

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #36 - Side A

Subject: Jimmie Capps

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: May 1975

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

...

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Okay, first of all I need to know when you were born, and where.

JIMMIE CAPPS: I was born April 4th, 1896.

PAULINE: April 4, 1896. And you were born in Drewsey weren't you?

JIM: No.

PAULINE: You weren't?

JIM: No, Van. Well it wasn't right in Van, but it was in a log cabin up directly, what they call directly from the Cleveland place, up on Wolf Creek.

PAULINE: What were your parent's names?

JIM: Well my mother's name was Cora Ann Gearhart before she was married.

PAULINE: And what was your dad's name?

JIM: Wallace Arthur Capps. He had a twin brother, Wallace, or Walter. Walter Daniel, I guess, twin brother.

PAULINE: Did he live in this country too?

JIM: Yeah, he lived here till he died. Of course they came from Yakima to start with.

PAULINE: Well the Gearharts were really one of the very earliest pioneers.

JIM: Well that was mothers. Oh yes, yeah.

PAULINE: Her family, the very earliest pioneers.

JIM: See that is what Florence would, if she'd have come down she knows, she's got all that stuff. She went around and picked up all this stuff, she's got a family tree. If she comes down --- she may send it to me if she don't come. I hope.

PAULINE: Well I hope so too.

JIM: Because she's got all that dope, and I don't know it, see.

PAULINE: Do you know about what time your dad came into the country?

JIM: No, none of that. See I don't remember that, and I never heard them tell me anything about it.

PAULINE: Well I've got a date on Gearhart, I'm sure, and I --- from talking with some other people.

JIM: I know they came from Missouri to start with.

PAULINE: Did you have older brothers or sisters?

JIM: No, none at all.

PAULINE: You were the only child. Had they lived in Van very long before you were born, or ---

JIM: Well, that's what I don't know.

PAULINE: You don't know that either.

JIM: No, I don't. Florence will have all of that if she comes down.

PAULINE: Okay.

JIM: As far as I'm concerned, I just don't remember any of that, see. See my grandmother and grandfather died when I was just a small kid, so I just never heard the folks say anything much about them.

PAULINE: Okay, well you went to school at Van?

JIM: Yeah, at Van. And then I graduated at the Wolf Creek schoolhouse. Van, the old

schoolhouse, used to be up, you know where the Cawfield place is?

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: There used to be an old schoolhouse right there, just below the ranch. That's where I had my first grade. And then they built a new schoolhouse just down, close to my granddad's place. I just about finished up there.

PAULINE: Were there very many kids in school when you were in school?

JIM: Oh, there was probably 15 or 20.

PAULINE: Yeah. All ages, of course, together.

JIM: Oh yes. Yeah, just one school for all grades, up to the eighth grade.

PAULINE: Can you remember anything that happened in particular when you were in school that you remember still as being funny, or sad, or outstanding?

JIM: No, no, I can't. Just regular old stuff, you know, school kid stuff.

PAULINE: Did you ride your horse to school, or did you have to walk?

JIM: Well I walked, and rode horseback most of the time. When the snow was deep I rode horseback. And when there wasn't any snow, well I just walked to school.

PAULINE: How far did you have to walk?

JIM: It was between 2 and 3 miles. Yeah, that's the only way I had to get there.

PAULINE: Well a little snowstorm didn't stop the kids from going to school either. Parents said go.

JIM: Oh no, we'd go regardless of how deep the snow was.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well I have heard some people tell about you and some other people doing some logging up in the Drewsey area, and bringing logs down.

JIM: Oh yeah. The Moffets, at the Moffet Mill.

PAULINE: At the Moffet Mill.

JIM: Right.

PAULINE: Just where was that located?

JIM: Well you know where Antelope Swale is?

PAULINE: No, but you tell me.

JIM: It's north of Drewsey about; oh it must be 20 miles north of Drewsey. It's off of the main road that goes through there now, about 3 or 4 miles west of the main road. Had just a little mill in there, and we logged in there. And then I worked at what they called the Ott Mill, right on the main road.

