

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #34 - Sides A & B

Subject: Charles Beckley

Place: Princeton, Oregon

Date: May 23, 1974

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen and Carol Crane inter-viewing Charlie and Gladys Beckley at their home near Princeton, May 23, 1974. Okay. Why don't you start by telling us of when your family came to Harney County? How did you happen to arrive here? Did your family come, your parents?

CHARLES BECKLEY: Well my dad come here and took up this homestead, and my mother and I came here in June 1910.

PAULINE: June 1910. Did your dad come before then?

CHARLES: Yes, he came here and filed on this homestead several months before that.

GLADYS BECKLEY: Actually he bought a relinquishment from a --- on this particular place Charlie.

CHARLIE: Yeah.

GLADYS: There is a difference.

CAROL CRANE: That's the same land that you are living on now?

PAULINE: What was your dad's name?

CHARLES: Erin.

PAULINE: Erin. E R I N ?

CHARLES: Yes.

GLADYS: No, A A.

PAULINE: A A R O N. And what was your mother's name?

CHARLES: Mary.

PAULINE: Mary. And how old were you when you came?

CHARLES: Let's see, that was in 1910, and I was born in '92. ...

GLADYS: I think you were 17 Charlie.

PAULINE: Seventeen years old, 18, 17 or 18.

CAROL: Where were you born?

CHARLES: Tacoma, Washington.

PAULINE: How did your dad happen to find out about land in Harney County? Do you remember how he happened to decide to come here?

CHARLES: Well they was having a --- the school here then. There was a lot of people come at that time homesteading, took up all this land out here. And they first took a desert claim over in Sunset Valley. Then he later took this up on a relinquishment.

PAULINE: Now there is a post office by the name of Beckley, was that name from your ---

CHARLES: No, that was over in Catlow Valley.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Did your father or your family have anything to do with that?

CHARLES: No.

PAULINE: They didn't.

GLADYS: The Beckley's that had a place right across from our place at Diamond, their father was the one that started that town, but no relatives of Charlie's.

PAULINE: But no relatives of Charlie's. Well I've always wonder-ed. I've seen that on the map and I've always wondered if that was ---

GLADYS: Walter and Ernest were the two boys that, or two men that had the places across from ours at Diamond. And they moved, I think, up into Washington someplace.

CHARLES: Our post office here was Waverly Post Office.

GLADYS: By the way, we now own the town site of Waverly.

PAULINE: Oh you do?

GLADYS: Oh yes.

PAULINE: Is there anything left there now at all except just a few weathered boards? Or is there that?

GLADYS: No, not that even. The well is still there that the Company drilled, I believe, to water stock that they were going back and forth. And we use that same well. In fact that was the reason we bought it was to get the water right.

CHARLES: No, you're wrong there.

GLADYS: What? Isn't it?

CHARLES: No, the Company had their well up farther at Windy Point. Oh, Jenkins, Tom --- Mrs. Paul ---

GLADYS: Well I wouldn't know, but that's what they, they were watering cattle out there.

CHARLES: Yeah.

GLADYS: Who owned it?

CHARLES: Hotchkiss.

PAULINE: Well can you tell us about the days that you worked for the PLS Company?

CHARLES: We went around to Company ranches and would do stonework, whatever there was to do, build cellars and things like that.

PAULINE: You were a stonemason?

CHARLES: Yeah, my dad was too. He did stone work in Burns. I can tell you, I have written down what we did when we worked in Burns. PAULINE: Okay, you want to just --

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CHARLES: Let me get my glasses on.

GLADYS: Charlie, why don't you tell them about building those stone ... and tell them where they were. And those wells for the firehouse, this is something I didn't know.

PAULINE: Oh, were you involved in those wells for the fire --- I understand that there was one in the middle of the intersection about every two blocks.

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: Oh yes, we want to hear about that.

GLADYS: And Charlie and his dad did ---

CHARLES: The ...

GLADYS: Well those old ...

CHARLES: Built curbing around each one of those wells, stone curbing. And then they had the slab stone, those cross walks across main street. There wasn't any pavement there, just gravel and mud. We built those stone walks across the street.

PAULINE: At each corner?

CHARLES: Yes, the one there by the bank, is now the First National, we helped put that. The U.S. Bank, and one down there where Corbett's is now. We worked on that school building up there, the one that, the old school building, up there in back of the Slater School. I worked there till a man got killed, and I saw him killed, it was one of our neighbors. He had a homestead right down there.

PAULINE: What happened?

