

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #343 - Sides A & B

Subject: Georgia Crow - With Video

Place: Crow Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: June 30, 1993

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and I'm here with Barbara Lofgren, and today we're talking with Georgia Crow at her home in Burns, Oregon. And the date is June the 30th, 1993. The video will also be stored along with this tape, and their numbers will be number 343. Georgia, we'd like to have you tell us your full name, including your maiden name.

GEORGIA CROW: I was born Georgia Helena Creswell, and then I became Georgia Crow.

DOROTHEA: And when were you born?

GEORGIA: I was born in 1914, in Seymour, Connecticut.

DOROTHEA: What are your parent's names?

GEORGIA: My mom's name was Effie Wilbur Creswell, and my dad's name was George Nevling Creswell.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about where they came from, and what they did before --- maybe how they met.

GEORGIA: Well, I could go back and remember just little sketches of what I've been told. But Dad was kind of a, what they called a fiddle foot, he liked to move around. But he went to night school; he worked in the cotton mills in Georgia and Florida, and Carolinas and got his certificate to do bookkeeping. And after he got that, he moved up the country and he worked in a logging camp in West Virginia, keeping books. But little by little things turned, and he was part of the cook, and then he worked in the fields some, and then he left there and just worked his way across the

continent, all up and down the Pacific Coast.

And he was interested in apple growing, so he was in Hood River Valley for a while. And then he went back down the coast and he was in California during the earthquake. And his father died in Georgia, and he had to go home.

And then by that time, his brother, John, had married my mother's sister in New York State. And in the course of events, why Dad went to New York State to visit his brother, and he met my mother. And then he was still interested in horticulture, and he went from one fair to another selling the Better Fruit Magazine, which is no longer, I think, in existence, and showing how to pack different kinds of fruit. And in so doing, he ended up in Connecticut, and he met Mr. Hale the peach man, and went to work on the J. H. Hale peach orchards.

And he kept in contact with my mom, and pretty soon they were married. And they lived on the Hale Orchards for a number of years. Then it became wartime again, and Mr. Hale said that things weren't going good, and if Dad wanted to leave, he had better go west like he had always talked about.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Where was this Hale Orchard located?

GEORGIA: In Hartford County, Connecticut.

BARBARA: In Connecticut.

GEORGIA: Uh huh. Seymour was the closest, reasonably big town, I think, as near as I know. But Connecticut, being rather small, there is lots of places.

But Dad brought the family back to Oregon then, we came on the train. It was supposed to be just kind of a trip to show my mom where he had been. But we got out here and the flu epidemic caught us in Corvallis.

Way back then you could work at the college and get some degrees in things that you were interested in. So we were in Corvallis, and Dad worked for Oregon State, it was Oregon Ag then, OAC. And we were there for a little better than a year, I think, in Corvallis. And he got to know more about apple growing and what he wanted to do.

And he already knew some people in Hood River Valley. And so we went up there and

visited one summer. I remember living in a tent, and a big old leghorn rooster used to scare me out of my boots. I had to carry a stick every time I went outside.

And he, we were staying with a Mr. Hoover that had; he had worked for in West Virginia in the logging camp. And the ranch next door became vacant, and Dad eventually bought that. And we moved to Hood River in 1918, and that's where I grew up, and where two of my brothers were born. And I had a sister and a brother that came out from Connecticut with me. My sister was born in Corvallis.

DOROTHEA: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

GEORGIA: I had three brothers and a sister.

DOROTHEA: And what were their names?

GEORGIA: Well, Nevling is my older brother. I was the oldest in the family. And then Ruth was next, and than Evans and then Ivan. And I lost Ivan a year ago.

BARBARA: And so, you had your schooling then, grade school and high school in Hood River?

GEORGIA: Yes, uh huh.

BARBARA: And then where did you go to college? I assume you went to college?

GEORGIA: I went to Monmouth.

BARBARA: Monmouth Normal School?

GEORGIA: Normal School then.

BARBARA: And what years did you go to school at Monmouth?

GEORGIA: '34 and '35, and part of '36, I guess. I worked at home part time in the apple packing sheds to get a little extra money to go. And I didn't go complete all the time, I skipped a little. But I

BARBARA: I was wondering, we were visiting with Gladys Beckley last week, and she went to Monmouth Normal School, and I was wondering perhaps if you went somewhere around the same time that she did.

GEORGIA: No, no, she was way ---

BARBARA: Finished before you.

GEORGIA: You knew Helen Felt?

BARBARA: Yes.

GEORGIA: Well, Helen was in with me.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

GEORGIA: Yes. And Laura Stephenson, whose daughter just kind of vanished here, you know, Crystal. Laura and I were in the same classes.

DOROTHEA: Oh, is that where she came from?

GEORGIA: Well, I don't know, but ---

DOROTHEA: Around there someplace, huh?

GEORGIA: But she was from, maybe out in here, I don't know. Because you go to school --- now I never even realized that Helen was from Harney County, really. I knew her pretty, fairly well in some respects, and I never paid much attention. Dolores, she and I were good friends down there, but you just ---

BARBARA: You didn't visit about where you grew up and that sort of thing.

GEORGIA: No, and we weren't that close.

BARBARA: You were more focused on where you were going, not where you had been.

GEORGIA: But when I got out here, lo and behold, I met the pair of them. And Laura and her family became pretty good friends of ours, because John knew her husband. And one thing led to another, and they spent one winter with us, pretty much, out there on the lake, because she wasn't teaching that winter, and he was trapping rats. And the camp they had was pretty cold and drafty, and John wasn't very well. I don't know whether you know John Stephenson or not, but he had a real bad heart problem when he was little. And so, they spent the days with us pretty much and took the kids back to camp and put them to bed out of the drafts at night, pretty much.

BARBARA: So, you finished your, got your teaching certificate, two years. Basically, it was a two-year program?

GEORGIA: Yes, it was.

BARBARA: And when you finished, what kind of offers, and what kind of places did you have an

opportunity to teach?

GEORGIA: Well, I really didn't, I applied --- I don't remember anymore, it's too long ago, but I applied several places. But they were pretty much prone to pick places for you ---

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

GEORGIA: --- at that time. And they told me I was very adapted to outdoor places, and Harney County would be a real good place to go. But they told me, do not take the Narrows School.

BARBARA: And why was that did they say?

GEORGIA: Well, after I got here, I think I found out, because John went to school there, and they used to be kind of pesty to the teachers there, years ago. (Laughter) Nothing very serious, but they used to ---

BARBARA: They liked to see what they could get away with?

GEORGIA: Yeah, some of the kids.

BARBARA: And so what position did you accept then?

GEORGIA: I took the Voltage School, the last year there was a Voltage School. And I boarded with the Culver Marshall's out there. And we, it was the year of 1936 when I came, and it was cold, similar to this winter only I don't think there was quite so much snow. But we had very cold weather. For about six weeks, we didn't even see zero. And ---

DOROTHEA: Does your kitty want in? (Scratching at door)

GEORGIA: Yeah, but she won't --- you could let her in.

BARBARA: I'll do that.

GEORGIA: Okay, but I think when she sees a stray, she'll ---

DOROTHEA: She'll want back out.

GEORGIA: She'll take off. She just thinks that --- See --- She has got some food out there, maybe she will settle, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Well, how many students did you have out at that school?

