

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #345 - Sides A & B & C & D

Subject: Jack Drinkwater - With Video

Place: Drinkwater Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: July 16, 1993

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, along with Barbara Lofgren, and we're at the home of Jack Drinkwater, and we will be talking to him for a while. The date is July the 16th, 1993. This will be stored in the library along with the video, and the tape number is 345. Jack we'll first ask you your name.

JACK DRINKWATER: Jack Drinkwater.

DOROTHEA: What are your parent's names?

JACK: Robert and Bessie Drinkwater.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

JACK: In Burns.

DOROTHEA: When?

JACK: October the 7th, 1924.

DOROTHEA: October, okay. When did your parents come to the county?

JACK: Both of them were born here, Dorothea. My dad was born in Harney, and my mother was born here in Burns.

DOROTHEA: And what did they do for a living?

JACK: Well when they were, of course when they were young my, now Grandpa Smith, my mother's parents, were livestock people. And my dad's parents were in and out of livestock.

But when my folks were first married they lived in Crane for, well that was the end of the railroad, 1924. They had the hotel and restaurant in Crane at that time. And I think they run that, well Billy and Dorothy were, my brother and sister were both born in Crane. And they stayed there until the year I was born 1924, and then we moved to the upper ranch twenty miles north of Burns. It was my, a homestead that my Grandpa Smith, my mother's dad had taken up.

BARBARA LOFGREN: What was the name of the hotel in Crane? Did they have a specific name?

JACK: Oh, yes they did, Barbara. Oh golly, I've forgotten the name of it. Yeah, I did too. They had a Chinaman cook; I know Dad would tell about this Chinaman cook. That's when they was having wars over there, and he would fix these boxes, and he would put guns in them, and Dad said he never did get caught at it. And he would mail those over with handguns in the bottom of them. And of course it had other stuff on top, I mean clothing and what have you, and he never did get caught at that.

If he had of --- and then at one time, a Chinaman at that time had to be a merchant. He had this, Chinaman, he didn't work for Dad, he had a restaurant there in Crane. And now why, now you had to sell, you couldn't just have the restaurant, you had to sell dry goods or something.

Anyway they had a trial in San Francisco and my dad went down for a witness for him, and he said stepped --- they was having a Tong War in San Francisco, and stepped off a streetcar, and rat-a-tat-tat, and I don't know how many Chinamen got killed in that deal, yeah. No, but I can't remember the name of the hotel, I should.

BARBARA: So the restaurant was not right in the hotel, it was ---

JACK: No, no, no, well the restaurant that the folks had, this was a different restaurant.

BARBARA: Oh, I see, okay.

JACK: That the other guy, that the Chinaman had, yeah. It was a different place. But it was an old, another story they used to tell there was an old Negro fellow there and they would change, he would fix, fill the coal cars for them at the end of the railroad there. And Dad said he could, he could pick up a fifty-gallon barrel of oil between his knees and move with it, that's how powerful he was.

DOROTHEA: That Negro?

JACK: Uh huh. Bill Phizer (sp.?) was quite a fighter at that time, and he chased him around one time down there, and Bill Phizer won't mind, he's dead now. And he got --- until this poor old, this old feller was real good-natured, Dad said. And he finally got him into a fight and he was on the bottom, and this Negro reached up with his hands trying to push him off and popped both eyes out of Bill Phizer's, eyes out of his socket. And Phizer was on top hollering take him off. And everybody says, "Well you're on top, what do you mean take him off."

No, no, it was, but Crane at that time, well it was about like Drewsey, every weekend was like the Fourth of July. They'd do everything possible, to go on. One Fourth of July like in Harney where my dad was raised, now mind you, how they could get people to do this I don't know. They had a blindfolded wheel barrel race. They let these guys sight down the runway where this was going to start, and blindfolded them, and blew the whistle and away they'd go. And this one poor fellow, there was high boardwalks, and of course he got to going, and they thought he was, he thought the crowd was a cheering, well they was a hollering for him to stop. And he hit that boardwalk and pretty near killed him, of course.

I mean how you would ever --- but you could talk people into, I mean anything for excitement. I don't know how they ever got a race like that up. Well, and then one time my Grandpa Drinkwater started Red S, Pin Ear, and Big Ben on a

straight away half-track at Harney.

BETTY DRINKWATER: These are horses.

JACK: A horse race. And one horse, I think it was Big Ben blew the track, run right over this buggy, and woman, and kid, and never hurt anybody, just demolished the buggy, tore it all to pieces. That's what, you know, Red S down here, the Red S Field and then the Red S Memorial at the fairgrounds there. He was quite a racehorse.

DOROTHEA: Huh. I wondered where that got the name. I didn't realize that.

JACK: Uh huh. Lee Caldwell owned him, Red S. And I don't know, some shenanigan, I don't know, but anyway he lost him. But he could run, he was a good horse, real good horse.

BARBARA: Were there many black people and Chinese people in Crane during the early '20's? Or why, how did they happen to come here?

JACK: Now that I don't know, Barbara. No, there was no --- because my dad at that time also run a stage line, a car from Crane to Burns for people that wanted to come on up to Burns. Now there was Chinaman, there was Chinaman cooks. And this old colored feller down there is about the only ones I ever heard the folks mention.

And then anybody that wanted to squaw wrestle when they come down there, Else Bennett would go home and put on her bib overalls and tip them all over, didn't matter who it was. (Laughter) Yeah. You betcha, Dad said she'd upset any of them, I guess, if they got to bragging. Elsie would go home and get on her bib overalls and they'd get right out in the middle of the street in Crane and away they'd go, and Elsie would turn them upside down. (Laughter) No, she was a dandy.

BARBARA: So your father did a lot of things then, running a hotel and a restaurant, and a stage line.

JACK: Yeah, yeah. And then his folks, my Grandma and Grandpa Drinkwater, had the

hotel in Harney for a long time. And I wished I could remember the name of that hotel down in Crane, or the one in Harney either one. I know at one time Dad said, well that's when Uncle Wid (Willard), these are Dad's brothers, and Uncle Clarence, they were dandies. They had a shootout in Harney. Dad said they just stepped out in the street and they killed this federal marshal. And they put Uncle Wid in as sheriff, and he tied --- he put everybody in jail he thought would stop anything, and I guess Harney was pretty good for awhile up there until they got somebody else to come in and took over. They had a pretty rip roaring town around there.

But he said they did, now that was just, he said they got right out in the street and shot that out just like you'd see in the western movies. But they had two plants, on each side on this federal marshal, and that's what got him. Dad said if they'd have been out where he could have seen them, he would have killed all three of them. I don't remember his name or anything. He was --- but they had a shootout just like the wild, Wild West.

BETTY: In the movies.

DOROTHEA: In the movies.

JACK: Well now Uncle Wid, there used to be drummers they called them, come through with wagons. I've heard my dad tell about Uncle Wid and Uncle Clarence, as far as they got with Harney, whenever they got there, they had to scare the team and run them off, whatever, so they could get into whatever wares they had. Of course I'm talking about apples, or watermelon, or whatever. That's as far as they ever got was Harney. They had to go back for another load, because those two would do something to get them in a runaway team or something, so they'd get all their wares from them.

BARBARA: So it was just produce or vegetables that they were --- drummers.

JACK: Yeah, they called them a drummer then.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JACK: Yeah, they'd come through with a team and a wagon.

BARBARA: They didn't have clothing or things like that?

JACK: No, huh uh. Oh no, they wouldn't have fought anybody for clothes. But I mean, or caused them any trouble.

DOROTHEA: Well let's go back just a little bit and, you mentioned you have a brother and sister, had?

JACK: Well, my brother, yeah, my sister died in the polio epidemic of '52, her and her son within three days of one another.

BARBARA: What was her name?

JACK: Dorothy Liebig.

BARBARA: And your brother?

JACK: Billy. He's older; he's the oldest of the three of us. We're just two --- Billy and I and Dorothy.

DOROTHEA: And you said your grandparents were out at Harney. And how many children did they have?

JACK: Oh Grandma Drinkwater, let's see there was Uncle Clarence, and Uncle Wid, and Dad, and Aunt Tot (Alice) and Aunt Tuney (Emaula), and then one boy Stevie died when he was a real young fellow.

BETTY: Those were all nicknames, Tot and Tuney.

JACK: Yeah. I mean well there was Alice and Emaula, I guess, yeah is what I should have said. But now nobody would know who you were talking about Dorothea, if I'd said that, at that time. They know --- Now on my mother's side, do you want to know their family?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: That was a big family. Let's see, there was Uncle Hubert, and Uncle Dole, and

Uncle Ern (Ernest), and Aunt Alma, Aunt Ruth, Aunt Babe (Alleta), and my mother.

DOROTHEA: And what was her maiden name?

JACK: Smith. Now no relation to Doc Smith, or no relation to Harry and Florabel Smith. Used to be, a complete different --- in fact my Grandpa Smith came when he, in 1854 was it?

BETTY: I'm not sure.

JACK: I believe it was. I can find out here in a minute, to French Prairie, which is south of Salem, it's still a school district down there, when he was four months old. His parents moved into that. And he come up here after he was married. I don't know, do you remember, oh he was a schoolteacher out here, what was the name? (Lee) Baldwin, do you remember him?

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

JACK: Okay. My Grandma Smith, and that's --- we're related. She was a Baldwin, her maiden name was Baldwin. Yeah, French Prairie, yeah in 1854, was born in. Grandpa Smith was born in Wayne County, Ohio in 1854, and his parents crossed the plains with an ox team when he was an infant, three months old, and they settled in French Prairie, south of Salem down there.

BETTY: Now Jack's brother, Billy, has a lot of history.

JACK: Oh you, if you get a hold of him Dorothea, he's really went through it, the whole thing.

BETTY: ... he is a Mormon and they keep up on genealogy, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: So your grandparents then came from the valley over here, and your parents were born in Harney County.

JACK: Both parents were born here, yeah, in Harney County, Barbara.

BARBARA: Yeah.

JACK: Now Grandma and Grandpa Drinkwater settled at, homesteaded on Cow Creek out here. I don't know who owns that now; Pink Catterson did own it, whoever he sold out to. That's the old --- and then Grandma and Grandpa Smith, twenty miles north up here, and Congressman Bob Smith owns that place now, that Grandpa Smith homesteaded on up there. In fact that big stone house, Grandpa Smith built it, they built it in 1910. And Bob has done a lot of work to it, really done it.

DOROTHEA: Now where is that at?

JACK: Twenty miles on the Silvies River, right straight north, Dorothea. Right straight north of Burns. It's right on the Silvies River.

DOROTHEA: I'm going to have to have Clint take me up there, because I ---

JACK: Yeah, you do --- well over the hill is the old Baker place, old Tim Donovan place. I know when I was a little kid, oh we lived up there until I was six years old, well '24 they moved up there. And oh boy, when Tim went to town, of course with a team and buggy, I was always --- we had a pole gate where he come into our place, and then he had to go on over the hill to his place. And I was always out there to open that gate because I knew he was going to bring me some candy. This place down here that Louie Molt's got, that's the old Donovan place, he owned that, Tim Donovan did.

DOROTHEA: Oh I thought that was Clemens.

JACK: Well that was afterwards.

DOROTHEA: Afterwards, oh.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I just figured that was just Clemens, Clemens.

JACK: These two old Irishman come over, well they were both bachelors. Old Tim, and I don't know what his brother's name was; they both homesteaded on, just over the hill on



up the river from Grandpa and Grandma Smith's place. And the one went back to Ireland.

I don't know, he --- but Tim was never married. He was an old bachelor, lived here for years and years.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I recognize the name, but I don't, didn't know the history. Of course like I always say, when I was a kid I didn't care anything about it. So, you know, you don't listen to a lot of this stuff.

JACK: Well when I was a little kid that whole area up there was just full of, well they was moonshiners is what they was, the whole works up there. And I never seen a kid in my life, I didn't know whether there was any kids my age until I started to school. But there was all of them, old Colby, and Kueny, and Breedlove, and Mothershead. And I don't know, there was all of them, and the Kuhanan (sp.?) boys. Now the Kuhanan boys they were dairyman, now how they done that I don't know. They had a bunch of, up here on Mahogany Ridge, which is about fifteen miles north of Burns, and they cleared all those flats off. Cleared all the rocks off and had a rye patch, and they had Holstein milk cows. And they delivered that milk to Burns. Now how they could have, I don't know whether they, how they kept it from souring, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Cold, yeah.

JACK: I have no idea. But the one ---

DOROTHEA: Now is one of those places called Smith Flat? Or is there a Smith Flat?

JACK: Well there is a Smith Flat all right; only it's clear on up, Dorothea, on the forest.

DOROTHEA: It's up above, oh, okay.

JACK: You go up to Crow Flat and turn in above Crow, the Crow Flat Ranger Station, and go back in there to Smith Flats, the one I'm thinking of.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

JACK: Of course there is another Smith Flat on Steens Mountain.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. No, this one is up here somewhere.

JACK: In the opposite direction.

DOROTHEA: I've heard them talk about Smith Flat, so I don't know where it is.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Lived in Harney County for all my life, and never been here or there. So ---

BETTY: Like so many places, this is true. Until Jack became a brand inspector, and then I'd go with him, went to see quite a bit of the county.

BARBARA: Tell us a little bit about your folks running the hotel in Crane. Did they --- how many rooms would they have? What kind of people would come in and stay there? Would it be just ranchers? And what kind of help did they have? You say running a restaurant, so you had to have somebody clean rooms, and somebody to cook.

JACK: Oh yeah. Well now they had, of course they hired local people to help them with their --- I don't know Barbara, how big the hotel was. But of course that was the end of the railroad, and people were always coming and going all the time. And of course ranchers were coming in, and then in the fall when they started delivering livestock, cattle, sheep, why they got real busy. And, but like I said, most of it was just people that were, well salesman and what have you. Just more or less like they are today. And then of course ---

BETTY: Cattle buyers.

JACK: --- they'd want to come on to Burns. I know one time Dad said, there used to be a lot of wild hogs down at the Island Ranch, running loose down there. And this hog buyer come in, and Dad hauled him down there. And I forget how many they caught in a pen down there. And he said that was the wildest looking bunch of animals he'd ever looked - -- they were right on --- they were these ones that would come right, you know, I mean take right to you.

DOROTHEA: With big teeth and everything, huh?

JACK: Yeah, with the big tusks and all. But he hauled him down there, the hog buyer. Or he'd, that's it, now he would take that car, or if a cow buyer come in and wanted, on the train, and wanted to go look at some cattle some place, or sheep, why he'd haul him out to them.

And of course, and then they had quite a business of running, well Ches Carter, running booze out of Nevada too. I mean, I don't know whether that was kind of the distribution point there at Crane, or what. (Laughter) But I know Ches, I've heard him tell, he said that they would send two cars, I don't know, I guess maybe in Nevada there wasn't any problem. Anyway they could go down there and get it. Well anyway they had a bootlegger down there that it wasn't too hard to get a hold of the moonshine. And he said they'd get up to where they knew that they was a watching for them. They'd send one car through and have him just go like a bat out of Hades, and get the authorities a chasing them, and then the other one would come through with the goods.

BARBARA: With the goods.

JACK: Yeah. (Laughter)

BARBARA: So how many years did they run the hotel there?

JACK: They were there, if I remember right Barbara, they had that about, well I think Billy, they probably had that around seven, eight years. Because after the train, after they come on --- when I was born in '24 they moved to the upper ranch, and that was the year that the railroad come on to Burns.

BARBARA: So did he have the freight, or back and forth from Burns to Crane, all during the time that he had the hotel, or just part of it?

JACK: Nothing of any size. I mean he would haul; he may haul the mail or something like that. But you know he didn't have any, haul any size. I mean no freight of any --- of

course all that was taken with team and wagon. He didn't haul anything of any ---

BARBARA: Did he use a car or a truck, or buggy?

JACK: Oh yeah, had an open, an old touring car, Metz I think they called it. Well it was the latest thing going. I know him and, he was telling about they went to the Pendleton Round Up in 1914. And that was, well that was before Dad was married.

That was a Metz, and they had this latest safety feature on it, it drug a little spike along on the back axle. So if you stopped on a hill the spike run on the ground and held you. (Laughter) And well --- the only trouble was him and Jack Withers, his cousin, I know it was Dooley Mountain probably, they stopped. Anyway the thing, the ground was kind of soft and it run clear over it, and they had a devil of a time, they had to jack the car up to get the spike out so they could go forward. But it was a great safety feature in those days.

DOROTHEA: We should have had that this weekend I think.

JACK: Yeah, there you go.

BARBARA: You say they were at Harney before they went to Crane. Or they went to Harney afterwards?

JACK: No, they were at Harney first. My dad was born and raised and went to school in Harney.

BARBARA: Okay.

JACK: And now my mother, of course she was born here and went to school here in Burns. And ---

BARBARA: How did they happen to meet, do you know?

JACK: That I never did hear them say, Barbara, I don't know. Of course ---

DOROTHEA: Must have been a dance somewhere.

JACK: Yeah, I'm sure it was.

BETTY: That's what it usually ---

JACK: I'm sure it must have been. But they got to, how they got together, no I don't know. And they never mentioned anything about it, I never did hear them say anything about how they met, or courted one another.

BARBARA: So there were Drinkwater's in Drewsey too. Are you related to them?