CHARLES: Well they had the, where they --- building the gym they cut out one floor and they put big timbers across, up above, you know. And they had braces nailed into that green lumber and the nails pulled out, and a plank fell down and hit him on the head. Not a plank but a big timber.

GLADYS: What was his name Charlie?

CHARLES: I think it was Leo May, I believe, I'm not sure of that.

PAULINE: Well this was about 1912 wasn't it?

CHARLES: Yes. We worked on the Masonic building, and on the Tonawama building.

PAULINE: Now the Tonawama is where the Burns Times, I mean the Burns Department store is now, or is it ---

CHARLES: No.

PAULINE: No, it's where Bennett's Motel is?

CHARLES: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Yes.

GLADYS: It was up over that, I think.

CHARLES: Up over where?

GLADYS: Where Bennett's Motel is.

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: Just at the base of the hill.

CHARLES: Yes.

PAULINE: I always get confused on that. Well the Tonawama was the building that Julian Byrd was involved in, and that was a theater. Didn't he run the theater in there? Or am I mixed up?

CHARLES: I don't know whether he had a theater there or not, I can't remember that. There were offices upstairs, but I don't remember any theater being there.

PAULINE: Well maybe it wasn't a theater as such, but it seems to me like he brought in some of the first movies that were shown, and that they showed them there.

CHARLES: I know they used to have dances upstairs.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Do you want to read what you have on your paper to us?

GLADYS: Why don't you tell them, Charlie, about when you were working for the Company? I think they are very much interested in that. And tell them about building this

bathtub for Paul Stewart.

CHARLES: Oh the, Paul Stewart's uncle is manager of the Swift Company that was in here. Had these ranches leased. So ---

GLADYS: Mr. Craven, was that his name?

CHARLES: Yeah. And so Paul Stewart and Jim Green were, he had them camped down at Long Hollow, that is up above Fields. And there was a little meadow there, so he thought they should have a bathtub. So he sent another man and I down there to put him in a bathtub. And so we built him a great big box affair, oh half as big as this room, and dug it down, and put it down in the ground. There was a spring up above. So we got it all in, and we were ready to start hauling the next morning, and we looked out and that bathtub had come to the top. (Laughter) The water ---

PAULINE: So this area that you prepared would have been about 9 by 12 then?

CHARLES: Something like that.

PAULINE: Yeah.

CHARLES: So we had to dig a long ditch way down the meadow and drain that hole, and put that tank down in again.

GLADYS: Can't you just see that? ... I saw that place just last summer, out here in the middle of nowhere. ...

PAULINE: The hole is still there?

CHARLES: Oh, I don't know.

GLADYS: Charlie just showed me where it was out; he didn't have time to get out. The people that took us down weren't as interest-ed but I would have given anything to have gone up there and seen if any of that bathtub still remains.

PAULINE: I would too.

CAROL: Was that a hot spring there?

CHARLES: Yeah, it was warm, it wasn't hot. Just right to take a bath.

PAULINE: How far was it from the housing down to the meadow where the tub was?

CHARLES: The ranch house?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CHARLES: Oh, I guess it was a quarter of a mile.

GLADYS: People were really interested in taking a bath, to ... a quarter of a mile.

PAULINE: I was wondering how often --- Not in winter.

GLADYS: And tell them, this is also for the Company, Charlie, when, about those sheep.

Now I --- you were telling me that this morning, when you were hauling some feed for the sheep, or something, and they had to use horses to keep the truck from tipping over.

CHARLES: Oh, I was driving a truck, and they had a bunch of sheep way down in the south end of Catlow Valley. And they didn't, there was a spring there but the sheep wouldn't drink the water for some reason, out of the creek that run down there, dirty and all muddy. So they had me haul out some troughs. I got them from these different ranches, Sod House and the P Ranch, and I hauled them on over there in the truck, and had to go up on a side hill. That was the side ... that the buckaroo had to put a rope on the truck and then around his saddle horn, you know, to keep the truck from turning over.

PAULINE: Did you make it?

CHARLES: Yeah.

CAROL: When was this?

CHARLES: Huh?

CAROL: Do you know about when that was?

CHARLES: No, I don't.

PAULINE: Probably sometime around, between 1915 and 1920?

CHARLES: Huh?

PAULINE: Was it sometime between 1915 and 1920, around there, or after 1920?

CHARLES: Yeah, it was after 1920. I didn't go to work for the Company till '22, I believe it was. The way I know that, I've got that down here. I hauled all their lumber and stuff for them. I hauled the lumber for that Frenchglen Hotel in 1922, and I helped build it.

