

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #362 - Sides A/B/C

Subject: Harold Otley - With Video

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Date: June 8, 1994

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: My name is Dorothea Purdy, and we're here at the Harney County Library on June the 8th, 1994, in Burns, Oregon. We'll be talking with Harold Otley, and he is going to tell us something about Diamond Valley, and ranching, and his dad. So we'll start, and begin with asking you your full name.

HAROLD OTLEY: Well, it's Harold Dorman Otley.

DOROTHEA: And when were you born?

HAROLD: May 19th, 1917.

DOROTHEA: What were your parents' names?

HAROLD: Henry Otley and Mary Poujade Otley.

DOROTHEA: Poujade, how do you spell it?

HAROLD: P O U J A D E.

DOROTHEA: She some relation to Agness Brown?

HAROLD: Agness is, was her niece.

DOROTHEA: Is she? Oh, that's nice to know. I didn't realize that.

BARBARA LOFGREN: And were you born here in Burns, or in Lawen?

HAROLD: Burns.

BARBARA: Burns, okay.

DOROTHEA: Well, what were your parents' names?

HAROLD: Well, just Henry Otley.

DOROTHEA: And your mother's name?

HAROLD: Mary Poujade Otley.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I got you that. Okay. When did your dad come to Harney County?

HAROLD: Well, he was born here at Lawen in 1888. His father come in 1886 from California.

DOROTHEA: Oh, his father came before he did?

HAROLD: Yeah, dad was born here, and my grandfather came here in 1886.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Do you have any idea why they came and picked this area?

HAROLD: Not really why he picked this area, but I kind of think he was headed for what he thought was the big bend, and I think that was the bend in the Snake River up there. And then when he got here, why he stopped and never went on. But why, I don't really know.

BARBARA: So, they kind of settled in the Lawen area at that time, was it?

HAROLD: Yeah, he had a timber culture down there, north of Lawen, about, oh, a mile and a half or two miles north and a little east.

DOROTHEA: What did they do when they first came here? Did they ranch, or what was the country like? Have you ever heard?

HAROLD: Oh, it was big sagebrush, and Indians, and I guess they had, I don't think he --- I think he bought a few cows after he got here, but I know he didn't bring them with him. And he was, I don't know whether he was going to farm that, or what. But they ended up ranching instead of, or having, buying cows instead of doing any farming. The sight of where he first took up there, he took up a, this is what they called a timber culture.

BARBARA: Was there trees out there at that time, or why did they call it a timber culture?

HAROLD: No, but you was suppose to plant so many trees.

BARBARA: Oh, I see, I see, okay.

HAROLD: And I don't think they ever grew; I never did see any where he homesteaded.

BARBARA: So did they raise any hay, or did they have natural hay?

HAROLD: Not then.

BARBARA: Uh-huh.

HAROLD: Then I think they went to the Embree Bridge area, and then they bought some places around there on the lake, then after that. I don't think they was there very long.

BARBARA: Did they ever talk about Harriman or Albritton at that time? That was before the railroad went through there? Weren't there those little towns there then?

HAROLD: Yeah, but this was long before that.

DOROTHEA: Were there little towns like that when they first came, or just ---

HAROLD: I don't think so. I think it was just ---

DOROTHEA: --- bare country.

HAROLD: Yeah, I think it was just Burns and Harney.

BARBARA: Crane?

HAROLD: Crane wasn't there, I'm sure. Crane was there after Harriman, and Albritton was after Crane quite a bit.

DOROTHEA: Did you know why there became the little off towns like Harriman and Albritton?

HAROLD: Well, everybody had to travel by team and wagon, or something like that, so they only could go maybe 20, 25 miles at a time, so therefore they had to have stops, places for them to stop.

DOROTHEA: So somebody came in and decided well, we'll just build a store here, and name it this town?

HAROLD: Yeah, on account of on a true road, or true trail, or whatever it might be.

DOROTHEA: I often wondered why they picked such an area, because there isn't anything there now. So why did they pick this area to stop at? Was there a ---

HAROLD: Well, if they happened to be coming from Diamond or someplace like that, and Diamond may have been in --- I don't remember whether Diamond, I don't know, he wasn't out there. But there was a --- oh you'd have to look it up in the Towns of Oregon or something. There was one out there by Windy Point, on the west end of Windy Point there was a stage stop there. These were mostly stage stops to start with, I think.

DOROTHEA: And so probably, like we see, and I think they predict in TV movies and things like this, there must have been a family that lived there at one time, or you know, homesteaded there and then they made a stage stop out of it.

HAROLD: Well, that's what my grandfather did out there at Cow Creek, on the east of Harney there.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh. So ---

HAROLD: On my mother's side. Temples have that place now. And it was ---

BARBARA: This was the Poujade's?

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: So your grandfather basically started in by getting a few cows, and just kind of started a little ranch there ---

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: --- around Lawen, is that right?

HAROLD: Yeah, they started raising some cows there.

BARBARA: Did they have horses too, did they raise a few --- or have horses, or just to work with? Did they ever say?

HAROLD: They never raised horses at that time, other than just, yeah, they had some.

BARBARA: Workhorses.

HAROLD: Workhorses, and they probably had a saddle horse or two, I don't know just for sure on how many they had of that.

DOROTHEA: Was there any designated amount of acres that they had to buy or homestead in order to keep it at that time?

HAROLD: Well the first, yeah I think so. Outside of --- there was several ways you could take up land. There was a timber culture that you had to plant trees to take up, and I don't know how many acres that required. Then there was a desert claim, and the Homestead Act, and it seems like there was another one, I don't remember. But the desert claim, you had to be able to get water on every forty acres to take that up. And then of course, your homestead that was, originally was only a 160

acres. Then afterwards why they made, allowed another what they called a grazing homestead, more or less. And that didn't have to, that could be up, could be 160 --- or 620, that would be, 480 I think you could take up additional. They called it additional homesteads, a lot of it. But it was supposedly; it was supposed to be a grazing homestead where you didn't have to farm it or anything like that.

DOROTHEA: So then your dad was born in Lawen?

HAROLD: Well, around there.

DOROTHEA: More or less. Did he happen to mention if there was a doctor, or whether he was born at the house, or if there was a hospital here at that time?

HAROLD: There wasn't any hospital up here, I don't think. And oh, I think it was some midwife probably was all. There was a doctor apparently in Burns, but I don't think, I doubt if they had the -

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DOROTHEA: Now, did he have brothers or sisters?

HAROLD: He had a half-brother that was twelve years older than Dad, and an older sister, and two brothers, and a younger sister.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and the older sister was named Mary also?

HAROLD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: There is a lot of Mary Otleys.

HAROLD: And then Dad, and then Charlie and Dick, and then Annie was the youngest. They also lost a boy in there someplace, but I don't know just where, an infant.

BARBARA: And so did all of your dad's brothers and sisters remain in the Harney County area and do ranching also, or did they move out of the country?

HAROLD: Well no, the brothers all stayed here, and the older sister died. She was born in '86, and she died in 1915, I think.

DOROTHEA: Now you had a half-brother by the name of, or a stepbrother by the name of Fred.

HAROLD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Where did Fred go?

HAROLD: Well, when he left here he went to Cottage Grove, and then to a little town right out of, right there at Crow.

DOROTHEA: Crow? And that's right in there?

HAROLD: Right in there close to Cottage Grove there someplace. And I don't know, he died of cancer in the 19 --- I'm not sure what year, but around 1939 or '40, or somewhere around in there. Or it might have been up to '44, I don't know, I can't remember when he died.

BARBARA: So did the brothers of your father then, did they go together to ranch, or did they each get their own separate places? Or where all did they locate in the county?

HAROLD: Well they, younger brother he bought, ended up buying the Riddle Ranch out there. And Dad's, Charlie Otley he and my dad was partners till just before Charlie died. Then he sold out to the rest of us.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and so this is how you have ended up into the Diamond area?

HAROLD: Well, see in 1944 they, Dick Otley he was at the Riddle Ranch out there in Happy Valley, and he come over to Drewsey, told Dad and Charlie that the Fred Smyth place was for sale, and he thought they could buy it. So they, he come one afternoon and they stayed all night, and then the next morning why Dad and Charlie and my mother went to Diamond and bought the Smyth place, and come home that night. And they had a carpenter hired to build a house out there, and told them they didn't need the house, they just went over and bought that place in that one day. And then afterwards they sold it to Wilber's, Wright Wilber.

DOROTHEA: Is that where Wright lives now?

HAROLD: Yeah. That's where, you know we built that barn, but then they built the houses and the rest of it there.

BARBARA: So there was more land for them to work in the Diamond area than out at Drewsey, or better land, or ---

HAROLD: Well, Dad always liked that Diamond country because he, well, he'd sheared sheep out in there and that, and he liked it, and he thought that Smyth place was the best place there was in the country anywhere. And when they got a chance to buy it, why, he bought it.

BARBARA: So, that's why they left Drewsey then?

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Uh-huh, okay.

DOROTHEA: Okay then, you mentioned your dad sheared sheep; he's done quite a few things besides ranching. He sheared sheep and he ---

HAROLD: Well he did, sheared sheep to help make a living there during the '20's, early '20's. And then in '24, '23, '23 I guess it was why they started to bring that railroad from Crane on to Burns, and he run a, him and Frank Thompson I think it was got a contract there by Saddle Butte to build so much of that road there. And then afterwards, why Dad went over and worked on that market road to Drewsey. And from there they went to the Mitchum place in Silvies Valley to start building the railroad up there.