GEORGIA: I had the Miller kids; I should have written that ---

BARBARA: Can you remember any of their names, the students?

GEORGIA: Oh sure. I had Taft Miller's children from Frenchglen from September until December. And there was Gene, and Don, and Virginia [Frankie], and Lucille, and Delta, or "Tiny" we called her. There were five of them. And there were Culver's two boys, Conly and Culver Junior. And Jinks Harris' daughters, Julia and, well we called her Peggy; I think her name was Margaret though. And she doesn't live here in Harney County now, she --- I don't know, I think in Canada, but I'm not certain. But I know she doesn't live here. And of course, Lynn was born after Jinks and his wife moved to town. But that was how school was out there. And it was just a very much of a country school.

DOROTHEA: Tell us about the winters. You said you had a cold winter there. And I read somewhere where it was pretty hard to go to school, so you closed it down.

GEORGIA: No, well that was the fault of the school board. I told them and told them that I could not get the schoolhouse warm, the stove wouldn't heat. And one thing led to another --- I got kind of saddled with the cooking and the cleaning and taking care of the kids and everything. Culver sent his wife to California with his parents that winter. And so the teacher had to fill in for the cook and stuff at home. And one morning, I just got up and I started the wash. And he said, "Aren't you going to school this morning?" I said, "No, I've told you and told you that until that stove is fixed we're not going to school. I told all the kids." That was after Christmas, that was when it got cold, you see, and I told the kids, don't come to school. I sent a note home with the Harris girls.

And so we, I said, "I'm going to wash this morning, I can't get that schoolhouse warm." And oh, he got right on the ball, he got John, and I think he got somebody else, but Johnny says no, it was just he and Culver and I that went over there. We took that pipe down and couldn't even put a broomstick down the pipe, it was that stuffed up. And ---

DOROTHEA: A lot of soot in it.

GEORGIA: Oh, you can bet on that. It was a wonder I hadn't burned that place down, because I always could build a fire. And it was one of those great big tall stoves, barrel-shaped, you know, and a water tank on top for moisture in the air, and so on. And we got it all fixed up. And so then, when we went back, that's kind of in a way how I met John. I had been asking for an ax to cut

wood, but I didn't have one. So the boys and I were beating up the thinner pieces of slab over sharp corners on the big blocks, and getting by that way. Because I had asked for an ax and didn't get it. And John brought me an ax and cut a lot of wood when he discovered what was going on like that. And then I --- with the stove all cleaned out, then I had to open the doors and windows to cool it off, until I got used to the ---

BARBARA: You went from one extreme to the other.

GEORGIA: Sure. That's the way it had to be though, I guess.

DOROTHEA: How long did the winter last? Did it seem like a long time?

GEORGIA: Well, it was so cold that when we walked to --- the kids wanted to ride horseback, and it was too cold to ride horseback. And I tried to get them to walk, but they wouldn't do it. So I walked and one boy would walk with me. And then the stubborn one would ride, and they both got to crying and the tears would freeze on their jacket. And I told them I was just too cold and too tired, I couldn't get through the drifts any longer. And I got them off the horse, and we led the horse, and I made them break trail to get warm.

And oh, I don't remember, I think probably we put up with that very cold weather for a month to six weeks, and then it began to moderate. But it was the dirtiest snow I ever saw. Fell right on the alkali dust, and it would blow north to south one day, and back the next. And it just picked up --- it was dry and dusty under that snow that winter.

DOROTHEA: Huh. It hadn't rained earlier than?

GEORGIA: No, huh uh. Not enough to settle the dirt.

DOROTHEA: Dust, yeah.

GEORGIA: And the lake was dry, of course, or dry way far back. That year, there were sheep and cattle both out on the lake for pasture. And it was ---

BARBARA: Your students, did you have all eight grades, or how many years did you have?

GEORGIA: No, I had first grade, and third grade, and I think fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh. They were kind of scattery, because of the Miller kids from --- and the --- one little Harris girl was in the first grade, and one was in the third I think. Time goes back too far, I can't remember. But we had

lots of fun, you know, out there.

DOROTHEA: Do you want to stop for a minute?

GEORGIA: Oh, I didn't think about that. That settles that. (Turns off scanner.)

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: Did you enjoy teaching?

GEORGIA: Oh, not too much. Once I got out here, I realized that I think Mom and Dad kind of shoved it. He had two sisters that were good teachers, and back then at that time girls were either nurses, or teachers, or homemakers. You didn't have any choices really. And I think that I can remember back, they're saying, well you go to grade school, you go to high school, then you'll go to teacher's college. And you just did the things that Mom and Dad said, you know, pretty much. Not quite like they do these days.

BARBARA: So it was okay, but it really wasn't what you ---

GEORGIA: It wasn't what I ---

BARBARA: --- wanted to do.

GEORGIA: I was much --- after I met John and he had big dreams of having his ranch and cattle. And I was already riding horses to school and helping with chores there at the Marshall place, they had calves and cows that had to be looked after. And so it was just natural that I --- one year was sufficient.

BARBARA: It was a feeling to you, the ranch life then just ---

GEORGIA: Well, I'd always followed Dad at home and worked out in the orchard. So it was just kind of automatic, I guess you'd say, that I saw the other side of things.

DOROTHEA: Did you ---

GEORGIA: She wants out again (cat).

DOROTHEA: Did you learn how to ride a horse young, or ---

GEORGIA: I never had ridden a horse until I came to Harney County.

DOROTHEA: How did you learn? Just get on it?

GEORGIA: Just get on him and go.

DOROTHEA: Start riding, huh?

GEORGIA: Yes. Culver helped me a time or two get on. And being sort of a large girl and all, why --- and I wasn't afraid of the horse, and he was a gentle old guy, his name was Banjo. And I got so I could throw the saddle on and cinch him up and go.

DOROTHEA: Just like an old pro, huh?

GEORGIA: Well, sort of. You just have to do those things when you get out there and stuck with it. That's how you learn. And Banjo and I had one, pretty much of an experience during this cold weather, it was just right after I came back from Christmas vacation. The cows were out on the lake in the tules and around. And one Saturday morning, they were going to gather the cattle, and Culver just told me to go in a certain direction, and bring back everything I saw. And I said, "When I get out there in those tules, how will I know where to go?" I don't know how to get back home. "Oh," he said, "just give Banjo his head, he'll bring you back."

But we got down a trail and I found an old cow with a tiny calf. And I'll be blessed, it couldn't get up, and I wasn't about to leave her out there in the tule patch with a calf that couldn't get up. And so I did the dumb thing, I jumped off my horse and thought I could shove the calf up into the saddle at least. But I couldn't, he was just that much too heavy.

DOROTHEA: They're heavier than you think, aren't they?

GEORGIA: Uh huh. And this old cow was just going bahhh, right at my heels, you know. And I realized later that I sure pulled a boo-boo. But I carried that calf for as far, and led my horse, as far as I could at a time, and then I put it down and picked it up and go some more. And the poor little thing's feet were frozen and its ears were frozen.

And we got home with it, I went back the same trail I came, and the cows, when I started them, they knew where to go, and they went. And when I got home with that calf, why, Culver says, "What will we do with it?" I said, "We'll put it in the house in a canvas full of snow and thaw it out. And you've got to get me some milk to feed it." "My wife wouldn't do that." I said, "She is not here." (Laughter) And so the boys and I wrapped the calf up in a tarp full of snow, and he got me some milk from somewhere, and I fed it. And by morning, it was stamping around in the

kitchen, and it never lost its feet, and it only lost just a little part of its ears. And he didn't lose its tail. And he took it out in the barn lot where he put the old cow, and saved the calf.