PAULINE: So it opened in about 1924 then, the hotel?

CHARLES: A short time after it was finished.

GLADYS: He also drove the mules that dug the ditch there. After he had delivered the lumber in the morning, and then in the afternoon, no one else could drive the mules.

CHARLES: They were digging the irrigation ditch that comes down

GLADYS: They were balky. Tell them how you got them to work for you. You said they were balky, and that no one else could get them.

CHARLES: It was on a different job, and they were balky mules, and we were hauling rock for the head gate at Rockford. And then they would go off and quit and not want to start. I would just let out the one that ... another rock on the road and then they would take off.

GLADYS: Have you ever been --- you've been down P Hill haven't you?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

GLADYS: Charlie would, you were trucking, weren't you for the Company?

CHARLES: Uh huh.

GLADYS: And he had a runaway down that hill.

PAULINE: That should have been a little exciting. Can you tell us about that?

CHARLES: Well it slipped out of gear about half way down there. Have you been up and down that hill?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CHARLES: Well down where it goes into that narrow part, it slipped out of gear just as I went in there.

GLADYS: What kind of gear was it, Charlie?

CHARLES: I don't know what kind of gear it was.

PAULINE: It was a truck?

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: What kind of a truck was it?

CHARLES: A Ford.

PAULINE: A Ford?

CHARLES: I sure thought my time had come then. But I kept it in the road. But if I had met anyone coming up it would have been too bad, I'd have had to go on off the side. But I went so close to the bank, it sheared off a hubcap and that tire went flat. But I made it down.

PAULINE: That would be a little scary. That's scary to come down there when your cars got all gears going just right, and your brakes are working. That is a steep hill.

CHARLES: Yeah, I thought my time had come then.

PAULINE: What were you hauling then, lumber or rocks?

CHARLES: I was hauling; I had taken out a load of grub to the ranchers over there, you know, Three Mile, and Roaring Springs. I was bringing back a load of cow hides that they'd skinned over there.

PAULINE: So you were loaded.

CHARLES: It wasn't a very heavy load.

PAULINE: Not a heavy load. Well I am interested some more in some of the things you did around Burns in the way of this masonry. And can you go into more details about the wells in the middle of the street? Those really fascinated me.

GLADYS: Where did you get the rock for them, do you remember, Charlie?

CHARLES: Oh we used to quarry rock up there on those hills. You know behind the, where the schoolhouse is back in there.

PAULINE: Yeah, the grade school? Where the Slater School is?

CHARLES: Yes, the grade school.

PAULINE: And you quarried rock back up that?

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: That wouldn't be too far to haul it then.

CHARLES: No. Then for some of those buildings we quarried that red rock out there, up that road that goes out above the mill. There is red rock back up in there we used on those buildings, and ... that red rock. The old Arrowhead Hotel was built of that rock.

PAULINE: Did you work on the Arrowhead Hotel?

CHARLES: No, no. I worked on the Masonic Building, and on the Tonawama.

PAULINE: Where did you get the rock for the Masonic Building?

CHARLES: I just don't remember where.

CAROL: Are there other buildings still standing in town that you did work on?

CHARLES: Not that I know of.

PAULINE: What about the Brown Building?

CHARLES: Huh?

PAULINE: The Brown Building, you didn't work on it?

CHARLES: No, I didn't work on that. We quarried rock up there at, just west of the cemetery. And that wasn't red rock; it was that gray rock up there. We was digging rock and an old buck Indian come along and got after us, and he said he had a papoose buried there. And there was a lot of dolls, and junk like that, and he said those belonged to his papoose.

PAULINE: Did you move the grave then, or did you ever find out where the grave was?

CHARLES: No, we never found anything, only the toys this Indian baby had.

PAULINE: Were any of the houses --- I know there are several stone houses still in Burns, did you work on any of those? How did you go about quarrying? Did you have motorized equipment of any kind at that time, or was it all done by hand?

CHARLES: All by hand.

PAULINE: So sledge hammer? And what kind of tools did you use?

CHARLES: Well hammers and chisels.

Gladys: Stone ... Before you leave I will show you some of them.

PAULINE: Okay.

GLADYS: Patsy has most of them over at Drewsey, but there are still some down here at the garage.

PAULINE: I would like to see them. Carol could take a picture.

CHARLES: Well there's not many of them down there.