PAULINE: That was O T T, wasn't it?

JIM: O T T, yes. They was German.

PAULINE: Well can you describe what it was like to float those logs down the river?

JIM: We never, I wasn't on that. That was the loggers that Ott had, that came down to what they called Milldale. You know where the Riley Ranch is?

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: Well it's just above that; it used to be called Milldale. That's where Ott done a lot of sawing too. The other mill was clear over on the road that goes to Prairie City.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well did they haul the logs out then with a team and wagon?

JIM: They hauled them to the mill up the --- the old mill on the road that goes to Prairie City. But the other one they floated them down the river. See, they never logged there, only just down, loaded them into the river and floated them down the high water.

PAULINE: But you didn't ever do that?

JIM: No, I never worked there in that mill, no. The old one, just a small mill.

PAULINE: Well did you do some ranching in the Drewsey area for a while?

JIM: Well my dad, well I've worked on a lot of them ranches around Drewsey, and in the hay fields. My dad had a homestead, what they called Capps Mountain now, right on the foot of it. Just had a dry homestead there, and I worked there for him sometimes see.

And then I worked for a noble German. You know where the, what they call the Renwald (sp.?) place is?

PAULINE: Now what name?

JIM: Renwald, that's a German name.

PAULINE: Yeah, I've heard the name, uh huh.

JIM: Well I worked there, drove a span of mules at four bits a day.

PAULINE: That's real good wages.

JIM: It was good then. As much as, by gosh as it is, the wages you get now, according, you know. It amounted to as much. They didn't take it away from you, anyway.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: Got up to two and a half a day, well that was big money. Worked in hay fields, and threshing machines, and stuff like that. Well there might be a lot of things, if I had anything to think with. There were a lot of different things. Well, I worked for the county too. Bummer Moffet and I, he's a cousin of mine, he drove an eight horse team, and I drove a grader for ten years for the county.

PAULINE: With the horses?

JIM: Eight head of horses, yeah, on the grader.

PAULINE: That sounds interesting.

JIM: Yeah.

PAULINE: Did you just work over in the Drewsey area, or ---

JIM: Well all over, well we come clean into Harney Valley over here, from the mountain. That's before they built the highway, the old road went clear into Riverside, and clear to Juntura. Then up over this other road I was telling you about, where the Ott Mill was. It went clear over that, clear up to the county line.

PAULINE: What did you do, just start in and grade, and just ---

JIM: Just blade it.

PAULINE: Just blade.

JIM: Just dirt roads, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: Blade like they've been blading these dirt streets here.

PAULINE: You just did this in the spring and the summer, and the winter and the fall. I mean you didn't ---

JIM: Just the summertime, yeah. Then I trapped in the fall. And after I quit that, well I just went to work on the ranches during the summertime, and then trapped again in the fall.

PAULINE: What was it like to trap in the earlier years? Was it a pretty good living?

JIM: Oh yeah. Yeah, I done pretty good.

PAULINE: What kind of things did you ---

JIM: Oh, I got anything I could catch. Coyotes, mostly.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

JIM: And I caught beaver and muskrats, mink, anything that would bring any money. There used to be lots of beaver then. But --- They were like skinning a hog, awful hard to skin.

PAULINE: They're tough to skin?

JIM: You bet. I used an old razor.

PAULINE: Is it because they are so fat, or ---

JIM: Well, it's just that their hides sticks to them like a hog's hide does. I used an old razor because it was good and sharp.

PAULINE: I've never heard that before.

JIM: Yeah. Yeah, I skinned a lot of them.

PAULINE: Did you put --- when you set out your trap line, was it quite a long, did you cover quite a wide area, or did you ---

JIM: Well my coyote traps, after I got a car, I got an old Model-T Ford, why I covered quite a lot of country then. On horseback why I couldn't, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah

JIM: As far as I could go a horseback and get back home.

PAULINE: You didn't go out and camp over?

JIM: No, no I didn't. I could run certain days, about every three days I would have three or four lines, about three lines, and then every third day I would make this, each around, see. Covered quite a lot of country, especially after I got the Ford.

