

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #361 - Sides A/B/C/D

Subject: Shelby Petersen; With Video

Place: Petersen Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: June 1, 1994

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren - Dorothea Purdy - Arlie Oster

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, along with Barbara Lofgren and Arlie Oster, and we'll be talking this afternoon with Shelby Petersen at his home in Burns, Oregon. The date is June 1st, 1994. And first we'll ask you Shelby, what is your name?

SHELBY PETERSEN: Shelby Fay Petersen.

DOROTHEA: And how do you spell your Petersen, is it S O N, or S E N?

SHELBY: E N.

DOROTHEA: S E N. And where were you born?

SHELBY: Right here in Burns. In a little house right north of Brownie's, and it burnt down.

DOROTHEA: What was the date?

SHELBY: 1902, July the 18th.

DOROTHEA: You're going to have a birthday pretty soon then?

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What were your parent's names?

SHELBY: My father's name was Peter Christian Petersen. And my mother's name was Ida Parilee Petersen, Simmons.

DOROTHEA: Simmons?

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: How do you spell her, was that her maiden or middle name, Parilee?

SHELBY: Parilee. Well it's in that Bible up there; I took it up to the museum.

ARLIE OSTER: That's her middle name; I think that's her middle name.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay, okay, that's her middle name.

SHELBY: They've been fighting over that Bible, and I got away with it. And I put it up there and I told them to kind of keep it locked up for fifty years, because they'll tear them pages all out.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

SHELBY: I had one full sister, let's see; I think she died in 1930. Everything is in that Bible.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

SHELBY: Her name was Lola. Do you remember Wes Baisley?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

SHELBY: It would be his mother.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And I understand that your mother was married to Ed Oliver.

SHELBY: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about him?

SHELBY: Well seemed like that everybody that used to know him spoke pretty well of him. And that running off with another woman and leaving the country, some of them old timers --- my mother's older brothers and sisters always told me that he was around here with his throat cut.

He was a little feller, and he was feisty. Roy Oliver is the same way. And so he was up here in one of these saloons, that was before the state went dry, a long time ago. And that was before I was born even. He was a bragging on it, you know. Of course

there was some of them around there that liked Pete French awful well, like old Mart Brenton. He knew what was a going on; he carried it to his grave with him.

I sicked two or three different fellers onto him, and I'd tell them to get acquainted with him, spend money with his joint up there, and then ask him about Oliver. And they'd just be the best of friends, and the minute they'd say Oliver to him he'd say, ah hell and turn around and walk off. And then they wouldn't like one another too good. (Laughter)

ARLIE: Well this was after Pete French was killed though, wasn't it?

SHELBY: Yeah.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And the story goes that he killed Pete French, that Ed Oliver killed Pete French.

SHELBY: The what now?

DOROTHEA: That Ed Oliver killed Pete French.

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us anything about what brought this about?

SHELBY: Well he homesteaded, they took up what him and my mother homesteaded on Oliver Springs, do you know where that is? I just barely know where it's at. And French told him not to cross his land. And the Constitution of the United States say you can get a road anyplace into your property. So he just come anyway.

So they was a working cattle in that Sagebrush Field the day after Christmas. They was going to take a bunch of them or some-thing to Winnemucca or something later on. And Oliver went over there; they knew French would drive his cattle off. He was slipping his cattle in the field anyway, you know, lots of good feed in there. He didn't have too many, I don't think.

And so he went over there, and of course that's where they met. And he come out

with a club and a ... and was going to run him off, and he didn't run off. He was a riding that old horse Frisk. And us kids had some of his, oh I can't remember whether it was 1912, '13, up there, and that was the horse he was riding. We had him there when we was kids. Big rangy horse, he was a single footer, he would pace, and so he was a bronco. So French was riding a well-trained horse, and of course Oliver slipped off his horse under his head and shot and got him right in back of the temple there. And that finished him.

My dad showed me the gate. He said my mother showed him from the road just about where he fell, from that gate. And this here, what's his name --- John Scharff he's got a different story. And he claims that, I can't remember the feller's name that he claims told him it was another place. But it wasn't.

ARLIE: Well Marcus (Haines) has showed me where that gate was down there, and I know where the Big Sagebrush Field is.

SHELBY: Yeah. Well that big gate, was the gate there when he showed it to you?

ARLIE: Well I think so, yes.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: The last time I was through there, it's not there. The government tore it all out.

ARLIE: Yeah. Well this was a long time ago, and I know where Oliver Springs is too. So it's on further down there.

SHELBY: Yeah. I never was around it, but I know just about where it's at.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now what did he do after he shot Pete? Did he ---

SHELBY: No, he went back to the Simmons'. Do you remember Dick Simmons, the barber here?

DOROTHEA: Oh, I've heard of him.

SHELBY: He was a brother to my mother. There was about ten of them, them Simmons. It was a big family of them, they're all dead now. And he went back to the old folks, they was living down there to the lake.

And let's see then, I guess the sheriff and Volp, Dr. Volp, he was the doctor when I was born. Dr. Morrison, he was like Smith, he had a monopoly on everything, and he was trying to run him out of the country, but he didn't run. But he drove him crazy, and had to take him away. (Laughter) That's the way they told it to me.

ARLIE: Well now the Simmons', they had a place out here, you were showing me pictures of the house and that, out here on Sagehen.

SHELBY: Out where?

ARLIE: Sagehen, out toward Sagehen.

SHELBY: Yeah.

ARLIE: You had those pictures here yesterday that you had; you had a picture of the house.

SHELBY: Yeah, I got them there.

ARLIE: Why don't you get those, and let's talk about that a little bit.

SHELBY: All right.

DOROTHEA: I'll unhook you here.

ARLIE: Oh, I could have got them.

...

SHELBY: I pull all the drawers out so I can lean my cane against it.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Works good. Here we go.

SHELBY: Here is Burt Simmons, my mother's brother. And that was their younger sister Maude.

DOROTHEA: That's who now, your mother's younger brother?

SHELBY: No, he was an older brother.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

SHELBY: He used to tell, talk about Oliver. They all liked Oliver, and they said he was a good family man.

ARLIE: Now can you tell us more about what happened to Oliver afterwards? Well after Pete French was killed, then what happened with him?

SHELBY: Well he went home, and then they arrested him. And he was just a poor homesteader with a dozen head of cattle maybe, and four or five, six head of horses. And when it come to the trial he had the best lawyers out of Portland. The settlers was putting up the money, you see. And he come clear, self-defense.

ARLIE: I've got a transcript of that trial; I've got a transcript of that trial.

SHELBY: Yeah. Well is it the one I --- yeah, I've got that too I think here someplace.

ARLIE: Probably have.

SHELBY: And it was that Johnson that put that together, you remember? He was a stenographer around here. He drowned out here at ---

ARLIE: Ross Johnson.

DOROTHEA: Photographer?

ARLIE: Ross Johnson.

SHELBY: Yeah.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And of course they arrested him, and tried him, and turned him loose.

ARLIE: And then what happened to him after that? Was he ---

SHELBY: Well he went home, back to his people, and then when he come to town and get drunk and brag on it, you know, he was a little feller and he was feisty. He'd fight a

mountain lion, one of them little fellers, you know.

And of course Pete French had a lot of followers. Marcus thought it was all Mexicans, but it wasn't, the Mexicans I don't think done it, it was white people. And I think old Mart Brenton knew more about it, and carried it all to his grave. He wouldn't talk about.

My dad would never say much. And I don't know just what year it was that; it was sometime afterwards when he disappeared. He didn't do anything that he was ashamed of, and had to go and hide all the rest of his life. It was an honor to kill Pete French.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Pete was just another shyster, hogging everything, you see.

ARLIE: Well that's what I understood, he really took advantage, he took advantage of the little guys all right.

SHELBY: Yeah. He homesteaded inside of his field.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And he didn't like that.

DOROTHEA: Well what did your mother do then when he disappeared? Did he just come to town one day and not come back home, or do you know that?

SHELBY: Well now that was it, he come into town and he was a drinking around them saloons. And so they grabbed him when he went out back.

BARBARA: How old were the children during this time?

SHELBY: They what?

BARBARA: How old were the children during this time, your mother's children by Oliver?

SHELBY: At the time?

BARBARA: Uh huh, that he disappeared.

SHELBY: Well I don't know, you'd have to figure that.

BARBARA: Real young, like were they in school yet, or were they in their teens, or ---

SHELBY: Oh, they were just young.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

SHELBY: Now when our mother died in 1907, Burt was ten years old. Ada was two or three years older. And Roy was three years younger. Let's see, Roy would be seven years old when she died. And then Leathie would be five years old. No, let's see, no, I was the one that was a coming five. I was born in 1902, and she died in 1907, on April the 22nd.

ARLIE: Uh huh.

SHELBY: Then my dad died 52 years afterwards on the same day, in the morning early. Isn't that a coincident?

BARBARA: Yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: So the Oliver children were really small then when their dad died?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: So how did your mother meet your dad? Were they, families, friends, or how did they get together?

SHELBY: Well the way that happened, Jim Paul, they were shearing over there and she was cooking for the shearing corral and they had all four of them kids with her. And it was the Jenkins' shearing corral, up above Anderson Valley Ranch.

ARLIE: Uh huh.

SHELBY: I've been there different times. And so Jim Paul had one band of sheep, and he was a courting my mother, and my dad come along with about three bands, of course he beat his time. (Laughter) They hated one another, oh they hated one another. That's the way it was all handed down to me, you know. Of course all that stuff kind of stuck in



my crew.

But dates would be a little hard; you'd have to figure them. It's in the Bible, their ages up there. And when my mother and Oliver was married, I think that's in that Bible. I copied all that stuff down, and I had it here. That little Ida, Wes' sister, come and went and threw out everything that she didn't want, she figured I shouldn't want. Oh, threw away a lot of stuff.

ARLIE: Oh, gosh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so Ida was a Baisley?

SHELBY: Yeah, Ida was a sister to Wes Baisley.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and their mother was who?

SHELBY: Her sister.

DOROTHEA: Which one?

SHELBY: Lola.

DOROTHEA: I didn't get that, Lela?

ARLIE: Lola.

BARBARA: Lola.

ARLIE: Lola.

BARBARA: So when was your dad and your, when did your dad and mother get married?

SHELBY: It was around 1900. Let's see, I, haven't I got that stuff? No. Oh, he showed me the, he went up and got the Photostat copy of the marriage. And it said ---

ARLIE: The guy that wrote the Bill Brown book.

BARBARA: Oh, Edward Gray.

ARLIE: Edward Gray did that, yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah. That's Burt Oliver, he never liked me. And the oldest girl didn't like me,

but the youngest girl and the youngest boy we were about more, close to the age, we got along fine.

BARBARA: Maybe they didn't like all the attention that you got from your mother.

SHELBY: They when?

BARBARA: Maybe they didn't like all the attention you got from your mother, maybe they were jealous.

SHELBY: I think so, I don't know. Now here is --- Leathie Oliver over at Paisley. And that's Lola Petersen, my full sister. Leathie is a half sister.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so you had a full sister?

SHELBY: Yeah, Lola. She was a, born in, what was it, six years younger than me, or, yeah, six years younger than me. She was only about thirty months, or nine months old when our mother died.

ARLIE: Boy.

DOROTHEA: What happened to your mother? Did she get the flu?

SHELBY: Well in them days they called it Bright's disease. That would be kidney trouble. They claim it was from drinking that alkali water, but I don't know. She fell and broke a hip before that, quite awhile.