GLADYS: No, I know, but I say there is some. Patsy has most of the ... doing some stone work over there. And she and I decided that we'd do some stonework. We have a rock patio out back. Well we split one stone, it took us a week.

PAULINE: Oh my. That's a good example of what kind of effort goes into this type of labor.

GLADYS: The rest of our patio we hunted for rocks that would fit the hole that we wanted to fill. I'll show you the one rock that we split. It was a good job, really. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Then you hauled the rocks from the quarry with a mule team and wagon, when you hauled the rocks from the quarry into town with a mule team and wagon.

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: Well this question maybe is a little off the subject now, but I think it fits right in

here because he has been talking about hauling with the mules, and one thing and another. Do you remember the first time you ever rode in a car?

CHARLES: Yes.

PAULINE: Can you tell us about it?

CHARLES: The first time I rode in a car was in Tacoma when I was playing baseball. I used to play baseball when I was going to high school, and we lived out of Tacoma in ... Hill, and we got a car. A bunch of us boys just hired a car to take us home. That's the first car I ever rode in. Then after I come here, the first car I rode in here, they had a Fourth of July celebration at Lawen. I was working in Burns and, I don't know, I suppose you've heard of Lon Richardson, haven't you?

PAULINE: Yes.

CHARLES: Used to be sheriff.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CHARLES: I got a ride home with him, from Lawen to Burns.

PAULINE: How did you feel about riding in a car? Did you like it?

CHARLES: Yes.

PAULINE: You really did? Most people say they did. Once in a while I find someone that didn't like it. Well at the time that you came here in 1910, and up until after 1920, there really weren't very many cars or trucks in this area, were there?

CHARLES: No. No, we bought a car in '20, '24, '25, I guess. I learned to drive when I was working for the Company. The driver they had, he got sick and they told, the Doc told him to stop driving, so they put me to driving that thing. I come into Crane and hauled a load out, and she turned me loose for the first time.

PAULINE: What kind of a vehicle was it, a truck or a ---

CHARLES: A truck.

PAULINE: You just said take it to Crane?

CHARLES: Yes.

GLADYS: But it had solid rubber wheels.

CHARLES: Yeah, it had solid tires.

GLADYS: I have one down here, right down here.

PAULINE: We'll see that on our way out.

CHARLES: The first car I bought was a Ford, an old Ford touring car. And my dad wanted to drive; he didn't know how to drive a car. He got in and went out around here and run into a toilet we had a sitting out there.

PAULINE: Did he holler whoa?

CAROL: Did you have any accidents when you first drove?

CHARLES: No, I don't think so.

CAROL: You did pretty good.

CHARLES: The first trip out I got stuck three times between here and Frenchglen.

GLADYS: And had to pack the lumber. He said he had to unload the truck each time and pack the lumber up the hill because the truck wouldn't pull the hill. (Laughter)

PAULINE: The roads around this country in those days weren't really what you would call good, were they?

CHARLES: No, they didn't have any roads, only cow trails.

PAULINE: Well Willie Racine told me a story, I think you would enjoy, about he drove a laundry truck between here and John Day. Can you imagine driving to John Day and Canyon City, and he even went to Prairie City with a laundry truck. He drove clear over to John Day to pick up laundry, brought it back to Burns to be laundered and then delivered it back again. But he said that the thing that he learned was that if there was a mud hole in the road; don't try to go around it. You just go right straight through. If you get stuck,

the next fellow that comes along has to help you out, because he can't go around you. But if you try to go around and you get stuck and you're off to one side, why there you will be. And so he said, never try to go around, just go right on through.

CHARLES: Who was that, said that?

PAULINE: Willie Racine.

CHARLES: Oh.

GLADYS: Well you know there used to be a laundry in Crane, also.

PAULINE: Did there?

GLADYS: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Now I didn't know that.

GLADYS: Yes.

PAULINE: Do you know who run it?

GLADYS: Charlie, who run that?

CHARLES: I can't remember what his name was.

GLADYS: Was it Lonegan (sp.?)?

CHARLES: No.

GLADYS: I know where it was; it was down from our house at Crane, because we bought, after we bought the house over there at Crane, which was moved from old Fort Harney, by the way. That house over there at Crane. And we bought the big fence that was around this laundry house, I don't know why it was such a high fence. Goodness! Almost as high as this ceiling. And then we built the fence around the place at Crane out of that. But I know there was a laundry there, and a barbershop. Oh, there were all kinds of things, really.

CHARLES: ... run the laundry over there ...