PAULINE: Well this is something I ask everybody, about the first time they saw a car, or the first time they had a car ride. Do you remember the first car you saw?

JIM: Well I remember the first car that we had the second car that was in that country over there.

PAULINE: Really?

JIM: The second Ford, 1915 model. We drove it for quite a few years. And then my dad traded it off for a Star.

PAULINE: I had never heard that name before.

JIM: You hadn't? Well I used to have one.

PAULINE: A Star car?

JIM: A Star car, yeah.

PAULINE: What did it look like, compared to a Ford?

JIM: Oh, it looked a little like some of these Chevrolets. Oh, it didn't look anything like a Model-T Ford. It looked more like the car, you know, ... now days.

PAULINE: Can you remember the first time you rode in a car?

JIM: No, I don't remember that. I know my dad and I had, well we had a 100 head of horses, and we sold some horses and bought this Ford, close to \$500 at that time.

PAULINE: Wow, that's ---

JIM: One time I went to Drewsey to a dance, we had a buggy. That's before we got the car. I had a little brown team; I hooked the buggy and went to the dance at Juntura, or at Drewsey. Some-body stole one of them horses out of the livery stable while I was at the dance. I never did get that horse back.

PAULINE: Well for heavens sakes.

JIM: The liveryman paid me for it; he paid me \$70 for it. That is a pretty good price them days.

PAULINE: Did you play on the baseball team in Drewsey?

JIM: Yeah, yeah.

PAULINE: Can you tell me about some of the games you had?

JIM: Well I can't remember each game, but I played for a lot of them. The only one that I can really remember that we played at Westfall, and the score was 27 to 0, our favor.

PAULINE: Well that's the way the ---

JIM: I got hit in the head ... the last of the game, cracked my skull in two places. They took me down to the hospital.

PAULINE: Oh wow.

JIM: I never played after that. And we had a good game there at Burns, one time. Wally knows all about it, he was talking about it the other day. I was the pitcher, and Bummer Moffet was the catcher, and the score was 4 to 5. You know, that's pretty good playing, you know, for a scrub team.

PAULINE: That's not a very high score.

JIM: Of course they had a, big three players that had been playing in league, on the

Burns team.

PAULINE: And this is regular old baseball, it wasn't softball or

JIM: No, no. Regular baseball.

PAULINE: Regular old baseball.

JIM: Regular baseball, right, yeah. I never started playing baseball until after I come out of the First World War, in 1919.

PAULINE: Did you go overseas in the war?

JIM: Yeah, in the First World War. The second one I didn't.

PAULINE: Yeah, where were you?

JIM: Oh, I was in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, France. I stayed in Germany for, well for pretty near a year, army of occupation, you know.

PAULINE: What kind of a unit were you with?

JIM: I was in the Marine Corps.

PAULINE: Marine Corps.

JIM: Yeah.

PAULINE: Were you in a fighting unit, or ---

JIM: Yeah, yeah, was in the Argonne battle. That was the only one I was in. That was enough.

PAULINE: That was enough.

JIM: Got my pack shot off once with a piece of shell. They didn't shoot it off, they just knocked, just a piece of shell went through the pack, you know, and scattered my mess gear around.

PAULINE: That's close enough.

JIM: That is plenty close. I was behind a little gravel clump about as big as my hat there,

I had my head stuck down against the helmet, stuck in that, they just knocked that gravel clump all to pieces with machine guns. So that wasn't so nice either.

PAULINE: How long were you overseas?

JIM: A year.

PAULINE: A year.

JIM: The Second World War I didn't get overseas, I just did guard duty. I was in 31 months the last one.

PAULINE: When did you move into Burns?

JIM: '37. Well I didn't move to Burns, I moved to --- I traded my homestead for the ranch up here, you know the McKinnon place?

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: I traded for that. I was there for several years, until '39 I think it was. No, '41 when I left up there. I traded it, and let the kids have my ranch, my daughter and her husband.

PAULINE: Well you worked on the county road for years, and years, and years.