DOROTHEA: So your mother made a living while she was raising her kids and before your dad married her, by cooking at sheep ---

SHELBY: She what?

DOROTHEA: She helped keep the kids fed and clothed by cooking for sheep shearers?

SHELBY: Yeah, she worked at odd jobs like cooking for sheep shearers, and lambing crews, and stuff like that.

ARLIE: You told me, you told me yesterday that your dad had a store out here at the Double O.

SHELBY: Yeah.

ARLIE: Tell us about this store now.

SHELBY: Well all it was, was that old stone building, and it still stands there. All the other buildings are gone. You know where the Hollie Schroder place was, where --- well what's her name?

ARLIE: I think Gary Marshall's live now.

SHELBY: She'd be my niece, you see, Roy Oliver's granddaughter.

ARLIE: Yeah, Georgia. Georgia Menkenmaier.

SHELBY: No, that ain't her name.

ARLIE: No, it's Marshall now.

DOROTHEA: Marshall.

SHELBY: Yeah, Marshall's wife, Georgia.

ARLIE: Georgia Marshall.

SHELBY: Yeah. And so he run a store in that big old stone building. He didn't care whether he sold anything or not, but by getting it, by having it a store he'd get it wholesale for his men. He had, run lots of sheep at one time. They claim in 1908 and '09 he had seven bands of sheep on Steens Mountain. And --- but he didn't stay with that many, he cut down to about three for a long time.

And then he run this store there, he kept overalls and stuff like that for the hired help, tobacco, and pretty near anything they need. He'd let the hired help have it at cost. And then if a neighbor want --- only time they'd buy anything, instead of coming to town a horseback to get it, didn't have cars then, why they'd come over and buy a package of soda, he'd charge them four or five prices. He didn't care whether they bought it or not.

And then when I'd come in town these, I was just a little feller, I used to get old Fred Lunaburg by the finger and lead him around to the candy bucket. So I thought a

store was supposed to have a candy bucket. So they'd ask me how is your dad's store doing out there? Oh I'd say, oh he ain't got no store. He didn't have no candy bucket. (Laughter) So finally he got him a candy bucket, big old wooden --- old cheap candy, that old hard --- you've seen it. It was full of that old hard cheap candy, you know.

ARLIE: Well did he have a ranch out there at the Double O then?

SHELBY: Yeah, up above the --- Hanley bought us out.

ARLIE: Oh, is that right?

SHELBY: In 1918 I believe, '19, along in there. About the time the Armistice was signed.

ARLIE: Okay.

SHELBY: People would say to my dad, the Kaiser he told the whole world, he says I'll fight the whole world if necessary and I'll fight them for 100 years. People would say to my dad, "You heard what the Kaiser said, didn't you?" And he said, "Yes, but they'd say now is the time to buy more sheep." My dad says, "More sheep, nothing." He says, "That Kaiser is reaching for the last straw, now it's time to sell out." He sold out. He got a big price. Hanley, pretty near broke old Hanley.

ARLIE: Well did he own the Double O Ranch?

SHELBY: My dad?

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: No, up the north end. The buildings are all gone, but that old stone building.

ARLIE: Okay.

SHELBY: It still stands. There is a lot building, a big stockade corrals, big tall posts where we'd bring horses in and corral them, you know. He run sheep and quite a lot of horses.

ARLIE: Oh yeah.

SHELBY: And all them buildings is tore down. Them stockade corrals were weaved

together with rawhide. Wire was kind of hard to get there at one time for a while.

ARLIE: Yeah. Well now your dad is the one in the bank?

SHELBY: Yeah.

ARLIE: I want you to show these girls here; you've got some of the money that came out of that bank.

SHELBY: Yeah.

ARLIE: I want you to show them this money that came out of the bank.

BARBARA: Scripts?

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: All right. I'm going to give that to you. I like to show it to people. There are lots of it --- just surprised.

ARLIE: You bet, you bet.

SHELBY: But I take it and lock it up, but I'm afraid somebody would steal it.

ARLIE: Yeah, I would too. I'm going to have that for the museum.

SHELBY: Now here is 1907 I think, yeah April the 10th, 1907.

BARBARA: '07, uh huh.

SHELBY: Serial, you see. Here is my dad, they sat down at the table and signed these as blanks. That's my dad's --- but this next one they photostatted their names on. It was 1928.

BARBARA: Oh yeah, see its got Leon Brown's name on there.

SHELBY: Leon Brown, he is the cashier.

BARBARA: The cashier.

SHELBY: He is the cashier.

BARBARA: And your dad, P. C. ---

SHELBY: P. C. Petersen, he is the president.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Harney County National Bank of Burns, five dollars. That's wonderful. Do you know where they printed these?

SHELBY: What?

BARBARA: Do you know where they had these printed?

SHELBY: No, I wouldn't know, unless it tells on there. They were made wherever the government makes the money. They'd send them in as blanks, you see.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: They are no good until Petersen signed here, and Leon Brown over here.

ARLIE: Well those are really something.

BARBARA: Goodness sakes.

SHELBY: This is 1928. See that was photostatted on there. Made with it on there.

BARBARA: I guess the government must have made these for the different banks, perhaps.

ARLIE: Yeah, that ---

BARBARA: That is wonderful. I've never seen one of those.

ARLIE: Yeah, now that is a lot of history there. How long was your father in the bank here?

SHELBY: How long?

ARLIE: Yeah, how long was he in the bank here?

SHELBY: Gosh they started, they had a safe up there in Ben Brown's store, they write checks on it, or drafts or whatever they called it. And gosh, that was way back then, early 1900's.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: I don't know exactly what year.

DOROTHEA: Well let's go back a little bit and talk about why your dad came to Harney

County. Did he hear about it, or how did he come to be into this county?

SHELBY: Well he come to America when he was a little kid. He had about half enough money to pay his way over. No, he had enough money to pay his way over here, and he told me he took and sewed half of it up in his clothes so they couldn't find it, and then stowed away on the ship. And they found him, and so he give them the other half, give them what money he had, and he said they treated him awful good. Fed him good, and a good place to sleep, and worked his way over. Didn't have to work too hard. But if he hadn't of had any money they would have made a slave out of him, you know. And then the other half he had sewed up in his clothes. So he had some relative in New York. He went there first and then drifted to Idaho. He heard about them gold rushes in Alaska, so he come out and got as far as Walla Walla. And he seen a band of sheep, big band of sheep up on the hill, and a herder with them. He said he felt that was the most beautiful thing he'd ever saw in his life. And he went up there, and darned if he didn't get a job. And that was during Grover Cleveland's administration. Remember they called that the money panic.

And so he herded for them, and the other fellow had two or three bands. He herded one band then for three years and eleven days, he said. And the other feller worked about the same time, and they couldn't get their money, so the two of them took sheep for pay. Put them together, and all they had was a pack horse and a blanket or two on there, and they had a little grub and they kind of hoboed it back, everything was open. They got back over, they went the other side of Weiser, and up in them mountains.

So they got over there and the bear got to killing their sheep. So they drifted out of there and went south around Caldwell. There was a feller there that run sheep, and the sheepherder bit his ear off. He had --- Noble was his name. And he had quite a little money, so he kind of financed my dad and this other feller. And then they drifted over into

the Caldwell country, and then drifted over on the Owyhee Desert, you see.

ARLIE: Uh huh.

SHELBY: And then they come over here to Jenkins' shearing corral during shearing. And they wasn't getting along, so they had a fight there. So they divided the sheep up, and the other feller cried, he didn't want to quit. My dad stayed with the sheep, and he was doing business in the bank in Vale, and they let him have more money and he bought more sheep. And this feller that he divided up with, you might have heard of him later years, his name was King.

And so that feller sold his sheep, and went over around Caldwell, and I guess he had some daughters or something, or raised a family afterwards. And they started that big place with the sign over it that said King Brown, that was his name, his first name was King, last name was Brown. King Brown's Flowers, something. Did you ever see that place? McArthur Street --- and oh they'd sell stuff to Lanfear in Burns, they bought flowers, you know, to sell during Memorial Day. His name was King Brown. And he built up quite a business over there.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: You've probably heard of it, it was on McArthur Street, going out east, south side with a big place, big archway. Great big sign there. And these two sisters --- of course King was dead when I went there, I didn't know it. But he was always sending my dad hello by this young Lanfear, he'd buy flowers from him.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: So my dad wouldn't answer or nothing, he said he didn't want no more to do with him. And so I decided I would go see him. I went over there, but he'd just died, I missed him. I got acquainted and visited with two daughters. I think he had three, but there was two there. I got kind of acquainted for a little while, a hour maybe with them,



and talked. She said that they remembered him telling about being in partners with somebody in the sheep business. But they didn't know too much about it.

ARLIE: Now your father then, after he came over here and separated with him, he stayed here in Harney County then after that?

SHELBY: Yeah.

ARLIE: That's when he went out here to the Double O?

SHELBY: He drifted over to, around Steens Mountain, and this side. And George Miller went to Tom Allen; he was the foreman on the Double O Ranch. You've heard of George Miller, ain't you?

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: He killed Marcus Haines' mother's first husband, Warren Curtis was his name. He shot him with a shotgun. So he went to Tom Allen, told Tom, he said, "If you'll help me tie Petersen on a packhorse I'll take him out on the desert and do away with him." And Tom Allen come and told my dad, and dad bought him a six-shooter. But he said if you always faced George Miller, he won't hurt you. But don't turn your back to him.

So he was a bringing the mail out from The Narrows out to the Double O, so he met George Miller. Dad got off his horse and he had his six-shooter fastened on, and threw the money down, or the letters down there, and divided them up and handed him the mail and he turned and grunted and went on.

And then George Miller's wife pretty near died there and the baby was dead. So my dad went over and helped him bury his baby, and they got to be friends. Then he sent my dad a quarter of beef, probably stole it off of Swift Company or Hanley. (Laughter) Then my dad sent him over a half a mutton. They got to be good friends. Then George Miller come clear on that.

ARLIE: Oh yeah.

SHELBY: Didn't ... at all. Then in the winter of 1909 and '10, I don't know how long before or how long afterwards, that was the winter my dad went back to Europe and got him a bride, a stepmother for me. And so he, when he got her, of course we didn't get along with her too good.

But that winter, why George Miller and Pete Miller, his boy, stole about two hundred head of cattle off of Swift and Company, and drove them through my dad's ranch where the old road went, up to Palomino Buttes over here. You know where Palomino Buttes are?

ARLIE: Yes.

SHELBY: In the month of June. Well he branded them; see the "P" Ranch branded with a P, so George Miller --- probably talking about some of your relation now. So George Miller he put the P Bench under there, and that's where that P Bench come from. He branded them all, run the iron over this P to make it look fresh, and then put the bench under it. Took them up there in the month of June, and they beat him back. No fences, and they went right back over there, and they sent George and Pete to the pen. They was in the pen that winter of 1909 and '10, that was the winter my dad went back to Europe and got his bride.

ARLIE: Well now these were --- Pete Miller, were they related to Taft Miller?

SHELBY: Yeah. George Miller would be his father.

ARLIE: Yeah, that's what I thought.

SHELBY: And Pete would be a brother.

ARLIE: Okay.

SHELBY: Would be a brother to Buck Miller and Taft Miller.

ARLIE: Right, okay.