DOROTHEA: And so how many miles of railroad did he build?

HAROLD: Well, he built from the tunnel; somebody would have to look that up because I don't know how many miles, but he built from the tunnel up into this end of Silvies Valley. I think to about where the Jap camp was.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh. I think that's about where the Mitchum place is, or right around in there.

HAROLD: I think it is right across from it there, I think.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think that's where Mom and Dad bought, wasn't it? Isn't the Mitchum place, now ---

HAROLD: That's the one they bought, that's the one that ---

DOROTHEA: Mervin has.

HAROLD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Well, tell us something about your dad working on the railroads. What kind of a job was this, and what did it take to build those railroads?

HAROLD: Well, most of it was team and fresno. Although he did get, on some of that he got a diesel shovel in there on part of it, in some of those cuts, in some places along there. And then they had a, then after that they was, they brought a steam shovel in. And they, the only place I remember

seeing it work was up there at, I think Wayne is --- Carol has got it now where those springs are, right up there, just before you go into Silvie's Valley. Well, they used it other place too, but they had a hard time a pumping water up to that thing all the time from the creek and that. It was fast, but it was --- they had a hard time keeping water to it. And then --- oh, Dora Johnson's dad was killed on that contract up there.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say, I think he was, I think ---

HAROLD: He, they had drilled and was using black powder, and when they drilled down through, they hit a crevice and a bunch of this powder went off sideways, and didn't go straight down the hole. And when they shot it, that powder that went off sideways didn't blow. And when they was a shoveling, why, they was right --- the shovel was sitting right over that place where that powder went into. Somebody threw a cigarette down, and it rolled off into that hole there and come right up, blowed up right under the shovel. And the concussion, I guess, is what killed Dora's dad. The guy that threw the cigarette, he was actually closer to it, but he didn't get hurt. But some way or other, the concussion of that, I don't know just how it worked, that's all I ever heard about it.

DOROTHEA: There was also a man worked with dynamite a lot. Can you tell us something about him? I can't remember what his name was.

HAROLD: All I know is they called him Bear Dog Brown. And he was, he was working up in the Seneca area there. (Frank) Klobucher was the engineer. He come along and this guy kept a tapping dynamite with a piece of pipe. And this engineer would keep a taking it away from him, and trying to make him use a tamping stick. But as soon as he left why this old Bear Dog Brown would pick up this pipe and go to tamping dynamite with it again. He hit it once too many times, and they said he went up about a quarter of a mile, and then just started coming apart.

DOROTHEA: Oh, golly sake, yeah.

BARBARA: What a way to go, huh?

DOROTHEA: They didn't find him much then did they?

HAROLD: Well, they found everything, I think, but part of his hand. And they found that afterwards, and it was clear down by the river someplace.

DOROTHEA: Oh, golly. Is that the only mishaps that happened during the building of that railroad?

HAROLD: Well, I think it's the only two deaths that happened on it.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. I suppose ---

HAROLD: I wouldn't call Bear Dog Brown an accident, it was plain stupidity. But ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, I think that was, he was trying to prove a point or something. I think he proved it.

HAROLD: But Dad's accident was a plumb accident, because they didn't know that powder had run off like that.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh. So how long did your dad work on jobs like this? And what other kinds of jobs did he do?

HAROLD: Well, see after they got the railroad built there, then, he got the contract to loading cars for the ballast on the road from Burns clear through to Seneca. And he brought the shovel that they had up there, he brought it down, and they --- I think they got a little of the ballast up there in Buck Clemens' field that Delmer's got now. There is a --- you can still see where they, there is a pile of stuff out there in one spot. I think that's where they got some of it. Then they got the rest of it at Hines down here, those cinders. And they got that while they was a building the millpond, and building the mill there.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh.

BARBARA: How did your dad get into the construction type business? Did he have ---

HAROLD: They just had to have some money, so they just started. They had horses and stuff like that, so they just, he just got into it because it was all ---

BARBARA: I mean, he just kind of learned as he went along doing this, or did he pick up from somebody else how to do this kind of work?

HAROLD: They had the engineers there that kept the ---

BARBARA: That helped, told them what needed to be done.

HAROLD: Well, yeah, they had their blueprints and, or I mean, their stakes and everything all the

time. No, it was just a matter that they just had so much dirt to move, and so much rock. Earl Sitz worked for, well all four of the Sitz boys worked for him. And Orthniel and Ora Hayes, and Mac Lowe, and a whole bunch of others that I can't remember.

And, no it was just a matter of running a fresno, and getting dirt and bringing it back up onto the road. And then on, up there along from Fuqua Flat there, see that's where they camped was in Fuqua Flat there at Glen Clemens'. Why some of those cuts had to be shot. Well, one down next to the tunnel had to be shot, too. And they drilled and shoot them, and then take the rock out with a team and fresno. And ---

DOROTHEA: How did they happen to have this kind of equipment, or was it just something that they built themselves, or ---

HAROLD: The fresnos, no, that was an old scraper that used, they used four horses on.

DOROTHEA: Oh, so they, they were something, it was something that was somebody else's.

HAROLD: Yeah, I think they cost about twenty dollars or something like that for a fresno. They used four horses on them, because they was, those fresnos would pull about a yard of dirt.

BARBARA: And so your dad and the other men camped up there during the time that they were constructing the railroad, did they?

HAROLD: Yeah, they had ---

BARBARA: Or did they go home on weekends, or just pretty much stay there?

HAROLD: No, very seldom they went home, anyway. Mother cooked for, I think she cooked for thirty men there.

BARBARA: Well, I was going to ask you, did your mom and you kids stay at the ranch then during this time, or did you move there?

HAROLD: No, she was cooking for the crews.

BARBARA: I see. So you all ended up moving up there around the railroad, and living, camping out during this time?

HAROLD: Yeah, they had, they lived in tents. And then they had a cookhouse on wheels that was, that's where they cooked.

BARBARA: And so, what did you as kids do while your mom was busy cooking, and your dad was working? What did you do to keep busy, or get into trouble, or stay out of trouble, or what?

HAROLD: Well, we didn't really get in much trouble because there was, but we, oh we always had something we could run around and do there.

DOROTHEA: So your dad worked for a while, and then he met your mom somewhere along the line, or how did he meet your mom?

HAROLD: Well, that was before ---

DOROTHEA: He started working?

HAROLD: Oh yeah, they had the place at; he was with his folks there at Lawen and that. See, they was married in 1915.

DOROTHEA: So, where did she come from?

HAROLD: She come from Harney area there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she was from Harney.

HAROLD: Yeah, from the Cow Creek area right there. That's where she had been raised, right there. Well, the place that Temple's got, they tore the old house down.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay, where the stage, where they built the stage, yeah. Okay.

HAROLD: And that old house that's out there, I think it's, the Historical Society's got it, I think. It's right on a little bit to the east and to the south of the road, there is an old house out there.

BARBARA: Big two-story house?

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Yeah, I've often wondered if that was the Poujade's.

HAROLD: My granddad built that house.

BARBARA: Is that right?

HAROLD: And then after he built it, then he got that other place on up, and they built that other one where it was on the, main on the road where they had that was on the road from Drewsey to Burns.

BARBARA: So the other house was not kind of a stage stop then?

HAROLD: I don't think it was.

BARBARA: That was just a house they lived in for a time.

HAROLD: Yeah, and then I think, I don't know, Jack Withers had that afterwards. I don't know just --- But I didn't know my granddad built that for years.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

HAROLD: But they said he built that house. Then the house that they lived in there, built then afterwards, why, it was actually a duplex.

DOROTHEA: Oh. Two people, I mean two families lived ---

HAROLD: Yeah, my granddad and Allen Jones' dad built that.

BARBARA: Kind of unusual for a duplex in that day and age, wasn't it?

HAROLD: Well, a little. Yes, but it was.

BARBARA: Rather than everybody in one, it was better to separate a little bit, huh? That's great.

HAROLD: Well, see they, Allen Jones' dad was my grandmother's brother. Half-brother, I should say. She was a Miller and he was a Jones.

DOROTHEA: Oh my golly.

BARBARA: So that's from the Drewsey area?

DOROTHEA: Drewsey area. We just did an interview with Steve (Miller) here about a month ago. And he was telling us about the Jones and the Millers, and so here we just found out more news.

HAROLD: Well, now what Jones was he talking about, Allen?

DOROTHEA: No.

HAROLD: And what Millers? See this is completely ---

DOROTHEA: Different Millers?

HAROLD: Different Millers.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay, but they're all Millers and Jones.

BARBARA: Like Smiths too, they're everywhere.

HAROLD: No, see Frank Miller was Mom's uncle and Allen Jones uncle, and he was my

grandmother's brother, full brother. Then she had two other sisters, and I didn't --- I met them, but I remember they was --- they lived in Baker over there.

But see her dad was a, he had been captured by the Indians for fourteen years. And he was a doctor after he got away from the Indians. And he used a lot of Indian remedies and stuff.

DOROTHEA: Now, how did he get captured by the Indians, do you know?

HAROLD: Well, they was a coming across the plains, that's all I ever know.

DOROTHEA: And where did he, did they take him?