JIM: Yeah, that's what I told you, ten years. Yeah, 10 years, that was over at Drewsey.

PAULINE: But I mean after you moved into Burns.

JIM: Oh no, no. I worked for the Forest Service 7 years, yeah.

PAULINE: Forest Service, okay.

JIM: Seven years, yeah, seven years with them. That was what they called administrative guard most of the time, out on lookouts. Leave lookouts, you know, so they could take a vacation. I liked that job good, but when they got to where you had to have a college education, you know, to handle the shovel or anything, so I had to quit.

PAULINE: Well I know you have one son and one daughter.

JIM: Right, that's all.

PAULINE: Who was your wife?

JIM: Well, I had three of them.

PAULINE: Well that's one of those questions that I ---

JIM: My daughter, my wife and my daughter, was Ruth Moffet, Ken Moffet's daughter.

PAULINE: Well what is your daughter's name?

JIM: Florence, Florence Jean. Vaughn is her last name now.

PAULINE: V A U G H N ?

JIM: Right.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: She was Baker. She had, you remember Billy Baker, used to live up ---

PAULINE: I've heard the name.

JIM: Well anyway, she married; she married him for several years. She has three kids by him.

PAULINE: And she lives up in Washington now?

JIM: Yeah, in Yakima.

PAULINE: Okay, and then your son is Francis?

JIM: Francis, James Francis.

PAULINE: Now I haven't seen him for a long time, is he still living here?

JIM: Yeah, he came back here. He was gone for a year or so, and he came back, it's been over a year now. He's back working at the mill.

PAULINE: What about grandchildren?

JIM: Gosh, I don't know, I lost track of how many of them I've got. I guess they, two or three of them have got three or four kids, some of them five, I think. But I've just, I've lost track of the number of them. See they was all born, most of them was born up in Yakima, and I was never around them, very little. And then I got, well Francis' daughters are both married now, and one of them has got a little girl.

PAULINE: Okay, let's see now. Did you ever do any cattle drives?

JIM: Well the only cattle drive I was ever on, really, was over around Drewsey, Van, somewhere in there, over to The Narrows down here.

PAULINE: How long did it take you to drive them from Drewsey to The Narrows?

JIM: Gosh, I don't remember. ... from the Anderson place over to The Narrows. Seems to me like we made that in one day, I don't remember now. Never stopping anywhere. Could have been we stopped at some of these ranches out in here, but I sure don't remember.

PAULINE: When you mentioned a while ago that your dad had horses, did he have a lot of horses?

JIM: Oh yeah, we had around a 100 head.

PAULINE: Yeah. Did you raise them for the army or ---

JIM: Yeah, we sold a bunch to the army, different places. They was kind of blooded stuff, you know, race stuff some of them. And then we had workhorses too, Percherons, Clydesdales.

PAULINE: Well horse racing in Harney County really was quite a industry at one time.

JIM: One time, yes it was, yeah. Yeah, had a lot of fun chasing horses. That's what that mountain is named after my dad, that is where we run our horses; we run them all over that country. Bring them into the corrals, you know, to break some of them. We had a lot of fun.

PAULINE: Did usually, did the buyers come in? You didn't ever drive them out, you had the buyers, would come in and ---

JIM: Oh no, no, we just took, sold a few at a time, you know. Sold a few to the army at a time. And then private individuals, you know, would sell a few to. And one thing I remember we used to do when I was just a little kid, may not be interesting to you, but

we'd go fishing coming over on the Gun Barrel, and lay out over-night, sleep in the saddle blankets, use the saddle for a pillow and stuff like that. That was in the spring of the year when the first fishing first started.

PAULINE: You mentioned the Gun Barrel, what was that?

JIM: That's Gun Barrel Creek.

PAULINE: Gun Barrel Creek?

JIM: Uh huh.

PAULINE: I hadn't heard ---

JIM: That runs into Calamity Creek.

PAULINE: How old were you when you did that?