SHELBY: And then there was three girls. One of them, Frankie married McKelvey.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And then the other two was Nora and Aleta. They called them "Babe" and "Girlie". Is that right?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

SHELBY: And they lived in this little shack down here, you could set there and look up at the old building that --- Locher's Hall. There was a big prizefight there one night, and we could set there and hear them holler and hooping. And when old Dutch Carpenter would hit that --- he built a house for a feller name of Shank, he was a --- built suits. So he won all the money.

But anyway, they lived in that little cabin that winter, they was pretty hard up, you know. They was in the pen, George and them. And so they got to be awful good friends. Then the mother and the two daughters, that's when Grandma Winters took care of us kids. They'd come there and stay part of the time with us when they'd come to Burns. And then we moved down there.

BARBARA: Did you dad own property when he had all these sheep, or did he just more or less graze anyplace he could?

SHELBY: To begin with he was a hobo sheep man. And then he bought that property, several homesteads from different fellers. Oh, I can still name some of the fields. Thorne Field, the Riley Field, the Craig Field, and --- well let's see now. Oh, I forget what the other one was. Bought several places there and put them together. Sold out to Bill Hanley then.

BARBARA: So after he sold his sheep out then, then he went to work at the bank after he sold out his sheep?

SHELBY: No, he was in that bank a long time before he ---

BARBARA: Before he did?

SHELBY: He didn't sell until about the time the Armistice was signed. Then he got out of the business.

BARBARA: He had the sheep and the bank at the same time?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: He had someone else taking care of the sheep for him then?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: Okay.

SHELBY: And I don't know just what years they started that bank, but in the early 1900's.

BARBARA: Well it says 1907, so ---

ARLIE: When did you buy your place up the river here?

SHELBY: My dad sold his cattle to Walter Baker and his father. What was his father's name now? Wasn't Doug Baker, and it wasn't Bub Baker, and it wasn't Tom Baker, there was another Baker there.

BARBARA: Fred?

SHELBY: Well anyway ---

DOROTHEA: No.

SHELBY: Well they bought them before they dropped. They thought the war was going to last a hundred years, you know. And my dad sold them and got his money, he took a mortgage on that place, the meadow there where I lived. And that's where he got it. When the war ended why prices dropped, they was broke. So then they moved out there on the old Simmons place.

ARLIE: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and the Simmons place is out here on Sagehen, is that ---

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And who owns that now?

SHELBY: Peila.

DOROTHEA: Oh Peila does?

SHELBY: Yeah.

ARLIE: One of the boys are living there.

SHELBY: I can remember when I was a little tiny boy, going there. My mother was alive yet, and I wouldn't be quite five years old. I can remember that place, it had a barn down under the hill here, and they was tearing it down and building a big barn. Now the barn is in one of these other pictures. Oh, I was going to let you look at this. Now I cut this out of the paper in 1970, and it says twenty years before that, you go back to ---

BARBARA: 1920, January 1920.

SHELBY: 1920, yeah.

BARBARA: At a bank meeting during the present week the officers and directors of the Harney County National Bank were all re-elected and will continue for the coming year. Fred Haines is president; P. C. Petersen vice president; Leon --- it says Brofln cashier --- that should have been Brown though, and Henry Dalton assistant cashier. The affairs of the institution were found in the first class shape, and most satisfactory. This is January 17th, 1920. But they do have an error here, it should be Leon Brown. It's B R O F L N.

SHELBY: They made a mistake there, or else they done it on a purpose, I always wondered.

BARBARA: Yeah.

SHELBY: Then when my dad passed away, the main banker over the U. S. National, over all the National Banks in the State of Oregon, that is the --- my dad's old bank was the Harney County National, then the U. S. National took over. His name was E. C. Sammons, or A. C., E. C. Sammons. And he wrote that letter to my stepmother, I got away with the letter.

BARBARA: My dear Mrs. Petersen.

SHELBY: They'd throwed it away, you know.

BARBARA: May I express to you my deepest sympathy upon hearing of the death of your husband. Mr. Petersen was so well respected in the community, and his loss will be deeply felt. With kind regards. Sincerely, E. C. Sammons, President of the United States National Bank of Portland. S A M M O N S. This is 1959. So your father passed away in 1959?

SHELBY: He could say a lot in a few words.

BARBARA: Yeah, that's very nice.

DOROTHEA: Let's pause for a moment and turn this tape over.

SHELBY: All right.

SIDE B

SHELBY: ... the business end of it and bought it. It was run by electricity, and they had electricity in Burns, but it went off at midnight and didn't come on until five o'clock. Then every time a fish would get in the wheel, why it would stop. And everybody had to have lamps. So they never thought about that, they bought this lamp, or this clock. And you could come up the street this way, and the hands was running this way on this side, and then you come down the street that way and the hands on the other side would be running the other way, you see. And it had big chimes; you could hear it all over town. It struck the hours and the half hour. Oh, it was a beautiful thing. And it was always stopped.

So I was in the smart age, you know, and he sold out to Bill Hanley and all them fellers out in that country, and they all knew my dad, and some of them knew me. And so I come in a horseback to the Double O. I knew where the lantern was in the barn, I went

out there, it was dark, and put my, lit a match and lit the lantern and fed my horse grain, and hay, and watered him and went to the house. And them big long tables was filled up with the high muck-a-mucks. Bill Hanley's outfit was out there, all of them.

And so I went to the kitchen where the cook was and, "Why you can't do that," she says, "you'll have to wait." Well I said, "How long will it be?" "Well they'll talk for two or three hours after they get done eating." I said, "I'm hungry." I went and got me a plate and a cup, filled it; the coffee pot was about that big around and about that high, you know, them old open coffee pots. Filled me a cup of coffee and went and crawled in on that bench between two fellers.

Some of them knew me, and so they went to digging me, you know. And they went just a little bit too far. And finally they got down to where they wanted to be smart, and they says, "Your dad is the president of that bank, and he owns a bunch of stock and shares in it," says, "what do you own up there?" Oh, I says, "I own that clock." And I says, "That's where I'm heading now, I'm going in to wind it." (Laughter) I says, "I have to go every so often to wind my clock." And now they all laughed. And for years, and years, and years afterwards, somebody would say, "Well when are you going in to wind your clock?" Well I claimed the clock, and everybody said your clock, until the ... come in, you see. And so for years and years they say, "Well when are you going in and wind your clock?"

ARLIE: But you don't know what happened to that clock?

SHELBY: That's what they're trying to find out, I don't know.

ARLIE: I'll be darned.

SHELBY: I always wondered if Shep knew. I was up there the other day, and I took these up and showed them to that feller. They're hunting for that clock, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh, the bank is?

SHELBY: Huh?

DOROTHEA: The bank is hunting for the clock?

SHELBY: The what now?

ARLIE: The bank.

DOROTHEA: Is the bank hunting for the clock?

ARLIE: The bank, are the people at the bank looking for the clock?

SHELBY: Well I don't know. That feller, the headman up there, said he was in Portland; they can't locate it no place.

ARLIE: Huh.

SHELBY: But I kind of thought Shep got away with it, but I don't know what he done with it, I'm not sure.

DOROTHEA: I remember that clock being on there.

ARLIE: I can vaguely remember it too.

SHELBY: See Shep and them went broke down there.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

SHELBY: Built that big building where the city hall is, and there was a sign over top of it said, International Harvester Company. Do you remember it?

ARLIE: Yeah, I remember, it was there when I was in high school.

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: Can we back up a little bit and ask you where you went to school?

SHELBY: Yeah, Burns here.

BARBARA: In Burns.

SHELBY: That's the only place I went.

DOROTHEA: Did you graduate, or did you go to high school?



SHELBY: I just went to the eighth grade and pulled out. I couldn't get along with my stepmother. Leathie Oliver run off too. Roy run off, Roy took a horse that belonged to, well it was supposed to be one of Oliver's, handed down. It had the Double E on his left shoulder. He was a gray horse. I can't remember what his name was, whether it was Eagle or Prince. He rode him over to Paisley, got old and he died finally.

ARLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Who were some of the kids that you went to school with, do you remember some of your classmates?

SHELBY: Well what you call her up here, went to --- she was married to the sheriff.

DOROTHEA: Lela Sitz.

SHELBY: What's her name now?

BARBARA: Lela Sitz?

SHELBY: Who?

BARBARA: Lela Sitz.

SHELBY: Lela Sitz.

ARLIE: Oh yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah, I went to a lot of them. A lot of them are dead though.

DOROTHEA: What was ---

SHELBY: Al Hibbard, and all of them, you know.

DOROTHEA: What was Lela's maiden name?

SHELBY: I went to Sutton. By gosh I did go to school in California when I was down there. They sent me down there with my aunt when my mother died. But we didn't get along with her.

BARBARA: Were you a hard kid to get along with? Did you have a mind of your own?

SHELBY: Them Olivers was older than me, and they were a little hard to get along with.

(Laughter) Roy, he didn't like, Aunt Truckee was her name, she was born on the Truckee River, so they named her Truckee. And he dug a hole in the trail and put a coal ... can of water down there, and laid little sticks over it and covered over with dirt. She'd go out with two five-gallon cans to get water. She missed it on the way out, but coming back she stepped in that and cut her leg plumb to her knee. And by gosh she --- My dad had to come and get Roy, and he come and got all of us then. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So how many years was your dad gone when he went back to get the new bride?

SHELBY: Back to Europe? Well he went some time in the fall. He went to --- he claimed he was going back to see his mother, she was still alive. I think I've got a little picture of her. And---

ARLIE: What country were they ---

SHELBY: Denmark.

ARLIE: Denmark.

SHELBY: So people ask me what nationality are you, I tell them half Dane and I'm half white man. That would make my stepmother, oh she'd say, oh you just think you're so smart. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Can you remember some of the pranks you played?

SHELBY: What?

BARBARA: Can you remember some of the pranks you played as a kid? Did you get into trouble as a kid?

SHELBY: Oh yeah, I was in trouble all the time. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I remember something about reading, or hearing something about Rube Haines when he was the sheriff or the marshal or something.

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And he used to lock you kids up when you'd pull pranks on Halloween.

SHELBY: My gosh he used to catch us kids when we was playing hooky, and spank us all the way to school. If he'd do that now he'd be in trouble. Yeah.

ARLIE: They ought to still do that.

SHELBY: Then he'd take a bunch of us down to, wanting to put us in jail, and we'd slip around when he wasn't there and slip an extra padlock on. So he'd half to turn us loose to get it open, he'd have to get a hacksaw to --- Yeah. Poor old Rube.

DOROTHEA: And now he got killed or shot also. Who did that and why? What was the purpose? Was he after a man, I think his name was Cavenger. Who shot Rube Haines?

SHELBY: Joe Cavenger.

DOROTHEA: And why?

SHELBY: Well Joe had some whiskey buried around and was selling it, and Rube was about to get him. So he told him, don't follow me around or I'll kill you. But he kept a following him, and shot him in the ribs here. And I guess he died, he lived one year and four days, that made it manslaughter.

And Rube, and old Austin Goodman he went down to the South End and got shot.

You remember him, or remember of him?

ARLIE: The name, yes.

SHELBY: Well he said I lived to see the day that the man that's causing my death, go into the sod. See old Austin was in with all the boys around here. One night here the roundup, you remember hearing about "Spike" Pointer?

ARLIE: No, I don't.

SHELBY: Well he was just a roughneck; he worked for Bill Brown some out there. And so Austin Goodman and some of them --- the last night of the roundup in 1922, why they got this "Spike" Pointer and give him a bottle of moonshine and put him on a rail. Set him

up there and let him ride that rail, and they paraded around town. Old Rube didn't monkey with him.