HAROLD: I have no idea. All I know is that he was supposedly captured by the Indians and with them for fourteen years before he got away. Captured when he was a boy.

DOROTHEA: Did he doctor around this area?

HAROLD: Well, yeah, I guess afterwards. I don't know right in here, but he did in --- before my grandmother married my other grandfather. I don't know how they got here. Why Agness can probably tell you that.

DOROTHEA: And what was his name?

HAROLD: Dory Poujade.

DOROTHEA: Dory Poujade, no, I'm lost there somewhere.

BARBARA: Well, getting back a little bit to during the time that you were up around the Silvies area, and your dad was working on the railroad, did you go to school up there at that time? Or was it during the summertime, or before you started school, or ---

HAROLD: No, I'd started school. I started school in Drewsey when he was over there before they come to Silvies. And then, I don't remember when they come to Silvies, it was in probably March or April, I don't remember. Then I stayed with Floy and Cecil Irving here in Burns. He was running the Standard Oil Plant, and she was my aunt, she was Mom's sister. I stayed with them during the school year. Oh, the first year, and then Dad, they finished that contract up there, or almost finished it. And Mom moved to Burns to send us to school, and that's when Dad started the, loading the cars for ballast there on the railroad, so then he was here, too.

BARBARA: So during this time, they still owned the property in Diamond Valley?

HAROLD: No, at Lawen.

BARBARA: Oh, at Lawen, this was before.

HAROLD: Oh yeah, a long while before.

BARBARA: Okay. So they were in Drewsey, and then came to Silvies, and then came into Burns?

HAROLD: Yeah, they was at Lawen, and then to Silvies, and then --- well they, no, that's right.

They were, but they moved, they was still working on the roads when they went --- then afterwards they went to Drewsey, afterwards in 1930, '36 they moved over there. Because Lawen was dried out, see there was a ten-year drought period there that we never put a mowing machine in the field at Lawen for ten years, from 1928 to 1938. There wasn't any hay at Lawen.

DOROTHEA: No, no moisture apparently.

BARBARA: You had drought years during that time?

HAROLD: It took 160 acres to run three or four head of milk cows.

BARBARA: Gosh, that was bad.

DOROTHEA: So, you're the oldest of three boys.

HAROLD: Uh-huh.

DOROTHEA: And you are how much older than, who is next?

HAROLD: Howard and Charley. I'm two years older than Howard, and he is two years older than Charley, within a few months.

DOROTHEA: So, Charley is the youngest then, okay. So you went to school in Burns?

HAROLD: I went the second, third, and fourth grades in Burns. And then they moved back to Lawen.

DOROTHEA: And then you ---

BARBARA: You went to Crane then?

HAROLD: Then I went to Crane.

DOROTHEA: Went to Crane, okay. You remember some of the teachers that you had?

HAROLD: Yeah, the first teacher I had in Burns was Annette Leonard. And the third grade teacher was Miss McGee, and I can't tell you her first name now.

DOROTHEA: Lelah.

HAROLD: Lena, right.

DOROTHEA: Lelah.

HAROLD: And then I had Mrs. Lowe, and I can't think of her name either. She was married, afterwards she married a Basco --- John Ebar, she married Ebar.

DOROTHEA: Huh, can't think of her name.

HAROLD: Can't think of her first name now, I used to know it. She was one of the best teachers I ever had.

BARBARA: And then did you go to high school at Crane, or part grade school too?

HAROLD: No, I went to ---

BARBARA: All through your grade school here in Burns?

HAROLD: No, in Lawen afterwards.

BARBARA: Okay.

HAROLD: I went through fourth grade here in Burns.

BARBARA: And then out at Lawen.

HAROLD: Then at Lawen.

BARBARA: Then to high school at Crane?

HAROLD: Uh-huh.

DOROTHEA: Did they have the dormitory then? Had they just built it, or had it burned down yet, or ---

HAROLD: No, it hadn't burned down, it burned down in, I don't know, '50 or '51.

DOROTHEA: Well, didn't it burn down twice? Just once?

HAROLD: Just once.

DOROTHEA: I had heard that it burned down twice.

HAROLD: Well, it's possible the school burned down twice before they had the dormitory.

DOROTHEA: Oh, but not the dormitory.

HAROLD: The dormitory, they didn't have the dormitory until --- well, it was pretty new, I think

they built it in 1930, or '30 I think. I started, I went in 1932 is when I started high school there.

BARBARA: And what year did you graduate?

HAROLD: 1936.

BARBARA: So, you went the four years there then.

HAROLD: Uh-huh.

DOROTHEA: Did you go on to college then, or ---

HAROLD: I went, yeah, I went to Oregon State one year, but I run out of money. I never did get back; make enough to get back there at that time.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so who has your dad's place in Diamond? Is that where you live, or ---

HAROLD: Well, they bought, they bought all of that Smyth place there, and we split it up. So I guess the one that Charley has got, the old Smyth house that was there, the old stone house.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh.

HAROLD: And they built across the, and then he built alongside that house. Howard was, already had had a house across the creek.

DOROTHEA: Now Howard's place is out where the Jess and --- oh, what was their last names?

Harvey and Jessie, is that where Howard's place is?

HAROLD: Oh, you mean, you don't mean Hamilton?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HAROLD: No, no, that was on west of us.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see.

HAROLD: Next place west. Mrs. Clemens bought that now. She bought that from Harvey.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Mrs. Rex Clemens?

HAROLD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So what is Diamond, and how did it get its name? It's called Diamond, or Diamond Valley?

HAROLD: Well, Diamond Valley, and when they put the store and the hotel up there; they called it Diamond, and the post office. Where Jenkins lived, if I think, the fellow, I don't know the guy's

name. But Pete French bought that land from him, and he had, his brand was a diamond. So after Pete bought that ranch from him why they called that the Diamond Ranch, and then that just become the Diamond Valley, then after that.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

BARBARA: So, how big an area are we talking about for a valley?

HAROLD: Well, you ask hard questions, don't you? (Laughter)

BARBARA: Gosh, I better take it back, huh?

HAROLD: No, I can kind of half figure it, but it won't be accurate.

BARBARA: Well, we're in generalizations here. I drove up there, we drove up through there once with Marcus (Haines), and it seemed pretty big to me, so that's ---

HAROLD: There's at least, probably 6,000 acres right in the valley there.

DOROTHEA: It took us quite a while to get there, and we drove through it, and drove, and drove, and drove. So, I mean, we were there all day.

HAROLD: I don't know, it could be a little more than that, but there is somewhere around 6,000 or a little better in the, just in the valley there. Of course, what you're doing, that valley runs clear on down and through into the refuge, you see, clear on down to the Blitzen River. Actually, is all part of that same valley, but they don't call it that. When you come to that, well, where the pavement ends there now, from there on down, why, they call that New Diamond.

BARBARA: Oh, really?

HAROLD: And Eastern Oregon Livestock, or Swift and Company, they had that ranch right there, just right at the right-hand side, well, it would be the left hand side as you're going to Diamond. Just where the pavement ends, or comes together there now, that was what they called New Diamond. And there is 6,000 acres right, from there on down to the river, in there.

BARBARA: And so is the valley a little warmer than maybe areas around here, or does it have really good soil, or what makes it such a great place to be up in that area?

HAROLD: Well, actually it gets a little more moisture most of the time. And it's generally 10, 15, 20 degrees warmer than it is in Burns, unless it gets down to around 20, 25, 20, or 30 below zero

then they will equal out pretty close. But if Burns has got 20 degrees below zero here, it will probably be 10 degrees below out there.

BARBARA: Uh-huh. So, it's just kind of a little bit of a banana belt. You kind of ---

HAROLD: Well, yeah, and I don't know why, unless it's that lava beds there that ---

BARBARA: That has heat there?

HAROLD: Or else, but there is a warm --- from Frenchglen, oh I'd say 20 miles wide, or 25 miles wide, and maybe 30 miles long, why there is this, there is an area there that is a little warmer than a lot of other places.

BARBARA: And is your soil better there for growing, do you think, or is it pretty much the same?

HAROLD: No, I don't think so. Part of it may be, part of it isn't.

BARBARA: But just because of a little more moisture and a little warmer temperature, you have a better growing ---

HAROLD: Well, you got that high mountain there that ---

BARBARA: Protects it there?

HAROLD: Well, no, I wouldn't say it protects, well, it may be, but what it does it gets a bigger snow pack, partly because there is no timber on it, or there wasn't until the junipers got so thick. But the top of it hasn't got any timber on it, so any snow that falls blows and drifts. And when it drifts into those canyons, it's just like having a dam up here someplace and letting the water, store the water. Those drifts is just, makes a ---

BARBARA: Makes a blanket up there of it.

HAROLD: Well, yeah, just makes a reservoir is what it actually does. And you see, some of those drifts in the Kiger Gorge up there will get, oh they will be three or four hundred feet out from the rim. And that far, or farther down, they might be four or five hundred feet deep.

DOROTHEA: Oh. And those are drifts?

HAROLD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: From off of the top? Huh.

HAROLD: And that takes a long, a lot of time that snow never leaves, you see.

BARBARA: Never, yeah.

HAROLD: Then there will be another year, then it will all leave. And then it may build back up for two or three years.