JIM: Well I don't remember the exact age, I was pretty small. I must have been 5 or 6 years old. We started ... and right on up till I was grown. We'd do the same thing hunting, we'd ride over there and camp out, you know. Just take a packhorse and stay overnight and hunt. And then I'd walk from the ranch clear over on Calamity Butte, that's about 10, 12 miles to kill a deer. And then come back home and get a horse to go pack it in.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: I couldn't walk ten feet now.

PAULINE: Well, it wouldn't make any difference about your age; you'd have to have a four-wheel drive rig to go in now, anyway.

JIM: You would now?

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: Yeah. Oh, no, there is good roads over most of that country, you know, it is all logging and ...

PAULINE: Well I was being sarcastic.

JIM: Yeah. But those days, why you had to have four wheel drive to get to the places I

went, because I walked most of them. Didn't bother me to walk 10 or 15 miles. No more.

PAULINE: Well are there, have you done a lot of deer hunting over the years, every year?

JIM: Oh yes, all my life.

PAULINE: Do you think it really changes too much, or do you think it goes in cycles?

JIM: Well it's sure changing now. So there are so many outsiders come in, you know, and pack all our deer out. Too many hunters from outside. Used to go out, well when I was working the Forest Service up here, I could see 10, 12 bucks all in a bunch, big ones. Now you're lucky if you see one the whole season. Sure a lot of difference.

PAULINE: Well you spent most of your whole life here, right in Harney County then, except for the time that you were in the service.

JIM: All in Harney County, except when I was in the service. That was all together about four years, the two wars together. And I can't even get a pension. Say I make too much money.

PAULINE: Well, yeah.

JIM: If I had a lot of money, I could get it.

PAULINE: You got to ---

JIM: Look what these ex-president widows get.

PAULINE: But you got to put your feet up. Of course if you put your feet up, then you don't move anymore.

JIM: That's right.

PAULINE: So it really is a problem.

JIM: Oh boy. I even went to Boise to try to get --- But they say if I make \$2600 a year, why I can't get nothing. That's not right. I know a guy that makes more money than I do, he gets the same social security that I do, and better. And he works most of the time, and

he gets \$200, or let's see, \$645 pension. Of course he was wounded, and I wasn't. He is in better shape than I am, not as disabled as I am.

PAULINE: Well that's the trouble with laws; they don't take the individual into consideration, just a blanket thing.

JIM: No, if you haven't got money anymore you're no good.

PAULINE: Well how long have you been working for the city?

JIM: I worked for about 12 years for the city. Sure, it's 12 years, what I figure anyway. The records may show it a little different, I don't know, it's awful close to that anyway.

PAULINE: Well, that's close enough.

JIM: I worked parks most of the time. Well I was out of a job when I started to work for the city. They offered me the dog catching job so I took that, just anything to get working, you know. Then they put me on the parks. I held down two jobs, and that's an awful job, that dog catching.

PAULINE: Yeah, it is, that's ---

JIM: The worst part of it is having to kill those dogs. Boy that hurt me worse than it did the dogs. Far as to fool them dogs, catching and handling them, I liked that. I like dogs, but having to kill them, boy I'll tell you that hurt. I like any kind of animals.

PAULINE: Yes, if the people around the community would just take care of their animals you wouldn't have that, there wouldn't be the problem.

JIM: That's right. They sure don't now. I counted ten dogs right out in front of my house one morning, right out in the middle of the street.

PAULINE: Oh, that section of town down there where you live, we go down there for piano lessons every week, and golly there is dogs, big dogs and little dogs, and all kinds of dogs just everywhere.

JIM: Every size in the world, yeah. But, I haven't noticed them quite so bad here lately;

maybe that new dogcatcher is getting busy.

PAULINE: Well I heard on the radio, I think, that he's been back at work.

JIM: Because I notice the difference in the dogs around there.

PAULINE: You know they closed the pound there when it got so bad there this winter, which was the thing to do, because you know that was not very humane. But the minute that they closed that pound, and said they weren't going to impound any more dogs, it was just like ---

JIM: Oh, they was just everywhere.