And then they went up there --- the dance went open, wide open, we had prohibition at the time, you know. Rube, he beat it. Now I was up on the street that evening early. There was a feller that was buckarooing at the Island Ranch, Rube was on the sidewalk, had his gun in his scabbard. A big tall feller there, a young feller, he wanted to do something smart and he jumped his horse up on the sidewalk, jumped his horse over Rube and knocked him down. And old Rube jumped up and pulled his gun and just went to snapping at him, but there wasn't a shell in it. That feller left town, he never ---

And then old Rube then, they went to hollering mob the so-and-so. Little Roy Skiens, he had been in jail, you know, and Austin took him out and made a deputy out of him. Do you remember Roy Skiens?

ARLIE: No, I remember ---

SHELBY: He was raised right with Austin Goodman and all of them out there.

DOROTHEA: Daddy talked about Roy Skiens, so he must have had something ---

SHELBY: It was quite a town.

ARLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Do you remember any of the old Indians that used to come into town? Or some of the old Mexicans, do you remember anything about old Tabby, or Chino, or do you have any stories about them?

SHELBY: I didn't know too much about Chino. I knew him when I seen him. And old Chapo, he was the first man I ever buckarood with on the desert, was old Chapo. Yeah, he had a homestead out there after he worked for Hanley. He'd go down and get hay off of Hanley's haystack anyplace he wanted to. And he worked, put in, after French was killed why he worked for Hanley for years. Kind of a nice little old Mexican. Yeah, he

used to buckaroo for my dad quite a bit.

ARLIE: What about Tebo?

SHELBY: And Tebo, I didn't know him too good. He was out there. Didn't he have a homestead in Catlow?

ARLIE: I don't know if he, I don't know or not. I know he was with Pete French when he was here.

SHELBY: Yeah, they worked for Pete French, but I didn't know too much about it. I tell you who would know about them, is Johnny ---

ARLIE: Johnny Crow.

SHELBY: Johnny Crow.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: How about old Tabby, he was the Indian that used to work around for different ones.

SHELBY: Tabo?

DOROTHEA: Tabby.

SHELBY: Yeah, he sawed wood, he couldn't see. Sawed wood with a bucksaw like that, fifty cents a cord. Poor old feller. And he was one in that gang that went in and killed old Rye Smyth and his wife. Do you remember hearing of Rye Smyth; the Indians killed his father and mother?

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Tabby was with them. And young Rye Smyth, not young Rye Smyth, but the one that was older. There was Hungry Rye, he was the youngest.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And then there was Rye Smyth and his wife. And then them old Smyth's, they was the ones they killed. Well Rye Smyth he claimed that if he ever caught Tabby out of

town, he was going to kill him. But he never did catch him out, I guess. Yeah, I remember old Tabby. He used to saw wood for us, fifty cents a cord. But that was a lot of money then.

ARLIE: That's a lot of work though.

BARBARA: Yeah. Well after you got out of school then, where did you start working? Who did you work for?

SHELBY: Well I went out to the desert, then I drifted over around Paisley country. I used to work for my wife's brother over there. He run quite a bunch of cattle, about 3000 head. He had quite a ranch in there.

ARLIE: Who was that?

SHELBY: Elders.

ARLIE: Okay.

SHELBY: Old J. B. Elder.

BARBARA: So is that how you met your future wife, is by working for the family?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: And what was her name?

SHELBY: Birdena Elder. But she went to school in Ashland. Went to high school down there.

DOROTHEA: She must have come home once in awhile then to meet, to be with her brother?

SHELBY: Oh, her?

BARBARA: How did you happen to meet her?

SHELBY: After her mother died she stayed with her brother quite awhile.

BARBARA: So did you meet her then when you were working over there?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: And did you decide that maybe you might want to marry her, and start courting her?

SHELBY: Well I guess that's the way it worked.

BARBARA: Or she decided she wanted you maybe.

SHELBY: I don't know.

BARBARA: So how did your courting go? What did you do? Did you go to movies?

SHELBY: Do what?

BARBARA: Did you go to dances, or movies?

SHELBY: Yeah. She didn't dance much. She was a little bit on the religious side, you know. She raised Wes up here.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Her and Wes got along good.

BARBARA: So when did you get married?

SHELBY: Huh?

BARBARA: When did you get married?

SHELBY: In '25.

BARBARA: In '25. And did you move back over here then, or did you stay in Paisley?

SHELBY: Oh, I was over there a year or so, and then I come back over here.

BARBARA: And what did you do when you moved back to Harney County?

SHELBY: Worked around, and worked for the company, and picked up a few cattle. She saved her school money, and she bought a few cows, and we run them out there on the desert. And then I let Virgil Moon have them on shares for several years. I had quite a little bunch of cattle there when I went in with P. C. Petersen and Sons.

ARLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: So you went in partners with your dad did you then?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: And where was this? Where was the ranch located?

SHELBY: Well I lived up home there, the home place we called it. And then he bought several places down at Harney. And then he bought what they call Miller Swamp down there, down there by John Fay's. Bought it through Grover Jameson, I think he got it, I never could find out whether it was five dollars or ten dollars an acre. And then the Clemens Field that I had there, he got it the same way. And then some of that land over there at Harney, Reed owns it now. He had Grover Jameson to buy it first, you know. And then my dad took it off his hands.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: They worked all kinds of schemes.

ARLIE: How many acres did you have here at the, how many acres did you have at any one time?

SHELBY: When we was all together?

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Oh, darned if I know. I never could keep track of it. Had quite a lot of rangeland. Only way to tell would be to go to the tax ---

ARLIE: Go dig the deeds out.

SHELBY: --- tax files.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, when he bought some of the Grover Jameson's place, did that include the place that Herb ended up with?

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Was that a Grover Jameson too?

SHELBY: Yeah, he bought that to start with.



DOROTHEA: And then that ended up, and your half-brother Herb lived on that place?

SHELBY: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and you lived up here behind the Indian Village, right?

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. When did you move up there?

SHELBY: In '34. Dry summer of '34, in the fall. We took cattle out here to Dog Mountain.

There was no feed, oh it was a dry summer, no water, the springs went dry. Went out there and found a homestead well, a good well. And the house was setting like that, I got pictures of it. And we had the, we put the hay in the kitchen, and the stove and bed in the front room, and then it had an upstairs there. Lots of wood rats and mice, of course.

BARBARA: Real home sweet home then, huh?

SHELBY: Yeah. And anyway my --- we pumped water for them cattle out there, and I had a few milk cows, and a feller had a field of rye, come up about that high. So I rented that field from him for my milk cows. I put them in there in the daytime, and then keep them in a lot of a night, and got by that way. Built kind of a corral there, a barbwire corral and sticks and stuff. And milked cows, and we kept them cattle out there until the snow flew.

My dad says try to save the cows even if you lose the calves. Well what happened, why they done good, it was a big country and lots of bunchgrass in them hills, but no water. And we pumped water. And then there was a lot of weeds there, and a lot of rye grass, and a lot of greasewood. A long in the fall of the year, the cattle got to eating them leaves under the greasewood, gosh they got fat. But it dried them up, they didn't give no milk. And there was a lot of leppy calves on our hands. My dad says try to save the cows, even if you lose the calves. But we saved the calves, but there is some of them was pretty stunted. But lots of people had stunted cattle after them dry years there. I

guess it was pretty tough there.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: You couldn't ship cattle in --- or hay in then. There was a railroad in here, but heck they couldn't afford it. Depression was on, you know.

ARLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: And how was the depression on you? Did it really affect you and your wife during the depression?

SHELBY: Well we milked cows to get something to eat, and get a new pair of overalls once in awhile. Got by.

BARBARA: Did you sell your milk?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: To the people in town?

SHELBY: Yeah. Sold the cream. Fed the milk to some pigs we had around there. Grain was cheap. Oh heck, you could buy grain for fifty cents a sack.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Let's find out what your stepmother's name was.

SHELBY: Anna Mary Frost.

DOROTHEA: What was the last name?

SHELBY: Frost.

DOROTHEA: Frost.

SHELBY: F R O S T.

DOROTHEA: And so you had three brothers and a sister with --- he had children by her.

SHELBY: Let's see, there was --- well there was Charlie, he was the oldest one. And then there was, well Herb when he was born, the doctors worked him over and made him --- might as well tell you, you probably know about him anyway. Worked him over and

made a man out of him. His name was Anna Mary Petersen, named after his mother. His mother's name was Mary Ann Petersen, and his was Anna Mary Petersen. Then they changed it to Herbert M. Petersen. Then they marked it out on the Bible there, and that's why the row, they wanted to burn that Bible up. I got away with it. And so they worked him over and named him Herb. And then there was Bob and George, George died of leukemia when he was a little kid, and he wasn't very old. There was Anna, oh what the heck is his name, Ida, we called her big Ida. Ida and Irene, Irene died with leukemia too. ... and bleed from the mouth, died an awful death.

DOROTHEA: She was older, wasn't she?

SHELBY: Huh?

DOROTHEA: She was older, Irene?

SHELBY: Well there was Charlie first, then the one we called Anna, that was Herb, and then Ida Petersen, then Irene Petersen, and then George Petersen, and then Bob. Bob, he is down at Springfield. They called me the other day; he is the only one I get along with. About to outlive them all except him and Charlie. He is on oxygen all the time.

DOROTHEA: He has emphysema, or a heart problem?

SHELBY: He is what?

DOROTHEA: Does he have a lung problem or a heart problem?

SHELBY: Lung, he has emphysema awful bad, he's on oxygen. And Charlie, he had a by-pass I guess. He goes to Arizona, but I don't know too much about him.

DOROTHEA: Now he used to live here, didn't he?

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And his ---

SHELBY: He lived up the upper valley, what they called the upper valley place.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Okay, and his kids are some of the, was one of the schoolteachers

here?

SHELBY: The what?

DOROTHEA: One of the schoolteachers?

SHELBY: Yeah. Let's see, was she a schoolteacher? Yeah, yeah, she was from that country over there around Izee and Suplee and over in there.

ARLIE: The boy, there was a boy too, wasn't there, was a teacher out here?

SHELBY: I think there is four boys there. One lives in Baker, one is in Portland, he was in the Army, and then one is a schoolteacher up here. And the other one ---

DOROTHEA: John.

SHELBY: John, I think he went over to Bend, didn't he, or something.

DOROTHEA: Either Bend, or he is in Boise, one of the two. He doesn't live here, yeah.

SHELBY: I don't know a thing about him.

DOROTHEA: You didn't keep up with that one, huh?

SHELBY: Huh?

DOROTHEA: You didn't keep up with that one?

SHELBY: No. They don't have much to do with me.

BARBARA: Did you ever figure out why the families didn't get along with one another?

SHELBY: They was all jealous.

BARBARA: Jealous.

SHELBY: A little money in the family, and that causes jealousy.

BARBARA: Everybody wanted a piece of the pot, and they were --- some wanted more than others maybe.

SHELBY: Yeah. And they was all afraid of me. And when we got done, my stepmother told somebody that I caused her less trouble than anybody. Old Irene had another party working on me. She wanted me to break that will so she could get more and I would get

less. (Laughter) I let her work at it. I knew what was going on.

BARBARA: Did you ever have any trouble with fires out on your ranch? Any big problems with fires?