DOROTHEA: Okay, did you do some milking too, while you were there?

GEORGIA: Not at Culver's. But after I had an old calf, a little Guernsey cow at home, when we, after John and I were married, and I learned to milk. I never learned to milk at home because Dad was very much against girls doing that kind of work. His mother had always had to, and he didn't believe in it, see. And I had brothers that were supposed to.

BARBARA: Can you tell us maybe some of the other things that happened in your school? Were your students --- did they think of some high-jinks type of things to do? Or did you have programs or that sort of thing?

GEORGIA: Oh, we had a Christmas program, but I had lots of help from Culver's wife. It happened before --- she helped me before she left. And we had all the neighborhood come, and we had a little --- the kids gave a little, poems and things like that. I wasn't too good at planning stuff like that. And then Carl Jones could play the guitar, I think it was, and we all sang some songs, and it was just a little bit.

DOROTHEA: Now Carl Jones, is he some relation of Katie Wheeler?

GEORGIA: He is a brother.

DOROTHEA: A brother.

GEORGIA: Uh huh, yes. And he is now at Drewsey with Conly Marshall.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he is?

GEORGIA: Uh huh. He is not very well.

DOROTHEA: But he is still living.

GEORGIA: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Tell us about what it was like to; what was your day like? You got to school at what o'clock?

GEORGIA: Oh, I suppose that we got up around six all the time. And Culver was pretty good to cook our breakfast. And of course, Violet was very good to do that while she was there. But after

Christmas, it was up to either Culver or myself. He had a girl there, but she didn't do anything, she was just in the way. But then it took us about, possibly pretty close to an hour to walk to school, or if we rode, we had to take care of our horses, about a quarter of a mile away from the school. And I had to always build up the fire. We'd stoke it at night, and it would last over pretty good because I had a few lumps of coal to put in it at night. But I suppose that ---

DOROTHEA: If it took you about an hour, what is it about four miles or so?

GEORGIA: Oh, it was better than two, I don't know. But the kids had to play along the way, you know, a little bit. And we had gates to open and shut, and all that. I'm just guessing, I don't remember anymore for sure. But school started at nine, classes. And then we had recess, and we'd play some games. And then at noon, sometimes, after the weather got good in the spring, Edna Haines, Marcus wife, was teaching over at Sodhouse, and she'd bring her kids over for lunchtime. And we'd take our lunches and go up a canyon in the rocks and look for arrowheads and one thing and another. And one thing that always pleased the kids, we'd put a few crumbs of bread in the ant hills, and we'd see how many ants it took to shove a pretty good sized crumb of bread around. And little things that didn't amount to much, but gave the kids a lot of fun.

DOROTHEA: What was your afternoons then like, did you have rest periods?

GEORGIA: Well, we had a recess again in the afternoon. And as I remember, the kids all stayed, even the little ones. I don't remember whether Jinks' girls walked across the field home earlier than the rest of them or not. But they --- we always went home, oh, between three-thirty and four usually. Sometimes I had to stay a little longer. And before Christmas, the Miller kids lived a quarter of a mile down the road, and they used to charge home and then be back up and help me clean up the schoolhouse.

That was one funny little episode. Just before Christmas, John and Taft Miller had always been buddy-buddy since John was a wee one, and Taft used to babysit him years ago. And so he was visiting there at Miller's one night when the kids all went home. And the girls come tearing back, and they never would call me Miss Creswell. They asked me if they could call me Missy. Creswell was too much for them to say, they said. So I said, "Alright, if you behave yourselves, you

can say Missy." So they come tearing into the schoolhouse and, "Missy, if we help you clean up will you let John take you home tonight?" (Laughter)

BARBARA: This is John Crow?

GEORGIA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: John Crow.

GEORGIA: And I said, "Sure, if he wants to." See, he lived in a cabin just over the fence from where Culver lived. And I said, "If that is what he wants to do, I'll go with him if he is going home." And so they rushed down and told John that Missy would go with him. And boy, they came up, and you never saw the dust raise more in that schoolroom than it did that night. I always sprinkled the floor so that the alkali wouldn't fly around so much. But those kids they just grabbed a broom, and we pretty near smothered while I corrected papers and they got the schoolhouse ready. You remember little things like that, you know, through the years.

BARBARA: So, is that how you met John, or was that just from being a neighbor to Culver Marshall?

GEORGIA: Oh, I had met him off and on all along. But then he, after that, why he took me to town, and up to Katie's. Katie Harris was awfully good to me when I first came to town. And so it was just ---

DOROTHEA: Now was Katie married at that time?

GEORGIA: She was married to Bill Harris at that time. And she had four boys, I believe, I think all four of them were there then. It is hard to remember for sure. But Bud and the one that is around right now, and Jerry, Pat, yeah, I think they were all born at that time. I can't quite recall for sure. It seems as if maybe the younger one was born after I came. But anyway that was my home away from home when I was in town, why Katie always had a space for me. And of course, she'd known Johnny since they were little kids out in Catlow Valley.

DOROTHEA: Did they go to school together, more or less?

GEORGIA: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How much older is John than you?

GEORGIA: He is eleven years.

DOROTHEA: Eleven years.

GEORGIA: He will soon be 91, this coming month. And he just flies around.

BARBARA: He certainly does. And so what was your courtship like with John?

GEORGIA: Well, it began, I guess, the day that we cleaned the stovepipe. And just little things along the way. And we ran out of groceries out there, and he was going to town, and Culver gave me a list, and I went to Tiller's Store, and they had a charge account there. And John and I went to the movies that night, and brought the groceries home. And like I say, I was doing the housekeeping because Culver ---

DOROTHEA: Was his wife ill? Is that ---

GEORGIA: No, Culver was a --- not very nice at times, and he had a gal friend from Pendleton that he wanted to come out there.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

GEORGIA: And she moved in while I was away at Christmas vacation. Her name was Margaret, and she wore some of my clothes and snatched some of them when she left.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

GEORGIA: Oh yes. And they weren't going to --- she lived at Pendleton, and he --- I maybe shouldn't tell these tales, but ---

DOROTHEA: He is gone anyway.

GEORGIA: We got a telegram in the mail saying that her mother was in the hospital and needed, she needed to be back home. And so in those days, you didn't phone a telegram, they mailed it from up here out, and we kids brought it home from the mail that day. And so, well, Culver said, "I can't leave, I've got to feed the cows." And I said, "If these boys and I can't find somebody to help us feed cows, it will be the day." So I packed his suitcase and told her to get hers packed. And Carl Jones saved the day; he came through the gate just as I was shoving them out. And he fed the cows for us.

BARBARA: So it was Culver's mother that was ill?

GEORGIA: No, no.

DOROTHEA: No, it was the girl's mother.

GEORGIA: The girl's mother.

BARBARA: Okay.

GEORGIA: And I don't have any idea what her last name was. I probably knew at the time, but Margaret was the only thing ---

BARBARA: So Culver's wife had gone to ---

GEORGIA: He sent her to California with his parents when they took their California trip in the winter. And then ---

DOROTHEA: Did she come back in the spring then?

GEORGIA: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: She did.