JACK: Oh yeah. Yes, now that was Uncle Clarence. And Aunt Cas just died here what, five or six years ago, something like that. They run that store over there for years and years, there in Drewsey.

BETTY: Jack's uncle.

DOROTHEA: Okay. How about Drinkwater Pass, now how did ---

JACK: It was named after Uncle Clarence.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and how did that, how was that connected? In other words did he build the road, or ---

JACK: Oh no, no they just, when they put the highway through there it just, that he had been a merchant over there for so many years, Dorothea, and he had a place right at the foot of the grade there. Well there is an old, well I don't remember that fellow's name, an old guy that he give credit to on groceries. Although Uncle Clarence said he always come in and made it all good, but he might carry him for a year. And he said he had no idea, he was a bachelor when he died, that place right at the foot of the grade there on the north side of the road, when he died he willed it to Uncle Clarence too. That was, oh -- and I'm sure the state highway department, where he had lived there for so long, named the pass after him.

BARBARA: So did you, did you know them very well, Clarence and Castolia?

JACK: Oh gosh yeah. Because Uncle Clarence, oh I loved sardines, and when he'd see me coming he'd get out the sardine can there at the store, when he'd see me coming in.

One time Barbara --- I could run in the shade of a tree all my life. Of course whenever you went to Drewsey, every weekend, like I say whether it was Crane or Harney, it was the Fourth of July.

Well they had this foot race, and I like I said I could run all day in the shade of a tree. Oh, I don't know how old I was, anyway they started the race, and of course I'm way behind and I got mad and I just took off out through the brush bawling. And Uncle Clarence was right behind me with a five-dollar bill, you won, you won. I got more money for losing; I'm sure, than the kid did that won the race. (Laughter) Oh, he had a wonderful way with kids, he was something else.

BARBARA: I understand that Castolia was a very good-natured person ---

JACK: Oh, she was.

BARBARA: --- and was very good to her customers. Would help them out, or loan them money, or whatever, whenever needed.

JACK: Oh yeah. Yeah, she was a one in a million. She was a dandy.

DOROTHEA: Now did they have children?

JACK: One boy, Delmas. He died with, oh when he was, he wasn't very old Dorothea, he was, oh I don't know maybe twelve, fourteen years old. One boy is all they ever had. But Aunt Cas was one of the first-born white kids ---

BETTY: Uh huh. I think that will be in her history.

JACK: Yeah, it should be anyway, born in Harney County. I don't know ---

BARBARA: Did you ever go up there and stay with them, or work in their store, or whatever?

JACK: Oh yeah. Yeah, I used to go over there and stay with Uncle, oh yeah, to get to stay over there was something else, to get into that store. And then when ---

BETTY: Everything, and anything.

JACK: Oh yeah. He'd just lay it out, a kid. Uncle Clarence, just whatever you wanted, you got, he was a dandy. And of course when, before they built the highway that was quite a metropolis. Drewsey, that's where all those freighters come in there, coming through with them old freight wagons. That was quite a head- quarters in there, Drewsey was. Of course after they built the highway and by passed it, that hurt it.

Then the store burnt down what, three different times I think, over a period of years. And then Sam Burt, after Uncle Clarence got sick, and after Uncle Clarence died, he was a wonderful guy too, run the store there for Aunt Cas. He was a wonderful fellow.

DOROTHEA: Well whose got the store now?

JACK: Well who was it bought it and just, I don't know, just let it go, Dorothea. I don't think, I think the only thing there now is Alan Williams.

DOROTHEA: Williams.

JACK: Yeah, has got a little stuff there at his gas station. But I think the store is closed, as far as I know. They just never kept it going. And at one time I'll tell you they had an inventory; you could buy about whatever you wanted in there. They just had an inventory in there that would match this, I mean not only in groceries, but anything, pretty near.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think it used to be like over in Mount Vernon, they used to carry everything in that ---

BARBARA: A real general store.

DOROTHEA: Kind of a mercantile.

JACK: I know. When I used to work horses, I was trying to get a set of lines, team lines. And Sam, oh he says, "No problem." He had them in there, you know, he just --- neck yoke, singletrees, and whatever. And that was when it was long gone in any store around Burns here. They didn't even know what you was talking about if you went in and asked for a neck yoke, or a singletree. Most of them didn't even know what you meant.

DOROTHEA: Well what now, did your other Uncle, you called him ---

JACK: Wid.

DOROTHEA: Wid.

JACK: Yeah, that was, let's see, well of course that was Dad's brother. Now he was a blacksmith, and he was a pretty ornery one too, I'll tell you. He could pull jokes on anybody. He worked for the PLS Company down here, blacksmith at the Island Ranch for years.

And of course these young fellows would come out from back east, or wherever, and want to be cowboys. And when they first started them out all they got to do was chore boy. And they had a, they didn't have any amount of milk cows, but they always had a milk cow around, and they just milked her out in the corral, they didn't bring them in barns and stanchion them. And this old cow, during the process of milking her she'd move over two or three times. And so Uncle Wid told this kid, he says, "I'll tell you what we'll do, we'll build you a stool with a wheel on it." And he says, he says, "That way you won't have to keep getting up and following this cow around." Well she was gentle all right, there is no doubt about that, but Uncle Wid was real cleaver building anything. He built this thing with the wheels and strapped on this old cow. Of course she didn't think anything about it at the time, and that kid got down in there, and the first time she moved and he come right with her, she liked to killed him. Well one thing Uncle Wid says, that kid when it was over with, he says, "Geez, I don't know about that." Yeah but Wid says, "The cow never got away from you, did she?" (Laughter) He was a wishing she could I'm sure. But he was, oh he was something else. One time, that was when he was blacksmithing in Burns, this guy, I don't remember what his name was, come in with a buggy. And of course your buggies, was like the English cars, your wagons you drove on the right side. You brake and all, your brake handle and everything, you drove on the



right side. Well he had a crooked front wheel on this buggy. And Uncle Wid told him, he said, "Gee I haven't got time to fix that." He said, "Oh gosh Wid," he lived out, oh quite a ways out by The Narrows somewhere, and he told him he said, "if you'd just fix it for me." And Wid kept trying to tell him, "No," he said, "I haven't got time." And he finally says, "Okay I will." Well the guy left, and Uncle Wid just changed wheels. He just took the left front wheel and put it over on the right side, and the crooked on the other side. And the guy waved and went, just as happy as could be. He was driving along and looking down at the wheel and it was running real straight. And the other one of course going like this. (Laughter) And I presume he probably brought it back in, and he got to fix the left wheel then. Oh, he was a card.

BETTY: Is that the one that married Blanche?

JACK: Uh huh, yeah, yeah. He is, well Blanche, well aunt, she would have been Blanche Vickers, Bessie Clemens' sister. Uncle Wid married --- of course after Uncle Wid died, she married Arthur Turner. But their first marriage, why that was Uncle Wid's first wife, was Blanche Vickers.

DOROTHEA: Okay, then he went from Burns to Crane --- to the Island Ranch, is that ---

JACK: Oh he worked around different places, Dorothea.

DOROTHEA: Oh, different places.

JACK: Yeah. And the last, he worked, the last shop work he done was for Shaw. Do you remember Shaw when he had a black --- when he had his shop down there? Well it's right in there where, well it's in behind the paint and glass thing there. I don't know what, well Butch Arntz right there, he had a, George Shaw --- she was a schoolteacher here. Of course I'm going back past you.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Ruth Shaw, yeah.

JACK: I'm getting --- you're not old enough for all those Dorothea.

DOROTHEA: Well I'm old enough for Ruth, yeah.

JACK: Yeah, well it was her husband that had a blacksmith shop there that he, that Uncle Wid worked for.

DOROTHEA: He was gone I think already. Did he die fairly early age?

JACK: George?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: No, he lived quite awhile, didn't he Betty?

BETTY: I don't even remember.

JACK: I think he lived --- well now I'm not sure on that.

DOROTHEA: Because it seemed like Mrs. Shaw was a widow teacher.

JACK: See she taught out ---

BETTY: That's what I remember.

JACK: Well that's possible.

BETTY: Of course I was a newcomer; I came in '35, so ---

JACK: See she taught us here at Poison Creek. Well she taught Mervin, and Medora, and George and I here at Poison Creek, what two years.

BARBARA: Was that Ruth?

JACK: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Ruth Shaw, uh huh.

JACK: Two different years here at Poison Creek. And it's amazing

---

DOROTHEA: Did you know she taught out at Rye Grass also?

JACK: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's what they mentioned, yeah.

BETTY: ... picture.

JACK: Oh. She was a dandy. But there, one year there was thirty-two of us kids, all eight grades.

BARBARA: Oh, my goodness.

JACK: And it's amazing now, I don't understand, there was no Einstein's come out of that school, but we could all read and write, add and subtract. And like I said there was no geniuses.

BETTY: Now twenty is ---

JACK: Now, my golly, they ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

JACK: Of course the older ones worked with the younger ones, had to, the seventh and eighth graders had to work with the younger ones.

DOROTHEA: Well in those kind of classes too, I think the young ones learned from the old ones.

JACK: Well you're all in one room.

DOROTHEA: Because you're all in one class, really.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What we'd call one class now.

JACK: But now days, Dorothea, if they make kids get to school like your George, and Mervin, and Medora, they'd take them away from them. They walked from up here at this big rock here, the old Bowen house used to sit. Well that old house that burnt down last summer of Clemens', that was the old Bowen house. They moved it down there, Buck did. They walked from there to, down here to Poison Creek Schoolhouse, winter, summer, whatever.

BETTY: Child abuse.

JACK: It would. Nowadays they would take them away from you. I'm sure they would

certainly make you change your methods.

DOROTHEA: Well you know they got these buses that run all over the country now.

JACK: Yeah, that's true.

DOROTHEA: And I can remember when Daddy started the bus system. He says, you know, we need a better bus system, because he was taking kids to school in his car. How we ever got that many kids in our car, I have no idea. And then they finally said well we'll get one little bus. And we drove it from out to Rye Grass down Hanley Lane, out to Harney and picked up all those kids, and back up through Highway 20, and into school, in one little bus. And it wasn't those long ones, it was a little one.

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: Sure.

DOROTHEA: And I think we must have crowded four or five kids in each seat.

BETTY: Probably.

DOROTHEA: But he was so proud, because they finally got a bus system in Burns. And now look at them, there must be twenty of them there.

BETTY: Oh, at least.

JACK: Well down here now there was the Hebner kids come in a buggy from out there where Hoyt's are now.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: Darrell and Helen Clemens, they come with a buggy. Well and the schoolteacher used to stay with them some, and boarded with them, and they'd bring her to school. The Triska girls, Florence and Frances. Of course they were pretty close, that's right there where, right just across the highway there. Oh, what's the name of those people that's got that now?

DOROTHEA: I don't know who they are.

JACK: Barley farm, right straight across the highway, right straight west.

BETTY: That isn't Molts?

DOROTHEA: No, no.

JACK: No this side of Molts. Well anyway, then McLarens and oh there was a lot of kids went to school there.

BARBARA: This is at Pine Creek School?

JACK: No, Poison Creek.

DOROTHEA: Poison Creek, over here.

JACK: Out here where Wes ---

DOROTHEA: Where Wes Shepard lives.

JACK: --- Wes Shepard lives now. That's the old Poison Creek Schoolhouse. Yeah, there was a lot of kids. A big barn there, used to --- I don't know how many horses. I went horseback, a number of kids went horseback.

BARBARA: So there was a barn to keep the horses during the day?

JACK: Uh huh, yeah. Yeah there was a ---

DOROTHEA: That's where, I think Ethel Hotchkiss, she was a Whiting, I think they went to school there too.

JACK: I'm sure, I'm sure they did. I'm sure that they did.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she mentioned something about going to the Poison Creek School.

BARBARA: Did you go your eight grades there?

JACK: No, I went to seventh and eighth grade to Burns, Barbara, into town. But I know now, Frank Whiting, that's right straight down here where Hoyt's are now, had an Indian boy there that they had living with them, and he'd go to school there at Poison Creek. And they'd let him out early, well for recesses and noon, and he'd go through your lunch and take out whatever he wanted. And he was mean to us. He was older than we were,

whipped the heck out of us too. (Laughter) So he got out ---

BARBARA: Why did they do that?

DOROTHEA: He probably was starving.

BETTY: They said the Indians couldn't be seated that long, and they needed to get out, they were wild. So ---

BARBARA: Is that right?

JACK: Of course that was a gravel road then. And he got out earlier, of course, at the end of the school day too.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember what his name was?

JACK: Oh, cripe, I ought to remember it, because he worked me over one day. And that day he was walking home from school, and I roped him and drug him home, and I'll tell you I fixed him up. He didn't bother our lunches anymore, and he didn't bother us either. But we had quite a to-do on the school board meeting. What the devil was his name?

DOROTHEA: Oh, let's see, there was the Louie's, and the Pecks, and the Pete's, and the ---

JACK: No, no, I was trying to think of his, I can't remember his name.

DOROTHEA: What's the, Spear something.

JACK: I don't know, Frank and Suzie was keeping him there.

BETTY: Was he a Paiute?

JACK: Yeah, yeah, he was a Paiute. He come back once, and I didn't remember him, but he remembered me, and visited ---

BETTY: Probably did.

JACK: --- visited and visited with me. Yeah.

BETTY: You made an impression. (Laughter)

JACK: No, he was quite a guy.

BARBARA: So what were some of the things that you did while you were going to school?

JACK: Oh, nothing unusual, Barbara, I don't guess. I know now I used to break colts. Well even when I started high school I broke some colts. I wouldn't want to try it now to ride them back and forth to school as much traffic as there is now. But right where the nursing home is, there was a big barn right there. Well for awhile I kept them down at Morgan Timms' which was down, that was when Morgan lived down on, well on Whiskey Flat down there. But that was quite a walk to get to school from down there. And then that barn up there was, what was the name of the people that owned that, where the nursing home is? Oh, I should remember, I can't remember names at all anymore. It was a big old barn, right where the nursing home sits now. That was real handy, I kept my horse in it. But like I say, I wouldn't want to try that today with as much travel as there is now. You'd be ---

BARBARA: Run over for sure.

JACK: Yeah, you sure would, that's for sure. No, you bet you would.

BETTY: Tell them about the gypsies that ---

JACK: Oh yeah, well that was of course when I was going to Poison Creek. I come home --- there used to be gypsies go through here quite a bit in the summer. And, well with wagons, teams and wagons. And anyway I was coming home right down here, well just this side of the "Y", and these two big old gypsies, they stopped this car and they wanted to talk to me. And I didn't want to visit. Well the one got out, and the other one drove on up the road a ways. And they tried to get, what they were trying to do, I'm sure, was to get my saddle and stuff, what they was after. But I got away from them. Of course none of this was fenced then, I went clear out on top of that hill up there, back of Doc and Doris Whites, and set up there until they left. And I'm sure they were after my saddle, bridle and

stuff, is what they were after.

BARBARA: Did they ever, did your parents ever warn you about the gypsies just taking you away?

JACK: I don't think they wanted me, Barbara.

BETTY: I'm sure. (Laughter)

JACK: No, I don't think they wanted to have anything to do with me. But they don't come through, and they used to come through in the summer pretty regular. They would come through, gypsies.

BARBARA: There used to be a lot in Portland in the summertime too. You could go down along the river, and ---

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

BETTY: We used to have all the tramps that came to the house.

JACK: But it's, I don't know, well I guess, why I'm sure there still must be gypsies, I would think there would be.

BETTY: Around Portland area, they say there is still ---

JACK: No.

BARBARA: What are some of the games that you used to play when you went to school, do you remember?

JACK: Well they used to, oh of course down here at the old Poison Creek Schoolhouse there wasn't a great deal of --- there was one game they played, I remember we used to play a lot. You'd get, well next to the fence, and next to the school building, if you could run across there with nobody tapping you on the back three times, why then you were out if they did. I don't remember what they called that.

But there was marbles, mostly, used to play lots of marbles in the summer. And they don't do that, kids don't do that anymore. Down along the side of the old Ideal



Theater where the Central Pastime is now, oh on Saturdays, that used to, in the spring and summer used to be marbles --- kids playing marbles there before they built buildings on that. Just be, oh a whole bunch of kids out there playing marbles.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, but I think that's when the kids found their own pleasures, and did their own things.

JACK: Well true.

DOROTHEA: I mean, you know, and found their own games, and made up their own games. Today it's hard to entertain your kids.

JACK: Yeah, it is.

BETTY: They're sophisticated.

JACK: No.

BARBARA: Did you have leather pouches to carry your marbles around in?

JACK: Yeah, a lot of us did. Yeah, little, looked like a tobacco pouch, you know.

BETTY: And the girls would take the boys nice marbles.

JACK: Agates.

DOROTHEA: Agates and ---

JACK: Yeah, you bet your life.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, and those big boulders, you know, that they had. That was their special one, and you could steal those. (Laughter)

JACK: Indians were real; oh there was some marble shooters in the Indians. Cliff Longevin was another real good marble shooter.

BETTY: Cliff was here for our class reunion.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he was?

JACK: Yeah, for the --- he was a good one, he could shoot marbles. Used to play big ring, and just make a great big ring and everybody put in your marbles. And if you could

knock a marble out and stay in there you could keep shooting as long as you stayed inside the ring and was knocking a marble out at the same time. He was a --- and there was some Indian boys that was, oh they were good marble shooters, good ones.