SHELBY: No, I never had too much. After I left they had a little fire there that burnt up the bunkhouse and the chicken house, and one thing and another around there. But it didn't burn the main house.

DOROTHEA: Now that belongs to the Cowings now?

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Tell us a little bit more about your mother's parents. What can you tell us about them?

SHELBY: Well the furthest back I knew much about them was --- of course they come across the plains, and over that mountain there, Truckee River. That's where Aunt Truckee was born, they called her Truckee. My mother wasn't born yet. She was born in Shasta County, I think. What is the name of that little town now, Northern California there.

BARBARA: Redding.

SHELBY: Huh?

BARBARA: Redding maybe?

SHELBY: No, it would be above Redding. Pretty close to Redding.

A little town in there.

ARLIE: Weed.

SHELBY: Millville.

ARLIE: Must be real little.

SHELBY: Millville. And so some of the Simmons went down there, and they said, well that would be some time ago now before they was all dead. They went down there and the house stood, was still standing, that my mother was born in, Millville. And my

grandfather's first wife, that would be my mother's grandfather, was married, or buried there in Millville. And then my step grand-mother died just, oh my mother died on the 22nd of April, and she died then I think about two months afterwards, I forget which day. It might be in that Bible, I don't know. She was a stepmother to my mother. She was awful good to my mother. She was good to us kids, I can remember her. But I can't remember my grandfather; he died before I can remember. He is buried up here too. I guess I'm the only person that ever puts a flower on their grave.

ARLIE: Probably the only one left.

SHELBY: Yeah. Well, there is some of the descents, them Scott boys, didn't you know some of them?

ARLIE: Yeah, I know who you're talking about.

SHELBY: You knew them Scott boys. Remember Delbert Scott used to be the football coach here one time?

DOROTHEA: Heard of him.

SHELBY: Remember him? He was born out at Sagehen; he was a cousin of mine. His mother was a Simmons, sister of my mother. And he is dead. And them boys of his all went on to school, and two of them are doctors, one was a pathologist in Boise. He is retired now. And the other was a woman doctor in Portland. He had a stroke awhile back. The other one is a dentist in Milwaukie. And you know that big building with, in Milwaukie, has a bomber on top of it?

DOROTHEA: I don't know Milwaukie.

ARLIE: If you've ever driven through it, its got this great big bomber sitting out in front of this service station.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I have seen that, yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah, I wonder where they ---

ARLIE: Well you've got it here, I read it yesterday.

SHELBY: Here is some of the collection of some of my furniture. I had it all polished. Some of it has been, picture taken of it more than once. I was going to ---

BARBARA: Well let's just lay it right here so you don't forget it, right there.

SHELBY: Now let's see, what was I going to show you a picture of?

DOROTHEA: That bomber.

SHELBY: That bomber. I'm getting so I forget sometimes what I'm a talking ---

DOROTHEA: Does he still got that stove?

ARLIE: Here someplace.

SHELBY: Well here is all of the Scott boys. Here is my wife, and that's me. This is the one that lives in Milwaukie. That's his mother there. Here is my wife when she was a little girl going to school.

BARBARA: Was she studying to be a teacher?

SHELBY: Huh?

BARBARA: Was she studying to be a teacher?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: And did she ever teach?

SHELBY: Yeah, a couple years over there at Paisley.

BARBARA: That was the time that you couldn't teach if you were married, is that right? When she got married she couldn't teach anymore? Did they have that rule then?

SHELBY: I don't know.

BARBARA: Oh yeah.

SHELBY: Just what it's ---

DOROTHEA: Oh that's the bomber?

SHELBY: Look at this little girl here.

BARBARA: Yeah.

SHELBY: It's the one that the Scott boys married to.

BARBARA: I see.

SHELBY: I showed it to you there.

BARBARA: So did your wife go by the name of "Birdie"?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: B I R D I E ?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: That was her nickname.

SHELBY: They called her that ever since she was a little kid.

There is that bomber now. Now they're making him put in new gas barrels, but he ain't going to put them in he said, just put one in.

BARBARA: Yeah, that's the new rules.

SHELBY: I don't know how many he had; he had a big outfit there.

ARLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Yeah, they're doing that all over now. That's a nice big house. Well with ten kids or so, you had to have ---

ARLIE: That house is still standing.

BARBARA: Is it really?

SHELBY: Here is the oldest, or Wes' mother in 1909 and '10 when my dad was in Europe. Here is Burt Oliver, here is Roy Oliver, and there is Leathie Oliver. That was after they got old, taken over there at Powell Buttes. But Ada, the oldest girl, ain't there.

DOROTHEA: Now when your dad went back to Europe, what did he do with you kids? How did he leave you?

SHELBY: We stayed with an old lady that, she was a friend to everybody, knew



everybody. She'd be the grandmother to Ches Mace, no wait a minute, Ches Mace's wife. You remember Ches Mace out here?

ARLIE: Pansy.

DOROTHEA: Pansy.

SHELBY: She'd be the grandmother to Ches Mace's wife. And a grandmother to Charlie Spencer, that would be a brother to Ches Mace's wife. She took care of us. She could cook a good meal; she could hook up a four-horse team, pick up a rifle and shoot an Indian or a coyote, a cougar. And oh, she was a little short woman, but oh she could dance. And oh, dance them old time dances, she was just as nimble. Wonderful old lady, she was good to us kids.

BARBARA: What was her name, Grandma who?

SHELBY: Winters.

BARBARA: Grandma Winters.

SHELBY: Rachel Winters. I usually put something on her grave up there. Here she is. I'll tell you who give me that picture was Ches Mace's wife; she had two or three of them. That's me, that's Leathie Oliver, and that's Lola Petersen. Old Grandma Winters.

DOROTHEA: And so how long did you stay with her?

SHELBY: Two years.

DOROTHEA: Two years.

SHELBY: Oh gosh, we hated to see her go. My stepmother didn't like her because we liked her.

DOROTHEA: So did you do chores, what kind of chores did you do, and what kind of work did you do? Were you all, have your own chores, like chop wood, bring in the water, bring in the wood?

SHELBY: Yeah, after I got old enough I had to saw wood with a bucksaw, and saw it and

bring it in.

Always had a team in town, and when I got old enough I kept a saddle horse in town. Had a milk cow in town. Oh, I'd have to clean the barn out every morning before breakfast. By gosh I had to work, the old man made you work. And work didn't hurt no kids, it kept them out of mischief. Part of the time anyway.

DOROTHEA: Did you raise children for your brothers, or did they work with you, or for you anytime?

SHELBY: No. My sister, when she died we got both of the kids. My stepmother had the girl. She hauled them back over to Baker, she said, "Let the mother take care of them, or the father take care of them, I took care of my kids." But Lola used to take care of her kids. And so then I went over and got them, and that made her madder than the devil. I got both of them. Boy that made her mad. So then she got little Ida to run off and leave us, after we got her raised, you know, so she could be a slave for her.

ARLIE: Whose pictures are those up there on the wall?

SHELBY: Oh, that's Wes and his ex-wife.

ARLIE: Okay, and that's ---

SHELBY: She was here helping me put flowers on some of the graves the other day.

ARLIE: Okay.

SHELBY: She lives in Portland. We think a lot of her. She is a daughter to Elmer Baker, you know her.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: So how long did you have these children that you raised?

SHELBY: I kept Wes from the time he was five years old until he finished high school. Then he went to work and he'd stay with us up there then for quite a lot of the time. He always comes home. This woman he's got now, I guess she is a pretty good person; she

is a nurse, retired. And, but she seems to think we ought to for-get about Mary and go for her. When I was up at the ranch, she'd come up there and help me hay, you know, just as good as any man in the field, handle a tractor. Big stout hefty girl, you know.

And then I saw her when I had my ulcers cut out, why her and Wes come out. Well they went to the hills and punched cows. And by gosh she, everybody liked Mary, you know. And this woman he's got now, jealous as the dickens over it.

DOROTHEA: So is that Mary?

ARLIE: That's Mary.

SHELBY: I don't know what in the world he quit her for.

BARBARA: Well we don't always know what goes on behind closed doors, do we?

SHELBY: By gosh no.

ARLIE: What are you going to do with all that furniture, Shelby?

SHELBY: I was going to give it to the museum.

ARLIE: Well good, that's a good place for it. We're going to have to build a bigger museum up there though.

SHELBY: Well you might have to sell some of them bedsteads. (Laughter) Did you ever see old-fashioned bedsteads that reached way up? Had one I couldn't get through the ceiling. They say, oh don't cut it off, sell it to me. They didn't have money enough to buy it.

BARBARA: Did you and your wife like to go antique hunting and buy furniture?

SHELBY: Yeah. She was crazy over antiques. I guess I was always kind of old fashioned too.

ARLIE: You sure got some pretty furniture, I know that.

SHELBY: Of course they don't shine like it used to. I give the rocking chair already. Them kids was riding it like a horse, you know, when they'd come. It was one of them

swing rockers.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: It's up there in the lobby of the museum. You've seen it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think Mrs. Purdy had one just like it.

SHELBY: She made that quilt, my wife did.

DOROTHEA: Did she?

SHELBY: Did you ever see that quilt up there?

BARBARA: Well I've seen a lot of them, but I don't remember the names that go with them.

SHELBY: It was on that south wall upstairs there. I guess it's there yet, ain't it, or is it?

ARLIE: I don't remember off hand.

BARBARA: I'm sure it probably is.

ARLIE: Yeah, we haven't got rid of anything up there.

SHELBY: Huh?

ARLIE: We haven't got rid of anything, its got to be there.

BARBARA: Time to turn the tape.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we need to turn the tape.

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

SHELBY: ... bought all I could get over there. This was up here in the hills, that was my house. The house burnt down, so there was an old garage, I nailed it up and made a floor in there and put a stove in, and we'd camp there. Had a tin roof, when it would rain why it would pitter-patter of a night.

BARBARA: So did you ever run sheep yourself, or did you always just have cows?

SHELBY: I mostly had cows. When I was a kid I worked the sheep quite a little. When

my dad sold out, why I went out to the desert and I worked for different ones. I worked for that Salt Lake Loan outfit. They was taking over a lot of sheep.

BARBARA: And so when you had cows yourself, how did you sell your cows, did you send them out on the railroad, or did buyers come in and buy them, or ---

SHELBY: Oh, I'd sell them to some buyer around here. They'd beat you out of them. (Laughter) One of the slickest shysters we ever had in here was old Jim Poteet.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: You couldn't help but to like him, but by gosh --- I slipped up on him one time. I'd sold to him two or three times. And a feller says, "Why do you let that feller steal your cattle for?" I knew he made a little off of me, but I didn't think he was making what he did.

So he brought Morgan Beck up, I had a bunch of old cows cut out, and heifer ... and everything, you know, all kinds of cows. About, what was it, 29, 28 or 29 head, and so he brought him up and he said, "I'll give you a check for them right now for them, or you can ship them down to the sale." Well I said, "I give Jim Poteet a chance to bid, come up with your price why I'll probably sell them to him."

So Jim come up and set the price, and he was almost \$3000 short, pretty near a \$100 a cow, see. And so I showed him this, oh it made him mad, and he left. When he got home he thought it over, so he called me up, real nice voice over the phone, called me by name. He says, "Shelby I didn't know it, but cattle went back up a pretty good price, I'll try them at that price," he said. He wanted to cover up, you see, I knew it would be the last time. Well I was just getting ready to call Ontario to send a truck after them. So I let him have it, I wanted to get along with him. But I could see that he hated me from that day on.