GEORGIA: Yeah. They must have patched up, I guess, because they lived together a long time after that. But it was ---

BARBARA: So what other things did you and Johnny do before you got married?

GEORGIA: Oh, we used to ---

BARBARA: When did you think maybe that you, that he might be the one you might want to spend your time with?

GEORGIA: Well, we only went together six weeks, so you can see that we didn't plan very much.

BARBARA: Oh, it was kind of a whirlwind romance then, wasn't it?

GEORGIA: We just, we came to some dances up here, and we went to Crane to a school thing or two. And we went to, he got some stuff in the mail one time that they, and so did I, some packages that they wouldn't bring on the route, it was too big for the box. So he volunteered to take me as he went to get his. And the roads were terrific, and we got stuck in a water hole, and drowned the car. That was one of my first experiences with drowning a car. He got out and dried it all out, and was testing for spark, and he said, "Step on the starter." It pretty near knocked him off of the --- I did a good job, I guess. (Laughter)

BARBARA: The sparks were flying in more ways than one, huh?

GEORGIA: Yeah, uh huh. And he got it going again, and we went to Princeton and got our packages. I don't remember, see we were married the 26th of March, and it was just before Christmas that the kids had him take me home from the ---

BARBARA: So you had really known him about three months, but only dated for about six weeks?

GEORGIA: Yes. And then we made our plans; we came to town on a weekend, I think, and went up to the courthouse. And we thought we could get married that day, but they made us wait three days--- John said they told us to sober up. (Laughter) And then he had, I don't, I imagine you do, but I don't know how long you've been here --- so Wenzels, you know, had a store and one of the Wenzel boys, Paul and Hubert told John, he found out that John figured on getting married. And he said, "I don't want you to get a courthouse wedding," he says, "I want you to be married at the Lutheran Church." And so he talked John into going to the Lutheran Church. And he stood up with us and got another person. We had to have two witnesses.

So after we sobered up three days, why it was on a Saturday, I think, and we were married. And then somebody got wind of it, and the Sitz boys had a garage up here --- well it is Copeland Yards now, and they decided that they would fix it so that John would have to take me up and down main street and have all the whoop and holler about things.

DOROTHEA: Charivari you.

GEORGIA: Yeah. But it didn't work, I caught them. We were in the office at the church, just getting our papers signed, the marriage license and everything, and I looked out and I said, "There are two guys tearing up the car." And so the minister turned us loose right --- it was Reverend Wildermuth. I don't remember if you know --- well anyway he let John go right quick, and they took off just in a hurry. But because the road was so terrible, John had wrapped the car up real good with rags to keep the distributor from getting wet, and one thing and another, and the only thing they could do was pull the main plug out of the distributor. And all he had to do was shove it back, and we could go. They hadn't had time to tear it up.

And so we took off, and they went the wrong way. We went down Riverside Drive and out across the bridge there. It was dark, of course, by the time we were heading home, and we could

see this long string of lights. But as we had come to town that day we had put a post in a couple of holes out in Hanley Lane so that we could know where the dry spots were, and anybody that might follow would get stuck. And sure enough the lights quit out there about Culp's, and we got home.

But the next, no it was a Friday night that we got married, because on Saturday we cleaned up the cabin where he had been living, and the yard around it, and got it fixed up so that it would be more comfortable for the two of us. And we heard noises, and looked out across the field, and here came just one car after another. They --- and we weren't going to let them in for awhile, but we had to because we had a shelf up high, and glass jars on it, and they began to beat the sides of that old cabin with 2 x 4's, no less, and the jars started to slide down onto the bed. We figured we'd have a wreck, so we let them in, and went to the Narrows and had a big dance. A lot of fun that night. Everybody in the country was around.

DOROTHEA: Well, this was in March, did you continue teaching school then?

GEORGIA: I finished the year, yes.

DOROTHEA: And then, was that in the day where once you got married, you didn't teach school anymore?

GEORGIA: No, I just ----

DOROTHEA: Was that your choice?

GEORGIA: That was my choice. No, nothing was said about the fact that we got married. We got married in March, and it was April and May, and up until the first part of June before school was out that year, because we had missed quite a little school during the cold weather. And now and then, there would be a storm, and we didn't get to school. We had to make it up, you know.

DOROTHEA: You had to go a certain amount of days then, also?

GEORGIA: Yes, uh huh. I don't think that part has changed a whole big lot. I think that the number of days are about the same now, as they were then.

DOROTHEA: Well then, is that where John ranched, from that cabin?

GEORGIA: Well, no, he was working for the refuge at the time that we were married. He was counting cattle in for pasture, and riding fence. And he did that for about a year and a half after we

were married. And then we took the stage line from Crane to Blitzen.

DOROTHEA: You drove that?

GEORGIA: Yeah, for a year. And then ---

BARBARA: In a truck, or with a horse and ---

GEORGIA: It was a pickup. And the roads were terrible. And that winter that we were on that stage line, if the roads were terribly bad, we'd go to Blitzen and get our lunch and get the postmaster there to fix the mail up right away quick, and before our trail would get blown full we'd come back down to Frenchglen and stay with Elmer and Reatha Dunn. And they were real good to us that winter. I don't know how many times we had to do that, but several times, in order that we wouldn't have to fight the road to ---

DOROTHEA: Was Reatha teaching school at that time?

GEORGIA: She was teaching, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And where was this?

GEORGIA: Frenchglen.

DOROTHEA: In Frenchglen. What was your route like? I mean what parts did it consist of?

GEORGIA: We stayed one night in Crane, and we came through Princeton to Diamond, to Frenchglen, to Blitzen. And sometimes when we'd get to Frenchglen why there would be a phone call, come by Roaring Springs. In those days you could cut back across the Catlow Valley. They've got it all fenced up and everything now until you can't go from Roaring Springs to Blitzen, or the old town site there. But at that time there was a pretty good track road across. And when we did that, why Dorothy Corson was the cook there, and she always had lunch ready for us when we brought ---

DOROTHEA: And that was at Roaring Springs?

GEORGIA: Uh huh. It was just a courtesy that we would do that, we didn't have to. And often times we, when we'd go to Crane then we'd go on into town and pick up freight for different people. That's ---

DOROTHEA: Now, Blitzen is not there anymore is there?

GEORGIA: No, there is nothing. I don't think you could hardly find a ---

DOROTHEA: What kind of a town was it?

GEORGIA: Well, it was just one of these old towns. There was a post office and store, and there had been a lot of ranches around, the homesteaders. And there was still a school there that winter that we were on this stage line. I don't remember off hand, I don't remember the name of the teacher now. But I suppose there was about fifteen or twenty people within a short distance at least of the store. And it was one of Cactus Smyth's brothers that had the store and post office that winter.

DOROTHEA: Cactus Smyth's brother?

GEORGIA: Yeah, one of them. And --- Clifford I think it was that was there that winter. And Duvals were there still. I think Duvals were the postal people, and Smyth's had the store that winter.

DOROTHEA: You mean John Smyth's brother? Not Cactus?

GEORGIA: Yeah, Cactus is the one I mean.

DOROTHEA: Cactus' brother?

GEORGIA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Huh. We'll pause for a moment while we turn our tape here.