DOROTHEA: By the time we got to school the Indian boys fought.

JACK: Yeah, yeah, there was a lot of good Indian fighters.

DOROTHEA: And, what was that, Clifford ---

JACK: Sam.

DOROTHEA: Sam.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: They were good ones.

DOROTHEA: Oh I tell you they fought and fought and fought.

BETTY: When we first came to Burns, the Indians were delegated to the left side of the theater, down in front.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BETTY: They couldn't sit any place else in the theater.

BARBARA: Discrimination in Burns.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: It sure was, it was, yeah.

BETTY: That was their corner.

BARBARA: Is that right?

BETTY: I always thought how terrible that was that Goldie had them all over there.

BARBARA: There was a reason?

DOROTHEA: Probably was a reason.

BETTY: Well yes, really, because when I was used to being ---

BARBARA: Wanted to see the whole movie.

JACK: But you know they're sure, they're gaining though. Now when I was in school you never --- well I mean just here and there, there would be an Indian going to school. Of course they had their own school out at the Indian Camp. But as far as one of them in high school, when I was in high school there wasn't any Indians ever in high school. I don't know whether they were with you, Dorothea, or not. But ---

DOROTHEA: We got them up to about a junior, and then it seemed like they disappeared.

JACK: But by golly now they're going clear through. I mean, especially the girls.

BETTY: And there are some on the honor roll.

JACK: Uh huh, you bet.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah. And there was several of them graduated with top honors.

JACK: You bet. Good athletes.

DOROTHEA: These Dick girls are really good.

JACK: Those Dick girls are real good athletes.

BETTY: Of course they weren't Paiute, were they, the Dicks?

JACK: Well ---

BARBARA: Are they Oklahoma, are they?

JACK: Oh, I think they've got some Paiute in them though, don't they?

BETTY: Oh, I didn't think so. But maybe ---

JACK: Well I don't know now, I don't know for sure.

DOROTHEA: I don't know. But I do know --- and that Becky that works down at Safeway, I don't know what her last name is even, but she ---

BETTY: She worked with Bob on the state highway for a while.

DOROTHEA: Oh, did she?

JACK: Skunkcap.

DOROTHEA: Skunkcap.

JACK: Uh huh.

BETTY: Oh, I was thinking of the one that clerked.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's the one I'm talking about.

JACK: And she clerked there, didn't she?

BETTY: No, no she was, oh she made pizzas and, in the deli and all that. Did the shelves and ---

JACK: Oh, well ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, well there is one that clerks now that was in the deli too.

BETTY: Oh, was she?

DOROTHEA: And I don't know what their last names are.

BETTY: She has lost 80 pounds, she was telling me about that.

DOROTHEA: Oh really? Wow.

BETTY: Oh she has really been working on that, yeah. Now Diane is, this is the third year Diane has gone out to the Indians, and they have a summer program for the children out there to the eighth grade. They take them on field trips. And Diane has really enjoyed it because; oh she comes home with some of the neatest stories.

JACK: Let's see, we're on our fifth generation now here in Harney County.

BETTY: Our grandkids are.

JACK: Our fifth generation.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: I haven't done too much moving.

BARBARA: Well I can kind of see that.

JACK: When I was six we moved from the upper ranch to here, and I've been here ever since, and I'll be 69 in October.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and this belonged to your parents first, then?

JACK: Now this place here was at one time, Dorothea, this place and Thad's, and John's, and Delmer's was all one, P. C. Clemens. This was Cal's, inherited this part. And then of course Glen inherited the part that Thad's got. And my uncle ---

BETTY: Clay.

JACK: Clay inherited the one that Johns living on. And where Delmer lives is the old original home site there. But this was Cal Clemens'. No, my dad bought this from Cal Clemens in 1930, that's when we moved down here.

BETTY: And worked at Bossuot's?

JACK: Yeah. Bossuot's was living here at the time, was renting the place when we were here. Oh Judy's grandparents were living here.

DOROTHEA: Well that's what I was going to say, must have been Vern's parents.

JACK: Uh huh, yeah, they were renting this place when we bought it.

DOROTHEA: What was their names?

JACK: Oh, I can't remember Vern's folks' names at all. I don't even remember them. I don't remember them at all. But the road come in, of course it has been washed out last spring; it's still pretty rough to get over the road. It used to go across the ditch. And then when we first come here there was an old well right out here, where that one big old tree is in the front yard with a bucket on it. That's where the water come from, dipped the water out of it. Just had a dug well there, the front end of it.

DOROTHEA: Well you mentioned something about the Bowen house that Clemens moved over and did burn down. Theirs had burned down before they moved ---

JACK: The old Clemens house had burned down.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, before they moved the Bowen over there.

JACK: Right. Big two-story house, the first one was.

DOROTHEA: Clint was born in the Bowen place, at the Bowen place.

JACK: Yeah, up there right at the rim. Because that's where Purdy's, when they first come, I think lived right there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

JACK: Well I don't know, maybe the first winter they come they lived in a tent up there in the Bowen meadow, too.

DOROTHEA: I think so, yeah.

JACK: And went to school up there at the old, at the old Taylor place up there, and Bessie Clemens taught them.

DOROTHEA: I think so. I think that was their first school, yeah. And then they went on up to Silvies, and ---

JACK: Well that's where Clint and Wayne and ---

DOROTHEA: Well Mervin and Medora and George went up there first.

JACK: Did they go to school up at Silvies?

DOROTHEA: Well I don't know, maybe, and after they went to Poison Creek. But they did have a school at Poison Creek.

JACK: Yeah, I know they had right there ---

DOROTHEA: Right in there.

JACK: Right in there above where the creek just breaks right into the open right there at Trout Creek.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, uh huh. And the teacher stayed in their house, or in there someplace.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And ---

JACK: I know they, because I know George, I think George said, I've heard him talk

about it, I think they lived in a tent in the Bowen meadow up there the first year they come here. Because Ray hung onto that, and Ruth hung onto that homestead there in Montana, I think it was.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

JACK: And kept scraping enough money to keep paying the taxes on it. And by golly they finally hit oil on that bugger.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, yeah, that's where they made their big strike.

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: And George said all the other relatives had give up. And I mean, I guess there was a number of relatives had homesteaded around there, and the rest of them had throwed in the towel and left.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: And Ruth hung to it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and it still has on the oil well, or whatever that thing is, that big tank that's there, it's got the Purdy's on it still there.

JACK: Oh. Well are they still pumping oil there, Dorothea, or is it ---

DOROTHEA: I think they still pump a little bit, but they watered it down a lot. And then when Mom and Dad died, well they were watering it pretty bad then.

JACK: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: But I think they're still, the kids are still getting some money out of it. So ---

JACK: Oh, that's quite a deal.

BARBARA: So how did you come about getting this, as compared to your brother? I mean who decided --- You were going to end up staying here after your parents were gone.

JACK: My brother had married a girl from Prairie City, and had moved over there on that place over there. And of course my sister, she and the ranch didn't, I mean she hadn't --- and that was, of course my dad, see my dad died when I was eighteen. And that's, well I was the only one here, and that's when I took over. When I started running this place I was eighteen years old.

DOROTHEA: What did he die of, polio, or a disease or just ---

JACK: No, cerebral hemorrhage of the brain. He was real young, he was only forty-six.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

JACK: And my mother died with meningitis, which now, not spinal meningitis, meningitis, which now they can just --- she was forty. Well they all died real young, my parents, both of them. Well Dorothy ---

BETTY: Yeah, and sister.

JACK: Yeah, of course now if Dorothy and Tony were alive, why Salk vaccine, they'd still be alive.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say; they died of that epidemic that went through.

JACK: Yeah, that ---

DOROTHEA: That's the same one that Jeanne Scrivner and Cathy got, polio at the same time didn't they?

JACK: Same time, yeah.

BETTY: Well they were later, Jack.

JACK: Were they?

BETTY: Yeah, Jean didn't get it at that polio epidemic.

JACK: Oh, I thought she did. Well whatever.

BETTY: There was a, was there a Huggard that died too? But I think she was ---



DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think so, yeah. I think you're right.

BETTY: I think she was a little later.

DOROTHEA: Well it had to have been a little later probably, because Cathy was what, just a baby, or one or two years old when she had polio. So it must have been a little bit later. But I thought that's about the same time that Dorothy and --- wasn't she married to Norm?

JACK: Liebig, yep, yep.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: So it was at an early age then you had a lot of responsibility thrust upon you.

JACK: Well then I was a child bride. Betty got me when I was nineteen, and married me.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh.

BETTY: We were engaged when Jack's dad died. We had gotten engaged right after I graduated, and his dad died that summer.

DOROTHEA: Well before we get into too many more jokes, let's change this (tape) over.

SIDE B

BETTY: This December, Jack and I will be married fifty years.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

DOROTHEA: In December?

BETTY: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Okay, why don't you tell us a little bit about your schooling, and then we'll go on to see how you met Betty. You went to Burns High School.

JACK: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And did you participate in sports and things like that while you were there?

JACK: Yeah, yeah, football.

BETTY: And baseball.

JACK: Of course at that time, why all there was, there was no track, they didn't have track. And you only had one coach; he coached whatever sport there was, which was football and basketball. And then the senior year they had baseball, got a baseball team.

And it's quite different the way, Barbara, the way they traveled then with the team. The parents would take them to every game; I mean they would get up enough parents to haul the players. And let's see, one game, I think we played, what was that you and Bob Smith and I went to ---

BETTY: Oh yes.

JACK: Was that Condon? Who was we playing? Up there somewhere.

BETTY: Arlington.

JACK: Arlington, okay, we're going to Arlington. I had a little '35 Chevrolet Coupe. Of course I, a car at that time, I was driving back and forth to high school in it. So we go, the three of us, the way we go, Betty and Bobby Smith. His folks had the mortuary here, Harry and Florabel. And they lived, Bobby and Norma were, went clear through school with us here. They live down in Brookings, Oregon now. Anyway we take off, and Bobby's sister was living in Pendleton. So remember when we went by and decided we'd visit, maybe we'd visit Norma and Fred on the way up? (Laughter) Well we spent a little too much time, and when we got there ---

BETTY: Well we had a flat tire too.

JACK: Yeah, had a flat tire too. But anyway when we got there, of course the school was quite a ways from the football field. Everybody is all suited up and down there, so they just circled us out on the football field, and we dressed right on the football field, and

played the game. (Laughter)

And so the next day when we got, or when we got back home, why they wanted to know who the chaperon was. Well Bobby said, "I chaperoned him." And I said, "That he chaperoned me, and Betty went along for a navigator I guess."

BARBARA: That probably wasn't real good, huh?

JACK: Nothing really come of it though. And the people didn't seem to think too much about that then. But that wasn't Hoyle.

BETTY: We were safety in number, the three of us I think.

JACK: That wasn't Hoyle, because always there should have been, they didn't ---

BARBARA: An adult.

DOROTHEA: A chaperon, yeah.

JACK: They didn't condone that. But that's the only time I ever suited up on the football field. Went right out on the field and suited up.

DOROTHEA: Well how did you meet Betty?

JACK: Well at school dances, going to school.

BETTY: He was a good dancer, is a good dancer.

JACK: That's how we got to going together.

DOROTHEA: Was she a younger classmate? Was she a classmate or younger?

JACK: Well she was a year behind, a year behind, yeah. A lot of competition though. God she was, you had to wait your turn to date her.

BETTY: No, no.

JACK: See I haven't turned this off have I, playing with it?

DOROTHEA: No, I hope not. As long as it is green here, I think you're okay.

JACK: No, no, that's how we got acquainted, and different school activities. Of course back then they played, well girl's basketball then was half court, wasn't it?

BETTY: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: It was when I was in school.

DOROTHEA: Was when I was there too.

JACK: But it's, but I sure like the sports programs the way they have it now, where the girls get to be involved in it. Back then, well a little intramural was all the girls got.

BARBARA: They didn't have the same opportunities to play.

JACK: No, huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Played volleyball I think. We traveled around when we went to school and played volleyball. But as far as basketball and that --- track, you know, by then they'd started track, and so we did a little bit of track.

JACK: Oh, it's a lot better.

BARBARA: So what year was it that you graduated?

JACK: 1942, from high school.

BARBARA: And so you didn't, because of your family situation didn't have a chance to go to college or anything like that.

JACK: I doubt very much I would have anyway, Barbara, this is all I ever wanted to do. And of course I never tried anything else, so I don't know whether I would have liked it or not. But I've been perfectly satisfied with what I do.

BARBARA: So after your family came from Harney and moved to this area, all they did was ranch, have cattle?

JACK: Right, cattle yeah, both sides.

BARBARA: So you grew up then, that's what you knew, and that was what you decided that you wanted to do also.

JACK: Right, right.

BETTY: Jack always said that one of these days he'll decide whether he likes it here or not.

JACK: No Grandpa Smith was, now he was quite a cowman, Grandpa Smith was. Of course that was a way back, well let's see he started running cattle out, up there on that, where I run cattle today on the forest up there, in 1884, I think when he started running cattle up there.

And of course he just, whatever he wanted up there --- if you had enough sand in your craw. He fenced off a stretch of the river up there above the mouth of Myrtle, oh about four or five miles, just went up on both sides and fenced the rims off and told everybody to stay out of there. He used that in the wintertime.

Of course the old wire is still there, and some of them old trees has grown right through the middle of them now. Them trees, they're, oh great big trees, big old fir trees and got a barb wire going right through the center.

And that's what amazes me, one of these, some of these young forest people, not necessarily young forest people, say here, these people that say you have no feeling for that land. The hell I don't have any feeling for that land. I mean we've used it for better than a hundred years.

BARBARA: Forever.

JACK: The same family, been right in the same family all the time. Because my dad started ---

BARBARA: And if you don't take care of it, you don't have it for the next ---

JACK: We wouldn't be in the cow business today.

BETTY: It's so foolish, you know.

JACK: We wouldn't be in the cow business today, Barbara, if we hadn't taken care of it.

BETTY: Common sense.

DOROTHEA: So you ---

BARBARA: Well there is always just a few that black it for everybody.

JACK: Yeah.

BARBARA: But the majority, I think, understand that they have to take care of things in order to survive.

JACK: And some of these young people, some of these professors in college, I think they've got some of these young fellows so brain washed when they come out of there, it isn't right. I mean they are completely flabbergasted when they talk to you for a little while. I mean the impression that they have been given of what kind of people we are by some of these --- it's not right. I think that we're not getting a fair shake. I'm not saying that we're pure white and everything, but I mean they give us, give them the impression the kind of person we are. That we're just out here to just root this runner into the ground.

DOROTHEA: Rape the ---

JACK: Rape the whole thing.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: Pollute the streams, and eat everything that's in sight, and tear the ground up. Why it's the farthest thing from your mind. I mean you couldn't keep it up and still be in business. And like they say that at one time this was, no sagebrush here. Well now both of my grandparents come in here in covered wagons, and that's a getting back quite a few years, and they said there was lots of sagebrush, because that's what they burnt. I mean they burnt sagebrush for wood.

DOROTHEA: Well Marcus (Haines) did some talks with different ones, and they claimed that the sagebrush was as tall as trees.

JACK: Oh it was.

DOROTHEA: Because that's what they used for wood.

JACK: And out here in this ---

DOROTHEA: And they would go out and cut the sagebrush down for wood, and it was just like cutting a juniper.

JACK: The sage out here in the middle of this valley, I know of, well now that was Grandma Drinkwater's side, they said them old trunks on that sagebrush was enormous. That stuff was six to eight feet high.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. So you know that the sagebrush has been here a long, long time.

JACK: Oh yeah, you bet it has.

DOROTHEA: And you let a ground go, and it comes back. You know even if you have toiled it, and tilled it, and planted it, if you don't keep something on that, this sagebrush comes back.

JACK: Well you just stop and think now, if we'd move, say we go back a hundred and fifty years and the pioneers are going to start settling this up, coming. If we had the environmentalists today, back a hundred and fifty years ago, they'd have never got across the plains, because the first time one of them old wagons cut a rut in there, or some of them oxen started pooh-poohing on the ground, she'd have all been over with, they'd have stopped them right there. That would have been the end of it; we'd have never got out here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's true.

JACK: They'd have stopped them. Because Grandma Drinkwater said, she was a little girl when they was a coming across the plains, and one time they set for three solid days and nights, the buffalo were migrating, and it was just a steady roar, it never stopped. She said God, babies were crying, and of course they couldn't move. They was going on both sides of them. Now they never run into them or anything. But she said the dust just boiling --- but three solid days and nights she said the ground just shook. Now how many

of them would have, there would be no way of knowing how many of them run by in that time.

But she, talk about livestock doing damage, she was telling about those buffalo wallows and those trails. She said they had trails beat in umpteen, I don't know how deep in those, out there on those plains. But there would be no way of knowing how many of them was going.

DOROTHEA: And not just one, because so many buffalo going through, you know there are going to be more than one trail.

JACK: Oh yeah. And I mean this bunch migrating. But just think for three days and nights solid, I wouldn't know how many thousand of them went by.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: There would be no, well there would be no way of knowing how many went by. But it is, it would be, if they were trying to settle this country now, you couldn't get her done.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BETTY: They'd never get here.