When there was a mix-up with Blackburn, I went up and told Reed, he bought some of that land, you know. So he wouldn't let Blackburn get a hold of nothing. So I

says, "Now he'll come up some night late, and he'll bring Jim Poteet with him." We called him Potent Jimmy. That's what old Judd Wise called him, Potent Jimmy. He was wise to him a long time ago. (Laughter)

And he didn't believe me, so he wasn't but two or three days here, late one night here come Jett Blackburn and Jim Poteet up to see him, wanted to get that contract back, you see. He didn't know that we had it, had it up there with my banker. He wouldn't give it to him, but he had old Jim, you know. And so he just broke his neck the next day to come and tell me I was right, that he brought Jim Poteet, Potent Jimmy we called him.

DOROTHEA: Well when you're talking about Reed, are you talking about Ralph Reed?

SHELBY: Huh?

ARLIE: David.

DOROTHEA: David now, but Ralph at the time.

SHELBY: Ralph, he is dead.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ARLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: So how many cows did you run, what were your biggest herd numbers?

SHELBY: Oh, when we operated all together, and the cattle here and over there, I don't know what we had. Must have had 1200 head probably. But I run, I don't know, BLM they claimed I had five or six hundred head of cattle. But I got by with less. I'd move cattle after night, you know. (Laughter)

ARLIE: Had to.

SHELBY: I couldn't tell it then, but I can now.

BARBARA: Did you raise hay too?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: And sell hay, did you sell or just use it for your own cows?

SHELBY: Oh, I raised a lot of hay. I had a lot of hay on hand when I sold out. When other people would get a lot of surplus hay, and hay was real cheap, why they would sell it and make a down payment. Well I'd call it a Cadillac, when I was making fun of them. I'd say they made a down payment on a Cadillac. Maybe it would be a DeSoto, or something else, you know, but I'd always call it a Cadillac. And the next year would be dry, and they'd come around and, "What would you take for some of that old rotten hay you got?" It would make me mad.

BARBARA: How many people did you have working for you? Who were some of the people that buckarood for you?

SHELBY: I had little Harry Parker all the time. And then I had Joe Smith off and on for a while. You knew him?

DOROTHEA: I've heard of all of these people, but I didn't know them.

SHELBY: You heard lots of it. He was the most truthful man I ever had around, that's what I claimed. He lied to you all the time so you knew what the truth was. It would be just the opposite. (Laughter) You knew him, didn't you?

ARLIE: No, I didn't.

SHELBY: Never knew what the --- never would tell the truth about nothing. And Bill Thompson would come to me, and Ross would come to me, Titus would come to me, little Harry Parker was a working for me and come to me and, "He is lying to you all the time." I says, "I know it." I said, "But suppose he makes a mistake and tells the truth, what would we do?" And Grover Jameson come to me, and I told Grover I says, "That's the most honest man I ever had around." He didn't know what I meant. I said, "He lies to you all the time so you know what the truth is." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: When you branded your cattle with the Crown P, how did you come about that brand, your cattle brand?

SHELBY: We done what now?

DOROTHEA: How did you come about getting the Crown P for your brand?

SHELBY: Well I got the, the Quarter Circle P for mine to start with, and I couldn't get it recorded. And so I was branding awhile with just unrecorded iron. So finally I see Link Hutton's iron out there, he had a Quarter Circle L, you put a mark on the top, and he called it the Crown L. So I thought well now I'll try that, and I done it and I got it recorded, no trouble. Let's see, was it your husband I let have the iron?

DOROTHEA: My son.

SHELBY: Huh?

DOROTHEA: My son, Tim.

SHELBY: Oh, was he the, come here one day and I had all the dope on it. I'd quit paying on it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, Tim has it now.

SHELBY: Well I thought ---

DOROTHEA: George had the P Bench.

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And Tim has the Crown P, your old brand.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I think Clint probably came and talked to you about it. SHELBY: Yeah, that's who it was, one of the older ones. Now that Pete French iron, I was a telling that about that iron to Louie Hughet. He stood with his mouth open for quite awhile, and my gosh he says, "I forgot all about that, I remember that now." He was sent to the pen over that P Bench.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: That would be George Miller. He hadn't thought about it for years. And Harry



Williams, he was another one that kind of halfway forgot about it.

And I was talking about old Chapo, he come around the Cody Point there from the Dunn Field in 1907. It rained all summer, and stormed and lightning. He come around a driving a buckboard, and he had a feller a setting in the seat with him, lightning killed his team. Bones laid there for years and years, you could see them. And the feller on the side of him broke his ribs. Scared old Chapo to death --- well, he didn't die anyway, but it sure scared him.

And so I was telling Louie Hughet about that. At first I asked him if he remembered it, and it took him quite a little while, "By gosh," he says, "I remember that now."

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: He said, "I'd pretty near forgot that." So I went to Harry Williams, and Harry got to scratching his head and he remembered about it.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Now the only man I know of that remembered it now, and he'd hear his father telling it, would be Jack Cote.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: I can't talk to Jack, because I can't hear him at all, he just whispers.

BARBARA: Do you remember the first car you got? Do you remember learning how to drive a car? What did you think about it?

SHELBY: I learned on my dad's car. He had a, well he got a couple of Model-T's. He bought a Model-T up here from; it would be Harry Smith, old Harry, young Harry's father, old Harry. He was the man with the money, put up the money for Archie McGowan. So they built that garage. He bought a Model-T, had a brass radiator. Then about two years afterwards they come out and improved the Ford, they built a cover over that brass radiator, make it look pretty, that's the only difference. So he traded that one in and got

another one. Then he got him a Studebaker. He kept that Studebaker, and we got to calling it Noah's Ark. Had it painted two or three times, and we got to calling it Noah's Ark.

Finally he traded it off, in on a Hudson Super Six. And you remember them old Hudson Super Six? The manager down there, the superintendent over, well the Island Ranch, Pacific Livestock Company, (Ivan) Oakes, they got him one. And big old Hudson Super Six, it had a big seat behind that had jump seats on the doors. Kind of hold them down there so you could set on them jump seats. And he had that so long we got to calling it the hearse. Finally he traded that in. Oh, he hated to trade it in. No, he didn't trade it in, nobody wanted it. So he took it up to Roe Davis, had Roe Davis take the running gears out of it so Charlie could build a hay wagon out of it.

And then he'd come to me and he says, "That body is setting there," and I had a Model-A pickup, he says, "that body is setting there, can't you use it?" And I guess he thought I'd put that great big body on that Model-A pickup, it would go down over it. Oh, he hated to see that up there. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you just learn to drive out in a field, or how did you learn how to drive?

SHELBY: Oh, I don't know, just come natural down the road to it. There wasn't many cars on the road then, just old country roads around here. And the streets there in Burns was gravel and one thing and another. It would be back in the teens, you know. They wasn't cemented at all.

BARBARA: Wooden sidewalks I suppose.

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: What was Burns like when you first remember? What was downtown like when you first remember as a child?

SHELBY: Oh, I can remember old Lunaburg's store and the candy bucket. And George

Hagey's Hardware Store. The dates when he built that ---

ARLIE: Where was that at? Where was it at Shelby?

SHELBY: Right there where Wenzel's Store was.

ARLIE: Oh, okay.

SHELBY: It says back of the building up there. And it did have the date on it for a while. Ray, he took that date off.

ARLIE: No, the date is still up there.

DOROTHEA: The date is still up there.

SHELBY: Huh?

DOROTHEA: The date is still up there.

ARLIE: Still up there, yeah.

SHELBY: The date?

ARLIE: Yeah. I think it's 1902 or something. That's my building, I own that building now.

SHELBY: That's the year I was born, but I think it was built in 19 and --- '98. I believe the old date.

DOROTHEA: 1898.

ARLIE: Yeah, might be.

SHELBY: I believe it was.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And I remember when he built that house down there. I was telling this story in front of Sandy one time, and Ernie Smith was sitting there, and he jumped up and he says, "That's the first time I ever heard that story for fifty years," and took it away from me. And --- but he went with my dad down there, he had me by the hand, and he was a building the foundation for that house down there, you know what they called the Voegtly house.

BARBARA: Woyak's have it. Sam Woyak had it.

SHELBY: Yeah he was a ---

BARBARA: Plumber.

ARLIE: Plumber.

SHELBY: Plumber, yeah, that was the building. Voegtly owned a lot of land there. And they was building the foundation. That was before I went to California, and I can remember that. So I went to California then, and I was down there --- let's see, Mother died in 1907, they shipped --- right after that.

And the --- so then it went on awhile, and he got married. And his wife was a Williams. She was related to that feller in Bend, or in John Day, that owned all the stagecoaches. I can't think of his name right now. Sometimes I think of his name. I can't think of his name. And anyway they got in a row one morning before breakfast. She got up and left when he says, "These dishes will be right there when you come back." And she was gone two years. That was the story that old Ernie Smith took away from me. (Laughter) So he went ahead with the story. She come back in two years and ... dried out so bad the wind was blowing the dirt all out of them anyway. They was a little dusty, but they was there. And she washed them too. (Laughter) They was pretty good after that. Her name was Williams, her maiden name.

But this other feller was that feller that owned the stages, horse stages.

ARLIE: I don't know who that would be.

BARBARA: Did freighting, did he?

SHELBY: Huh?

BARBARA: Did freighting, did he do freighting?

ARLIE: Were they freight wagons?

BARBARA: Freight wagons?

SHELBY: No, he owned the stagecoach.

BARBARA: Oh, the stagecoach.

SHELBY: Horses on them, four horses.

BARBARA: Oh.

SHELBY: And that was before they had cars.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah, that was a long time ago. I rode on them.

ARLIE: Is that right?

SHELBY: That's the way I went to California. I had to go out around by Portland.

BARBARA: Oh, goodness.

SHELBY: Went out --- see the train come into, well what's that little town between John Day and --- well going east there?

BARBARA: Prairie City?

SHELBY: Now what?

BARBARA: Prairie City.

SHELBY: Prairie City.

ARLIE: Oh, yeah.

SHELBY: The train come to Prairie City one time, and then it come down up on top of a mountain there to that logging camp.

ARLIE: Bates or Austin.

SHELBY: What?

ARLIE: Bates or Austin.

SHELBY: Bates, I believe.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah, I believe it was Bates.

ARLIE: It went out to Baker.

SHELBY: Yeah. You go to Baker, and then around by Portland, and then to California. We rode on them horse stages.

BARBARA: How long did it take you to get there?

SHELBY: I don't remember. But I remember it was several days. I remember when he come and got us the second time, two trips down there, second time in 19 --- spring of 1909 I guess. No, 1908. And we come over the mountain, and we stopped up there. We made it up that old road; you come up the creek to the top. I forget the man's name in there, had a station there. And then we come on down, you couldn't come down the river, had to go over another mountain that come down. There was a big barn up there, way at the north end of Silvies Valley. You've seen that big barn?

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Trailed a road up over the hill.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: That road come there, it didn't come down that other.

ARLIE: Right.

SHELBY: Come over that hill. There was the second night. Then the next night was in Bear Valley up here. Yeah, then the next night, way in the night made Burns. Poor old stage horse get tired.

ARLIE: Oh boy.

DOROTHEA: Did they change them at Bear Valley?

SHELBY: Yeah, changed horses.

DOROTHEA: Change horses?

SHELBY: Every place. Changed ever station.