GLADYS: Oh I wouldn't know Charlie. It wasn't there while ...

PAULINE: That's all one word; his last name was Billadew (sp.?)?

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

CHARLES: I think --- I am not sure about that.

PAULINE: Well I will ask around, sometimes ---

GLADYS: And there was a barbershop at Crane too, you know. That was Humps (sp.?)
run that, wasn't it?

CHARLES: Yeah.

GLADYS: Yeah. You probably knew that.

PAULINE: There were several, there were more than one hotel, wasn't it? Three or four
hotels?

CHARLES: Yeah.

GLADYS: Oh yes.

PAULINE: And a theater.

CHARLES: There was Denman and the Clay Hotel. And Mrs. Stevens run the hotel
there. I guess that was all the hotels there was.

GLADYS: Oh, if you go back through Crane you can get a picture of the first building that
was built in Crane.

CHARLES: What building was that?

GLADYS: You can take a picture of it.

CHARLES: Which building was that?

GLADYS: It's where the coal was stored for the, there at the depot. And Charlie and
Tony Madejovitz built that, and they slept in that place.

PAULINE: I will have to check that out.

GLADYS: Yeah. And you will have to take a picture of it soon, because it's not going to

be standing long.

CHARLES: Do you mean that old coalhouse?

GLADYS: Uh huh.

PAULINE: That was the first building built there?

CHARLES: Yeah.

CAROL: Was the railroad going into Crane when you moved here?

CHARLES: Huh?

CAROL: Was there a railroad going into Crane when you came?

CHARLES: No, no.

CAROL: When did it come?

CHARLES: I think it --- do you know when Homer Bennett --- When was that First World War?

PAULINE: That was in 1918.

GLADYS: 1918.

CHARLES: '18? Well that was about the time the road; the railroad was built into Crane. I thought it was 1915 that ... went to the army.

GLADYS: It could have been Charlie, I wouldn't know, I was just a little girl.

PAULINE: We can check that date in the history book, when it came in.

CAROL: Did you work on the railroad any; have anything to do with that?

CHARLES: No, only on the depot.

CAROL: On the depot.

CHARLES: I worked on the depot.

PAULINE: Well were there any people living right there in that area before the ---

CHARLES: No.

PAULINE: This is the way I understand it, that the town sprung up when the railroad

arrived, and because of the railroad.

GLADYS: There was a big tent somewhere out there in the field, Charlie said, where they run sort of a restaurant or something.

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: Well I would like to know a little bit more about Waverly and what was there, and just exactly where Waverly was. I know the area but ---

GLADYS: Look out there where that big hill is out there.

PAULINE: Okay, yeah.

CHARLES: Yeah, it was right at the point of that hill.

PAULINE: It was right at the point of the hill? So that's about what, two miles from Princeton, or between two and five miles from Princeton?

CHARLES: Yeah. Then there was a town over there at Princeton, Old Princeton, used to be right at the point of that little hill you see that sticks out over there. That is where the post office of Princeton was.

GLADYS: Well tell them about this store that Mr. Brakeman had there at Waverly, Charlie. She wanted to know about the town of Waverly. Tell them about that.

CHARLES: There is nothing to tell that I know of.

PAULINE: Who were the people that lived there?

CHARLES: Brakeman.

PAULINE: Brakeman.

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: Do you remember his first name?

CHARLES: No, I don't.

GLADYS: We have the Brakeman shack out here; we have a picture of them.

PAULINE: They run, had a post office there, and a boarding house type operation. You

could stop and stay overnight, and get a meal there.

CHARLES: Yeah, they had a big barn, and kept horses.

GLADYS: Charlie, what about the time there was an argument, you told the girls and I about that.

CHARLES: Argument?

GLADYS: Yes, he had, someone was chasing him around the store. And he told his wife to bring the spatter gun.

CHARLES: Yeah, I can't remember who it was.

GLADYS: Well tell them, can you tell them about that? Or what the argument was about?

CHARLES: Well somebody was, they had an argument about something, and this guy took after him, and run him around and around the house. And he hollered to his wife to open the door, wasn't it, and let him in.

GLADYS: He told her to bring the spatter gun.

CHARLES: Yeah, the spatter gun, they called the shotgun.

PAULINE: The spatter gun was the shotgun.

CHARLES: I can't remember who that was.

PAULINE: Did they get the argument settled without any injury?

CHARLES: Yeah.

GLADYS: They must have been real interesting people. How did they describe their cow when they got lost, Charlie? The Brakeman's?