JACK: No, they would stop them, they'd have stopped them cold. Because I mean, well there is still ruts --- now right up here, there was a wagon train went through just north of Burns up here. I don't know what train that was. That's where Emigrant got its name. And you can still see the wheel tracks where it goes up on, on the old, one old ranch. Well it belongs to Congressman Smith now, where they went up the hillside out there, they can still see the wagon tracks where they went up out of the Silvie's River going over to Emigrant, up there at the old O'Malley place.

And there is an Emigrant grave in Ches Mace's field up there. And I'm sure there is another one out on Gravel Ridge, because there was a flag bloomed there for years and



years. There is a little mound there.

BETTY: No, iris that ---

JACK: Or iris it was, yeah.

BETTY: Well iris, flags, they're both the same.

JACK: And I'm sure it's on the same line going through there. And I'm sure that --- well he said there is a little girl buried in Ches Mace's --- Well that belongs to Congressman Smith now, that little girl is buried there in that field. It's marked, it's a, well marked, it was a little fence around it. She died with spotted fever I guess.

But that must have been something, we was talking about that the other day. To come across those plains with a family, how did you take care of ---

DOROTHEA: And lose so many.

JACK: The women especially. I mean ---

BETTY: It would be terrible. Have you been up to Baker to the new (BLM Interpretive Center) ---

BARBARA: Yes, uh huh.

JACK: That's real good.

BARBARA: It's really interesting, isn't it?

JACK: Yeah, it is, it really is.

DOROTHEA: We went up last weekend, and there was a family living there. At the time, did they have the wagon train set out on the edge of the hills?

JACK: Huh uh.

BETTY: No.

DOROTHEA: Well they did now, and I think there is three wagons setting out there, and the husband was building another wagon. And this family goes on weekends and they live just like the pioneers did.

BETTY: Not for me.

DOROTHEA: And she was out there and cooking her, they had bacon and eggs, and hotcakes. And we said, you know, "Did they really --- and a table and chairs." And we said, "Did they really set up those tables and chairs?" And they said, "Yes, because they had to have some place to serve the food." And they had, this was in the 1853 part, and they had researched this to know just exactly the kind of condiments they took, and the food that they took, and how much they took.

BETTY: But water would be such a to-do.

JACK: Well and your bathroom. I mean how did your personal ---

DOROTHEA: Right.

JACK: Because Grandma Drinkwater said when they were coming across the plains they could look back, that would have been discouraging to see where they was camped the night before. I mean, you know they only made ---

DOROTHEA: Mounds and mounds and mounds, huh?

JACK: --- they only make, yeah they only make eight or ten miles a day, you know, them old oxen. I mean that wouldn't be, that would kind of be discouraging where you could look back at it, and that wasn't making too much headway. I mean I'd have been glad to get to a hill where you could go over and get out of sight of your last campground.

DOROTHEA: They said on this Oregon Trail they traveled sometimes twenty miles per day, and that's a lot.

JACK: Well now that's a hitting it off.

DOROTHEA: You know twenty miles is really going.

JACK: Because their animals ---

BARBARA: You just can't do that.

JACK: They wouldn't stand that any length; they wouldn't stand that over any period of

time. Well I don't know about oxen, a horse wouldn't, a horse wouldn't take it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, no, no he wouldn't.

JACK: Huh uh. But it was a, that was something else.

BETTY: But talk about your brave people.

JACK: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

JACK: And the hardships.

DOROTHEA: The thing that, the thing that I, bothered me so much, and I was, the one lady where they showed in the inside of the building, and she is sitting there and she is having to leave the grave, her child that died.

BETTY: That really bothered me.

DOROTHEA: And I said, you know, "How in the world, how could you do that, you know." You probably couldn't take them with you.

JACK: No.

DOROTHEA: But after I got where I went, I think I'd have to go back and get it. I couldn't leave my child out there in those --- nothing.

JACK: I know Grandma Drinkwater said they would drive over them, because the Indians would dig them up.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah. So the Indians, yeah, or the animals.

BETTY: Or the animals.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, yeah.

JACK: But before they started, I don't know, I can't remember where Grandma Drinkwater come from. See Dad was a Rinehart; see her, the Rinehart ---

DOROTHEA: There is a Rinehart trail through ---

JACK: Yeah. Well see ---

DOROTHEA: --- from Vale.

JACK: --- Lewis and Elizabeth Rinehart, let's see, Elizabeth Rinehart would be my great-great ---

BETTY: Oh, I don't know.

JACK: Because Grandma Drinkwater, her --- she was one of their, her mother was one of their children. So she would be a great-great-grandma, wouldn't she?

BETTY: Whatever.

JACK: They just had that, yeah, just had that Rinehart reunion. That's one of the oldest families ---

BETTY: The Edwards and the Rinehart's.

JACK: Yeah, it's an old ---

DOROTHEA: Somehow or other Geri and Arlie Oster --- she must be a Rinehart or something, or descendent.

JACK: She is related, she is related, Geri is.

BETTY: Somewhere they're related.

JACK: Yeah, they went to it.

DOROTHEA: They went to it this year, and he said that they'll probably go again next year.

JACK: Yeah, they brought back the tree.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: And I know Arlie said, he said, "You're not too far off the trunk." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, he is going to get one and put it in the museum so you can go up and look at it.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: Yeah, well we've got an old tree somewhere from the ---

BETTY: I think we've got one somewhere.

JACK: Well of course it wouldn't be, it wouldn't be current. Because it was the one when Buck and Billy had sponsored it in Logan Valley, they had the Rinehart reunion.

BETTY: Well Suzie was just about two or three years old then.

JACK: She was the youngest, and that old, they took a picture, we got that picture someplace. She was the youngest, and that old Rinehart was the oldest.

BETTY: She is twenty-five now, twenty-three years ago or so.

JACK: Yeah. No, it was --- my aunt, my dad's sister, Aunt Tuney oh she loved those reunions. Boy I tell you she'd take them in every time. And I remember one time we went to one in Springfield. We've got that picture somewhere of that. And oh, there was a quite a group left here. There was of course Jack Withers, he was, see the Withers they were in on that, and Earl. And my aunt and uncle up here, Aunt Tot and Uncle Clay, and my folks, and I don't know how many. Anyway we left here; I can remember that, real early in the morning. And they got to Sisters before dark, and talk about that, they bragged about that. When they got down to Springfield they were still telling all those people how they went clear, got clear over to Sisters in the daylight. (Laughter) Yeah they went clear across there with just no problem at all, and got clear over there in the daylight.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: Let's back up just a little bit, and you were talking about you went to school, you met, and when did you marry Betty?

JACK: And, December the 9th, 1943.

BETTY: He usually says December 7th, that was Pearl Harbor Day.

JACK: I get Pearl Harbor Day and our wedding mixed.

BETTY: He says he always get the two confused. (Laughter) That's when our fight

started.

BARBARA: And what was your maiden name?

BETTY: Claire.

BARBARA: Claire, okay. C L A I R ?

JACK: E.

DOROTHEA: E.

BARBARA: With an E on the end.

BETTY: My father was the sawyer at the mill for twenty some years.

BARBARA: Okay. Okay, and what kind of a courtship did you have?

BETTY: Stormy.

JACK: Like I said, just get in, I just duck in between the other ones, and fight your way up the ladder.

BETTY: He had staying power.

JACK: They drafted all the rest of them, Barbara.

BETTY: Oh no, that's what he always said. (Laughter)

BARBARA: So you were married, and do you have children?

JACK: Oh yes, we have five children. Dick is the oldest, he is 48, and Bob and Bill the twins are 45.

BETTY: They're five, yeah five, forty-five.

JACK: And Diane is 40.

BETTY: Uh huh.

JACK: And Jim is 34.

BETTY: Thirty-six.

JACK: Well I'm back off on him.

BARBARA: What about grandchildren, do you have grandchildren?

JACK: Got eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

BARBARA: Oh mercy.

JACK: See our oldest granddaughter is 27 years old.

BARBARA: My goodness.

JACK: Let's see, they're all, what the eight grandchildren, there is six and two, six girls and two boys.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: And the great-grandchildren are two boys and a girl.

BARBARA: That's wonderful. And so if you were married at age nineteen, is that right?

JACK: Uh huh, yeah.

BARBARA: Did you not then go into the military? Was this, this was after the war had started?

BETTY: He was 2-C, it was the way they rated ---

JACK: They took us down, had the war continued I would have, Barbara. They took us down and give us a physical, and had the war continued I'm sure they would have finally -- of course I was the only one here.

BETTY: But he was on a necessary ---

BARBARA: Right, uh huh. He had a family and that type of thing.

JACK: I think they would have taken us anyway though, if the war had continued. Because a whole bunch of us went down, oh there was ---

BETTY: Yes, tell about that.

JACK: Yeah, oh golly, Fred Fine, and Howard Otley, and Dick Corbet, and oh there was a whole group of us ranchers went down, oh a whole busload and give us a physical.

BARBARA: And went down to Portland?

BETTY: They took suitcases of whiskey along with them.

JACK: Yeah.

BARBARA: Yeah, what kind of a bus ride was that on into Portland?

JACK: Oh, when we got down there, well I know Sherburn's too, Allen Sherburn and his brother they were on that, on that bus. And they had to hold some of them over for a few days, well not a few days, for a few hours because of high blood pressure. I mean there was, and there was still streetcars down there, and I remember a little guy, and he was on limited service, met the bus. And Del Sherburn, a great big guy, Allen's brother, and he picked him up and was a packing him up and down the street out there, and just a hollering for --- you could hear him for all over Portland down there. And that little guy had a little riding crop he was carrying; he was trying to get old Del to put him down.

BETTY: They wondered where all these big healthy guys suddenly came from, you know.

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: I went down on another bus because Jack's sister lived down there in Portland, and we were going to stay for a while. And there was a drunk on the bus with me.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

BETTY: And he says, "I'm on the wrong bus, stop the bus, I want to go with those guys." He saw all the liquor.

BARBARA: So you were married and just took off running your ranch then, is that right?

JACK: I've been here ever since, Barbara, yeah, same place.

BARBARA: And do you have pretty much the same cattle numbers going back and forth?

JACK: Just practically the same, oh a few more, not a great deal more, no. Now none of the boys, except Jim, was interested in ranching. I know my oldest boy he said, "If I can't make a living easier than you do," he says, "I'm sure going to take a whirl at something else." He is an engineer. Well he is the city engineer for Richland, Washington now. And



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BARBARA: Richland?

JACK: Uh huh. Billy, the one twin, he has worked for United Grocers now for ---

BETTY: Twenty some years.

JACK: Yeah. Bob, he worked on the railroad here, Oregon Northwestern, between here and Seneca until they closed down, and then he's worked for the state highway now for what, a number years.

BETTY: Eight or nine I think.

JACK: Yeah.

BARBARA: And where is he?

JACK: He lives right here in Burns.

BARBARA: Oh, in Burns, okay.

JACK: And then Diane is married, and her husband Tom Weil is the lab technician for the hospital. And Diane is a, what ---

BETTY: She has worked with the school systems for ---

JACK: School systems for a number of years.

BETTY: Yeah, quite a few.

JACK: And her oldest boy, her only boy, graduated from high school this year.

BARBARA: Jeff.

JACK: Jeff. And Kelly ---

BETTY: Jeff loved your son so much. He idolized him for years.

JACK: Oh yeah, he had a good idol.

BETTY: Yeah, he just thought Jeff (Lofgren) ---

DOROTHEA: Now Jeff is going to go to school and become a lab technician too?

JACK: No.

BETTY: No, he is talking about psychiatry, but I don't know whether that will ---

JACK: No, he is going to go to Bend. He is all signed up to go to Bend.

BETTY: He was going to go to LaGrande, and then they decided that it was \$2000 extra for there, and none of his friends or anybody he knew was going over there. So the first two years I think is pretty ---

JACK: Jeff is a good student, he is a good student.

BETTY: Yeah, both of them are.

JACK: Well yeah, so is Kelly.

DOROTHEA: Well I read something in the paper about them coming back to Burns and working here, and I think that's a real good idea. You know, I mean if they are willing to do this, we need some of our people to stay at home.

BETTY: Oh yeah.

JACK: Well now Tom started, well he was in Bend, lab technician in Bend. In fact he was, when they opened the new hospital in Bend, he worked there what, for a while.

DOROTHEA: Quite awhile, yeah.

BETTY: Jeff was just a baby.

JACK: Well Jeff, wasn't Jeff the last one born in the old hospital in Bend, the one that is on the little knob over there, Jeff was the last one, he was born on Christmas Day in Bend.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he got cheated too, didn't he?

JACK: Yeah, double-header. Are you on Christmas Day, Dorothea?

DOROTHEA: No.

BETTY: Yeah, it's so bad, you know. But Diane has always made Christmas Eve as Christmas, and Christmas Day as Jeff's, so that works out good.

BARBARA: And then so Jim, your youngest ---

JACK: Is here with me now, yeah.

BARBARA: Is here with you.

JACK: Yeah, he is, in fact he, why I just kind of follow him around and stay out of his road.

BETTY: No, I don't think so.

JACK: Of course now he has two kids. Darci is a third grader.

BARBARA: He married the Geer girl.

JACK: Thad, yeah, yeah, Cheryl. And Darci, they have two kids, Darci is three, and Joe - -- no Darci is eight, and Joe is three. I get them straightened around here. No.

DOROTHEA: And Bill has how many?

JACK: Two girls. Billy, the twin you're talking about?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

JACK: He has two girls. What Shawna, and Shellie. Shawna is what?

BETTY: She is about 23 now, I think.

JACK: Shellie is ---

BETTY: Yeah, two years younger.

JACK: Two years younger. And of course Dick had two girls. Linda is 27, and Suzie is --

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BETTY: Twenty-five.

JACK: Twenty-five.

DOROTHEA: So Joe is the only Drinkwater.

JACK: The only Drinkwater, yeah the only boy.

BETTY: Of course Billy married ---

JACK: Of course now my brother's got, well of course my ---

DOROTHEA: Well I meant in your family.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah. Well one of Billy's just got ---

JACK: Yeah he was killed last year.

DOROTHEA: Killed, uh huh.

JACK: In a helicopter accident, Jay.

BETTY: Billy is doing missionary work now in Texas for a year.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he is?

BETTY: Can you imagine that?

JACK: And then Ronnie ---

BETTY: Jack asked him, he says, "Now I don't mean to be rude," but he says, "aren't you kind of old for something like that?" (Laughter) Billy was 76 now.

JACK: They're getting desperate.

DOROTHEA: Well don't they have to do a little bit of that though?

BETTY: Yeah, but normally, you know, right out of high school.

DOROTHEA: You're younger, yeah.

BETTY: He's always wanted to do this.

JACK: Jerry, his youngest boy, I know he put in a couple years, where was it?

BETTY: South American.

JACK: Yeah, some place.

BETTY: Of course we're Catholic, and ---

BARBARA: They're Mormon.

BETTY: --- and Billy is Mormon. So we don't speak about religion.

BARBARA: It's safer not to.

BETTY: Yeah. Billy had two kids that are Catholic, and one that doesn't bother much, and then the youngest one was Mormon. So potpourri.

BARBARA: Whatever serves your own needs.

JACK: You betcha.

BETTY: That's right.

JACK: You bet your life.

BARBARA: So, what have you been doing other than your ranch work the last few years, or whatever?

BETTY: Tell about our trip we took in February. That's the highlight.

JACK: Yeah, we took a trip to Cancun. Our oldest boy has a time-share in a, well I don't know what, which motel it is, anyway you can trade them.

BETTY: Condominiums.

JACK: Anyway they talked us into going to Cancun in February, and that was a wonderful trip. I, we really enjoyed it. It was a once in a lifetime deal for us. It was, when we left down at Portland they had to de-ice the plane three times.

BETTY: And I'd never flown in a large plane.

JACK: Well I hadn't either; I'd never flown in anything but a little small airplane. And then they had snowplows out there running up and down the runway clearing it off, but we really enjoyed it, we really had a good time. It's quite a deal to go through those Miah ruins down there.

BETTY: Exciting.

DOROTHEA: Was it warm while you were there?

JACK: Real nice, eighty some degrees.

BETTY: Eighty every day.

BARBARA: Oh, wonderful.

DOROTHEA: Oh, nice.

BETTY: We were there seven days, and we got back home, and the day we got back

home it was twenty-two below.

JACK: Yeah, and it was a change in temperature.

DOROTHEA: I was going to say, then you missed some of that nice calving weather that we had.

JACK: Yeah, we got back on, the night after we got back home it was twenty-two, it dropped down to twenty-two below. It was a change.

DOROTHEA: And the snow was this deep.

JACK: Yeah.

BARBARA: And I understand that your son has some racehorses. Can you tell us something about them?

JACK: Well now they did, we haven't run any, he hasn't run any, Barbara, for the last what, two years. '90 I think is the last time we run any horses.

BETTY: Three years.

JACK: Three years. Yeah, he really did, he went in, oh we had a lot of fun.

BARBARA: I remember you going, seeing you at the State Fair ---

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: Jack was even in on some of the horses.

JACK: Well the last horse we run, he's out here, Sam's Party, he run pretty good at Boise. The last two starts he --- should have run him, we should have kept running him, because he could run a little bit. No, he had a lot of fun, like he said, it's a pretty expensive thing to get into, but he learned a lot.

BARBARA: Expensive hobby.

JACK: Yes. He had, at one time three thoroughbred studs. Well bred, all three of them were.