DOROTHEA: That was the Craddock barn, wasn't it?

SHELBY: The what?

DOROTHEA: Craddock barn?

SHELBY: Craddock --- I don't know whether it was his barn or not. But it was in there someplace.

DOROTHEA: That old red barn?

SHELBY: There was a big old barn in there. I think some of your people got some of that. I kind of forgot.

BARBARA: Did you know some of the people in the early --- like Swift and Company, or Hanley's people, or Bell-A? Did you know any of those people, or have any dealings with any of those big companies that were in here early on?

SHELBY: Well there was Harry Golden, he is dead now. And then there was Tom Allen. I can remember him; he worked for the Company afterwards. The last time I seen him he was driving a buncher for, buncher of hay down there in the '30's, early '30's or late '20's for the Company. And there was Mark Baker, now Mark Baker, I think he was the father to Bob Baker. Bob Baker would be a father to the, to Ellis Baker's husband, and Fred Baker. Harold Baker, you knew them didn't you?

ARLIE: Yeah, I don't know them, but I know who you are talking about, really.

SHELBY: Yeah, and old Chapo there, he was always there as long as I can remember. And oh, there was different people off and on that worked there.

BARBARA: Did those people ---

SHELBY: Yeah, old Lou Willard --- the what?

BARBARA: Did those people pretty much run the country around here? Were they big enough that they had the say of what was going on pretty much, those big companies that were in here?

SHELBY: I don't know just what you mean.

BARBARA: Well I mean, if they had a lot of land, did they pretty much dictate what went on in the valley with cattle prices, and things like that?

SHELBY: Yeah, but I was young then, I didn't pay much attention to that.

ARLIE: Well Hanley's were in here, and who had the Island Ranch then? Who had the Island Ranch?

SHELBY: The what?

ARLIE: Who had the Island Ranch when you ---

SHELBY: Well that belonged to, as far back as I can remember it belonged to the Company.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: They bought all that land in there. What was his name --- then he went broke, then they give him the Alvord. Of course I think there was a mortgage on it when they give it to him. There used to be a sign up there along the road, way up there, there is an old marker up there, but there is no name on it, along that road goes over, goes up towards Silvies Valley. There was a marker there.

DOROTHEA: That was Devine, wasn't it?

SHELBY: John Devine.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

SHELBY: Yeah, Devine.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah, that's the name. See they give him the Alvord. Of course that was before my time, or pretty early, and I don't remember it. I remember him talking about it.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And he fooled with racehorses, and quite a gambler, and wound up broke, lost everything. And he lost the Whitehorse, he had the Whitehorse at one time, I believe.



DOROTHEA: Well didn't Hanley buy that also?

SHELBY: Hanley? No, the Company, Pacific Livestock, Miller and Lux.

DOROTHEA: Miller and Lux bought Alvord?

SHELBY: No. What happened to Hanley now, Johnny Crow said he didn't know what I do. Way back when French, before French was killed, why they were enemies. And then when French got killed, why the outfit put Bill Hanley in as general manager over the "P" Ranch, general manager. So then he had to speak good of Pete French, see. So then Lou Willard come in from Pendleton, and he got Lou Willard to say that he saw Oliver up there at Pendleton. Knew him well, he stays around there all the time. He got his throat cut out here. And so he, they told that around. But Lou wouldn't talk much. But anyway that was the story that started. Then this here John Scharff claims that somebody, that he was around Bend. There was no Bend there until 1911. Jim Hill built the railroad into Bend in 1911. They was going to build one to Burns.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And my dad was interested in that, and the surveyors used to stop at our place out there, surveying the right of way across. That's as far as it ever got.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And I don't know a soul that would remember that.

ARLIE: Well I've got a map in my office that shows that railroad proposed going out to Chemult.

SHELBY: Out by my dad's place, by the Double O?

ARLIE: Yeah, yeah.

SHELBY: North of the Double O, kind of.

ARLIE: You come in my office there, I've got a map and it shows, it's dated 1907.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

ARLIE: And it's got all the land ownership, the big ranch ownerships on it. But it shows that railroad going out past the Double O.

SHELBY: My gosh, I believe it was a little later than 1907 when they were surveying.

ARLIE: Well it could be. But it was proposed on there ---

SHELBY: See 1911 is when Jim Hill built that railroad into Bend; there was no Bend there. And then he tells around, Oliver stayed around Bend, he was seen around there. He don't know what he was talking about. (Laughter) Check up on that. There was no Bend there, only that bend in the river.

ARLIE: Yeah, I think you're right there.

BARBARA: Do you remember them talking, your family or anything, talking about early murders around here? Were there any murders that you remember people talking about?

SHELBY: Well I can remember them telling about when Marcus Haines' mother, first husband Warren Curtis, when George Miller shot him. It was over a two-bit mustang colt, wasn't worth nothing. So George went down there, and another feller with him, it was dark. So they hollered at him to come out, and he come out on the porch with a lantern, a lamp, and he shot him. And scared her to death, I guess they put the fire out or something. And she jumped on a horse and took her daughter, she had a daughter, and the name was Dora.

ARLIE: Dora, right.

SHELBY: She married Charlie Chapman.

ARLIE: Dora Chapman.

SHELBY: Lived down there on the ---

ARLIE: The Star Mountain Ranch.

SHELBY: Star Mountain country. And got him in front of the saddle and come over to my mother's people, the Simmons' father, the old Grandpa and Grandma Simmons, stayed

there. And he come clear on it.

ARLIE: Well I'll be darned.

SHELBY: But when he stole them cattle off the "P" Ranch and come through my dad's gates, and took them up there and branded them with the P Bench, and they beat him back, they didn't come clear. Him and Pete went to the pen, and it broke him. He lost them ranches and everything else.

And the shotgun that he shot Warren Curtis with, Virgil Moon has --- a silver mounted shotgun, had silver on it in a place or two. I saw it. I never did shoot it or anything, but I saw it. My dad said, "I wouldn't have it on my place, I'd bury it." Yeah.

ARLIE: Now, when did Myrtle Caldwell, when did she marry Haines? Was that after that?

SHELBY: Yeah, it would be after that. I wouldn't know the dates or anything.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: You'd probably find it on record someplace.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah ---

ARLIE: Yeah, might even have been before she ---

SHELBY: Myrtle --- what's his name now?

ARLIE: Marcus.

SHELBY: Cald --- now I forgot his name.

DOROTHEA: Caldwell.

ARLIE: Caldwell.

SHELBY: Well, her name was Caldwell after she married Walter, Walter.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: But what the devil --- Curtis, Warren Curtis, they had that one daughter, Doris.

ARLIE: Right.

SHELBY: All right, then when she married Haines, they had two kids there. That would be Marcus and his sister ---

DOROTHEA: Mildred.

SHELBY: What's her name?

DOROTHEA: Mildred.

SHELBY: Mildred. And then after that she, let's see, who did she marry then? Was it, was it Caldwell, was the three men she had?

ARLIE: Must have been Caldwell, yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah, his name was Walt, Walter. No --- yeah.

ARLIE: I don't remember.

DOROTHEA: I don't know him.

SHELBY: Why, I just can't think right now.

BARBARA: You're doing really good. Were there any other stories that you talked about that you remember that might spark a --- think of off hand?

ARLIE: I don't know.

SHELBY: Pete, Pete Caldwell.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: That's right, you've heard that name ain't you?

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Married Pete Caldwell.

ARLIE: I knew Myrtle a little bit. In fact I worked for Marcus back when she had that place out there.

SHELBY: I believe he told me you worked there.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What was Marcus' dad's name?

ARLIE: Oh, I don't know.

BARBARA: I don't know.

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Charlie.

ARLIE: Charlie Haines.

DOROTHEA: No, that was an uncle. Fred was an uncle.

ARLIE: There was a John, but he was a ---

SHELBY: I have an awful time remembering names.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember what Marcus' dad's name was? Haines?

ARLIE: Wilbur.

SHELBY: He was a Haines, wasn't he?

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: No, sure I can't.

DOROTHEA: Was it Wilbur?

ARLIE: I don't know.

SHELBY: Well his wife would know.

ARLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: So when did you sell your ranch and move into town?

SHELBY: Me?

BARBARA: Yeah, when did you sell your ranch up here and move into Burns?

SHELBY: In '67. I should have kept it two or three more years, and I'd of got more money out of it.

ARLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Hindsight is always really good, isn't it?

SHELBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you sell it to Henry Cowing then?

SHELBY: The home place? Yeah.

ARLIE: Split it up with four different, there was four of them wasn't it, or five?

SHELBY: Yeah. That land over there, I sold, was it two outfits, yeah. Six outfits all together.

ARLIE: I guess that's right. Dr. White got part of it, Reeds got part of it.

SHELBY: Huh?

ARLIE: Dr. White got part of it, Frank White.

SHELBY: I never liked that Cowing outfit, and I didn't want to sell to them. Like he says, them is the kind to sell to, and then if you have trouble it don't hurt your feelings to take it away from them. (Laughter)

ARLIE: Well you didn't have to anyway.

SHELBY: No. Bob Smith was the person I had trouble with, only one.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: He is the hardest one to get money out of you ever was around. I had to get a lawyer. Yet I vote for him, and send him a contribution or two. Now when he sees me in the store, sometimes he'll wave both hands. (Laughter) Yeah, them Cowings is the first ones to pay me off.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: They went to the FHA.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: I made them pay the penalty too. Remember that, I kind of forgot what it was.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And they was mad as the dickens over that.

BARBARA: So what have you done since you retired and moved into Burns? What do you do to keep yourself busy? Do you do any traveling; did you and your wife travel?

SHELBY: Oh, not a great lot, a little. Went to Reno a time or two, and down to Las Vegas, and go out to Boise once in awhile and shop.

ARLIE: Bought antique furniture.

SHELBY: We always liked to go to Boise.

ARLIE: Went out and bought antique furniture.

SHELBY: Yeah. Up in Northern Idaho you could pick up some furniture pretty good.

DOROTHEA: How did you get it home? How did you haul it home?

SHELBY: Oh, I had a pickup, and then I had a trailer too.

BARBARA: As a young person, and working with the sheep, were there many Basque people up on the Steens? Did you know any of the Basque people?

SHELBY: Yeah. Pete Obiague, well he was a Frenchman. He was a pretty nice person. Awful lot of them Bascos was pretty good people.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: The Irish, they was a fighting all the time. I worked for Ben Dailey, he was a big Irishman. He had several thousand head of sheep at one time there. He went broke.

ARLIE: Was he from Lakeview, or Silver Lake?

SHELBY: Yeah.

ARLIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: A lot of the sheep men went broke because they can't run sheep any longer.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Well I think most of them didn't have land of their own, they just ran up there.

SHELBY: Yeah, hobo sheep men.

BARBARA: And then when the Taylor Grazing Act came into effect, then they didn't have a place to go, I think.

SHELBY: Yeah. And --- but I worked around Paisley, I worked for John Elder some.

BARBARA: Did you like working with the sheep, or did you prefer cattle?

SHELBY: Oh, I'd rather work with cattle, but I liked horses better than anything. Dad run a lot of horses when I was a kid, you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And did he sell them to the army? Did he raise horses to sell to the army?

SHELBY: Yeah. And in the spring of 1918, before the Armistice was signed, in the month of June, sent me and old Chapo out to meet Brown's wagon. And we missed the wagon, old Bill Bardwell and Gus Hurlburt was there, but they didn't want us to find their horses. My dad had some fine mares running out there. Had big fine colts. They didn't want us to find them. And they'd get away with the colts, you see. And so we missed the wagon, it had been there and gone.