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: Okay, we're talking about Blitzen. How long after that did Blitzen continue to be a community or a town, or ---

GEORGIA: Oh gosh, I don't know. It just kind of disintegrated a little at a time. There really wasn't much there, but they closed the post office and store, and just kind of folded up everything just very shortly after that year that we were on the stage line. And then ---

BARBARA: Did you do this just once a week, like you'd make that route once a week, or every so many days? Or what?

GEORGIA: Well, one night we stayed in Crane, and then the next day we stayed in Blitzen. We made back and forth, I don't know, made four trips, well anyway it was every other day for a week.

You'd go one way one day, and back the next.

We spent our weekends in Blitzen so that --- and that made it kind of good because we went around to the different neighbors. John had always been out in that country, you see, and he knew all the homesteaders and everything. We used to go branding out to Oscar Downs' and over to Taft Millers. And just all here and there, around. We knew he knew everybody out there.

BARBARA: So you took the mail as well as the freight from the stores?

GEORGIA: It was the mail stage, but then you did the other for extra. I think we got fifty cents a hundred for hauling.

DOROTHEA: A hundred pounds?

GEORGIA: Yeah. You didn't get much in those days. And then on the weekend, we had fun running around to the old, old dilapidated homesteads that were no more, and we'd find barrels. And if we found steel barrels, we could get fifty cents a barrel for bringing them into the oil companies up here. So we did that for fun, part-time. And we made a little extra here and there that way. And then after that year, we were at Squaw Butte out here for the experiment station.

BARBARA: Oh, really.

GEORGIA: We lived at Squaw Butte and took the cattle from out here on Hanley Lane; we took them to Buena Vista for the winter. And we stayed in John's homestead shack that winter at Buena Vista and fed the cattle. And that was one more year before we got the ranch. And then let's see, he told me that we went to the ranch in about 1940, I don't remember exactly. But in the early '40's we went out to Sodhouse there and got the Ted Dunn ranch. And we lived out there for about twenty years straight, and then we sold it to Fred Briggs in 1966. And Fred was a logger over at Lakeview, and that area, and he didn't take it over to work for himself right away, and he'd hire somebody, and they'd fizzle out on him. And he'd come by here, and we had this house by then, and he'd say go out and take care of it. So for about twenty years, we stayed out there more than we stayed here, and looked after the cows and everything for Fred.

DOROTHEA: And now then this is not Sodhouse, it's called a special name. What's the name of that place where you lived?

GEORGIA: Well, it was the Dunn place. And of course at the time it was called the Crow's Nest. And the sign that is on our gate right here, if you know Slim and Bessie Baugh, do you know them?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: Well, Slim and Bessie made that sign for us out there.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

GEORGIA: And we brought it in here. And the reason it's on the gate like it is now, Chris Briels wanted --- I had it on the house. He said I want it on the gate because it makes a special spot that I can send the ambulance or the fire, or anything; they all know where the Crow's Nest is. So it's a landmark anymore, kind of. And that's ---

BARBARA: So for twenty years you worked on your original homestead place as a hired hand, more or less.

GEORGIA: Yeah. After we sold it, we did take care --- John broke his back and that's why we had to sell out. But he could still know what's going on, you know, and supervise things. And Fred felt secure in having him look after. And he always got somebody that would do the haying and things like that.

BARBARA: So, did you live in the house out there then?

GEORGIA: Oh yes, and we can still go back, we're welcome. I bet we're the only ones in Harney County that can still go back to our ranch and say, let's go home. Because we are just as welcome as can be out there.

DOROTHEA: Is there someone living there now?

GEORGIA: Oh yes, Mr. Briggs is there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he is?

GEORGIA: And part of the time, his wife is there. But they still have so much in Lakeview that she can't stay up here constantly.

DOROTHEA: Full time.

GEORGIA: And at Easter time we always brand. We saw all his kids grow up, and now they've all got kids, and we've seen them grow up. And it's like homecoming, you know. Pretty near like a

family of our own, because we didn't have a family. And they all come from everywhere, Klamath Falls, and Lakeview, and all around. And we have a big old time branding every spring.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever, during all this time, did you ever have foster kids, or raise kids for somebody else?

GEORGIA: No, but we always had kids coming and going. I don't know whether you knew the Griffins from out there, Les Griffin. Well, Les' kids moved in with us pretty steady all the time. Because lots of times Les and Lavina weren't around too much. And they'd just kind of turn them loose, and they'd come over. I kept them.

DOROTHEA: This was, let's see if I can remember, Gene.

GEORGIA: Yeah, Gene and ---

DOROTHEA: Arlene.

GEORGIA: Arlene and Mary and Tom.

DOROTHEA: Now is Peggy one of them too?

GEORGIA: No, I don't ---

DOROTHEA: She is not?

GEORGIA: She is different.

DOROTHEA: She is a different Griffin. Okay.

GEORGIA: Yeah. Her name is Griffith.

DOROTHEA: Griffith.

GEORGIA: She was from Princeton.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay. I knew she was from out there somewhere.

GEORGIA: Yeah, and she worked, and still works up here in the hardware store.

DOROTHEA: Right, yeah.

GEORGIA: But her name was Griffith.

DOROTHEA: Now Tommy, is that another one, or is that ---

GEORGIA: That was Tom. There was Tom, and Gene, and Alan was the oldest boy, he lives in The Dalles now. And Gene lives at Maupin, not Maupin, it's between The Dalles and Hood River,

just a little place. You go through Rowena Loops and come to that --- huh, it escapes me now, I can't tell. But it's just a little place; he's been down there for a long time.

DOROTHEA: I know where you are talking about, and I can't think of the name.

GEORGIA: Well, I can't either.

DOROTHEA: Conrad.

GEORGIA: No, no.

DOROTHEA: Not there, okay.

GEORGIA: No, it begins with M, but I can't think.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Around in that area though?

GEORGIA: Yeah, it's between Hood River and The Dalles. But Gene was here last fall; I think it was, for a few minutes. We didn't know he was anywhere around, but he ---

DOROTHEA: Stopped by.

GEORGIA: Stopped by. Gee, he is a mammoth, big guy now.

DOROTHEA: Is he really?

GEORGIA: Yeah. I remember ---

DOROTHEA: And Arlene married a Pierce, right?

GEORGIA: I don't remember who she married. And Hazel, oh we missed Hazel when we were talking.

DOROTHEA: Oh, right.

GEORGIA: And Hazel lives over in Boise.

DOROTHEA: I knew one of them lived in Idaho.

GEORGIA: She and her husband did have a service station. Now I don't know whether they are still in that kind of business or not. And I haven't seen her in years and years.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now didn't one of Ed Campbell's daughters marry one of the ---

GEORGIA: Well I don't know, now Mary ---

DOROTHEA: --- Griffin kids, or was that a Walker?

GEORGIA: Oh, that was a Walker.

DOROTHEA: I think it was a Walker, right.

GEORGIA: Yeah, yeah, it was one of the Walker boys from out there to the Narrows at the time. They had the store at the Narrows when they got married.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

GEORGIA: And that was some other kids that we took care of, we took care of ---

DOROTHEA: Some of the Walkers, too, huh?

GEORGIA: Yeah. Mary and or the Campbell girl and Walker, Virginia, they brought their little one for me to look after, two of them. I had a baby, and a little girl, I sent with John out to, with the cows. But the little boy I had to keep in the crib all the time. I don't remember, they wanted to take a little trip, go somewhere, and they didn't want the kids. So, the Crow's Nest was a good spot. We always had fun doing things like that.