BETTY: He raised some nice little ---

JACK: And I don't remember, how many mares did he have, thoroughbred mares? I don't know, eight or ten, didn't he? But he had some real well bred thoroughbred stud horses.

BARBARA: Why did he decide to quit, was it ---

JACK: Well it was just, it took too much of his time.

BARBARA: Too much time?

JACK: He couldn't --- and then like I said it was expensive. Because to raise one of those, Barbara, I mean if you could ever hit one that would jump up and really do something you're in business. I mean if you've got the sire or the mother either one, but to raise one of those little fellows, it takes a lot of money to get one of them up to find out if he can run.

BARBARA: And then to spend the time training.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: Well that's right. And he didn't have, of course he never trained them, now he had a fellow that was training them for him. But you've got two years into him, and you go to the track with him and start training him, well you've got a good three months into him before, and hope he doesn't get a cold, or the sniffles, or ---

BARBARA: Worse than a child?

JACK: Yeah. Shin buck, or whatever could happen to them. And I mean before you can start him to find out if he can run.

BETTY: All of the saddle horses that they have are from the track.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

BETTY: Yeah, they're all racehorses.

DOROTHEA: Rhonda had that one, you know, and she loved that horse. BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: But she wanted to go to school so she sold it.

JACK: That happens to it all right.

BARBARA: I understand that you had some experiences with buffalo, is that true, around here?

JACK: Yeah, with --- when Pon got those buffalo here, well I couldn't wait to get in on that. Oh, that was, to get to rope them. But I, I don't know, I helped them, oh a number of times. And I have never decided whether that's the smartest animal I was ever around, or the dumbest. It's one or the other. But I do know one thing, whenever those cows, when you're handling them, and them old cows tails go in the air, and they start grunting, you want to leave. Because they're going to come at you right now.

DOROTHEA: And they can outrun any horse that you've ever ridden.

JACK: By god, yeah, they make a horse run now I'll tell you. They were a --- Like I said, I don't know, whether they were the smartest or the dumbest.

DOROTHEA: Clinton always called them the craftiest.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: Yeah. Well now when they sold them, Barbara, up there, I rode with Warren Raymond, used to ride around with him quite a bit in his stock truck. And he was hauling them to Baker, they was butchering them in Baker. They had one bull that made three trips, finally they just shot him and drug him off the truck, they couldn't get him off. He wouldn't come off. And of course they, they're a powerful animal, oh they're a powerful animal.

And I can see how they took care of themselves when they were on their own. Up there one day they were running them through --- of course that herd that Pon bought from South Dakota, out of a federal herd, was just really infected with Bang's Disease. And I know they run them, and run them through the chute testing them. I don't know whether they ever did get them cleaned up or not. Anyway this one young cow broke



a leg in the chute, and Steve Miller hollered, "Don't let her out." Well they'd already opened the chute and let her out. And he says, "Now watch her, she's a goner." And about four of them old bulls that was out in the field, they had been letting them out there, they just started coming around her, and cornered her, and killed her. And she knew what was coming, the most pitiful bawl you ever heard. I mean, that poor thing knew exactly what they had in mind. But I presume that's the way they took care of the weak and the sick.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's what Clinton said. Every time one would get down, well you wouldn't find her alive the next day.

JACK: No, they just tear them all, and just tore her all to pieces, those bulls did.

BARBARA: Oh mercy, isn't that awful.

JACK: Just ripped her apart.

DOROTHEA: After that were you there when they were --- they die so fast of shock too. It seems like they're ---

JACK: And if you rope one of them, now their ribs on their windpipe only, they don't go clear around like they do on a domestic cow. And if you really come down on them and collapse that windpipe, they'll choke to death. You can't pull on them; I mean you can't drag them much with a rope around their neck like you would a regular critter. Because if you do, why like I said, it will collapse that windpipe and they'll choke, they'll die right there.

BETTY: Jack, do you want more coffee?

JACK: No thanks, Betty, this is fine. But about as exciting, well it wasn't either as exciting as when they, when we roped the elk up there and sawed the horns off.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to ask about the elk and the wild animals up there. Were you in on that?

JACK: Now those --- yeah, yeah, I was up there when they roped the elk. Now that was spooky to ride into that corral, I mean with those bull elk. They put in, oh two or three bull elk at a time. But now those, they never did, none of them ever took to us. There was one old bull, after they sawed his horns off, kind of backed up in a corner, and oh he stayed in the corral for a little while before we got him out with the others. But I mean you couldn't have done that with them buffalo, they'd have tore you to pieces if you'd have got in there with them. But they never did, never did attack our horse at all.

DOROTHEA: A lot of the buffalo they, when they'd break a leg or anything, they'd keep them in the chute and just kill them right there.

JACK: Yeah, because if you didn't they'd tear them all to pieces.

DOROTHEA: Because, yeah, yeah --- then of course they spread the meat around. But the elk and the little, what else were they called, those little things with horns that they also de-horned?

JACK: I don't know, Pon had quite a menagerie up there, I'll tell you. He had beefalo, and zebras, and yaks, and everything you could think of. That was really interesting up there. It was quite a, it was quite a experience to go up there and have them take you through all of it.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: I wished he had stayed around and ---

BARBARA: Did your horse; was it jittery riding out through there?

JACK: Well I took one horse, I took one horse up when we branded, or de-horned the elk, and he just, had to quit, he was just petrified. Just broke out in a, he just got to foaming in there. And he was a gentle horse.

And one horse that Jim had up there, he was kind of a goosey, kind of a cranky horse, didn't bother him one iota. But that other horse that I had up there --- well the kids

rode him, but he was just petrified of those elk. Got him in the corral with them, and I finally just quit because he was just trembling all over, and just broke out in a sweat, just got like you had been running him for twenty miles. And he just wouldn't --- I took him out and let him cool off and tried him about two or three more times, and he just wouldn't take it, he'd, just scared to death of them.

Well it was spooky, I mean some of them big old five, six point bull elk in there, you know. But they took the slack out of your rope when you high footed one of them; I mean the smoke did fly. They were --- but they wouldn't, like I said they never attacked and never offered to.

DOROTHEA: I think they kind of broke their dignity when they de-horned them.

JACK: Well that could have been, could of been, Dorothea.

DOROTHEA: I think it kind of ---

JACK: Well it could of. I mean, you know, they just kind of wilted when they got in there. They just lost their ---

BETTY: Got embarrassed, humiliated.

JACK: I guess they --- just clear out of their element. And they just kind of, just --- but it was spooky.

BETTY: Jack bought this field up here from Pon.

JACK: He was quite a guy. When he first come here, the first thing he unloaded, he had this place over here where Warren Raymond lives over here at the old (Bill) Stewart place, right across over here. The first thing that came in was a bunch of those long horned steers, great big old fellows. God, there was some dandies, I'll tell you this. This one old steer, when he had that head mounted, I forget how wide those horns was. He run him over here, well he run him over here, Dorothea, he died over here on the Sand Hills over here.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: He kept him up there until he died, and then had the head mounted. I always wanted somebody to go up with me to rope and saw one horn off, but nobody would do it.

BETTY: Oh shame on you. (Laughter)

JACK: That old steer would have just plunked, probably unbalanced him.

BARBARA: Is that the one that the head is in the museum?

JACK: Might be, now it's an enormous ---

BARBARA: Or is that a different one?

DOROTHEA: No, I think that's a different one.

JACK: Is it? This was enormous.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it's not as big as that one of Pons was.

JACK: Oh that had a, he was a real interesting fellow, this Harry Pon. He was quite a guy.

BARBARA: Was he a local person?

JACK: No, he was from California.

BARBARA: I see.

DOROTHEA: No.

JACK: But he was a real nice guy, Barbara, I mean now the only ---

BETTY: He was good for the community.

JACK: Only time he ever bought anything out of Harney County was because he couldn't buy it here. He never bought fencing material, machinery, or whatever it was.

BARBARA: Well that's good.

JACK: He was quite a fellow. He was real interesting to talk to. And he had a cross breeding program going that, I would have give anything in the world if he'd stayed and kept --- he had pretty near every breed of animal that you could think of, commercial

breed, plus all these exotics.

DOROTHEA: Well that zebra he had over at the Sand Hill ---

JACK: Well he was an ornery little devil.

DOROTHEA: --- he was a dandy.

JACK: Yeah, you bet.

DOROTHEA: He kicked.

JACK: But he would donate a buffalo, I don't know how many years he donated the buffalo to the, and they'd have a ---

DOROTHEA: Elks.

JACK: --- feed at the Elks. Anyway this one night this guy called up, called the police up, it was New Years, and he said, "Now I've had a drink or two," but he says, "this is the honest to god fact, there is a buffalo standing under the blinker light up on top of the hill here in Burns." Pete Clemens was fattening him down there, and he got out. And he got back up, and we brought him in and corralled him over here at Warren's.

BARBARA: I was wondering if it was one of Doc White's?

JACK: No, this was one of Harry Pons. I forget who the police, the chief of police was, or city police there in town, they said they got a kick out of this guy. He verified the fact that he had had a drink or two, but no kidding there was a buffalo standing up there.

BARBARA: I remember Frank, we visited with him, and he told about when he had some, that they would get loose sometimes and the police were always calling him to come downtown and pick up his buffalo.

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: Well now he had one up there at Silvies that was ornery than a son-of-a-gun. He tore up a sheepherder's camp a time or two, and kept somebody on his tractor all night.

And they finally give him to a park over at Boise ---

DOROTHEA: In --- yeah.

JACK: --- I think. He was ornery though.

DOROTHEA: Either that or Wyoming, I can't remember.

JACK: Yeah, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: They got him out of here anyway.

JACK: Yeah. But he was ---

DOROTHEA: He was an ornery one.

JACK: Yeah, I guess he was a dandy, a good one.

DOROTHEA: He didn't drive very good either.

JACK: No, I don't suppose. No I don't suppose he did.

BARBARA: Well Betty mentioned a little while ago that you were, that she went around with you when you were a brand inspector.

JACK: Uh huh, I was a brand inspector for about ten years, Barbara, and I enjoyed it, I really did. I like to look at livestock, and of course I knew all the people, or the big end of them anyway. And I really did, I really enjoyed it. I was what, about ten years?

DOROTHEA: Well did you just in Harney County, or where all did you travel?

JACK: Just Harney County, Dorothea. Oh, I might go up to Silvies, I mean you know, get into Grant County. But I mean, still pretty much ---

DOROTHEA: That's pretty close to Harney County.

JACK: Well Buck Hodges and Burt Schroder was who got me, who helped me get started in the brand inspecting. And it was, I really enjoyed it.

BETTY: We saw more of Harney County then than I'd ever did since.

JACK: Yeah, it was a lot of, I really did enjoy it. It was a lot of fun.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about the brand inspecting. What is required of you?

JACK: Well of course the main thing is you go out there, whoever is presenting these cattle for sale is, he owns them. That's the first, that's your primary reason you're there. In other words, and the iron that is on them cattle should be his, or he should have a bill of sale to an iron that's on them. If the iron isn't recorded to him, then he should have a bill of sale to the iron that is on them. And that's where I got into a lot of argument with the brand department, is I, I refused to brand inspect something that didn't have an iron on it.

I got into some trouble up here in Harney County, and like I told them, they'd bring in a bunch of calves, slick year calves, and I got my, I got into a yang-yang with them every time. I'd refused to brand inspect them. I says, "How can you brand inspect something that doesn't have an iron on it?" Well I know, but so and on, and I'd make these guys --- of course it was inconvenient, I'd make them take --- oh there wasn't a lot of times I got into that, and it certainly wasn't any of your, it was more or less these people that moved in later on, I mean, and didn't realize. They weren't trying to steal anything, but I'd make them take them back and show me their, take them back and turn them loose to their mothers before I'd write them up. And they got a little hostile over it, so did the brand department. But I still contend you couldn't brand inspect something that didn't have an iron on it.

DOROTHEA: Well isn't there a law stating that you have to have a brand?

JACK: Huh uh. No, Dorothea there isn't.

DOROTHEA: There is not?

JACK: Now like down in Western Oregon a lot of those cattle never, they've got an ear tag or something like that. But then, crying out loud an ear tag you can cut that out pretty easy.

DOROTHEA: Well how do you distinguish between, say for instance Clinton just bought a bunch of steers and they've got four or five different brands on them. How do you know

which one of those brands is really the true owner?

JACK: Well Clinton should have to come up with some kind of a paper for one of those other irons, a bill of sale. In other words they've got Clinton's on there, the CP. And there is another iron, which you do; there is another iron there. I could say, okay Clint, I've got to have, you've got to show me a bill of sale for one of these, say there is one iron, or two irons, whatever. If there is another iron besides Clinton's on there, and Clinton's iron is healed and peeled, supposedly when you sell something it's supposed to be healed and peeled. I mean, not a fresh brand. And Clinton's iron is healed and peeled on there, and there is another iron, Clinton, I can require Clinton to come up with a bill of sale covering that other iron.

BETTY: And then you go back if you have to.

JACK: Yeah, and then follow it on back past that.

DOROTHEA: Well of course I know all this, but I mean getting this down on tape. But, okay say, say if I've sold a cow and it ends up, and I got the money for it, okay I get a call next year and they say we've got your cow down here. And I get this cow back, how does this happen?

JACK: Well now ---

BETTY: It shouldn't.

JACK: It shouldn't happen Dorothea. I mean if you sold a cow and got some money for it, that person, in the first place should have been a brand inspection in a change of ownership.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: And that should cover that cow. And if you got it back, you shouldn't get it back. And ---

DOROTHEA: We did.



BETTY: Has this actually happened?

JACK: Oh.

DOROTHEA: This actually happened. We got a call from Lakeview from the brand inspector, and they had a cow of ours down there. And we had sold her the year before at the Ontario, or Vale, or some sale. And we couldn't figure out why we got that cow back, because we had sold her and gotten the money for her.

JACK: She should have been cleared out of the sale yard. That guy should have had a brand inspection covering her. He wouldn't have had to re-brand her; of course he should have re-branded her.

DOROTHEA: Well the person was selling her again, and they couldn't prove ownership.

JACK: Oh, they'd lost their papers.

DOROTHEA: So, that's what happened.

JACK: Well now one time, years ago there used to be a guy by the name of Scott Brown come in here from Condon, Oregon, and he'd buy weaners in the fall. My dad had a set of scales at the upper ranch, the stone house I had mentioned earlier. And he'd buy these weaner calves, oh he bought my dad's and Henry Christensen, and the Bakers, and Uncle Dole's, and he would put together, oh quite a lot of these weaner calves. And just take them off their mothers right up there and drive them through. The first night we'd stay all night at Ray and Ruth Purdy's, with those weaners. And it took, I went through with them once, it took, I think thirteen or fourteen days.

Anyway, what I started to say, over by Dayville we'd go, they stayed in that area, and it was, oh I don't know how many years afterwards that this brand department called up my brother and says, "There is a guy in Dayville got a cow of yours." And had lost a heifer calf going through. Of course this guy didn't have any right to this critter. But how it got, how they got word of it was that a neighbor of his noticed he would never brand a calf

off of this cow until it was weaned, before he'd ever put an iron on the calf. So he knew something was haywire. So he went over and he wanted to buy the cow. Well the guy didn't want to sell her. And he offered a price that was unreasonable at the time, clear out of the market, above market, but he got the iron off of her, the XI on the right ribs, and sent it into the brand department and found out who it was registered to, and come back. And I forget what it cost that guy, because that cow at that time was twelve or fifteen years old. And they figured up quite a herd of cattle off of her. I mean figured half of them was heifer calves, and the calve's calves, calves would be having calves. And he got into quite a mess over it.

DOROTHEA: We also got into that where people ran like, in unison, like us with Tylers, and Tylers with other people. And these are not the people, but they had run cows with us probably seven years prior to that. And finally one year they were working cows out, and here ends up this CP cow. And they said, "Well we're bringing it back, but it never had a calf." Well that cow had surely had about seven calves. So ---

BETTY: Well sure.

JACK: Well now Elmer ---

DOROTHEA: But that was kind of funny.

JACK: When my dad died, Elmer Houston bought all my dad's cattle. And of course we was running out here on the desert in Hampton. And one of them old cows, of course it had Elmer Houston's iron on it, took her, what was it, three or four years for her to get back. And we picked her up on the range up here. She'd finally made her way back clear through there, but hadn't got back home. I got a hold of him and he come and got her. Of course he had his iron on her too, but she was headed home. And she'd got clear back, she made her way back through.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, sometimes they'll do that, yeah.

JACK: Yeah, homing instinct.

BARBARA: So have you had any other jobs besides this, other than your ranching? Or is this the only thing ---

JACK: Well I served one term County Commissioner. I don't know how many years on the grade school board.

BETTY: You had ten on the grade school board.

JACK: Yeah, and I was on the budget board for the high school.

BETTY: The budget board for the high school.

JACK: And oh here, there, and where have you. That's about the size of it though.

BETTY: Then they used to hay together ...

JACK: Yeah, George and I did, yeah, hayed.

DOROTHEA: Before we get into that, let's kind of change tapes and take a breather for a minute or two.

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

DOROTHEA: I understand that you've done some haying with some of the neighbors. Now how did this get started, and who all did you

---

JACK: Well it first started, Dorothea, with Wallace Baker, that's on the Baker place over here where you and Clinton own today, we hayed together. And then after Purdy's bought the place, George and Mary, we just started haying together, and hayed for years there together. Where it made a crew, where otherwise, you know, you couldn't. And it made a good summer job for my boys too, give them a good haying job.