PAULINE: I couldn't believe it. I just couldn't believe it. Well, can you think of anything else that ---

JIM: Gosh no, not right now. I wish that daughter of mine was here; she could tell you a lot of stuff that I don't know. See she's got all this dope, and every, people that knew all this stuff, you see. I wrote to her awhile back to send me all that stuff, and I never heard from her since. Then I wrote to her again today, so maybe she'll have that stuff.

PAULINE: Well if you hear from her, why let me know, because I'd be glad to write your history for you, to be read on Pioneer Day.

JIM: I think she will either send me that, or maybe she'll bring it down.

PAULINE: And if she comes, why I'd like to talk to her.

JIM: I asked her in the letter today to come down, if she could.

PAULINE: You can, you know, you can get, catch up with Wally (Welcome), he's probably easier to catch up with than I am, maybe.

JIM: Could be, because I see him more often.

PAULINE: Yeah, and if you catch up with Wally, why he can catch up with me.

JIM: Well she's supposed to send that family tree down to Francis, but she said the last --
- I got a letter from her, she said she never got time to copy it.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: If she'll send it to him, I can get it from him, if she don't send me one.

PAULINE: Well I think we've got some information in some of these books on the Gearharts too.

JIM: Could be.

PAULINE: How do you pronounce that, is it Gearhart, or Gayheart?

JIM: Well, I don't know.

PAULINE: Depending on ---

JIM: I always called it Gearhart.

PAULINE: Gearhart.

JIM: That's the way I pronounce it anyway. Whether that's right or not, I don't know.

PAULINE: Well the reason I ask was that I interviewed Harry Clark, you know, out at Drewsey, and he talked about the --- but he pronounced it Gayhart.

JIM: Well it's G E A R, I'd call it Gear.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: G E A R H A R T.

PAULINE: Yeah, that's what I would have said too. But he pronounced a lot of names with a little different accent than I'd always heard it.

JIM: Yeah, he's a cousin of mine.

PAULINE: He's quite a talker.

JIM: Oh, yeah.

PAULINE: You might sometime want to sit down and listen to the tapes he did with me. He had a lot of fun, he told me a lot of stores.

JIM: I'll bet. I know, I used to work for him. Him and Grover, Grover ... used to have a place there by the Miler place. I worked for them for a while.

PAULINE: Well that's why he talked about Gayharts, because, or Gearharts, because his mother was a Gearhart.

JIM: Yeah, see he's a cousin of mine.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: His mother and my mother were related.

PAULINE: Well in that case, I can just see what he told me. I get a lot about you out of that. I knew that he mentioned --- And he talked about how ---

JIM: Yeah, they used to, his mother used to run the post office at Drewsey. Yeah, them were the good old days.

PAULINE: I guess Drewsey was quite a town.

JIM: Oh boy. Three saloons, two livery stables, two hotels, and now it's not much of anything.

PAULINE: No, it's ---

JIM: Just a dance hall, that's about it, service station, store. Sure a big change.

PAULINE: Well do you think if the highway had come in, the highway had actually gone through Drewsey, that it would have made any difference?

JIM: I doubt it. I doubt it very much. Nothing much there, only just a few cattle and ranches. It don't amount to too much. Nothing like a mill or anything close. Little mills, they've all gone out of business.

PAULINE: Yeah. Did you ever do much horse racing?

JIM: I never did any. My folks had some horses they run in races sometimes. I never did ride races, no. Used to drive stage part time from Drewsey to Juntura. John Gearhart, that's my uncle, my mother's brother, he had a contract and I drove for him. Stage broke down and I had to go horseback, just pack the mail a horseback.

PAULINE: You didn't carry passengers then, you just, just the mail.

JIM: No. Yeah, that's all.

PAULINE: Did you go everyday, or was it ---

JIM: No, not everyday. Let's see, I don't know, I think it --- I don't remember now, but I think it was just, if I remember right about three times a week, something like that. I just don't remember for sure. Down there and back, see that's quite a ways with horseback. Twenty, about twenty-five miles, I guess. End up fifty miles a day.

PAULINE: Well what organizations have you been active in? You're a member of the ---

JIM: The what?