DOROTHEA: So, you've more or less taken care of lots of kids, then?

GEORGIA: Oh yes, and when we first came here I had as many as ten kids every afternoon for story hour, and games, and one thing and another. The little kids, I'd read ABC's and Mother Goose, and stuff like that. And then I'd give them games to play down here on the floor.

DOROTHEA: The neighborhood babysitter, huh?

GEORGIA: Well, sort of, I guess. It didn't really amount to that.

BARBARA: It was fun for you?

GEORGIA: It was fun for everybody. And the parents knew that they were well off if they were over here. And then the older kids, they'd squabble with me who gets to sit close so they could see the pictures, you see. (Laughter) And pretty quick I would be reading the bigger kids stories, and the little ones would be just goggle-eyed down here, and they'd forget to play their games, and they'd listen. But we ---

BARBARA: I think most children love to be read to.

GEORGIA: Well, we played games, and things like that. One time there was a family lived across the street here, and the little girl was, she'd come home from school alone, and nobody there. And she'd come over, she loved to bake cookies, so we used to bake cookies and stuff like that. You

can't do that with kids nowadays; they just don't go for that sort of thing.

DOROTHEA: No, my grandkids do, but a lot of them don't.

GEORGIA: Well, it's, around here, now I have one or two that maybe I could do a little of that but if I have them, then I have to put up with that, and I can't. And of course, I'm older so I guess maybe it works out.

DOROTHEA: So, when did you start working for the fair, out being a, were you a superintendent, or how did you start?

GEORGIA: No, I never did. I knew Naomi Walter, and Naomi took care of the sewing department, and that happened before I ever came to town to stay. That was before we moved in here. And I saw Naomi somewhere, maybe just one morning down there at the fair, and she was shorthanded. And she asked me if I would help her that day, and so I did. And that was my undoing, I guess, because I did it for probably twenty years after that.

And for quite a few times, we came in --- we used to have over here where Jake has his garage, we owned that, and we had a cabin there that we kept lights and water on in the summertime. And so, we'd stay overnight there, and during the fair why we would arrange so that we could leave things out to the ranch and we'd come to town.

And I worked with Naomi, and I worked with her down there until they built the new building, and we got it organized for one full year. And then I told them that I was through. But she couldn't climb those terrible stairs all the time in that old building. I couldn't feel happy just running out on her, so I just stayed and stayed.

But that year that they got the new building set up and everything, it took me pretty near a week working away in it. And John was getting older, and it seemed as if it annoyed him that I was gone so constantly from early in the morning until after eight in the evening. And so ----

BARBARA: You decided it was someone else's turn to do it?

GEORGIA: And I told them no more. Because she was on ground level, and ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. But how many years did she work after you quit?

GEORGIA: Gee, I don't know. She worked probably four or five more years down there after I

quit.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about the fair building upstairs. What all did you show up there?

GEORGIA: Well, we had all the sewing upstairs, and a lot of the hobby things.

DOROTHEA: Oh, like your art crafts, and foam crafts?

GEORGIA: Arts and crafts were upstairs. And oh, I don't remember exactly, but I think it was the sewing and the arts and crafts principally. And then there was something to do with hobby work of some sort. I guess that could have been in the crafts, maybe. Because I remember a time or two some little kids would duck under and get into some exhibits, we had with little cars and things that had been put together. And we had to watch real close for that sort of thing.

DOROTHEA: Were those stairs, they weren't really built right, were they?

GEORGIA: They were terribly steep for anyone that was a little bit older, handicapped in any way. And they were pretty much like a ladder. It wasn't ever built for that sort of thing. I think that upstairs was really built to store things. But the fair grew, and they had to get more room somewhere, so they put the sewing and stuff like that upstairs. And the cooking and gardening and all those things were downstairs.

DOROTHEA: What year approximately did you start helping her?

GEORGIA: I have no idea.

DOROTHEA: Can't remember?

GEORGIA: No.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember what year you retired?

GEORGIA: No. I just do things, and finish things.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever exhibit any of your own handiwork?

GEORGIA: Oh yes, lots of --- I always have made John's shirts. And I used to take shirts, and my blouses. And oh, I don't know, I even took some cooking once or twice. And just embroidery work and things I used to exhibit.

DOROTHEA: Did you get lots of ribbons?

GEORGIA: I've got a whole box out in there. I ---

DOROTHEA: Did they have premiums then, or did you just get ribbons?

GEORGIA: Oh, we got money.

DOROTHEA: Money too.

GEORGIA: A little, a little bit, I don't remember how much. It never was that much to worry about. I even took some arrowheads down there a time or two and got ribbons, until Mrs. Brown said don't bring anymore, that somebody might come in here and just snatch them all. Because she read about where the government walked in, even on an Indian Reservation, down in Arizona or New Mexico somewhere and just took even the Indian exhibits away. And she was afraid that would happen here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I know, you don't gather that kind of thing anymore.

GEORGIA: Well, these came from out there on the ranch, and I never did dig for them at all.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. And every time it rains it seems like it would wash up a new one.

GEORGIA: If it would rain a good shower, or if it gets good and dusty and it blows real hard. And early in the morning, walk toward the east and the sun will glint on the pieces of flint and you can find a lot easier. Most of these things we found just as we would be moving cattle. I'd walk a lot behind the cows and ---

DOROTHEA: Well, it was something I always wanted to do before they said no more. But they had a hill up in Silvies Valley that everybody walked, and I wanted to go one day, and I waited too long.

GEORGIA: Well we wouldn't probably of had them if we'd had to go very much of anywhere, but just like I say, just ordinary --- There was a spring on the ranch, about a quarter to a half mile from the house, and go back after the milk cow and bring her up to the barn and down the cow trails, why these little bitty ones I used to find between the house and the barn. And found them right there in the yard sometimes around in the --- we didn't have any lawn or anything, just a dusty yard for a long, long time. And the chickens would scratch and scratch them up, you know. It was just pretty fun.

DOROTHEA: Where did you start growing your flowers, because I know you've had flowers for

years. You have a yard out here full of them.

GEORGIA: Oh, well let's see, we bought this place in 1961 so, there were flowers here when we bought it. And I grew up in Hood River where what goes in the ground grows. And like I have told you, I was always outside a lot. We used to, Mom loved flowers and had lots of flowers. And Dad always raised a great big garden. For a long time out here where there is, there is potatoes out there this year, but for a long time I had gardens out there all the time. But since we've gotten older and all, why John just likes to have some potatoes, so that's what we've got out there now.

DOROTHEA: Do you have white ones or red ones?

GEORGIA: These are red, because Elmer Baker gave us seed this year. And ---

DOROTHEA: Does he have a garden?

GEORGIA: He grows potatoes enough for his whole family.

DOROTHEA: His whole crew, huh.

GEORGIA: Yeah, everybody, I think.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I know he has it out behind that ---

GEORGIA: I don't think he gardens anymore.

DOROTHEA: --- ceramic shop I think though, is where he had it. Uh huh.

GEORGIA: Yeah, that's where he has. John has helped him pick them up a time or two. But the last time he tried it, it got him in the back too much, he said, "I'm not going to do it again." But Elmer would plow them, and John and the one niece would pick them up.

DOROTHEA: You said something earlier about your dad walking across the United States.