DOROTHEA: Did you start by using horses?

JACK: Well some, but not too much. No, I mean it was, oh when we first started in yeah,

the rake and the bunching was done with horses, but we was mowing with tractors when we first started haying together. And then it finally just got down to where there wasn't any horses, of course, involved in it.

BETTY: Tell them about the time that Red was here.

JACK: George and I, there was an old fellow that used to come over from Nampa and helped us hay every year.

BETTY: Every year.

JACK: And for a long time, Adolph Stein, we called him Red, and he was going to finish bunching down at George's. We'd always start haying on your, well it's your place now; George's first, and then work up here. And he was so close right down here in the willow field that he, Betty told him just come up here for dinner, was no use to go clear back over to Mary's. Well he didn't have a watch, and I never thought anything about it, he took an alarm clock with him, and when that thing went off at noon why he bunched hay pretty good there for a little while until he got that team stopped there. (Laughter) That old alarm, he'd set it in the toolbox in the middle there on that, on that old buncher, and when the alarm sounded, why so did the team.

BARBARA: Did you cook for the hay crew at all Betty?

BETTY: Yes, uh huh.

BARBARA: And how many were involved in that then?

BETTY: Well there used to be quite a crew.

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: Then there was a few years that we couldn't get help. And so I'd go out and work until about a half an hour before the meals, and then come in and cook. And that was, that only happened two years, I think.

JACK: Oh, is that all?

BETTY: Yeah.

BARBARA: So that was quite a chore for you to cook then.

BETTY: Well yes, because you cooked three meals a day, and they were large meals.

BARBARA: Big meals, uh huh.

BETTY: And you had dessert with each meal, and it was steak or such one, and roast or something like that the next.

DOROTHEA: And Betty doesn't know this, but there was quite a lot of competition between the meals too.

BETTY: Oh, is that right?

JACK: I'm sure.

DOROTHEA: The cooks on that end of the valley would say, "What did you have for dinner today?" And they'd say such and such, and we had the best cream puffs. So the next week when we cooked well we had to compete.

BETTY: I can remember I'd always have cream puffs and chocolate éclairs for their treats. Usually at least two or three times during haying, because they all loved them. And so we'd make the chocolate éclairs and the cream puffs. And you know ---

BARBARA: That was a real treat.

BETTY: --- it was pies and cakes. You'd have cake for one, and pies for the other. And you really did lots of cooking. I'm glad those days are not now. We're getting awful lazy.

DOROTHEA: Me too, because I don't even like to cook for brandings anymore.

BETTY: We don't eat like we used to, or cook like we used to.

BARBARA: Did you have to take something out mid-morning or mid-afternoon for a drink or something like that?

BETTY: Yeah, I made homemade root beer every year. And at, usually at three I'd go out with the root beer, and oh boy the men loved that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think that happened last year too, because Clinton says, "I see Betty taking Jack out his root beer. Why didn't you bring me something to drink?"

BETTY: Now it's iced tea. I bring out iced tea now.

DOROTHEA: I'll have to tell him it's not root beer anymore.

BETTY: Year before last I found some root beer extract. Well Lois Clemens found it for me, and I made some more homemade root beer. But they've quit making it, so ---

JACK: Of course haying then was a lot different than haying is now. They was slide stacked, you know, and it took --- well like stacking, you had two net setters, and at least two setting on, at least one, well actually one stacker and the Jim driver. It took a lot more people to handle the haying. And now it's all machinery.

BETTY: I used to Jim drive for Jack, and he didn't appreciate me too much, because he was always afraid I would pull them off the end of the stack, and so I wouldn't come clear to the end. But I said he didn't have enough insurance for me.

DOROTHEA: Well that pullback horse did about the same thing.

BARBARA: Well you mentioned earlier too that you served on the County Commission, is that right?

JACK: Uh huh, I was County Commissioner for one term, yeah.

BARBARA: Okay, who served with you during that time, and when was it?

JACK: The first, gee what years was that. It was Lee Williams, and the first term I served on there --- well Jenkins, Dick Jenkins had been on the County Court and he retired. I mean he didn't run again. The first two years it was Lee Williams and I. And the last two was Pluribus Tiller and I was the County Commissioners.

BETTY: Judge Craddock was the Judge.

JACK: And Chet Craddock was the Judge. And I do remember during that term there was a lot of people got to get out of the mud. I mean the county built roads, oh back up

Kimball Flat, clear up the river from Drewsey. Got those people out of the mud. The road between Buchanan and Crane was just impassable in the spring, I mean they got --- those people got out of the mud, graveled their road. The people out at Rock Creek, that road was graveled, and brought those people out of the mud. There was a number of communities that got, because they were isolated in the spring. They'd come out with a team or a horseback, or they didn't come out. Them roads were just impossible, impassable with a vehicle. But it was a --- Herb Fawcett was the road master at that time. And well, they redone the road down on the east side of Steens Mountain down there around Serrano Point and all that, rebuilt all those roads. He was real, he was a real clever guy at designing roads and bridges and what have you. He was quite a roadman, he was a good one. But it was interesting, I enjoyed that too, I really did.

DOROTHEA: Did you do any traveling out of town? When George was on there he did a lot of out-of-town traveling.

JACK: Oh, not a lot, Dorothea, now other than your annual convention every year down in Portland.

BETTY: Well, and you'd go to meetings.

JACK: Well yeah, but not a lot of them. Oh once in awhile meet with the guys in Grant or Malheur County, but not a lot of it.

BETTY: I know we had to have a two-way radio in the house at that point in time.

JACK: Well he'd hold meetings, that way Ches could talk to us, especially when Lee Williams was on the court, and we could hold a meeting without having to come in. It was a little different salary than it is today too, Barbara. At that time you got twelve dollars a meeting, for meetings, when you attended a meeting, and ten cents a mile for your travel. And I think the commissioners today get over a thousand a month.

DOROTHEA: Oh, do they really?

JACK: I think so.

BARBARA: Well, that would be nice.

DOROTHEA: I think maybe I'll run.

BETTY: Yeah, you better run.

JACK: And golly, I don't remember Ches' salary was --- of course we're going back, what has that been, what year was I on?

BETTY: Oh Jack, I can't remember what that was.

JACK: Because Aunt Babe (Alleta), my aunt was ---

BETTY: Treasurer.

JACK: --- treasurer, county treasurer.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and this is Babe Dillard.

BETTY: Babe Dillard.

JACK: Uh huh.

BARBARA: So you're talking '40's or '50's?

JACK: Well it would have to be in the '50's, wouldn't it?

BETTY: Late '50's, or ---

JACK: Well I could look up; I could look up when I was appointed. Oh what was his name that was the county clerk, he retired and Filteau ---

DOROTHEA: Don Filteau.

JACK: Don Filteau took over, and Billy Carroll left that morning.

BETTY: Carroll.

JACK: I know he swore me in and left for California. And as far as I know Billy Carroll, he was an old time resident here, was county clerk for years. And he, as far as I know, never returned again. He went to California, him and his wife. He was a crippled guy, had a homestead out in Catlow Valley. And was digging a well and something happened, a



ladder broke, anyway he was in that well for, oh he was almost dead when they found him. And that was why he was crippled, I don't know whether you remember him or not, Dorothea.

BETTY: He lost a leg, didn't he?

JACK: Yeah, in the process, he fell back, I don't know, he was coming out and fell back in and laid there so long with a broken leg or something. They had to amputate; I don't know whether they had to amputate the leg or what.

BETTY: I think he lost his leg now.

BARBARA: I remember reading the story.

JACK: But I've got that paper somewhere, the day when I got elected, but I don't remember what year it was. It's been a lot of years ago.

DOROTHEA: It must have been in the late '40's, because ---

JACK: Yeah, it could have been. Yeah, because ---

DOROTHEA: I don't think Don took over until the early '50's.

JACK: Don and I went in the same year.

DOROTHEA: Did you?

JACK: Yep, same year. He was elected county clerk and I was elected commissioner the same year. I know Aunt Babe, oh she just blew up. Ches Craddock, I'd worked for Ches Craddock a summer when I was out of high school up in Silvies, and worked all summer for him up there, and knew him real well. He made some kind of a statement to Aunt Babe that I was too young. And oh boy, did she blow her plug. She put him in the rigging right now. (Laughter) I know Darius, Darius Mundy was, he had a, was a democratic, I was running Democrat, a democratic county chairman. And who was it was ---

BETTY: John Gault.

JACK: John Gault was assessor wasn't he, in the assessor's office I believe.

BETTY: Something, I think so.

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: Is that a car coming in?

DOROTHEA: UPS.

BETTY: Oh, that's Jim; he's got a package coming.

JACK: That's Jim coming in, in the UPS?

BETTY: Jim has a package coming.

JACK: Oh.

BARBARA: And then you mentioned you served on the high school budget board, and the grade schools, school board. Can you tell us some of the things that happened during those times?

JACK: Well let's see on the grade school board, of course Doc John (Weare) was on there. And oh, let's see, who else was on that. I was trying to think; oh Dalton was on the board.

BARBARA: Jim Dalton?

JACK: No.

DOROTHEA: Chester?

JACK: No, we'll get him right here pretty quick.

DOROTHEA: Trux.

JACK: Trux Dalton was a school board member, and Mrs. Ausmus, and who was another one that was on that board?

DOROTHEA: Inez, you mean?

JACK: Uh huh, Inez was school board member there for years with us.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JACK: And oh, I was trying to think who else, oh his wife, he just was here, his wife just died with --- they had the Burns Lumber Company down here.

DOROTHEA: Oh, McCrae.

JACK: Yeah, Norman McCrae was a school board member on that for a long time. But Doc John was on there for years and years. I remember every year we used to go, oh set up there all night long figuring up a teacher's schedule, salary schedule. And they'd approve it, and the next year you'd have to do it all over again. (Laughter) I finally told Doc John I couldn't think where we was a gaining too much headway on it, because it never, it never stayed with it anyway. They would accept it, and then the next year they would change it all again.

But now back then now, when I first went on the school board the teacher was a very sorely underpaid person. Now I mean their wages was very, they weren't anyways near what they should be. They were underpaid something terrible.

BARBARA: Well I can remember when I was going to college that if you couldn't hack it in the engineering department or whatever, other department you were in, they'd put you into education. Because you couldn't make the grade, so they put you into education, which I thought was terrible. Because a teacher needs to be one of the better students, because they're training our future country and city leaders, you know.

JACK: Why yeah.

BARBARA: You need the best people you possibly can get, and they deserve a very good salary in order to do this job.

JACK: Right. Well what was it Mrs. Rodetsky (sp.?), well it ain't Mrs. Rodetsky, what did she say when she come here to teach, what was she getting that first year?

BETTY: Oh, it was ridiculous. I can't remember the exact amount, but it was next to nothing.

JACK: Yeah they were, they were a sorry underpaid --- for the jobs that they were doing, they should, you know, I mean they should be on the top of the pay scale, not on the bottom.

DOROTHEA: Well I think our classes were something like thirty-five and forty kids to a class, you know.

BETTY: Oh yes.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And now they won't teach more than twenty, twenty-four.

BETTY: We had our fiftieth and fifty-first high school class reunion this summer. And she was there, and she is seventy-eight now, and she looks just as sharp.

JACK: You bet.

BETTY: She came from Puyallup, Washington, she and her husband.

JACK: Well didn't she say a hundred and twenty-five a month?

BETTY: Well it was something just about like that.

JACK: I mean, I don't know, well you know of course back then at least you could survive on that. But I mean that wouldn't even buy a week's groceries now. But I mean ---

BARBARA: Ridiculous. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well what was it, we was talking to Gladys Beckley, and she came here to teach because of the money. And I think that's what she said she got a hundred and twenty-five or something like that a month.

JACK: Oh it was a real ripper, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, that's what she ---

BETTY: My job at the bank when I started, it was sixty dollars a month.

JACK: Well Ted Wagner worked for my dad for one stretch, pretty near fourteen years for thirty dollars a month. Never got a raise, there was no ---

BETTY: Board and room.

JACK: --- board and room. There was no insurance in that, there was no vacation. And nobody thought anything about that. There was no vacation in it, or anything else. I mean sure, if he wanted to take off and go someplace, but --- I mean now I guess if he got hurt, well I don't know, he never did. But I don't know, if he had of, I don't know whether he would have been on his own or what.

DOROTHEA: Well you know in those days also I think that the doctors still accepted food and things like this for their pay.

JACK: Possibly.

DOROTHEA: And my gosh, you could go in and have a baby for a hundred dollars, and now it several hundred.

BETTY: Now it's in the thousands.

JACK: Dorothea, when our oldest boy was born, Dick, Doctor Smith delivered him, and we never got a bill, never got a bill.

BETTY: No, John delivered him.

JACK: Well Doc Smith was there though.

BETTY: Yeah, but it was Doctor John delivered him, I was there.

JACK: Anyway Betty was pregnant with the twins, and I went to Doctor Smith and I told him, I said, "For anymore ... I get the first one paid for." Well he says, "Pay it." And I says, "Well I've never gotten a bill for it." And he, you know, he says, "You have too." And I says, "No I haven't Doc, we haven't gotten a bill yet." That was Bob's dad, Congressman Bob Smith's dad, he was a wonderful guy. Got to looking, sure enough they hadn't sent one out. Well he says, "For honesty we'll just cut it in two." It cost fifty dollars. Cut the bill in two, and you were in the hospital what, eight or ten days.

BETTY: Yeah, with the first one they kept you ten days, and then seven, then five, then

three.

JACK: I know when the twins were born, who was it; Doc John had been down to Portland.

BETTY: No, Lena Varien was the one that ---

JACK: Well I know but Doc John had been to Portland on this new, and boy they got Betty up, in the old hospital up there, and was walking her. And Mrs. Varien was, she was just a practical nurse wasn't she?

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: She says, "I don't care what he says, I've seen more babies born than he will ever see." And she was following Betty with a wheel chair trying to get her in it. (Laughter)

BETTY: She didn't think that was the way to do it. And I should have, we should have been in bed.

JACK: She was a dandy; no she was a good gal. Didn't care how much training he had got down, this new method.

BARBARA: So how long were you on the school board then, ten years did you say?

JACK: Just about ten years I think it was, Barbara, on the grade school board. And I don't know what ---

BETTY: He gave Dick his diploma from the eighth grade.

JACK: Yeah.

BARBARA: Oh, neat. That was nice.

JACK: Yeah, and of course Henry Slater was the principal, wonderful guy. Well all those, they were really, I mean ---

BARBARA: Dedicated teachers.

JACK: Yeah, well and so was that school board was a dedicated bunch. They were up there --- and they did, they got around and got better salaries for those teachers.

BETTY: Hank Slater never had an election that didn't go his way. His budgets were always passed.

BARBARA: I was going to say, there never seemed to be a problem with passing the school budgets in that time.

JACK: Well they never presented a budget that shouldn't have been passed.

BARBARA: It was reasonable.

JACK: We never asked for anything that wasn't necessary, is the reason they got them all passed. There was no, there was no hubbub about any school budgets at all. Because they were, whatever they asked for was necessary.

DOROTHEA: I remember when Slater came in, and what was that man's name, was it McCormick?

BETTY: At the high school?

DOROTHEA: No, it was before Slater. And his, I can't remember his name, and I should too. But his wife was also a teacher, and ---

BETTY: Well there was Hickenbottom was the principal.

DOROTHEA: Huh uh.

JACK: That's going back quite a ---

DOROTHEA: And this one was just before Slater came in.

JACK: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And everything changed, I mean it wasn't a terrible school to go to in other words. It was just, you enjoyed school, we got the new school, and everything changed, you know. And you didn't spend a lot of money either.

JACK: Well and he had control.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: I'll never forget out there at the fairgrounds one time, Barbara, that was during the

fair, and I don't know whether that kid was still in school or not, I guess he must have been though. You remember we was talking to Hank?

BETTY: No, I think he was in high school.

JACK: Was he, was that it, and he walked back by him. We were talking to Hank, standing there someplace. And this kid walked by and he says, "Hello Hank." And Slater said, "What did you say?" He says, "Hello Mr. Slater." (Laughter) Just that quick, he never even hesitate.

BARBARA: He still demanded the respect.

JACK: You bet.

BETTY: Well our kinds never called him anything but Mr. Slater.

JACK: Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Mr. Slater.

BETTY: When they graduated, it was still Mr. Slater.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, when he died, it was still Mr. Slater.

JACK: Yeah, they sure did like him though. I mean he was a good teacher.

DOROTHEA: He was a great guy.

BETTY: And had such a wonderful sense of humor. He was such a kick.

JACK: I know Ted Tiller, well he and Jim; my youngest boy is the same age. And there was some kid, well from out in the Rye Grass District somewhere out there, Dorothea, some big kid and he was in the seventh or eighth grade. And of course old Ted he kept telling Verda (Tiller) he needed more candy bars in his lunch. And she said, kept telling him, "What in the world are you doing with all of these?" Well they finally pinned him down, this kid was taking them away from him, making him bring them see, and he had him scared.



This kid had taken the bus driver's keys away from him. He was a great big, I don't know, maybe he was in high school, anyways a big kid. He was just raising Cain. One time out there when they stopped there to the grange hall to let them off for whatever, and he got the keys and run around.

