he's getting up --- what is Johnnie now, he must be --- 1906, he must be, well he must be 80 ---

JACKSON: Well, up in his '80s someplace.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, 80 something.

JACKSON: He's still working, isn't he?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and he still works, still runs that shop, and goes there six days a week.

JACKSON: Has he got any cows now, yet? He used to have.

DOROTHEA: Well, somebody said something about his ---

JACKSON: I've been out there a few times to take care of them.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, he's still --- has a few head that he goes out and feeds every day, so he must have a few head yet. But yeah, he ---

JACKSON: Well, I started slowing down in some respects several years ago. You see, eight years ago I had a new hip joint put in. I limped about six, seven years on that, before that, before I did it. Well, I got so, some things I just couldn't do anymore.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACKSON: And then, after I finally got this taken care of, why some things that I had had to quit doing, I just stayed quit. Like horse work and obstetrical work in cattle, some of that got too hard to do anymore. At least I couldn't get up and down, and a lot of it you were down on the ground working and so forth.

And the last, the last section I did on a heifer --- I had quit, I hadn't done it for a year or two.

And I was out in Drewsey vaccinating some cattle and they had a heifer out there that needed a section badly. And she was in a place, there was no way they could haul her to town or anything else, so I managed to do one. And she was down on the ground --- some of them we do when they are standing up. But she was down, and she wouldn't stand, and so we had to do her on the ground, so we did it. But I got down there, and if I had to get up to get something, they had to lift me up. I could put my hands on the animal and get up, but then I would contaminate my hands, I couldn't do that.

DOROTHEA: Right, right.

JACKSON: So, I had to go up and get some suture material or something. And that morning, I had turned down a good client right close to town here, because I wasn't doing it anymore. That was the last one I did. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Then get out there and did that.

JACKSON: And that was just about a month before I had my hip fixed.

DOROTHEA: Well, our little light is blinking again, and we're wondering if we've got enough information to put on another tape.

JACKSON: I don't know what it would be.

DOROTHEA: Can you think of anything else that you would like to add?

JACKSON: Well, I'll just say that I've always been very happy that I came here and settled here. I've enjoyed my life here, my work, and my lifestyle very much. And although it was kind of a struggle to start with, it's always been, I've always enjoyed it.

DOROTHEA: Well, if you don't think that we've got enough to cover another tape with, well, we'll ---

JACKSON: Well, I'm sure we don't, I don't know what it would be. We can just visit about what's going on.

DOROTHEA: We could visit, right.

JACKSON: That's what we've been doing here for quite a while.

DOROTHEA: We'd like to thank you for the afternoon and the time you've spent with us. And

we've enjoyed this; it's been real informative. Barbara, is there anything else that you can think of that we might ---

BARBARA: I was just wondering if you knew anything about the Kiger horses that they have up on the Steens, or what do you think about the so called Kiger horses? Or should we not get into that?

JACKSON: I do some work for the BLM out there with those horses, and I --- But I don't think much of the whole program, really. I mean in the first place ---

(END OF TAPE)

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