CHARLES: Oh, she had long magnificent long horns, and magnificent eyes.

PAULINE: Magnificent eyes.

GLADYS: I don't know where they were from, but think of all these hundreds of cows that were running loose and we were supposed to recognize their particular cow.

PAULINE: With the long horns and magnificent eyes. Well Carol, do you have, you've been taking notes like mad, do you have some questions?

GLADYS: Did you tell them about --- because they can talk to Johnny Crow too, you know Pioneer Day coming up, about hauling the pigs, the wild pigs for the PLS Company?

CHARLES: Not the PLS Company, the Swift Company.

GLADYS: Swift Company, I'm sorry. I wasn't here.

CHARLES: There is a swamp down there below the P Ranch, they used to, there was a lot of wild hogs in there. So they had the buckaroos catch them.

GLADYS: But what else did the Company get before they sold them?

CHARLES: Huh?

GLADYS: The Company got something. Those big high priced boars, and they turned loose in there.

CHARLES: Oh yeah, yeah. Great big old fellas, I hauled it out there. Oh, it stood that high, biggest old hog I ever saw. We turned it loose down there in the swamp with those sows, and they had buckaroos catch those hogs. Judd Wise, I don't know whether you knew him, he was the boss down there, and he had a little dog that was sure good at catching those hogs. He'd heel them. Then they would load them in the wagons and haul them up to the ranch, and I would haul them from there into Crane.

PAULINE: Put them on the train? Did they ship them out then on the train?

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: I've had people tell me about wild pigs before, but I never really got a clear idea as to how they happened to be there in the first place. Do you know where they came from?

CHARLES: I don't know how the first ones got there.

PAULINE: Because they certainly weren't native to the country.

CHARLES: No, no. There sure were a lot of them down there in that swamp.

GLADYS: I would imagine probably what happened, you know, western Oregon had lots of razorbacks.

PAULINE: These were razorback?

GLADYS: Crossed with the real good boars, and so they produced, they produced pretty good hogs.

PAULINE: Now a razorback is a wild hog.

GLADYS: Uh huh, right.

CHARLES: Do you know Johnny Crow?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CHARLES: He can tell you more about those hogs.

PAULINE: I will have to ask him about that.

CHARLES: He used to, he helped them catch those hogs.

GLADYS: Now I had always presumed that Charlie told me that it was probably razorbacks.

PAULINE: Well several people, now Celia Urizar was telling me about this when I talked to her. They lived down in Andrews, you know, and she mentions the wild pigs. But she wasn't, you know, didn't have any ideas to where they came from.

GLADYS: Because I know in the Willamette Valley when my mother and father were married, first married, they got razorback pigs. So I don't see any reason why they couldn't have been in this area as well, because tules, you know, the ... would make fantastic food.

PAULINE: They would, it would be wonderful.

GLADYS: Uh huh. You found them where there were lots of camas also. And of course

there is certainly lots of camas up here.

PAULINE: I know who I will ask, next time I visit with her, is Marion Louie. I will just ask her if there was ---

CHARLES: Who was that?

PAULINE: Marion Louie, she is an Indian lady in town. She was born in the 1900's so she is not really all that old, but she was really interested in what her grandparents had to say, and she listened and remembered a lot of things that they told her. And I will just ask her if there were, you know, if there were always pigs there.

GLADYS: Because you know there are the buffalo wallows. You can still see these out here in the flats, so I can't see why there wouldn't have been, probably, wild pigs here.

CHARLES: What, did I tell you about those wells, I did didn't I, in the middle of the street?

PAULINE: Well tell us a little more about them. You said you did them, and can you describe them? What do you have written down there? I would like to know.

CHARLES: Is that where I worked. Do you know that?

PAULINE: Yes, please.

CHARLES: That's when I worked for Swift Company, built head gates at Rockford, and Grain Camp, and Island Point, and I hauled lumber for the Frenchglen Hotel. Helped build the streets in Burns ---

SIDE B

CHARLES: Put the hose down, and it had a big old pump, and it had wooden handles on each side of it, long, oh they was as long as one of those davenport, I guess. And then a bunch of men would get on each side of it, and just pump it up and down.

GLADYS: Sort of like a seesaw, wouldn't it be?

CHARLES: Huh, be what?

GLADYS: Sort of like a seesaw, wouldn't it be?

CHARLES: Well it's a pump, put the hose down into the well and pump quite a stream of water.

CAROL: Are those wells still there?