BARBARA: So sometimes it helps you when you have a drought year because you have a little ---

HAROLD: Yeah, that snow stays in there, and it's shaded there in the Kiger. Now the McCoy don't do that so much, nor does the Blitzen do it so much. Although the Blitzen does get some of that drift off of the Little Indian, or the Little Blitzen and the Big Indian. They'll get some of them drifts in that. But McCoy is more flat, it, the snow comes off of there. It's about the same length, the creek is, is Kiger. But the snow comes off faster because it's flatter and there is not the big rims on it that there is on Kiger.

BARBARA: Okay, can we go back just a little bit? I want to get in my mind here how everybody got here, and all the moving around until you got back up to Diamond Valley here. Your family came into Lawen, your dad, I mean, with his folks, and his dad. And as he grew up then he stayed around in the Lawen area. Then they went to Harney and Drewsey.

HAROLD: No, they went to Drewsey.

BARBARA: Drewsey first.

HAROLD: Well, that's after they bought some places over at Drewsey during that drought period in the '30's.

BARBARA: From Lawen to Drewsey. And then he worked, came over to the railroad?

HAROLD: No, that was before he bought the places in Drewsey.

BARBARA: Okay.

HAROLD: That was in 1920 --- see the railroad got to Burns in '24. '25, '26, and '27, why, he was working the railroad up this way, and loading cars on the ballast. And '27 and '28 they went back to Lawen, then dried up again in '28. Then they contracted haying then for PLS Company and for the Bell-A here.

BARBARA: So during the depression time, it really affected your family a lot by having to do these other types of jobs because you didn't have a ranch built up enough to get money coming in

then?

HAROLD: Well, during part of the '30's the lake started drying up and they started farming the lake. As the water went ---

BARBARA: Along the meander line.

HAROLD: --- off of the meander line there, why they went down there and they just followed the water down and disked that ground up and seeded it to grain. And they raised grain hay there for, oh three years or so anyway. And that's when it was all dried up, and the meadows was dried up. But the lake, as it went down, is when they had that --- they had fabulous crops out there in that lake.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, this is what I've understood. And then the lake goes dry, and then they don't have anything. And I understand that they've grown great grain crops.

HAROLD: I cut in 1932; see, they had to buy a tractor to farm that to start with. Because that lake cracked, cracked sort of like that, this way and all over it. They couldn't work a horse on that.

BARBARA: Oh, stepping in the holes all the time.

HAROLD: Yeah, they just couldn't work on it. So they had to have a tractor in order to disk that. As soon as it was disked, they could harrow it and seed it with horses. But they couldn't work a horse on it; you couldn't hardly ride a saddle horse over that lakebed.

DOROTHEA: Huh, because of the cracks?

HAROLD: Because of the cracks. Of course, you couldn't get him out of a walk anyplace, except unless you was on a trail that the cows had made. They'd take one place and pretty soon ---

SIDE B

HAROLD: I come from, I'd went to Buena Vista, Dick Otley had a contract with Swift and Company, or Eastern Oregon, whichever you want to call it, haying over there. And he hayed at Buena Vista and Krumbo, I don't know what else. I stayed with him at Buena Vista. Ground sickles for him over there, and then I brought the tractor back to the lake to cut hay, the grain hay on the lake there. And they had a section of grain in; they put in down there. And then Dad took a

contract from; I don't remember their names, two older fellows that, two old bachelors had 40 acres apiece in down there. And they had a different kind of oats, and I couldn't see over the tops of those oats standing on the tractor seat. They was over eight feet tall.

DOROTHEA: Oh, how would you combine something like that?

HAROLD: Well, I don't think they combined those.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they just cut it?

HAROLD: They just cut them for hay. And I don't know, they had, they raised their combine as high as they could and went through --- old Silent Bob Hawkins is the one that mostly done most of the combining down there. They, those oats run, well Dad's and Charlie's they went someplace and they got some oats, but they were a smaller stemmed oat than a lot of them. There was, they called them a red oat. They were, had a little more reddish color than most oats. And they went 90, about 99 bushels to the acre. And some of those other oats was going over that.

DOROTHEA: Huh. That's a good crop.

BARBARA: You say Dick; this was your dad's brother? You said when you were at Dick's place.

HAROLD: Yeah, he was contracting over there.

BARBARA: Did we get your father's, and the names of the brothers and sisters? Did we get that earlier?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Okay.

HAROLD: And then they just moved down there in the wintertime. They'd get some people; they went down there and feed, fed the cattle right down there. They fenced it and fed the cattle right down there. And all they had to do was just dig a well by hand there, to pump water with and that down there, to feed those cattle.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we were talking to Hilton Whiting, and he said that they would move down there in the wintertime, and that's where they fed them. And they would live in these tents, more or less, and apparently it wasn't as cold as it was elsewhere, or they surely couldn't have survived in those tents.

HAROLD: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well, I guess. (Laughter)

HAROLD: It was pretty cold.

DOROTHEA: But ---

BARBARA: So how many people were farming, or growing grain around the lake there then?

HAROLD: The whole thing was farmed. And I can't tell you how ---

BARBARA: Did you just go down and say, "This is mine." Or how did the people divide it up?

HAROLD: Well, they just went down. Yeah, more or less that way. They'd just go down, see Dad and Charlie they took about a section. And the next year, that was no good to farm because it didn't have any moisture. So they went down another mile, took another section there, and that's the way they did. Ausmus' put a lot of grain in down there; they farmed it longer than anybody did.

BARBARA: More or less first-come, first-served, more or less?

HAROLD: Oh, kind of, yeah, kind of. Mostly, the people around there more than anything. But there was other people from, some from Burns went down there and farmed that. And I think that Hilton Whiting's dad farmed, had a little down there, I don't remember how much.

BARBARA: Were there any fights over land during this time?

HAROLD: Not that I know of.

BARBARA: Uh-huh.

DOROTHEA: Grandpa had some too, I know the ---

HAROLD: Did he have some down there, too?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, because he and Hilton stayed together. And Grandpa was growing grain down there and feeding cattle, so he must have had some down there, too.

HAROLD: Yeah. I don't remember all of the people that had grain down there. I was going to school most of the time anyway, so I didn't, at that time.

BARBARA: You just worked a little bit before it was time to go back to school again?

HAROLD: Well yeah, we helped them hay, and maybe go down on a weekend or something to help.

DOROTHEA: Well, tell us, when you first got started into the cattle business, where did you feed your cattle? Did you have range, or did you just feed them on your own property?

HAROLD: Well, like I say, my granddad when he come in, they went out there by the Embree Bridge, and I guess he cut some hay there someplace, I don't know. Then he went down to the, to Lawen, below Lawen right there, and there was some people already homesteaded some of that, and he bought some of those homesteads down there. That's about all I know about that part of it. I know that's what, that's the way they moved. But I don't think, I think that was all homesteaded already and he bought that there.

DOROTHEA: So, how did they winter them, I mean, did they have at that time, have land that they could cut hay on?

HAROLD: Yeah, that was down there around the lake; they could cut hay on that.

DOROTHEA: And that's how they wintered them. And so, that's how they got started. How about cattle drives?

HAROLD: Well, they, I guess when they'd take cattle before the railroad come in, why, they would make up a, several of their neighbors and stuff, they'd make up a bunch and then drive them to maybe to Ontario or some shipping point. PLS Company, they went to Winnemucca all the time with theirs.

DOROTHEA: This was to sell them?

HAROLD: Well, yeah, they shipped them. You see, old Henry Miller had all that; I don't know what all he had. Had butcher shops and everything else, I think, down there. Anyway, when he sold them, why, they went to Winnemucca and was shipped from Winnemucca to San Francisco, or wherever. And I know Dad went; they took a bunch of cattle to Ontario one time.

DOROTHEA: Did you, were you ever old enough to join in on this?

HAROLD: No, no the railroad had come in by the time I was old enough to --- and see Crane, that was the largest shipping point anywhere in Oregon for quite awhile, shipping cattle and sheep out. There was more cattle and sheep went out of Crane than any place in Oregon.

DOROTHEA: Did your dad ever have any sheep?

HAROLD: No, my uncle did. Dick had some sheep for a couple years, one time.

DOROTHEA: How did your dad learn to shear them then, if he didn't have any?

HAROLD: Just had to.

DOROTHEA: He just did. Steve Miller said he tried shearing sheep, but he didn't do a very good job. He said the sheep looked like he'd butchered them, and so he didn't do it anymore.

HAROLD: Well, I think Dad was probably pretty careful, but he wasn't a fast sheep shearer. Well, there was several of the other fellows that he sheared with was real fast. Old Pat George, and Henry George I guess was one of the fastest shearers. They were from this country here, too. And they went clear up into Montana, shearing sheep one year.

DOROTHEA: Your dad went with them?

HAROLD: Yeah. I don't know much about that. He'd shear sheep and be gone most of the summer to shear sheep to make a living. I think they was a getting probably ten cents, or something like that for ---

DOROTHEA: A sheep?

HAROLD: Yeah, or less.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, because it doesn't take very long to shear a sheep if you're fairly ---

HAROLD: If you're fast.

DOROTHEA: --- good, yeah. Daddy got ---

BARBARA: If you're slow, you starve to death, huh?

HAROLD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Daddy could shear a sheep in twenty-five minutes, and that's not fast.

HAROLD: No.

DOROTHEA: But he would work with some shearers and they would have theirs all done, and he'd have one side done. So that's not fast.