So we went out south there and rode a day or two, and run onto three fellers. One of them was old Harry Riggs, and another one was a feller from Warner there. Well they was all from Warner Valley. And the other one I never did know for sure who he was. But I always thought he was --- Bill, what was the feller's name that Audrey Whiting married? Grisel, thought of it finally. One of them I think was that old Bill Grisel. I never knew for sure, but I think it was. Not young --- but this young Grisel boy that Audrey married, his name wasn't Bill. Can't think of his name now. First time I ever met him; I was a taking a little bunch of cattle to the hills. There was a feller shot a deer there in the road, and he didn't see me. I come along, and he left his gun on top of the deer, kind of off to one side. Wasn't exactly on the road, had some trails there. Left his gun on, and so I was sitting



there looking at it, and wondering what it was. And I looked up and see a Model-A pickup or something coming down through the brush. He didn't see me, and I was sitting there on my horse where that deer was. And so he drove right to it and stopped before he saw me. Hell, I had a bunch of cattle going on there, and I was sitting there watching. I helped him load his deer in. I think he give me a, what did he give me, I was just going to be there for breakfast anyway, I had a camp up there. The brains, I believe.

DOROTHEA: Oh, give you a good ---

SHELBY: So I had brains for breakfast, brains and eggs.

DOROTHEA: A rich meal.

SHELBY: What was his first name, it wouldn't be Homer would it? Homer Grisel? No. I don't think it was Bill, I think that was his father's name.

DOROTHEA: It wasn't Howard? They called him "Spud" or something, didn't they?

SHELBY: They what?

DOROTHEA: Didn't they call him "Spud"?

SHELBY: No, I don't believe ---

DOROTHEA: "Curly" --- I can't remember.

SHELBY: You're not thinking of "Puddy" Mace?

DOROTHEA: No.

ARLIE: You tell about coming up on a guy killing a deer. I worked for a guy down, when I was in high school, down south of Juntura, and he had me out there the other side of Star Mountain.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

ARLIE: And we were out there all summer, and it was along in the evening, and we'd gone out and shot a deer and drug it down off the hill, and it was just almost turning dark. We looked up and here come three guys a horseback. So we dropped our guns and rode

off away from them a little ways. It was a guy and two kids, and I'll be darned if one of the kid's horses didn't come right up on that deer and buck that kid off there. Daddy, Daddy, here is a gun, here is a deer.

BARBARA: Oh gosh.

ARLIE: They had us caught.

BARBARA: Slightly out of season.

ARLIE: Slightly out of season.

SHELBY: Was it the law or anything?

ARLIE: No, fortunately no.

SHELBY: Yeah, this boy was a getting the deer out of season too. Way before season.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: I helped him load his deer. We talked about that a lot of times afterwards, after we got acquainted.

BARBARA: Did you feel the need to carry a gun when you were young, out riding around? Did you carry a gun at all, ever?

SHELBY: I never owned a pistol in my life until I come to town. And then it seemed like it was a good ... only it would get you into trouble.

ARLIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you do a lot of hunting yourself?

SHELBY: Huh?

BARBARA: Did you do a lot of hunting yourself?

SHELBY: Oh, with a rifle, yeah.

BARBARA: Uh huh, deer and birds? Did you ever go bird hunting?

SHELBY: Yeah, hunt ducks and geese, and everything else. Even up home I'd shoot geese out in the meadow. Shoot two or three times and you had to be careful, because

cops would drive out and set out by my gate, you know. One time I shot out there in a bunch, with a 30-30 one shot and got five. Well all I wanted in that time of the year was just the breasts, you know.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: So I went out and just cut the breasts out, and left the rest. But I could see that whenever the cops was out there, I could see them. I'd always go out on the hay wagon.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: And I had an excuse, you know. Getting a jag of hay or something.

BARBARA: Did you ever have any trouble with the jackrabbits?

SHELBY: You bet, they was terrible at one time. When I was a kid in 1914, I went out on a rabbit drive. You've seen pictures of them, ain't you? I was on one of them when I was a kid. My dad went in a bobsled. Jim Dalton and his wife, and one of them girls in that picture there with Burt Oliver, her sister, I went to school with, she went along out there. I remember I, everybody would carry a pointed stick. When a rabbit would break back they would throw it at that rabbit. Some of them fellers got good. And I remember, I lost one overshoe. Snow was --- oh gosh it was deep. Gosh, we corralled a lot of rabbits. Got in there with clubs and killed them, put them out of their misery. Gee, they were thick.

BARBARA: That must have been a bloody mess.

SHELBY: Huh?

BARBARA: Must have been a bloody mess a clubbing them.

DOROTHEA: That isn't what I always hated, was the smell.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: That was the only way to do them, to save people's haystacks and crops. Eating your haystacks up and everything else. And then during the summer, why they'd eat up your crops. So that was the time to catch them in the deep snow, you see. Then

they put a five-cent bounty on them. I used to catch them and get that nickel, you know, when I was a kid.

DOROTHEA: It's time to turn the tape again.

SIDE D

BARBARA: Well we're about to the end of our tape here again, and we were just wondering, do you have any other little stories, or funny things that might have happened to you, or big accidents or something that you'd like to share with us before we kind of call it an afternoon?

SHELBY: Oh, I don't know, I can't think of nothing right now. Lots of times I think of something afterwards.

BARBARA: Well we always have that problem too. We always think of lots of questions we'd liked to have asked when we finish up. Have you ever had any bad accidents out on your ranch that you had to call for a doctor for?

SHELBY: Oh, I remember I got in --- I pulled a stunt one time, I was driving a one-horse rake, pretty little. And I didn't like old Ed Waters, he used to be the county clerk for a while, and he was a postmaster for a while. And he didn't like me, and I didn't get along with him. So there was a big long levee out there in the field, I had a one-horse dump rake, and I come along and I dumped the hay on that levee, all along. Here he come with a buck and rammed the teeth into that levee and raised him up, and broke the teeth out. Oh, he was mad. He went and told my dad, and dad give me the dickens, and made me rake that hay off of that levee. Old John Hoss, he thought that was funny.

John Hoss was my dad's sheep foreman. And I liked old John. And my dad couldn't say Hoss, so he called him John Horse. And so everybody in the country got to calling him John Horse. And so then at this shearing corral over there, my dad would

have a supply camp there for his sheep. And John Hoss was the foreman, or dad's foreman, so his mail would come down there at the, where Jim Paul used to live. You know where that place is?

ARLIE: Oh, down there at Anderson Valley?

SHELBY: Anderson Valley, yeah. Jim Mahon owned it then.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: Well Jim Mahon had the post office, he run horses, and mules, and sheep. So he named his post office Mule, Oregon. Well John's mail would come John Horse, Mule, Oregon. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Was his name Hoss, H O S S ?

SHELBY: Huh?

BARBARA: Was it H O S S, was that his real name?

SHELBY: H O S S, yeah. I think I got a --- see his mother lived in White Salmon, Washington. I wonder if I have that handy here? My gosh, I can't think where I got it. I think in about 1945 I got a Christmas card from him. So I waited until after the new years to answer it, and just dropped it in the mail and picked up the Burns paper and it said John Hoss, an old timer here, passed away in his home in White Salmon, Washington. So he didn't get my letter.

ARLIE: Well I'll be darned.

SHELBY: I got it here someplace, I seen it a while back. Here is Wes Baisley my nephew, and here is Ida, you know.

ARLIE: Oh, I'll be darned.

SHELBY: Or not Ida ----

ARLIE: Mary.

SHELBY: Mary. No, I'll show you what is says about Evel Knievel, he done something

there. Yeah, I think right here I marked it. See that mark there?

ARLIE: One step toward recognition for Dan came recently when he was appointed as a mechanic for Evel Knievel's attempt to jump fourteen cars at the coliseum. I felt like the whole thing was in my hands, he says. Knievel later said his near accident was because my bike went too fast. Dan takes that as a compliment. Knievel was a special breed. ... believes in resulting in his need for publicity, and publicity doesn't hurt Dan Baisley either.

SHELBY: Here is that schoolteacher's wife. I got another one in another book. Now I had one where Ereno's had her arrested, forging checks. I was going to cut them all out and frame them, and I think that Ida throwed that one away, I can't find it, the one about Ereno. They really went to town with her.

ARLIE: Is that right.

SHELBY: And I think it was John that told Herb, he wouldn't tell me who it was, but it might not have been him, but he wouldn't tell me who told him. And he said that she was going to elope with another feller, worked at the Hines out here, and he didn't have any money. So she went and forged all these, three checks anyway. I got this one here, and another one in the dictionary there. Different dates on it. She was going to elope with him, she got the money, give him the money, and he eloped alone. (Laughter) And he left her here to stand good for these. He wasn't supposed to tell me that. He's dead now, you know, and I don't know who ---

ARLIE: Well he wasn't all that dumb.

SHELBY: Did you read that about Evel Knievel?

BARBARA: Yeah, I did.

SHELBY: That's the boy I raised. He likes motorcycles.

BARBARA: He likes fast things, huh?

SHELBY: Yeah, did you read it?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: So did he ride the horses fast too, when he was a kid?

SHELBY: Well, when he got started with one, he got to riding his bicycle to school. So we sent off and got one they called a Whizzer. Do you remember them little Whizzers?

ARLIE: Yeah, vaguely, yeah.

SHELBY: And he was always trying to build something. He was trying to build him a rig that would make his bicycle go. So I went down there to the shop, I didn't tell them we had it up there, it was in the house. I pretended like I was mad at him. I come on up to the house, and when he seen that he come right out of it. (Laughter) He put that on, and it made it crazy over motorcycles.

ARLIE: Yeah.

SHELBY: He had a little engine he put in that one, bicycle. He rode that thing to school, you know.

BARBARA: His first motor bike, huh?

SHELBY: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well, we've really taken up a lot of your time this afternoon.

SHELBY: My time ain't worth a darn.

BARBARA: And we really appreciate you visiting with us, and we've really enjoyed this. We'd kind of like to do a little bit of a video here, if you still ---

SHELBY: A what?

BARBARA: A little video now, of you, before we quit if that's okay. And, I don't know, Arlie or Dorothea do you have any other questions?

DOROTHEA: No. I was just getting ready to close up on this, and go do the video. Are you getting ready for your picture to be taken? You will become a notarized video person.

SHELBY: For my what?

ARLIE: Well they're going to put you on film here.

BARBARA: Going to take your picture.

ARLIE: Take a moving picture of you.

SHELBY: Moving picture?

BARBARA: Yeah, we're going to take your picture, to include with this tape.

SHELBY: Is that a rig for a moving picture?

BARBARA: No, I've got it over here in the case.

SHELBY: Huh?

BARBARA: I've got it over here in the case. So we'll set that up now. And we thank you for visiting with us this afternoon. We've really enjoyed it, and hope you enjoy remembering some of these old things too.

DOROTHEA: And if you should want to talk some more about some other things that you can remember, well give us a call and we can come back.

BARBARA: Okay?

SHELBY: Do what?

ARLIE: Well if you think of something else that you want to talk about, why give me a holler, or call some of us and we'll come back and bring this tape recorder back.

SHELBY: Well when I get to talking, one yarn leads to another, you know.

DOROTHEA: Well let's get ready and go take the picture now. So thank you.

(END OF TAPE)

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