Anyway so it got to Slater, he found out about it, Slater did. And he says, "Fine and dandy, I'll ride with you on this run." And so they got out, stopped out there. And this kid was, I think he took the keys away from the driver that day, and of course Mr. Slater --- and he didn't even notice he was on the bus. He got up and come up, and he says, the kid was outside with the keys, and he says, "Give the keys back to the driver." This kid says, "What could a one arm guy do anyway?" And he just grabbed him with that good arm and just picked him clear up off the ground and pinned him up against the bus and he says, "Do you want me to show you anymore?" The kid says, "No, here's the keys." And they never had a bit of trouble with him from there on. Of course now if you grabbed a kid like that, I don't know, you know.

BARBARA: The parents would have you in court.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: Yeah, yeah they would.

BETTY: No more.

JACK: And of course that hose that he supposedly had, I don't --- Valeria Eggleston was his secretary, she was supposed to, if he whipped a kid, she was supposed to observe it see. And Hank said she never did watch it, if he did that. She'd cover her eyes up and turn around. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: He had the hose, I remember it.

JACK: Well I think the boys verified he had it too.

BARBARA: So then what were some of the things that you budgeted for when you were

on the high school budget committee? What years was ---

JACK: Well they, some of it was to increase the athletics end of it, and also started with this, oh for mechanics out there. I mean where they could put in, where these kids could learn a trade from out there, from some kind of a mechanical trade, was started up, Barbara. And of course there was a lot of, the purchase of the ground where the athletic field is now, football field and all of that was purchased at the time that I was on the budget board, which I thought was a good move by the budget board. In fact some of the members weren't in favor of it. And I told, well not just me, some of the other ones that said; --- I think that was Roe Davis owned the land. And it was, gee whiz I think a wonderful --- at that time, I don't remember the cost, it would be a song now for what it was give for.

BETTY: Minimal.

JACK: That was purchased at the time. Which it made them a nice athletic system out there.

BARBARA: Right.

JACK: Where otherwise it was, before see they was a coming clear back to the old Memorial Field to play.

BARBARA: Memorial Field, and those kids at half time would be freezing, nowhere to go.

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: Oh yes, and nothing to warm them up.

JACK: And they have, they've got a, that's a good baseball, football field out there now. If we can just get enough money, if they can get enough money raised for an all weather track, that would be the berries.

BARBARA: Yeah, we'd be in seventh heaven.

JACK: Yeah, oh you bet, yeah you bet we would.

BETTY: It's always been, Jack's love is sports. And we've traveled thousands of miles going to ball games.

BARBARA: So have we.

BETTY: Yes. Well the year Dick was a senior; we went two thousand miles watching ball games.

BARBARA: I don't think we missed a one.

BETTY: No, nor us.

DOROTHEA: Did your kids participate in sports?

JACK: Yeah. Dick did, he was the --- the twins, oh not so much.

BETTY: They were small.

JACK: Yeah, pretty small. Dick was a good; in fact he went to Portland State on a football scholarship. And of course he was taking, taking his engineering course down there. I don't know, after his first semester wasn't it?

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: He called up and he says you've got to make up your mind what you want, either you want a football player or you want an engineer. And of course I said, we was each on the phone, and I says, "I want a football player." Betty says, "Oh no." So he had --- he just couldn't handle both of them, it was just too much. He couldn't, he was missing too much school with the football.

BARBARA: Yeah. That's what Jeff did at the Academy (Air Force) too. After the first year he says, "Mom, I just don't think I can do both. And coming out of the Academy I can't be a football player anyway, so I think I need to concentrate on my engineering too."

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: See, Billy's oldest boy Ronnie went through the, on a congressional appointment,

went through the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. He's --- I always thought they'd send, his name is Ronnie, I always thought they'd shoot him to the moon; he's a little bitty devil. I always figured --- he was smarter than a whip. And I always thought he would be a dandy to put in one of those ---

BETTY: Astronaut.

JACK: But he says, "No thank you," he says, "I never lost anything up there," he says. (Laughter) No, huh uh.

BARBARA: Well can you think of some other stories maybe about your folks, and some of the things that happened when you were growing up? Or some of the things that happened to them when they were growing up that they might have told you? You mentioned something about your grandparents telling you stories.

JACK: I can remember my grandmother telling about before they come, when she was a girl. I don't know where they were living, I can't remember where they come --- or what breed of Indian it was, and anytime they knew when --- it would be my great-grandfather, was butchering hogs and rendering lard. And all of them had long hair then, the males, all of them, and they liked to come by and have that hot grease, they'd bend over and have him pour that, hold their hair in place. Now that must have been dandy when that dried out and got all greasy and sticky and the flies got into it.

BARBARA: Oh yuk.

JACK: But I remember telling about that, that that was something else. Of course she was scared of them, real scared to death of them. But they were real, never bothered them or anything. But I don't know, golly some of the stories that she told. I wish I'd have had a recorder to record her stories, they were something else.

I know one of her uncles was bear hunting, and a grisly doubled back on him and almost killed him. And when they put his, well they thought he was dead, just about

scalped him. And I know she said they got his, when they put his, put him back together they got his scalp kind of on crooked, it set off kind of sideways on him, the top.

BARBARA: Oh yuk.

JACK: But he lived through it anyway.

BARBARA: Oh gosh.

JACK: And of course my uncles, they were the ones that caused a lot of trouble. The first day in school Uncle Wid, I think it was, the first day he went to school in Harney --- or anyways that was a big old schoolhouse there. And he crawled up in the attic and pulled the ladder up after him and stayed up there all day, and the teacher couldn't get him down. And finally they had to go get the parents to get him out of there. He was going to just stay up there and harass the whole school. But they were go-getters.

BARBARA: Can you tell us something about what Harney was like during this time?

JACK: Oh, it was a boomtown then, I mean it was the main go around then, Harney was. And of course, well of course all of them are dead now. But them old Harneyites when they moved the courthouse and records, see it stood out here about week. Harney was, they claimed they stole the records out of it. I know my aunts and uncles, all of them, would just fire up whenever they'd mention that. The old courthouse they moved clear to Burns. And they said they stole them, that they didn't have any right to take it at all. But Harney, oh it was a go-getter of a town. Well Harney used to have a basketball team, baseball team.

DOROTHEA: Was that when it was county seat?

JACK: Yeah, see it was the main go. And I don't know, they said it was an improper, of course all the Harney people claim it was an improper election, and that they did --- Well like I said, now they got it about halfway, of course they was pulling it with horses, had it up on dollies, that old courthouse. And the Harney people set up around it with guns and

held them off of it for, I don't know, about a week before they let them --- they finally got it settled and moved it on into Burns. But those old timers out there they never did accept that. They always said that their county seat was stolen from them at Harney. But it was, gee at one time there was three saloons in Harney. And of course, oh who was it that had the store there; they had one at The Narrows too.

BARBARA: Haines.

DOROTHEA: Haines.

JACK: Haines had a dandy store there. And there was what, two hotels, and oh it was a booming town. Big Main Street. Now like I said Harney was, Harney and Crane especially they were the main, the main ---

BARBARA: Did your folks have a hotel at Harney too?

JACK: My grandparents did.

BARBARA: I mean your grandparents, I'm sorry.

JACK: Yeah, they did, uh huh. They had a hotel and --- they used to play, oh had a basketball, like I said a basketball team. I used to come to Burns, and I know dad said they can handle Burns slicker than a whistle in basketball games, baseball. Anything to compete.

DOROTHEA: Now did your dad play with Glenn Sitz, or did you play with Glenn Sitz? He mentioned something about when he ---

JACK: No Dad would have, he would have been, that would have been more Dads' time. He was a good ball player, good baseball player, good one.

DOROTHEA: Glenn Sitz said that was his favorite thing, was sports.

BETTY: Yeah.

JACK: Yeah, yeah, he was.

DOROTHEA: And they didn't really have teams, but they made up teams.

BETTY: Got together.

JACK: Yeah, they'd make up a team, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: I know there was a guy come through Harney, I don't know where he was going. At that time he was going to Oregon State, and one of the top hundred yard dash men. And of course the minute Harney found out he was coming why hey, they nailed him, we're going to --- We're going to, we banter you to run, and Jack Withers out run him for a hundred yards. Yeah, and they tried to get Jack to go, of course he wouldn't, he wasn't going on to school. Yeah, I forget what that boy's name was; he was a top Pacific Coast hundred-yard man.

And no matter what you was in Harney, if you come, a fighter, or a wrestler, or like --- they'd banter you right now. They would bring somebody for competition for you. Whether you had a fast horse or whatever, why you were going to get competition right now.

BARBARA: Yeah, competition was the key word there.

JACK: Yeah. Well and they, you know, they enjoyed that. I mean they just, it was, well I guess that was their entertainment.

BARBARA: Their entertainment.

JACK: That was the whole thing of it.

BETTY: Now it's TV.

JACK: Yeah. No, it was their entertainment, all that stuff.

DOROTHEA: Now can't you think about, what in twenty or forty years from now when somebody is doing our kids, and they'll say well what did you do for entertainment? Oh, we watched TV.

JACK: Yeah. Well that is a big part of their entertainment anymore.

DOROTHEA: That's going to be the truth.

BETTY: I'll tell you, like computers, these kids that are growing up with them are so knowledgeable. These games that they play, like Nintendo, truly embarrass me to try to compete with them.

DOROTHEA: That reminds me of the game that I got Derek, and he was saying, "Now here Grandma I want you to play with me." And so I was a pushing buttons, and pushing buttons, and pretty soon I said, "Well how'd I do?" And he said, "Well Grandma you're supposed to get more than a zero." (Laughter) I didn't think I ---

BETTY: Well they just grow up, and it's just marvelous.

BARBARA: It's wonderful though.

BETTY: Yeah, now Darci she was in the second grade, she's had computer classes from the first grade on.

BARBARA: Well for them to compete in the world anymore, they have to be knowledgeable about computers.

JACK: They have to be, you bet you, Barbara, you betcha.

BETTY: I know Diane took several courses because she said it frightened her so, that she wasn't going to be intimidated by it. And so she ---

JACK: No, it's a ---

BARBARA: I know just enough to get into trouble. I get my work done, but there is so much, I mean you could spend all day long on it, you know, doing stuff. It's just amazing, it's wonderful.

BETTY: Sure. Dick programmed computers in Portland besides doing his surveying and engineering.

JACK: Well like he said, you've got to stay right with it, there is so much advancement in it, you've got to just continually stay up on it, and studying on it, or you're way behind.



BARBARA: You have to upgrade all the time on it.

JACK: He said they make so many advancements in it.

BARBARA: Yeah. I just learn one program and it's already out of date, on to the next one.

DOROTHEA: That's what Barbara said; she'd gotten what they call the windows program in her's. And Rhonda brought her's home from college, when she came, because she said I need to learn about this. And her's is upgraded from Barbara's. And of course mine won't even begin in it. And I said, "Well how do I upgrade mine a little bit?" And they said, "Oh, we can't you've got to get ---

JACK: Too late. (Laughter)

BETTY: Totally be ...

DOROTHEA: Do another, get another one.

BETTY: All I've done is play little games and so forth on them.

BARBARA: I've had to buy a new computer too, to upgrade my stuff.

JACK: But it's a wonderful thing.

BETTY: That's what Diane wants.

JACK: Dick could take in some measurements or something, you know, on surveying, and by golly that computer in, that quick, would do stuff that would take him I don't know how long out in the field.

BARBARA: Yeah.

JACK: Just bingo.

DOROTHEA: Rhonda, we sat down the other night and she was punching some buttons, and reading her book, and punching some buttons, and hers draws pictures and everything else.

JACK: Oh yeah.

BETTY: Oh yeah. Diane was showing me some ---

BARBARA: The graphs and stuff are really neat in them.

BETTY: Well that big one, what is it called down in Portland?

JACK: That computer center there, that's a dandy.

BETTY: Yeah, Dick took him there.

JACK: Yeah, well we went down there, that's when he was working for Multnomah. Well, or did he have his own private business in Tigard? I don't remember. And when we went down there, I thought it said the Computer Center of Portland, and gee whiz he's got his name on a parking spot there. And we go in, and he's running out a bunch of stuff for some land surveying and what have you. And this guy that was in there, a custodian, I said, "That makes me feel pretty proud that he is smart enough to run this machine." Well he says, "He programs some of this material that's in it, he'd ought to be smart enough to run it." (Laughter) No, huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Well that, and the kids are so smart in this. I mean Derek can sit down at that computer and pick out things that I don't even know how to do.

JACK: Well they start them in right off the bat.

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it's just really amazing that they --- of course like you say they've been doing it since kindergarten.

BETTY: I hope they're not eliminating the basics. Because ---

BARBARA: I don't think so.

BETTY: --- some of these kids that you get waiting on you in stores ---

JACK: Can't make change.

BETTY: --- they can't add two and two. It's the, if they don't have their little calculators right there ---

DOROTHEA: I went to the Dairy Queen one day, and this girl waited on us, and we gave her five dollars and it was \$2.79. And she sat there, and she sat there, and she sat there, and Derek had already figured out the change I was supposed to get. And he says, "Grandma that's supposed to be \$2.21." And I said, "I know it." And he says, "Well why doesn't she know it?" This is the truth. She finally went in and figured it up on the adding machine.

BETTY: Yeah, and that's sad.

BARBARA: Yeah, well there is always a few that slip through.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: Well, what do you think you're going to be doing in the next twenty years? The same thing you're doing today?

JACK: Well I hope I last another twenty years, thank you Barbara.

BARBARA: Oh well, I should certainly hope so.

JACK: Now I'm sure, I have no intentions of ever changing. I don't want to, like I said I can't, certainly I can't do like I used to. I've got two bad ankles that won't really --- oh they're arthritic, and got bone spurs in them, and slows me up a lot getting around. But I enjoy what I'm doing very much and I have no intentions of changing.

BETTY: He loves to ride yet.

JACK: That doesn't bother me.

BETTY: And he never misses a day of riding for cattle.

DOROTHEA: And branding.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

BETTY: Yeah, he likes to rope.

DOROTHEA: Rope.

BETTY: And he's a good roper.

JACK: Yeah, I like that, I like that. That George ---

DOROTHEA: And I'd like to see this continue, you know. So many things are becoming, along with the modern age, you know they're quitting a lot of this. But I think branding is continuing.

BETTY: I remember one year Jack and George won the big loop contest over in John Day, roping, and got some fancy spurs and all.

DOROTHEA: Jack, you were also on the fair board. Can you tell us something about what you did, and how you got on the fair board?

JACK: Well I'm on it now, Dorothea.

DOROTHEA: Again.

JACK: Well this is the first time I've been on the fair board.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I thought you were with the ---

JACK: No, Jim.

DOROTHEA: Well I knew Jim was, but I thought you were with Pete Clemens and the racing.

JACK: No, Jim was.

BETTY: Well he was a judge.

JACK: Well I was a finish judge is all down there, just during the ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh.

JACK: For a number of years down there I was a finish judge. Buck Clemens and Wally Welcome and I was for years and years. But I wasn't officially on the board. I've been on the board the last what, this is the third year on the racing end of it. And I enjoy that a lot. Of course it's getting harder and harder, more difficult to get horses in here for the races.

BETTY: And to get the state to give you any money.

JACK: Your cost of travel anymore, and the purses that we are able to give them is just,

it's just --- well you can't blame them to come in here this far --- And of course another thing that is really hurting us is the State Fair has always --- we're the oldest race meet in the State of Oregon. And up until last year the State Fair, to run their race meet during our, we could close them down if we wanted to, to run their race meet during the same days we do. Okay, for them to run, they have been subsidizing us \$5,000 a year, plus talking some jockeys into coming up here and riding for us. Well now the State Fair has turned the racing over to a private entity, they call it down there. It's the same people running it that was running it before; they just changed the name on it.

BETTY: So they'd get out of the \$5000.

JACK: So consequently they, I can't see that that makes any difference whether it's the state fair holding the race meet, or a private entity, we are still grandfathered over them. But we went to it, and went clear to the attorney general's office with it, I did last year. Had Colahan, he says, "Oh," he says, "I don't think they can make this stick." Well by golly they did make it stick last year, although we did get some simulcast money. Now there was some big races, if there is some big races run like in California or somewhere, and the State Fair simulcasts them, and at the same time you are running a race meet here in Oregon, you have a percentage cut. You're entitled to a percentage cut out of that, which saved our bacon last year. And what we're going to do this year, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Well that's what I was wondering about, because I know

---

JACK: Because it's going, our purses aren't big anyway. We have four feature races in the two days for a thousand dollar purses, and the balance of them we have seven races a day, the others are seven hundred and fifty. And you take, it's tough to have somebody say, like most of them come from Salem and around, although last year there was some come from up at Union.

And now it used to work real good when Boise would run through, right within, well they'd run through Labor Day, right up to our fair here. Well a lot of them horses are headed for Salem; well this was a natural stop over here. Used to they had to put up portable stalls down here, we didn't have enough barns to handle them. But I just don't know how it's going to come out, Dorothea, I don't know.

BARBARA: Well you can't really blame these guys, traveling, the cost for them to come over here.

BETTY: Cost wise.

JACK: No, huh uh.

BARBARA: Unless there is going to be some substantial purse for them.