HAROLD: Well, Dad, I think Dad could average around a 150 sheep a day. But ---

DOROTHEA: That's back breaking work.

HAROLD: One of the Georges, Henry George I think it was, why he could average about 200.

DOROTHEA: Say in an eight-hour day, how many is that? Two hundred --- how many is that in an hour?

HAROLD: Well it's about 24, isn't it, or am I mixed up?

DOROTHEA: I'm not a good mathematician, so --- but that's a lot of sheep, anyway. So let's go on and find out --- I do know that later in, since you've taken on the ranch, that you do go on cattle drives. And you and Stub Currey went on one for a history kind of a thing, I think.

HAROLD: Yeah, we went down, we followed the route that the old PLS Company went down to Winnemucca on. And I got him to do that; I had been over part of it in 1936 when Ted Carson was working for the Alvord Ranch. Gus Davis and, oh who was that other big fellow's name? But the Alvord Ranch, they had it leased, and I helped him take cattle from Crane to the Alvord Ranch in 1936, in March. We had to camp out, because the cattle was thin, and they wouldn't travel fast enough. We camped out on the --- well we went to Princeton the first day, which was eleven miles from Crane. Then we went to the Griffin place, the Griffith place, which was Henry Griffith. He was, there was three of them boys, and I don't remember, I don't know only Henry, he was the county agent here for a while.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh.

HAROLD: Then the next day, we was supposed to get to the Juniper Ranch, but we camped out on Juniper Grade that night. And then stayed over a day at Juniper Ranch and let the cattle rest. And then we went to Mann Lake, and then on to the Alvord.

DOROTHEA: Well, did you and Stub ride this horseback?

HAROLD: No, no, we went in a car. Stub and his wife, and Pauline Braymen, I took them over, I took them on that. We went over the Juniper, old Juniper Grade.

DOROTHEA: It must be so you can drive a vehicle across it?

HAROLD: Yeah, but they got it, I wasn't sure we was going to make it for a while. After we got off of the grade on the other side, they had that ditched until I didn't know whether we was going to be able to get across it or not, but we did. They got it, there is kind of a reservoir from the lake, and one thing and another, runs down there, runs into the lake, part of it. It was kind of hard to tell

whether you was going to get there or not for a while.

BARBARA: You might have been spending a little longer than you figured there.

HAROLD: Yeah, I could have.

BARBARA: So then, you went all the way down, that the cattle drive went then?

HAROLD: Yeah, until we got to Serrano Point, and then from Serrano Point they went almost straight south to where the Trout Creek Mountains starts then. And then there is the Trout Creek Ranch, the PLS Company had there. And then the next, see they went from, let's see, the Trout Creek Ranch, and then they went to the Dufurrena Ranch, and from there they went to Quinn River Crossing, and I suppose they got that on that other tape anyway that Stub did.

DOROTHEA: I don't know, because we didn't listen to it.

HAROLD: Oh, you haven't listened to it. We had to jump around on the road in one place because there was some fences and stuff, we didn't know whether we could --- Stub showed us where the road, the old drive went through, but we was afraid to take off across that because things had changed and we wasn't sure that we could jump around it and come back in on the other side there and follow it down.

DOROTHEA: Now, do you know why they did this ride, or were they on a special mission, or ---

HAROLD: Oh yeah, there was, no PLS Company had all these ranches down there and they'd pick up cattle from each one of them ranches as they was going to Winnemucca, to ship.

DOROTHEA: Oh, and so it was shipping time in other words?

HAROLD: Yeah. And we had a dog when I was just a kid, that he'd disappear for two or three weeks at a time, and I don't know how many times he went down there. But he'd hear these cattle bawling as they was coming by north of Lawen there, or at Lawen, north of our place. He'd disappear and we didn't know where he went. And finally, Uncle Charlie had him one day when he was a riding, and he run on to Bill Thompson and Ross Thompson and them, and looked at him, and said, "Well, that's who owns that dog, huh?" And then they told him; I think it was six or seven trips he made to Winnemucca with them.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

BARBARA: He just liked to get out there and go on a little trip.

HAROLD: Oh, he just loved cattle; he'd go anyplace, wherever he could hear cattle, why he'd go.

DOROTHEA: He liked cattle. Was he a good cow dog?

HAROLD: Yeah, excellent.

DOROTHEA: Well, so he wasn't a hindrance to these people either?

HAROLD: Oh no, they liked him.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they didn't chase him off.

BARBARA: So growing up, did you have pets, or were they mostly working dogs, or ---

HAROLD: Oh, no, they were more working dogs than anything.

DOROTHEA: Was your ---

HAROLD: Why, he was a pet, though, of course, but then I mean he was ---

BARBARA: He liked to get out there and do his job too, huh?

HAROLD: Yeah, when he was just a little pup, why, Dad was shearing, and the grass would grow up out there, so he couldn't see over it. And Mom would pick him up so he could see where the milk cows was off out there, oh maybe a half a mile or so. And he'd go bring the cows in.

DOROTHEA: Kind of like a sheep dog.

HAROLD: Yeah, he was just a natural that way.

DOROTHEA: Boy, you can't find many of those.

BARBARA: What kind of jobs did you have to do around the place as you were growing up? Did you have any inside jobs? You and your brothers ever help your mom, or was it mostly out in the ---

HAROLD: Oh, yes. No, we helped in the house some. Then when we got old enough, well, we done a lot of the riding in the '30's because we had cattle running in the valley here. They'd come off of the mountain up there because it was dry. We'd ride them and shove them onto the lake down there during that drought period. Because once that was farmed one year, then the next year that would grow up with foxtail, just a mass of foxtail. That was, cows would come in on that and do real well. The calves would start getting fat and everything.

DOROTHEA: As long as you got it before the tails started.

BARBARA: What was your brand, the Otley family brand, as you were growing up, your dad's?

HAROLD: My granddad bought, I've got that brand now. My granddad bought some cows from an old Mark Maxman, and it had the emblem of the Isle of Man, is what it was.

DOROTHEA: Emblem of what?

HAROLD: The Isle of Man. It's a little island off the coast of England, and it's (draws brand) well, it's shaped like that.

DOROTHEA: Oh. Does it blotch?

HAROLD: Huh?

DOROTHEA: Does it blotch?

HAROLD: Nope.

DOROTHEA: Looks like a running man.

HAROLD: Well, that's what they always called it, but it's the emblem of the Isle of Man.

BARBARA: So that was your dad's?

HAROLD: My granddad's.

BARBARA: Your granddads, okay.

HAROLD: And then after he died, well, my uncle got it, and then he gave it to me. It's Otley Brothers brand now. But Dad he, O-3 was his brand, and Charley's got it now. And then Dick Otley, he had a, the Riddle Ranch has got it now, Allan has. He called it the 3 Wrench Y. He just put a, made a Y and then put a little, I guess you don't care if I do that, do you? (Draws on paper.)

DOROTHEA: Nope.

HAROLD: Well, he put one leg up. That's supposed to be equal, but I ---

DOROTHEA: And they call that a Wrench Y?

HAROLD: Yeah, he called it the 3 Wrench Y. He kind of picked up the old ... from the Island Ranch, I mean that's the way he made his little wrenches, he got it from that. Only he just put it on a Y there.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh.

BARBARA: So what kind of numbers are we talking about that your dad finally got cows and ---

during the time that you were growing up? Were they able to get enough to start making a living on them?

HAROLD: Oh yeah. They had, ended up with about 1500 head. Before he died there was ---

DOROTHEA: Well, did you boys all work with your dad then for a while?

HAROLD: Oh yeah, yeah, we did when they was over at Drewsey. And then I got my back hurt and I went to Juntura and was a mechanic for about four years. Then I went back to the ranch after that. My back kind of got so I could work without hurting it all the time.

DOROTHEA: So how, and in this time, when and where did you meet your wife?

HAROLD: Well, I met her, I was at, I met her in here at Burns when she came in and taught school here in 1948.

DOROTHEA: And you were working where, or doing what?

HAROLD: I was at Drewsey, or at Diamond then.

DOROTHEA: Ranching already?

HAROLD: Yeah. I had a friend from Juntura, Pete O'Toole that taught school up here. I would come in and visit him and I met Mary (Alderson) there.

DOROTHEA: So when did you get married?

HAROLD: September 3rd, 1949.

DOROTHEA: Oh, just before fair time.

HAROLD: Well, I wasn't in the fair at that time.

BARBARA: So, what did you do while you were courting Mary? Did you go to dances, movies, and things like that?

HAROLD: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: So you mainly just got to see her on weekends, then probably?

HAROLD: Yeah, mostly.

DOROTHEA: Did she teach P.E. at that time? She was a physical ed teacher?

HAROLD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: All the time?

BARBARA: And where did Mary come from? Where did she grow up?

HAROLD: Independence, Oregon.

DOROTHEA: Why did she come to Burns, was it just a job opening, or did she, had she been here?

HAROLD: Well, she was teaching, she had taught at Salem High, and there wasn't any, she was a young teacher and had ambition, and the teacher that was there, she didn't, she was an elderly lady, and she didn't want to stir anything up. So, Mary saw there wasn't any future in what she wanted to do, training, or physical education for these kids, so she got this thing, become an opening, so she come out here to be the head of her own department.

DOROTHEA: And so you got married, and how many children do you have?

HAROLD: Three.

DOROTHEA: And what are their names?