CHARLES: I suppose so, but they would be under that pavement.

CAROL: They're all covered.

CHARLES: Under the pavement.

PAULINE: Under the pavement.

CHARLES: Yeah.

CAROL: There aren't any that you could see?

GLADYS: No, they would be covered up. It's too bad that you can't get a picture of some of those. The stage service too, you were asking about the early cars, tell them about those, how people earned their way on the bus out to Bend.

CHARLES: How they what?

GLADYS: How they earned their way. They paid for it, and then they earned it too.

CHARLES: Oh, you mean coming in from Bend? In the wintertime there was a lot of snow on the --- and you had to pay \$20 to come from Bend to Burns. A fella run a car that hauled passengers, you paid \$20, and you would push half the way. The first day we didn't get out but about six miles, and we had to come back. And the next day we would come to Burns, we got into Burns about 3 o'clock in the morning.

CAROL: Did that make you wish you'd gone back to the mules and wagons?

CHARLES: Yeah.

CAROL: How long would it take you to go by wagon from here to Burns, or from Burns to Bend?

CHARLES: I never went to Bend with horses. We went to Burns several times, it would

take three days. One day to go up, and one day to do our shopping, and then one day back.

PAULINE: That was from here to Burns, and back here?

CHARLES: Yeah.

PAULINE: Then if you wanted to go from Bend from Burns, how long did you figure to go?

CHARLES: With horses? I don't have any idea, I don't know.

PAULINE: A week or so probably. I have had other people ---

CHARLES: It would take a long time, a week probably.

GLADYS: When Charlie and his father was working for the Company, they crossed the Alvord Desert down here with horses, they drove horses across that. And how did you make it across, Charlie?

CHARLES: Well the first time I went across, you've seen the desert; I went across on this side. I went from Mann Lake to Whitehorse in a day. It was hot and dry, you know, and the horses, we didn't take any water along, and the horse's noses would bleed before we got across. So after that we hauled water, to give our horses water. Then there was some Chinaman come into --- we was staying at Mann Lake, and built a cellar there. And some Chinaman come in afoot. They had left their car out in the desert, it got stuck or something out there. Anyway they come in afoot. Then the next day we went out to get their car, I went with them, and we couldn't find that car. They had put a canvas over it; it was the same color as the desert. (Laughter)

PAULINE: There is a lot of white territory out there, canvas colored territory. And there is no water available anywhere ---

CHARLES: No, not a drop after you leave that corner of the Alvord, not a drop of water.

PAULINE: Till you get where?

CHARLES: Get to Whitehorse.

PAULINE: Till you get to Whitehorse.

CHARLES: Yeah. Those horses, boy they --- it sure got dry that first trip. We hauled water after that.

CAROL: Have you had any experiences with those harsh winds that blow out there? Did you ever have any trouble getting across because of them?

CHARLES: No, I was never out there in one of those windstorms.

CAROL: I have seen pictures where they have blown roofs right off of a building out by the Whitehorse.

CHARLES: Oh yeah. Mann Lake, they had all their roofs wired down, you know, so that the wind couldn't blow them off. I guess it is the same at Alvord, too.

GLADYS: People really had it pretty tough when they first came in here. Tell them about when you folks first came in here, Charlie, and your team of horses that you bought, and the one died and how you folks managed.

CHARLES: We only had, one died and we had to do a little farming up here, and only had one horse. So I held one end of the neck yoke, and the other horse did the pulling. That is how we did our farming.

PAULINE: That sounds like fun too. What about rabbits, did you

CHARLES: Did what?

PAULINE: What about the rabbit problem, did you have lots of problems with rabbits eating your crops?

CHARLES: Oh, they were awful, the rabbits was. We had big rabbit drives here. They would get a thousand rabbits, maybe, in their drive. Everybody would come to the rabbit drive. They would bring their lunch and have a regular picnic up at these rabbit drives.

GLADYS: Charlie, tell them about that time when you had your pistol and you were riding across and someone told you, when you made your lucky shot.

CHARLES: I don't remember that. When was it?

GLADYS: I don't know. Somewhere you were riding and, I wish we had that pistol; he gave it away, a long barreled pistol. Now he was just a young sprout and he was riding a horse --- weren't they building a road? And he rode up, and a coyote or a jackrabbit, I don't remember which it was, and so they told him to shoot it, and he hadn't, didn't even know how to shoot the thing hardly. So he just shot it right through the eyes, and he never made another shot.

CAROL: ...

PAULINE: Stop while you're ahead.