BETTY: That's true.

JACK: Right. For somebody to come up here from Salem, to haul some horses up here. He's, you know it costs money to move, I mean to haul these horses around. Now Bill Kagee, if it wasn't for him we wouldn't have a race meet here. He's real good to come in every year, and he makes it work. I mean he wins eighty to ninety percent of the races here. So, I mean it works for him.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BETTY: And several of the Indians used to.

JACK: Yeah.

BETTY: There is not as many of those.

JACK: No, they've quit coming like they did too.

DOROTHEA: Well Babe Gibson I think stopped in here.

JACK: Frank Suppah --- well Babe, yeah Babe won a race here last year. Oh, it tickled him to death. He's, he's been coming what, the last two or three years I guess.

DOROTHEA: I think three years, yeah.

JACK: And he run a first and a second last year, Babe did. And, you know, he likes to come back to the hometown. And he's quite a guy. He's what, Babe's eighty, what did he say?

BETTY: He's up there now.

JACK: He's way up there.

BARBARA: Did you ever rodeo at all yourself?

JACK: Oh I used to do a little team roping, but it was strictly amateur, Barbara. I mean it was very much amateur. What, Tommy Clemens and I won it down here one year at the fair. And the time we had on two animals, those young fellows now rope about eight or ten of them in that time. (Laughter) Yeah, they've speeded ---

BARBARA: Did you ever show any of your cows or horses or anything?

JACK: No, no, no never done any of that, no.

DOROTHEA: Did your kids 4-H?

JACK: No, none of them 4-H'd, Dorothea, no they didn't any of them 4-H. I don't know really why. I had them too busy in the summer, they never had time.

BETTY: Yeah they worked, they worked.

JACK: They never had time for it.

DOROTHEA: That's the way ours was, I guess. Because they didn't, oh Rhonda did, Kelly was sick, so she didn't do too much. She did leather work and stuff, but ---

BETTY: How is Kelly?

DOROTHEA: She's doing real, real well.

BETTY: Good.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she's doing real well. But we didn't 4-H either, and the grandkids aren't either. So, and I've only got two, so don't have much there.

JACK: It's a good deal for them; it's a good experience for a kid.

BETTY: Well and kids these days don't have any chores or anything much to do.

JACK: Well I think that's a lot to do with some of your ---

BETTY: Delinquents.

JACK: Yeah, if they had to come home and had some cows to milk, and a little wood to split, and what have you. Well it's interesting to listen to people talk. There is a young couple, well bought Slim Baugh's place right up the highway up here. And when they bought it I was talking to them, and of course the only thing, the only convenience Slim had there was a telephone. The only reason he had it was so, Bessie worked at the hospital, so they could get a hold of her. No indoor plumbing, I mean they had an outdoor toilet, and outdoor pump.

DOROTHEA: No electric lights.

JACK: No electricity at all. And I got tickled at this young couple, I was talking to them, and boy this is just what we're looking for.

BETTY: Back to nature.

JACK: I says, "Have you ever lived like that?" "Well no." I says, "You've never heated your water in an old copper bottom boiler to do your washing, and take a bath in an old square tub in front of a kitchen stove, and pack your water in from a pump, use an outdoor toilet?" "No, but that's what we want, that's the way we want to live." And I said, "Well we'll see." I said, "You've never lived like that, we'll find out." Because I lived like that until --- well we never had what, well the year Betty and I got married I bought a light plant. I'd never had indoor plumbing, or running water. Anyway this ---

BETTY: He got a city girl who couldn't stand that.

JACK: And this young couple, wasn't thirty days until the power is going in up there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: I was talking to them, and I says, "I thought, what you doing here?" "Well it was a



little inconvenient." I says, "Oh you mean you don't like them old kerosene lamps and gas lights, and what have you?" And I says, "Yeah." And they went everything, they plumbed the house, and oh, I don't blame them, I don't blame them a bit.

DOROTHEA: No.

JACK: But those people that say they want to live like that, have never lived like that. And the heck with it, I don't want no more of it, no part of it, Dorothea.

DOROTHEA: Me neither. I don't like any of it. I had my share of it, and I don't like any of it.

JACK: I don't either. This old sleeping in a, or bathing in an old tub in front of the cook stove, and packing water into heat, and ---

DOROTHEA: And being the last one was always my ---

BETTY: Oh, you're the youngest, huh?

DOROTHEA: No, I wasn't the youngest, I was the oldest.

BETTY: Oh, I thought that you ---

DOROTHEA: But nope, I had plenty of that packing wood, and packing water and ---

JACK: Yeah, darn right, it's ---

DOROTHEA: And Daddy had a light plant too, but we still had plenty of that. My mom had a wood stove that hooked onto the water tank so we had hot water; it heated the hot water that way.

JACK: Well that's the way we did it first here, was, had coils in here, and the wood stove heated your water when we first, when Betty and I were first married.

BETTY: We had that old Comfort that, with the water reservoir on the side of it.

DOROTHEA: That's what I've got at the Baker Corrals.

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: It's a ---

JACK: We sold that old stove to the grange hall down here.

BETTY: Yeah, uh huh. That light plant, we'd have company out, and of course we'd have extra lights, and off it would go. And I'd be having bridge out here, and then I'd go out there and crank it, and the dumb thing had had a short in it. Nine times out of ten it would shock me, and I ---

JACK: It would shock her.

BARBARA: You were not amused.

DOROTHEA: But you could only turn it on at certain times of the night, you know, because you didn't want to use up all the batteries or the fuel.

BETTY: Well this was electric.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

JACK: Well now this wasn't on a battery, it run off of a generator, an old Kohler.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

JACK: No, it wasn't battery. That was, what was the make of those that had a whole bunch of batteries. Oh ---

BETTY: I don't remember.

DOROTHEA: We had two of them apparently, because we had one with batteries, and then we had one with the generator. That Kohler, now did you find out how to spell that?

BARBARA: Well he thought it was K O H L E R.

BETTY: I think that's it.

JACK: That's the way, I'm sure it's the way it's spelled on that old ---

DOROTHEA: I think that's what it is.

BETTY: And then we used to have an old kerosene refrigerator in that cabinet over here. Stink, oh my gosh it was terrible.

JACK: And it would get kind of carboned up.

BETTY: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well we've spent a lot of time, and our lights blinking again.

BETTY: Yes, we have.

JACK: Okay.

DOROTHEA: See this little light, it tells us when our tape is running out.

BETTY: Maybe we over did.

JACK: Yeah, we might have over done it.

DOROTHEA: So, what we'd ought to do is ask if there is anything else that you'd like to share with us, and if so we'll turn the tape over. Otherwise we'd probably ought to go on with our ---

JACK: Yeah, I don't know of anything that would be interesting to anybody, really.

DOROTHEA: Barbara, can you think of ---

BARBARA: Not right off hand.

BETTY: We've just had a good life.

BARBARA: Yes, I should say so.

JACK: Oh yeah, no I have no complaints whatsoever.

BARBARA: Well whenever I see you you've got a big smile on your face, so things must be going pretty good.

BETTY: Yeah, we've got a lot to be thankful for.

JACK: One thing, this old Tim Donovan that I was telling you about, the first banana I ever ate was right at the head of the Foley Grade up here, where Congressman Smith's house, well it belongs, oh Rich Davis and them own it now. We were coming down, and he was going up. I can remember that just as plain as --- it was the first banana I ever ate in my life right there.

BETTY: How old were you then?

JACK: Well, I wasn't in school.

BETTY: Okay.

JACK: And I used to run ---

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DOROTHEA: --- Lumsden, you mentioned him.

JACK: Well I used to run with him, oh stayed with him. Well he salted up in here, he salted the Devine side, the Myrtle unit, and Emigrant side in the summertime. And then in the wintertime he, I don't know how many cows he saved their lives, late in the fall he'd go up there and dig them out. But I used to go with him in the summer.

One time we was up at Myrtle Park and he had a horse of his I rode, he called him Wiggle. And he kept him in for a wrangle horse, and of course in those days there wasn't any cars going by or anything up there. And I wasn't in school yet, I wasn't six years old. And he kept Wiggle in the corral, to wrangle on the next morning. And while he was cooking supper I went out and turned him out. There was an eighty-acre field there, and Jim said, he said, "I don't think we can catch him." "Oh yeah, I could sure catch Wiggle, no problem." So the next day we run them horses till pretty near noon, couldn't catch anything. So Jim says, "Well we're going to have to walk out," and we did. It's about fourteen miles to my, to the ranch from up there, come right down Myrtle Creek. And I remember the mosquitoes, I know Jim said I got to cussing him before I got down there for getting him into such a, getting me into such a jackpot. (Laughter) Of course it wasn't his fault, it was my fault that I turned the horse loose. But that was, I made the paper on that one, I forget how old I was, I wasn't six yet. We walked from Myrtle Park down to the upper ranch up there, fourteen miles, and I give him an awful working over.

But I used to go with him; the first fish I ever caught was over at Chris Borge's over

at Izee. And we was over there, and I don't remember, it was a little old fish. Well I wanted, it was in the summertime, and I told Jim I says, "I want to take that home and show it to the folks." And he tried to tell me that that fish wasn't going to keep, because we was two or three days from getting home. Well I got the fish home, and they sure knew I had it too. (Laughter) But I got home with it. But he was quite an old guy. I used to stay with him, and go with him. He'd keep me up there, and he taught me to cuss, I know that. I was good at that.

DOROTHEA: Where did he stay when he did his salting?

JACK: Well he'd camp up there. Well, or he'd stay around different ranches. But now like up there, see they take that salt up, they'd haul it up there with a team and wagons and just put it out --- like at Myrtle Park they'd put out so much salt. Well he'd go up there and camp for maybe three or four days, and then he'd pack that, scatter that salt around in that area. And then they'd take some more, well like over here I imagine they'd haul it there. I remember there at the Baker Corrals they'd unload it, and they'd camp there.

And then sometimes he'd stay at the different ranches; he'd stay at the upper ranch with us up there. Or he'd go over and stay at the Hotchkiss place over at Emigrant. And, or he'd stay up in Silvies, up there with those people. But he just spent all summer up there with a pack string, scattering that salt around, and kind of keeping track, moving cattle around.

DOROTHEA: Did he build fence, and things like this?

JACK: No, no, he just salted.

DOROTHEA: He just salted.

JACK: Salted, that's all he done. Oh, if he'd come up on some fence tore down, Dorothea; I'm sure he would kind of prop it up and let somebody know about it. But he didn't carry any fencing equipment to speak of.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Because I know he was still salting when Clinton and I was first married, and for years afterwards.

JACK: Yeah, he salted for years, yeah he salted.

BETTY: He used to spend every Thanksgiving and Christmas with us.

JACK: Yeah, he was quite an old Scotsman. He was quite a guy.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we've got some of his --- and I don't know how George got it, but we've got some of his horse pack.

JACK: Well George was his administrator for his estate when he died.

DOROTHEA: Oh, was he?

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. But anyway, the pack board, or whatever they call it that you put on your ---

JACK: Alforjas.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we've got that over there yet.

JACK: No, he was quite an old guy. He lived there in that little house down there by Reeds, that big old barn. What was, what right straight, two blocks down from Hoyt's office there in town.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, the bus depot.

JACK: Yeah, right straight down the street there. There was a big old barn and a little house there that --- well Reed's Sign, what was it, what was their name, Reed Sign I think had that store up town.

BETTY: Lee Reed.

JACK: Lee Reed's folks is who he rented the house from.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: And old Joe Beck, that big old barn, old Joe Beck an old cow buyer used to live in

that barn. Great big old guy. Had a big old bear coat, bearskin coat, and he looked just like a bear, Joe Beck did. When he come out to buy cattle he'd come out, and then this old Crow, which Crow was it, Joe would go around. He didn't buy big bunches of cattle, just odds and ends, bologna bulls, cows, dry cows and stuff.

And he'd take, Dave Crow, he'd get them all lined up and he'd haul Dave clear out to the furthest one he bought, and then Dave would bring them all back. And right down here at, well it's Pete Williams' now, right there at the grange hall, that was Joe Beck's feedlot. He'd drive that stuff in there for him; bring them in, old Dave. Usually in the winter, cold, bring them in. And then I don't know, Joe would send them to Portland, or wherever.

But Jim Lumsden, he was quite an old guy. Saved, like I said, saved a lot of cow's lives in the wintertime. He'd go up there ---

BETTY: And there wasn't much wrestling when he ---

JACK: No, he knew what was going on.

DOROTHEA: No, that's what I was going to --- that's the reason I was ---

JACK: He was up there.

BETTY: We need somebody like that again.

DOROTHEA: This is what Clint was saying, he said, " I think I'm going to retire, and that's what I'm going to do, I'm going to ride the forest."

JACK: Yeah, well he put a lot of time in, Jim did up there. He was a ---

DOROTHEA: He probably knew every car and vehicle that come through.

JACK: Yeah. Well and there was, of course there wasn't near the travel then.

DOROTHEA: Traffic.

JACK: And of course they didn't have goosenecks.

DOROTHEA: And they didn't have the roads then either.

BETTY: Yes.

JACK: No. And a cow thief designed a gooseneck. I mean, I know they did. Because you can take a couple, get into a fence corner or a couple of little old metal panels ---

DOROTHEA: I could mention a couple of names, but I probably shouldn't, because they're still alive. But we know darn well that got away with ---

JACK: Well you know it's so easy, Dorothea.

DOROTHEA: You bet, you bet. All you've got to have is a couple little ---

JACK: Gad --- well a good fence corner. And so you lose a few, I mean, they aren't costing too much anyway.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

JACK: I always said, whoever, when they first come out a cow thief designed them.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they were good.

JACK: Yeah, good outfits. They're sure handy though. Gee, they are the berries. Don't have to run around and find a bank or anything to unload your horses.

DOROTHEA: No. And that is the good thing about them, because with a truck, you just don't jump a horse out. We did have a horse that would jump about this tall, and he was my horse and I rode him, and drilled with him down at the fairs lots. But Clint always says, "I hate that horse." But the horse that he used was that horse, because he'd jump into that truck if it was this high.

BETTY: For heavens sakes.

DOROTHEA: And jump out the same way. So ---

BETTY: Just like a dog does it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

JACK: But Myrtle Park up there, talking about Jim, of course my Grandpa --- Hankins took, I don't know how they could take Myrtle Park up, and never fenced it. But anyway



Grandpa Smith would go up there Mom said in the summer, and Hankins would be running their cattle down Myrtle Creek. And Grandpa Smith got disgusted with them, and they said, "Well keep your cattle out of Myrtle Park." Well he said, "How can we, you haven't got it fenced?" So he bought it and he fenced it, had a rail fence put around it, eighty acres, corrals and all up there.

And they'd wean, go up there and make what they called a beef, well a beef ride in the summer, and they'd wean the calves and that. But anyway they'd camp there and ride from that. And one time they was camped there, riding, and they was going to butcher a beef. They just roped it out there in the field and drug it up to the, next to the camp where they was going to hang it up and dress it out. My dad had roped it, and Jim Lumsden was going to shoot it, and he shot the rope in two right on the calf's neck, and got plumb away from them. It was a lone yearling, or a two year old or something and got clear loose. Had to go re-rope it. Jim done the shooting, but he didn't kill the critter.

DOROTHEA: Well we still have, it's almost five o'clock, and we've been here longer than we're normally at.

BETTY: Yeah, I'll bet.

DOROTHEA: And we still have a video to do, so you're going to get to be on camera.

BETTY: Oh mercy, you mean, is this trip necessary.

JACK: Oh.

BETTY: Seems we have taken so much of your time with this.

DOROTHEA: We don't mind the time if you guys don't, that's the thing. We could talk forever.

JACK: No, that's one thing, I like to visit.

DOROTHEA: Well since we've got all kinds of tape left, can you think of any other stories that your grandparents or Dad and Mom talked about?

JACK: Oh gosh, Dorothea, there is sure a lot of them if I could remember all of them.

BETTY: I think we've overdone it now.

BARBARA: Well we really appreciate your time this afternoon; we've really enjoyed your stories.

JACK: Well that was, enjoyed visiting with you too. No ---

BETTY: Gosh yes, you haven't been out for a while.

JACK: No.

BARBARA: No.

JACK: Don't you play, not playing bridge?

BARBARA: Oh sure.

BETTY: Well you know, we've got nine members.

BARBARA: That's what I was saying, so you don't need the subs so often.

BETTY: We're just doing better, but we miss you.

JACK: That will be something on your tape Dorothea.

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Bridge.

JACK: Are you still running?

DOROTHEA: It's still running.

BARBARA: Yeah, we're still running.

BETTY: Let's not get that on tape. That's my vice.

BARBARA: The great hobby of bridge playing.

BETTY: Yeah, lots of fun.

DOROTHEA: Do you play during the day, or just at night?

BARBARA: Both.

BETTY: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: Do both, huh?

BETTY: Yeah, we have, yeah.

BARBARA: I've been out here on Monday afternoons I think, and I've been out here on Tuesday, Tuesday nights.

BETTY: Monday, and Wednesday, and some Tuesdays. And we used to have duplicates Thursdays. Of course that's what I miss the most, duplicate was fun.

BARBARA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well we'll now advance to the living room, and thank you for the afternoon, and do our video.

JACK: You are entirely welcome, and I enjoyed it.

BARBARA: Thanks.

(END OF TAPE)

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