HAROLD: Harry is the oldest, and Sherry, Sherry Stott now, and then Fred.

DOROTHEA: And do they, any of them ranch?

HAROLD: Fred only, now. He is on the ranch here. Sherry and her husband have the greenhouse at Redmond. Harry, he married Bob and Peggy Sitz's daughter.

DOROTHEA: And she is another Mary.

HAROLD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: When you count Mary's in the family, and there was Mary Otley, Mary Otley, Mary Otley, how many Mary Otleys is there?

HAROLD: Well, I guess if you go back far enough, there is lots of them. My granddad's sister was Mary, and they went back clear to England.

DOROTHEA: If you were to compare ranching today with ranching in your growing up years, tell us some of the major changes that you've seen take place.

HAROLD: Well, most of it is done with machinery now. At that time, it was, horses was the way it was handled. Haying was handled by horses, and you used horses to pull your wagons when you pitched the hay onto the rack, and then go out and pitched it off. Now it's all machinery that does

that, most every place. I don't know if anybody really hardly ever uses horses anymore for feeding, but some of them do once in awhile.

DOROTHEA: Makes life a lot easier, in other words, you're saying.

HAROLD: Yeah, it's not as cold because you can be inside quicker.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Those tractors with the heated cabs, and the music and all that now are a lot nicer too, huh?

HAROLD: But then you didn't have trailers, so you, when you was riding, you rode out it might be 20 miles, or it might be 30, and then you ---

DOROTHEA: Made a long day.

HAROLD: Made a ride, and then you come back.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh.

HAROLD: And you didn't get in a pickup and a trailer to do it. You rode maybe; you might ride 50, 60 miles to, in a day's ride.

DOROTHEA: That's why they had riding camps.

HAROLD: That was one of the reasons, yeah. You'd ride up there, and then you'd ride out from there, and it wouldn't be so many miles.

DOROTHEA: Do you pack a lunch now, or does somebody come and meet you with a hot ---

HAROLD: Well, I guess we pack a lunch, I think they all do now. I quit riding because it got to bothering me some. But no, the last, we didn't used to pack a lunch. I mean, we'd eat breakfast, and we'd eat supper. We didn't pack a lunch.

DOROTHEA: The reason I asked that is because Clinton now packs a lunch.

HAROLD: And he didn't used to.

DOROTHEA: And when we first got married, we moved to the riding camp, and we cooked lunch, and then they'd eat lunch when they came in. They ate breakfast at 6 o'clock in the morning, and then they ate lunch, which sometimes was 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Now they pack lunch, and we don't go to the riding camp.

HAROLD: Well, that's kind of the way it is now.

DOROTHEA: So, like you say, you go in the trailers and you ride from one place to the other, instead of riding a 100 miles you're only riding 25.

HAROLD: You don't get as gentle a horses --- I mean you have to have gentler horses now than you used to.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, because you didn't ride, you don't ride them down as far. My son only has one horse, and he rides him for three days. And I said he'd never have done that earlier.

HAROLD: No, he couldn't have done it earlier.

DOROTHEA: No, so ---

HAROLD: Well, there is a lot of things happened in the earlier times here. Alan Catterson, he was always riding a horse. If he didn't buck, he wasn't any good.

BARBARA: A little frisky, huh?

DOROTHEA: Well, a lot of them, that's how they broke their horses.

HAROLD: Oh, that's the way they broke them, yeah. He just, you just got on them and took off.

DOROTHEA: Took off.

HAROLD: He had one horse there he couldn't rope on one day, and him and I was riding up on the Stinkingwater country there, and I'd went up around from cattle, and started to bring them back down. And I looked over, and it was kind of a bare hillside there, and Alan was riding that, or "Jiggs", whatever you want to call him, he was riding this one horse he couldn't rope on. So I looked over, and that horse was a going in every direction there was, bucking and a running and a kicking. Got over there and Alan had decided he was going to make that horse so he could rope on him, so he just half-hitched the, his rope in the middle and stuck it on the, over the saddle horn and then he just threw the ends both directions. And that horse was scared half to death, and he was running all over that hillside. (Laughter) But then, he could ride anything.

DOROTHEA: Well, now, you know, you used to get on your horse, and you might run it around the corral two or three times, or have somebody take a hold of the lead rope, and then you'd ride behind them for a mile or two, and then off you'd go by yourself. Now, you run them around the

corral, and you run around the corral, you run them around the corral, and then you put the stirrups down and you run them around the corral some more, and then you take off riding. And that way, that horse gets well broke, but it takes a lot of running around the corral.

HAROLD: Yeah, I never did, I never did do that.

DOROTHEA: You didn't? That's the nowadays way. So let's get into how you started getting on these Fair Boards and School Boards, and County Courts, and all this.

HAROLD: Oh, I don't, I guess in one way, I don't know. Ray Novotny was here when they asked me if I'd sit on the, be on the county; it wasn't the fair board; it was a director on the county association, Harney County Fair Association. So that's when I started in, and I can't remember when that was, can't remember the first year that was. I think it was '60, or '61, but I'm not sure. Because I don't remember when, don't remember when Ray left here. But I was on a couple years before he left, and then that's when I ---

Then I helped with the racing a couple of years when Butch Arntz was running it. Then he got killed, and then that's when I got Pete back in there. Because I was the only one that had had anything to do with that racing, and I knew I didn't know anything. I got Pete ---

BARBARA: Clemens?

DOROTHEA: Clemens.

HAROLD: George McGee and I got Pete back in there then to help with it, to run the racing. And then it just kind of went from there. I don't know what I ---

DOROTHEA: And so, let's see, you ended up being, you were director, or how did you get ---

HAROLD: Well, I was a director for, until after, oh, what was it, 19 --- I don't remember when I went on as a fair board member, but it was after I was president of the Fair Association in 1970 and '71 I think. It was after that sometime I went on the fair board.

DOROTHEA: On the board. And about that time is when it got changed from an association to a -
--

HAROLD: No, that was just the last four or five years.

DOROTHEA: Is that all its been?

HAROLD: Yeah. And the reason for that is because the directors were kind of elected, fact is they were elected at that time. And they weren't, the county court and the fair board was liable for them. I mean, if they had absconded with a bunch of money, we'll just say it that way, that's isn't the --- but if they'd of made a big mistake and cost a pile of money, why the fair board and the county court was liable for it. And we couldn't put them under the tort law, so that's when this changed. Bud Garland, when he was treasurer of the fair board, he kept a telling us; he says you're going to get in trouble if you don't do something. I mean, we could. So far, nothing has happened, but I mean, I hope it never does. But ---

BARBARA: You need to protect yourself.

HAROLD: You see now then, so the directors now are, they are elected, but they're --- then after they're more or less selected, they're appointed by the fair board. And that can put them under the, come under the tort law, then on that. That was the reason for that.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And so you were on the fair board for about, all total, 30 years?

HAROLD: No, I was with the fair for 30 or 31 years, something like that.

DOROTHEA: And in this time you've also, you were also the president of the State Association?

HAROLD: Yeah, I was president of the State Association, let's see, was that '84 and '85, or '83 and '84, I forget which it was now.

DOROTHEA: And during this time, you are also a member of the county court. Now, how did you get on ---

HAROLD: No, I'm on the budget board.

DOROTHEA: You're on the budget board, okay.

HAROLD: And Frank White appointed, or got me appointed on that. I think each one of the county court members can appoint a budget board member. That was reason --- that was, at one time that's the way it was. And when Frank White went on as a, on the county court he asked me if I would be on the budget board.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and you're still on that.

HAROLD: I'm still on the budget board.

DOROTHEA: You're still with that.

HAROLD: Then I was elected as a director on the Harney Electric Association, and I've been on that about 12 or 14 years, something like that, or more.

DOROTHEA: Have you been on any school boards, or ---

HAROLD: I was on the school board at Diamond for, once. And then after, I resigned then when Mary --- Hank Slater come out and asked her if she'd come in and teach in the Slater Grade School here. Why when she come in here, why I didn't have kids in school out there, so I resigned from the board out there.

DOROTHEA: And that was on the Crane-Princeton-Diamond ---

HAROLD: No, Diamond.

DOROTHEA: Diamond.

HAROLD: Board.

BARBARA: Do you enjoy working on the budgets and the boards and the electric ---

HAROLD: I do enjoy working on the budget board and them. The fair board, I always enjoyed that too, until just the last year or two, and it just got --- I just got to the point where those late meetings, I just didn't feel like driving home. That was my main, one reason that I didn't.

DOROTHEA: Well, isn't it like 46 miles or something like that?

HAROLD: It's 50, about 55 miles out.

DOROTHEA: Fifty-five miles. So you've got a good hour or more drive after ---

HAROLD: Yeah, you got an hour, or at night it's more than that for me because I don't drive that fast at night.

BARBARA: You've got to watch out for critters.

HAROLD: I can drive it in an hour in the daytime, but I don't at night.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's what I was going to say, after ---

HAROLD: It might take me two and a half or three hours if I have to go to sleep someplace out there.

DOROTHEA: After 10 o'clock at night it's kind of hard, and the animals like to get out in front of

you a lot. Well, in 1992, you served as the grand marshal. Tell us something about how you get on this, and how you were appointed that?

HAROLD: Oh, they just appointed me down there at one ---

DOROTHEA: One day, huh?