PAULINE: Organizations that you have been active in.

JIM: Oh, I never was in any.

PAULINE: Well aren't you a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars?

JIM: I used to be a member of the American Legion, but I quit after they got the price so high, that I quit. Never joined the Veterans, what do you call it?

PAULINE: Yeah, I can't say it now either. VFW.

JIM: VFW, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

PAULINE: Well I knew you had been involved in one of the two, and I wasn't sure which.

JIM: I was in American Legion. That was a long while ago.

PAULINE: Well what about the ambulance? Didn't you help with the ambulance?

JIM: No, no, I never did. None of that stuff. I was always too busy working.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: Didn't have time to take off. See that park took a lot of time. When I was on the ranch why I was busy there. Well I was, for two or three years I worked at the ranch, and worked for a sheep camp up here too, for Chambers.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: I worked for Chambers.

PAULINE: Paul Chambers?

JIM: What?

PAULINE: Was it Paul Chambers?

JIM: No, no, it was Ralph.

PAULINE: Ralph Chambers, yeah.

JIM: Ralph Chambers. I worked there. Well I had a night job lambing, then worked on the ranch in the daytime. We always used to have a snowstorm during April during lambing season.

PAULINE: Well that's the, the birth of a lamb is a sure sign.

JIM: Sure seemed like it.

PAULINE: A blizzard, isn't it?

JIM: Sure seemed like it.

PAULINE: What about coyotes, were they much of a problem at that time?

JIM: They wasn't as bad then, because they was lots of rabbits and mice then, see. They poisoned off the rabbits and mice, and all that stuff, then the coyotes have got to have something else to eat then. That's why they killed so many deer now, because there's no rabbits anymore. They get a few calves too, I guess. You kill off their natural feed; they're going to find something else.

PAULINE: Yeah, that's right. Well can you think of anything else that we ought to tell the Pioneer Association about your life in Harney County?

JIM: I can't think of anything else. Unless Florence, if she can get some dope down here, there might be some stuff. If she ... got myself, that I don't even know.

PAULINE: Well if you hear from her, or she comes down, why you get a hold of Wally.

JIM: I sure will.

PAULINE: And he'll get a hold of me.

JIM: Okay, good enough.

PAULINE: And then there is one other thing that you've got to do, it's part of the job, and that's go down to the Times-Herald and let them take your picture.

JIM: Oh, I'll break their camera.

PAULINE: Well, there's been some ---

JIM: Well, whenever they want me.

PAULINE: Well there has been some pretty rough old fellows go down there, and they're still in business. So, I think maybe they'll make all right. But if you'll just go on down and tell them --- I'll tell them you're coming.

JIM: Is it in the same place as it used to be?

PAULINE: Yeah, right across from the Post Office.

JIM: Oh yeah, same place as it used to be.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: I haven't been in there since, what's his name left there and sold it.

PAULINE: Oh, Hinshaw.

JIM: Hinshaw, yeah. I haven't been in there since he quit.

PAULINE: But usually, well let's see, Monday or Tuesday is a good day to go down.

JIM: Monday or Tuesday.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: Well, that was my days off too, so I can go.

PAULINE: Yeah, so that's good. Because there will be somebody there on Monday and Tuesday. I called, I was going to have them come up and shoot you this afternoon, and Wednesday afternoon there is not a soul around. Because they take the paper to Bend now to print it, you know.

JIM: Oh, they do?

PAULINE: And so Wednesday afternoon there is no one around to do it. So if you'll do that for me, I'd appreciate it.

JIM: Have to be a Monday or Tuesday then.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: See I'm off at Monday noon, until Thursday morning. Got to work at something. Social Security can't keep a person.

PAULINE: No, it isn't hardly enough to go around.

JIM: It sure isn't. Well I've got a job that's easy though. Set out there and direct them, you know. Good thing it is, because I can't do much. I exert myself too much, then I get them heart pains.

PAULINE: Yeah.

JIM: Got an enlarged heart.

(END OF TAPE)

-pb-

bl