GEORGIA: Yeah, well he walked up the coast, and like I say he was in Georgia at the time, and he came up along the Atlantic Coast. I don't know just exactly where, but he was just interested in things. And he wanted to see the West Coast, and he stopped in West Virginia and worked in a logging camp for a while, he went there as a bookkeeper. And the bookkeeper that came back, and the cook got sick, so he cooked for a while. And then, I don't know what a whistle punk is, but that has something to do with the logging, in the outside area. And he worked out in the woods for a while. And then he decided that he would move on.

And I don't know just what all he did, but he had an Eastman Kodak on a tripod and he carried that with him, and probably a bedroll, I don't know. And I know in the Dakotas or somewhere there, he worked in harvest, here and there, wherever. And mostly his aim was Hood River Valley, he had heard of it. And he got there, and he worked in different places there, on different orchards in Hood River.

DOROTHEA: So that's how he more or less came to Oregon?

GEORGIA: Well, that's how he knew about Oregon. And when we first came out here, that was in 1917 that we came from back there on the train. And he knew a lady in Portland where he had boarded for a while, and we went, when we first came to Oregon, we went to her place.

And then this Mr. Hoover that he had worked for in Virginia, he contacted Dad, or they had kept in contact together, contact all the time. And Dad knew that he would like to live, you see, here in Oregon. He wasn't sure when he first came whether he would rather be in Spokane, in that area, or here. But he decided Hood River. And then this ranch became available next door to Mr. Hoover, and so we took that. We moved in there in 1918. But ---

DOROTHEA: Did you raise cattle then?

GEORGIA: No, just apples, and pears, and cherries. And at first there were quite a few strawberries there, because it had been run by a Japanese crew.

And the lady who owned it was in the Philippines; she was a nurse. And she was in the Philippines; I don't remember too much history, but something about the Philippine War. Now I don't know just what that was all about. And Dad bought it from her; her name was Mabel Lake. I don't, of course I was too young to --- I don't know whether he ever met the lady or not. But we had quite a bunch of her stuff. She claimed part of it, and I don't know where Dad took it, I think he shipped it somewhere from Hood River. But those things are out of reach of a little kid, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Yeah.

GEORGIA: I was five when we moved to Hood River, and I don't remember. I remember when we came up there, and Dad was making the negotiations. We lived in a tent, I told you, and that old

rooster charged me every time I went out. And we stayed there and helped Mr. Hoover put up some hay that he had out in the orchard. He had a young orchard, and he and Dad did that.

And then we went to Odell for a few weeks and worked for Billy Sunday, the evangelist, and Dad nailed boxes for him. And I had to walk across the orchard and get the milk everyday. I don't remember much about it. And there was a big windstorm and blew down our tent while we were at Billy Sundays. Mom took us kids and went into a kind of an old tumble down shack that was close to where we had the tent setup, until Dad came around and got the tent set up again. But way back then those things were ---

DOROTHEA: Were natural?

GEORGIA: Just kind of course of events, I think anyway.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: On your ranch out here when you and Johnny were first getting going, did you have cattle, or did you have hay, or ---

GEORGIA: Well, we had cows. We bought it from Ted Dunn, or we, first we leased it from him, and leased his cattle for a share. I don't remember just how the share went, but anyway that's how we got started. And John had a homestead up there close to Buena Vista. You've seen the horse head in the rock up there, haven't you?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: Well Rankin put that up there, and I've painted it twice to, so people could see it. And we eventually sold that for cattle. That got us on our feet kind of. We took cattle into pasture at first, because we had lots more pasture than we had cows, cattle to take. And just, we scrounged along, just first one way then another.

DOROTHEA: So, did you hay a little bit and sell hay?

GEORGIA: No, we never sold any hay. But like I say we sold pasture and looked after people's cows. We took Paul Stafford's cattle, not young Paul that is here now, but his father had cattle. We ran them quite a bit out there. I don't remember several different people from up and around this country, we had them out there, and kept them for several weeks at a time. Sometimes several

months at a time.

DOROTHEA: You took care of the cattle then?

GEORGIA: Yeah, we took care of the ones that we ---

DOROTHEA: Made sure they had water and salt and all this?

GEORGIA: Uh huh, oh yes. And no problem for water, because they were either along the lake edge or around our artisan wells. The place always had artisan wells. And even after the lake came up, it didn't destroy the wells, they still flow. And ---

DOROTHEA: So, where your place is, is kind of on the Voltage, in the Voltage area, isn't it?

GEORGIA: Yes, it is. You know where refuge headquarters are?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: Well, it's approximately; I would say two miles east. There is a great big house, and now Fred put a big trailer home, doublewide trailer home in front of the old house. And, because when the kids all get there with their families, there wasn't even room in that big old house to keep them all together. So, he got the big trailer home there.

DOROTHEA: Well, you mentioned your fiftieth wedding anniversary. Did you have a big celebration, or did you have a party?

GEORGIA: Well, it was here at the house. It shouldn't have been, but --- it should have been down at the church where people could have circulated around. But knowing John, you know, he doesn't want to be in the prominence any. And so, he said, "No way unless we do it at home." So, Lola Gibbon and Bessie Baugh helped me. And I should have been free to talk to the people that came and went, but I was mostly running back and forth from the kitchen here serving the guests instead of ---

DOROTHEA: Spent your time cooking, huh?

GEORGIA: Well, no, the girls at the church made the cakes and everything. But we had to serve coffee and cake. And somebody has to do the running to serve them, and in a little pen like this with people coming and going you just don't have too much help. It doesn't work out. And so, I didn't, I didn't get to visit too much with a lot of the people that came, but we had fun.

BARBARA: That's good. How hard was it for a young couple getting started to buy a ranch in those days? What kind of money are we talking about that it would take to buy a ranch, and how long would it take you to save to get enough to get started?

GEORGIA: Well, I don't remember exactly the money that it took, but it took quite a little. But in those days, you could trust people. And the fellow we were dealing with, he went quite a ways, and the lawyer that made up our papers up here, he made it, he knew John from a way back and he knew the other family, and he told us what to look out for so that we wouldn't get rooked. That's just John (John comes home). And so, we didn't put down too much, it was mostly personal ability to say that you would do something and do it. And we could borrow; we borrowed from the Lakeview Bank. And the reason that we borrowed from the Lakeview Bank, because we could say that we wanted maybe eight to ten thousand dollars for the year, but we only had to take two hundred, or two fifty at a time. And you only paid the ---

BARBARA: Hi John.

GEORGIA: --- you only paid on the portion that you used, as you used it.

JOHN CROW: I brought the paper.

GEORGIA: And as you --- the banks up here charged you for the whole bit that you would borrow, you see. And so, it was better to go out of town a little bit. It was the First National that we traded with. We always had trade up here with U. S. for years and years, but suddenly times kind of changed and they got pretty particular about it.

BARBARA: Too many rules and regulations to go by.

GEORGIA: Uh huh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you have another mail route after you came to Burns then?

GEORGIA: No.

DOROTHEA: You didn't?

GEORGIA: Well now, sure as the world you brought up something, I had forgotten about. But after we left the ranch and came to town, you knew Joe Smith?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: Well Johnny drove for Joe for years. I don't, one year he drove pretty near steady for him, and he went to Lakeview and back. He, all week, you see it was a round trip. And then when Doris Robinson took it, every now and then he filled in for her for a while.