HAROLD: Yeah, one evening. Don Opie, he went to pushing on that. I could have done without that.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that.

BARBARA: Well, didn't you enjoy it though, when all your family came and had a nice little gathering?

HAROLD: Well, certain things.

BARBARA: Certain parts of it, huh?

HAROLD: But what I didn't enjoy about it anymore is I don't ride, and I just don't feel comfortable on a horse anymore. And that was one of the main reasons I just didn't really want to do it.

DOROTHEA: Did you ride a horse?

HAROLD: Yeah, but I just didn't, I didn't enjoy it, because I just don't ride much anymore. I can't hardly get on, my arms, I just don't feel good.

BARBARA: It's just not where you want to be?

HAROLD: Not anymore, no.

BARBARA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Clint has got the same problem with his arm as you do.

HAROLD: It's hard for me to get on a horse anymore.

DOROTHEA: It is him too, he can't hardly use his left arm, it's his left arm he can't hardly use.

HAROLD: Well, it's my right one more than it is my left one. But it makes it --- but no, I don't feel comfortable on a horse anymore. Didn't used to bother me, I mean --- I never did ride in the, at the fair down here.

BARBARA: You never did any rodeoing, or ---

HAROLD: No, I left that up to "Jiggs" Catterson. (Laughter) But we was always riding something

out on the, at the range or someplace out there. They, running a bunch of horses or something, we might just, if we wasn't doing anything, we might just get on one with a mane and ride them bareback. But I never did, I never did rodeo.

BARBARA: Didn't rope or ride bucking horses or ---

HAROLD: Huh?

BARBARA: You didn't rope or ride bucking horses or things like that at the fair?

HAROLD: Well, not in the rodeo.

DOROTHEA: So now that you are more or less retired from all of this stuff, what are you going to do? Are you planning on traveling a little bit, or---?

HAROLD: No way.

DOROTHEA: You don't like to travel?

HAROLD: I just got back from Vancouver, British Columbia, and I don't, I never lost anything up there.

DOROTHEA: You didn't.

HAROLD: I sat through ---

DOROTHEA: How about your grandson? Did he play a good game?

HAROLD: Well, yes, he did.

DOROTHEA: Talking about grandsons, how many grandchildren do you have?

HAROLD: Well, counting Fred's and Debbi's two boys, Debbi's boys actually, why, we've got eight.

DOROTHEA: All boys, or ---

HAROLD: One girl.

DOROTHEA: One girl. Who has the girl?

HAROLD: Sherry.

DOROTHEA: Sherry has the girl.

HAROLD: Our youngest one is a girl.

DOROTHEA: You like kind of genealogy, how do you pronounce that, genealogy? I understood

that you kind of went to England and kind of looked up some of your history, family history.

HAROLD: Yeah, I tried to, but I couldn't find very much back there. One thing I'd called Dad's cousin and asked him to give me all the information he could, and he didn't give me very much. And I went back there and I dug through this and that and a few other things. There is a skip in there; I couldn't tie part of it together. And I think part of the reason is because there was some, part of the Library of London, part of it had been bombed and there was a couple of books that I found I should have had, and they could not find those books in the library. They said they had them, I mean they were supposed to be there, but they never could find them, and I think they must have been in part of that that was bombed.

And the guard there said that, oh, he said the Germans was trying to miss that when they bombed that during the Second World War. He said they needed that information that was in that library, had they have invaded the country and taken it, see. He says I know that they were trying to miss that, but they did pretty near miss it, but they got part of it. But I didn't find a lot back there. I found where my granddad had died. And his house was still standing.

And then after I got back, I found the, somebody dug up ... my --- they had a, there was quite a mansion that was out from London a ways, that they went out and stayed in the summertime a lot. Now, I didn't know that so I, or where it was at until after I got back.

DOROTHEA: Until after you got back.

HAROLD: And see his, my granddad's father, when he died; he was 59, or something like that. He died in 1859, and he was, he had a seat on the London Exchange. And they, then, after he died, why, my great-grandmother, she come to this country because she had two brothers over here in Iowa. She come over, and they settled there in Iowa. And they paid her, after he died; they paid her until she died from this London Exchange. And then nothing ever, nobody ever knows what happened to the rest of the, if there was any money left or anything else.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

HAROLD: But I didn't know part of that when I was back there.

BARBARA: Just disappeared, huh?

HAROLD: And then after my granddad, then he was 14 when he come here, and he was, he was a wrestling on the Mississippi River there, rafted logs down the Mississippi for quite a few years. And then he married, and his wife, and I don't know what her name was now. But she got tuberculosis and her folks had moved to California, they sent her out there to California; thought maybe the climate would help her. But she died out there. Well, he got out there just before she died.

DOROTHEA: And that was Fred's mother?

HAROLD: That was Fred's mother. And then he married my grandmother then, afterwards. He bought a little place there and tried to farm. He couldn't make a go of it right there where he was at, or something; I don't know what the deal was. That's all he ever said was ---

BARBARA: So that's why they left California initially, started coming ---

HAROLD: Yeah, and started up here with four horses and a covered wagon with his 10-year-old boy and a baby daughter.

DOROTHEA: And that makes it a --- and so now we're about at the end of our tape again. Before we say thank you, do you have some stories that you'd like to share with us, or Barbara, do you have more questions that ---

BARBARA: Yeah, I was going to ask you, when you and your brothers went together, did you form a corporation when you went to the Diamond Valley? Was it the Otley Brothers, or were you each separate, or did you go together and do all this from your dad? Or did your dad give to you three brothers, or how did all that work?

HAROLD: No, well, we --- yes, kind of afterwards. But he was, my dad and my two brothers and I was on the corporation. And we formed a corporation, my Uncle Charley when we formed the corporation then, why, he, we bought that, his land, his part of the partnership ---

BARBARA: I see, okay.

HAROLD: --- out. And then he was out of the corporation, but we paid him.

BARBARA: Were paying him off then?

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: So your dad, and then the three boys were working together. And then did your dad sell to you three, to his three sons?

HAROLD: Well, he didn't, he more or less ---

BARBARA: Bequeath, or leave to you?

HAROLD: Well, yeah, they deeded over, or they gave us so much stock for a while. And then when they died, why, we, we got the rest of it.

BARBARA: You inherited that. And then have you three, the three brothers, did you remain a corporation for a while and then separate? Or ---

HAROLD: Oh yeah, quite a while. Then we split up in '82, I guess it was. We had the corporation formed for 20 years, and then we split it.

DOROTHEA: Do we have enough to go on to another tape? Or shall we call this an afternoon and ---

HAROLD: Whatever you want to do, I don't care.

DOROTHEA: Do you have some stories that you'd like to tell us, because we can do another tape?

BARBARA: I've got a couple questions, maybe we could just do part of a side, or ---

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

BARBARA: I was going to ask you, after you and Mary were married, and she continued, did she continue to teach then?

HAROLD: No, she quit teaching.

BARBARA: She quit teaching. Okay.

HAROLD: Until she went back to teaching.

BARBARA: Then she quit, and then you started raising your family, did you, have your children?

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Okay. And then after that time, did she decide to go back to teaching again, or what did she ---

HAROLD: Yeah, Hank Slater came out to the place and he was just talking to Mary, and he said

he wished she'd come in and teach for him, teach P.E. for him in here in Burns.

BARBARA: Was that at the grade school level then?

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: But she came and worked at the high school, is that right, when she first ---

HAROLD: When she first came, yeah, she was actually a high school teacher. But he wanted her to teach P.E. and so she came in, back in to Burns here, why I think she taught the fourth through the eighth grade in P.E. here.

BARBARA: And so did, how old were your children at this time, when he came and got her?

HAROLD: Well Harry, he took the eighth grade over in here, and Sherry was in the eighth grade, and Fred was in the sixth grade.

BARBARA: Okay, so did you get a little place here in town then, move off of the ranch, or did you rent a place?

HAROLD: No, no, I stayed out there, and she --- oh, she stayed over the Burns Electric down there for a couple of years. Then my aunt died and her daughter wanted us to live in her house, up there, and look after the house, up there.

BARBARA: Okay. Well, that's what I was wondering, if when Mary went back to teaching at the grade school, and the children were in school, then you had a little place here in town that they lived in during the school year. And then they went back out to the ranch with you in the summertime, then?

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Okay. So how long did she teach?

HAROLD: She taught here 17 years after she started.

BARBARA: In the grade school?

HAROLD: No, she only taught four years in the grade school.

BARBARA: And then went back to the high school?

HAROLD: Then she went back to the high school.

BARBARA: Okay. So then, by this time, your children are out of school, and she continues to

teach, and you continued to ranch.

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: And you kind of go back and forth all the time, is that about kind of what ---

HAROLD: Well, we did quite a bit, yeah.

BARBARA: Uh-huh. Because I remember when we moved to town, Mary was still teaching at the high school, and I knew that she had a place here in town. I would see you at games and stuff, back and forth, so I was just wondering how, you know, if you had the two places and were working on that.

HAROLD: Well, we didn't own anything here in Burns, we just was ---

DOROTHEA: What was your aunt's name that had this property?

HAROLD: Well, it was Annie Miller, Lee Miller's wife.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HAROLD: They divorced. See, Barbara Lee, their daughter, owned it, and then she sold it to Bud Eshelby's daughter, Mary Jo.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Mary Jo.

BARBARA: Okay, and did your, when your children got out of school here, did they go on to college?