GLADYS: I think it got away. Oh, I wish he would have kept it. It was the funniest looking thing I have ever seen.

PAULINE: Do you have some more on your paper after the wells, that you would like to tell us about?

CHARLES: Well I guess back here where all the --- I worked for the Company.

GLADYS: I think you told them that didn't you, Charlie?

CHARLES: I worked, put in the concrete head gates at Rockford, Grain Camp, and Diamond Point. You got that?

PAULINE: Yeah, I think we got that. And then the wells with the curbing in Burns.

CHARLES: Yeah. I worked on that schoolhouse till that fella got killed. And from there we went to Tom Baker's, you know Alvon Baker do you? I worked for his dad. You know where their ranch is, where they used to live, out there at the Sandhill?

PAULINE: You built something for them, but I can't remember what it was. Was it the cellar, or was it the house?

CHARLES: Built the foundation.

PAULINE: The foundation.

CHARLES: For the house, and the big three room stone cellar. I told you that?

PAULINE: No, Alvon told me about that. Alvon told me about it.

CHARLES: Oh, Alvon told you.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CHARLES: Oh yeah.

GLADYS: Oh Charlie, who was that homesteader around here that was killed with the rattlesnake when he was proving how quick he could be? Tell them about that.

CHARLES: Oh that was, what was their names, lived right out here? Wiley, is that what you're talking about?

GLADYS: I really don't know.

CHARLES: I don't know if that was their name or not.

PAULINE: Well what happened?

CHARLES: I just can't remember what it was. It seemed like he picked it up, and it bit him on the thumb. I think that was it.

GLADYS: I think he'd been to a circus, or someone was telling, and this man was rather a --- well he could do most anything that any-body else did, even better than they could perhaps. So they got a rattlesnake, and he decided he would show them how to pick it up, and it didn't work.

PAULINE: It didn't work.

GLADYS: No, he died from it.

PAULINE: And he died from it?

GLADYS: Oh, the very ...

PAULINE: Well, we've been at this for about an hour now, and I would like to know if, I

would like to come back and visit some more a little later on, and maybe not wear everyone out by staying too long.

CHARLES: While you are here we might as well get it all over with.

PAULINE: Well ---

GLADYS: Well ---

PAULINE: Yeah, I know ---

GLADYS: It would probably be better, Charlie, and maybe you could think of some other things.

PAULINE: I would like to go home and listen to this again, and think of some more questions to ask you. Because you have some information about a lot of places out in this area that I'd really like to get. And so --- I sure appreciate your taking time to talk to us. And I'd like to come back; I'd like to try to get ... for another trip out.

GLADYS: Do that. Would you like some more coffee?

PAULINE: Yeah, I could use some more.

GLADYS: How about you?

PAULINE: Why don't you go ahead and tell me the rest of that stuff while they're getting the camera.

CHARLES: Well here I got, I carried the mail ten years from Princeton to Diamond.

PAULINE: To The Narrows.

GLADYS: Narrows.

CHARLES: And we have two ranches, one here and one at Diamond.

PAULINE: You're still running about 500 head of cattle?

CHARLES: Yeah. Morris Davis has them leased. ...

GLADYS: Morris has his place leased ... just this little area in here, he doesn't want to work.

PAULINE: Is there anything else then that you'd like to get on this today?

CHARLES: No. You got that about those wells in the streets up there.

PAULINE: Yeah. I'm really intrigued with those wells. Other people have told me about them, but to know the man that put the bricks around them, that's really wonderful.

CHARLES: Yeah, we curbed those all up. Did a lot of curbing out at the cemetery. I guess that's all gone now.

PAULINE: Yeah, I think. There used to be, not --- and just within the last couple of years, there was still some curbing out there. But I ---

GLADYS: Charlie and his father did that.

PAULINE: I think they've torn that all out.

CHARLES: They took; I suppose they couldn't haul very good.

GLADYS: No, they wouldn't be able to.

CHARLES: You was talking to Alvon, were you?

PAULINE: Yeah, I've been talking to people for about, well really longer than that, but for the library history project for two years now. And we've talked to close to 150 people. And you've been on my list right from the day I started, but I just, you know, hadn't gotten this far yet. And we, oh it has been so interesting.

GLADYS: You know he had to use --- this shows how much the roads have improved. He had to use horses during the wintertime to get down to The Narrows.

CHARLES: No, I'll keep this ... (Laughter)

... (Unrelated conversations about picture taking and the cats.)

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