And he couldn't --- they --- Ray Weeks wanted John to take the contract, but Johnny's back was broken, and it was just too hard for him to go constantly. And so, we didn't take that, but that filled in and helped us a lot after we left the ranch.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. So, you've spent most of your time since you left, and between the time that you were living out there the second time, doing odds and ends.

GEORGIA: Oh yes. At Christmas time I helped at Katie's and then at Nyleen's. And when we first came to town for something to do, that John could help me do, he was always bored if he didn't have a job. We knew Blackburn's pretty well, and he wanted somebody to clean the office once a week. And when he was buying houses, he'd buy a house and say go clean it up. He'd take the stuff out of it that he wanted, and then he'd say either go to the dump with the rest of it or keep it. We got quite a few little knick-knacks out of houses. We cleaned quite a few. And then he'd have a carpenter fix a house, and he'd have me clean up after the carpenter. And a lot of the time when John and I would clean a house, he'd say now when you go through the kitchen if there is things that should be done, make a list and leave it on the counter for the carpenter. And we, I can't tell you the name of the carpenter right now, but he was a Basque fellow and real super good. And John knew him. I'd show the things that were wrong in a house that had been bought. We did just things to be doing mostly.

DOROTHEA: Odds and ends to keep you busy.

GEORGIA: Yeah, uh huh.

BARBARA: Well, a person needs to have a little something to do, or goodness, you'd just wither away.

GEORGIA: Oh yes. Well, you can't stop and watch this boob tube all the time. I think you'd die off, I would, I'm sure.

DOROTHEA: You mentioned church, do you ---

GEORGIA: Oh, I go to the First Lutheran Church. And I do --- Would you let that thing out again, please (cat)?

BARBARA: Sure.

GEORGIA: John let her in. I'm not a whole, much busy in it, but I do things that need doing when I can. And if we have a sale, why I always help out. But I guess you couldn't say I'm a real whiz at church, because I never was that much interested really. I like church, I've always been, Dad saw to that.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: So, you never really had any yen to go back to teaching once you left it, you were just real happy in being a rancher's wife and taking care of Johnny.

GEORGIA: No, no, huh uh. That was more up my alley. That's much more up my alley than teaching school.

DOROTHEA: So did you, when they had brandings and things, did you do much cooking or ---

GEORGIA: Oh yes, if it happened --- sometimes it was potluck, and some of the ranch ladies would say now bring so and so and so. And sometimes you just took what you wanted to take. But if it was your turn to have people come, usually you just made your own meal, and you knew how many were going to be there, so that wasn't --- But after I had been around here a little while, it wasn't hard. At first, I was up a stump about cooking. Because I could cook if I knew who was going to come, and how many. But like out there years ago, people would just suddenly show up, maybe in the middle of the afternoon or something, and they'd want a lunch. Well, I wasn't raised that way. Down at Hood River you didn't go unless you were invited.

DOROTHEA: Where you weren't invited, right.

GEORGIA: And this was a very strange country to me when I first landed.

BARBARA: People just expected when you stopped by you got fed, and sometimes you stayed overnight and you had to ---

GEORGIA: But it was real unusual. At first it bothered me so much that when we were in that cabin, the first cabin we had, and right after we were married it just threw me so much that lots of

times I'd crawl over onto the bed and John would do the cooking. Because I was just so frustrated about having them come in unexpected. But it didn't take me very long to get so I could do. And I'd much rather have a bunch of buckaroos come than I would a bunch of women.

DOROTHEA: Ladies, you're right. I know what you are saying. Now that was something though that I never could get used to, and still don't do, and that's cook for a big bunch. I did a lot of it when Clinton and I was first married, but I'm not the type of person that can throw on a meal just because somebody comes to my house.

GEORGIA: Well, I like to be wised up a little bit.

DOROTHEA: Prepared.

GEORGIA: But I got so out there that I had things so that I could, sometimes I had to open cans to make it reach.

BARBARA: Have more staples on hand to be prepared for that kind of thing.

GEORGIA: Uh huh, yes. But oh, for years we went, like I say, we traded with the bank in Lakeview and so John had cousins at Cedarville, California, and there was a great big cash kind of a, well a store where you could just go in and ---

DOROTHEA: Warehouse type.

GEORGIA: Kind of warehouse thing, and he wouldn't let me have anything that I had to pay California tax on.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: But in November when we'd take our check to the Lakeview Bank, we'd go on down to see the cousins and then we'd go to this big warehouse and buy case goods. And I had a wonderful cellar out there in the house, and we'd set the cases on the shelves and just cut half off, you know. It was just like a store. And having been on a farm all my life, I had vegetables and things in that cellar. I had helped Mom cook and ---

BARBARA: Did you can your ---

GEORGIA: Oh yes.

BARBARA: Did you have big gardens out on your ranch, did you?

GEORGIA: I had a pretty good garden, but I didn't can much of the garden stuff. But there was a peddler that came up from Vale and Ontario all the time, and he used to stay with us some of the time. And he always brought peaches, apples, and things like that. The apples I could keep in the cellar, and I'd can peaches and pears.

BARBARA: Did you can any of your beef?

GEORGIA: Oh yes, we'd can venison a lot. John would get venison, and I made minced meat, and canned venison. And then when we butchered, we'd trade, maybe we'd butcher and trade meat with some of the ranchers. We could keep, if it was cool, we had a good north back porch and we could hang it out at night and wrap it up in the days and keep it pretty good for ---

BARBARA: You mentioned venison. Did Johnny hunt a lot of game, or birds, or go fishing?

GEORGIA: Oh, well we used to go up around Frenchglen and fish some. But not very much, just a little. We used to go out to Rock Creek too, out there to Taft Miller's reservoir and fish once in awhile. But in the fall, he would hunt. And we could hunt right there on our own property pretty much, and out south from there. And go up toward the edge of the lava beds, we could almost always find a venison.

And we'd, then we had hunter friends that sometimes left us an extra piece of meat, so I cooked it and canned it, and made mince meat and stuff like that. And like I say why we had this real good cellar, so everything kept real well.

DOROTHEA: Well, we're coming to the end of our tape again, and unless you think there is something that we would need another tape for, well we'll probably call it an afternoon. Are there any special things that you would like to share with us about living in Harney County that has impressed you, or set in your mind?

GEORGIA: Well, I, as I came into this country, I thought I had come to the end of the world. Because I was supposed to be met at the bus depot in the old Welcome Hotel up there. But I spent the whole darn day there and nobody came after me. And that --- Culver and his family were at the rodeo at Pendleton, you see, and so they stayed for the last show, and they didn't get back to the hotel until along in the evening. And that made it kind of ---

DOROTHEA: But you found Harney County more home then, since then?

GEORGIA: But then, right that particular day; I was taken to supper that night. There was some people, Warren McLean and Walt Cooley, and another fellow had been there all day and they had seen me wandering around and wondering what was going to happen next. And they finally decided that I was hungry, and probably didn't have any money, which was pretty near the truth, and they took me to supper.

And then the hotel people offered me a room, if the people didn't come after me, and I guess they thought maybe they weren't. And then we went out across the lake through the tules, you know, and that made it --- we went down to Lawen and across the dike, that direction.

DOROTHEA: So, you thought Harney County was the end of the world probably?

GEORGIA: Yes, I did. But because of the friendliness up there, everybody was willing to help me, you know, get what I needed and show me around ...

(END OF TAPE)

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