HAROLD: Yeah. Yeah, Sherry --- Harry got a scholarship at Boise State in track, and then he got hurt after the second year. And then, he went to Eugene after that because he couldn't run competition for quite a while. Sherry, she went to Eugene all four years. Fred went to Bozeman, Montana the first year, and then he graduated from Oregon State afterwards.

DOROTHEA: Did Fred work in John Day? Was he a county agent at one time?

HAROLD: I think he worked either three or four years up there, I can't remember for sure which.

DOROTHEA: What made him decide that he wanted to work back on the ranch?

HAROLD: Oh, that had always been his preference, he always wanted to. Then after we split up, why he, give him a chance to come back.

BARBARA: So it was during the time, it was after the time that you and your brothers divided up,

quit being a corporation or whatever, and had your own ranches again, that your son came in with you, is that right?

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: And then do they live on the property out there with you?

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: And have their place out there? Okay.

DOROTHEA: Okay, do they live in the main house, or I know you and Mary have built you a new house.

HAROLD: They live up about six miles up ---

DOROTHEA: From where you live?

HAROLD: Yeah. We built that house in 1954 up there. And then they moved into that house up there.

DOROTHEA: You and Mary built another house and moved down where you are now. Tell us something about, Mary has done a lot of running on Steens. Do you help prepare her for this, or how involved do you get in the ---

HAROLD: I didn't get involved.

DOROTHEA: --- the running.

BARBARA: You watch her do her exercising, do you?

HAROLD: Yeah, she'd run. Well, see, Harry started running, he got, really got her started, Harry did. And he found out when he come in here to Burns that he had more stamina than any of the other boys did, and that's when he started running. And then afterwards, why he, she got to running too, well partly ---

DOROTHEA: Keep him company?

HAROLD: Yeah. And then, well no she didn't run with him very much, I don't think. But she got to running, getting those girls to run out there.

BARBARA: Run for the volleyball and for track, also.

HAROLD: Yeah, things like that. She got to running there, and then she, I don't know, Harry has

run several marathons. Mary has run two or three marathons. And, but Sherry, see Sherry run, she run in track too, and then she also played basketball at the University of Oregon.

DOROTHEA: Does Sherry teach, or anything now, or is she just a homemaker?

HAROLD: She quit teaching, but she coaches soccer, the kids' soccer. And Harry coaches soccer too at Corvallis. That's age group soccer like ---

DOROTHEA: Now, does Harry teach?

HAROLD: No, he still works for Safeway.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he does.

BARBARA: And they have a little Christmas tree farm there in Corvallis, between Corvallis and Philomath.

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: I grew up in Corvallis, so I know.

HAROLD: Oh, you did?

BARBARA: Yeah.

HAROLD: Yeah, they bought that place; it was a nudist colony, or nudist place.

BARBARA: Is that right?

HAROLD: Yeah, that house where they bought was a, I guess it wasn't a colony, but this guy had the, they had this ---

BARBARA: A little retreat there.

HAROLD: Retreat there, and it was --- I mean, you couldn't see into it.

BARBARA: Uh-huh.

HAROLD: Trees were so thick. They cut a lot of them down.

DOROTHEA: Well, did he die, or how did the place become for sale?

HAROLD: I don't know, it come up for sale. They found out, and bought it.

DOROTHEA: Did they find some interesting things once in a while? Like old records, or ---

HAROLD: I don't think particularly that they ever found anything other than their junk here and there around. But no, I don't think they ever found anything in particular. Other than Harry thinks

that that was one of the roads from, oh, south, went through there to --- I've forgot whether it was the Applegate or one of those ---

BARBARA: Trails?

HAROLD: Trails went through. He thinks went through right there on part of his, one side of his property was right there. He's found things in this old road that was there that he thinks that that's where ---

BARBARA: That indicates that it might have been.

HAROLD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Have they found any old graves or anything where they might have lost kids or ---

HAROLD: Not that they've ever found anyway. There could be some there that wasn't marked or anything.

DOROTHEA: Markers. Uh-huh.

BARBARA: I was going to ask you, if you had it to do all over again, would you be a rancher, or are there other things that maybe you have thought about that you thought you might have tried? Or have you really enjoyed it?

HAROLD: Oh, I tried some other things, and I'd rather, the ranching was more ---

BARBARA: More appealing to you?

HAROLD: Yeah. But it's getting less appealing all the time unless we can get rid of this administration. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: You didn't go to the meeting today? (Range Reform)

HAROLD: I went for a little bit this morning.

DOROTHEA: Did you?

HAROLD: But I'm going to go when this is over, I'm going out there.

DOROTHEA: Are you going back? What time does it get over, 7?

BARBARA: They're breaking from 5 to 7, and then they're starting again at 7, 7 to 10.

HAROLD: Then runs from 7 to 10.

DOROTHEA: 7 to 10. So, well, I've got a graduation tonight, so I don't think I'm going to make it.

I was going to go to that this morning, and I didn't make it, so --- I had to buy a graduation present, that took me all morning.

Mary, your wife, mentioned something about some interesting stories that you might be able to tell us of things that you've seen, and things that have happened. Can you think of anything?

HAROLD: Oh, I guess I've heard of a few practical jokes, but I call them impractical ones. Like some things during haying periods when them old timers didn't have anything, you know, they didn't have anything to amuse themselves except do something to somebody else.

BARBARA: Practical jokes on somebody else?

HAROLD: Practical jokes, that I call impractical because they might have killed somebody.

DOROTHEA: Well, I was just going to say, you know, I think a lot of things that they did in those days with the horses, especially, were quite impractical, you might say. Because it's a wonder there weren't more people killed.

HAROLD: Well, like Cortes Elliott and some of them old timers there, they were haying, and somebody bucked a hay shock up against a stub of a post about so high, and they was running four horse bucks. Then he went out there and he couldn't, found that stub of a post there, and he left and bunched another hay, bucked hay up against it there, back. And somebody else, I don't know who that was though now, but asked him, said, "What's the matter, couldn't you move that buck shock?"

He said, "No, my team wouldn't move it." And that guy went out there and hit that in a gallop, and of course a four-horse buck back end come up and threwed him clear over into the hay in front.

But it could have, he could have missed getting into the hay and hit the front boards and broke his head open, you know, things like that. But that was things, that was fun for those guys.

BARBARA: Something to break the monotony of the day.

HAROLD: Yeah. And like I said about Alan Catterson, throwing that rope both ways, that was nothing but amusement to him.

And oh, well one of the --- let's see now, who in the heck was that. One bunch of Sizemore's, I believe it was, somebody like that, they was butchering a beef one evening and the other one moved in when they was a butchering. They saw him a coming up off of the hill there, and so they went to

shooting at him. They knew who it was, but they went to shooting around there close, and he went to a hollering and yelling at him to quit shooting. When he got down there, he says, "Well, don't you know better than to run up on somebody a butchering a beef in the evening?"

BARBARA: Oh dear.

HAROLD: Oh, I don't know, there is a lot of stories like that, but I can't think of them right now.

BARBARA: Did you ever have any experiences with fires out on the range, or houses, or property that you had?

HAROLD: Oh yes, we've had fires. Had one on Riddle Mountain there, and it burned in, what was it '57 or '58, or somewhere along there. Why, Bob Otley and I, we started up one place there to make a fireguard with the Cat; Bob was running the Cat. I run on up, saw the fire was a couple a miles back up there, we thought we had plenty of time to get this fire guard there. And I run back down, and Bob got about, oh, 150 yards, I guess with the --- the fire come over the hill. He had time to, and Nevin Thompson had got there by that time, too. He got a place dozed out to set the Cat and our pickup, or just barely, brush was right alongside of my pickup. Nevin started to leave. I was waiting for Bob to get the Cat back there, and Nevin went just about 50 feet, and he come a rolling back there, and he said, "I can't see to get out of here." And Bob, and then we all got in the pickup, and that fire come right down around, right around us there. The Cat and pickup, none of them burned up, but that oxygen was getting awful short before that fire went by. We ---

DOROTHEA: Pretty hot, too?

HAROLD: Well, it wasn't too bad that way, it come by so fast that, and there was enough wind with it, as soon as that went by why the air started coming back in again. But it was getting real hard to breathe for a little bit there, because it was a burning that oxygen so fast that we didn't hardly have enough. But that was really the only time that we ever got in a bad spot. I've been on a lot of fires and never got ---

DOROTHEA: In the earlier days, did you have many fires, like when you were growing up?

HAROLD: No. And I think the main reason was because it was pretty drouthy at that time. There was enough, back in, especially back in the, on the ranges and that, there was enough sheep and

cattle ---

DOROTHEA: To keep the grass.

HAROLD: --- to keep the grass down. There wasn't any fuel for fires. And that's one of the main reason there wasn't more fires, is because there just wasn't any fuel.

DOROTHEA: Well, I was wondering if they just let them burn in order to clear the ground, so that it would grow better.

HAROLD: That was kind of a mistake, because I've been on several fires down around Juntura and Drewsey and in there, and up over here at Riddle Ranch and Riddle Mountain, and that, and they was trying to put those fires out. Well, it's mainly because they was burning up the grass that they needed for --- But now we're trying to set fires because the junipers has come in so thick that ---

DOROTHEA: And the juniper takes so much moisture.

HAROLD: Oh, they take, yeah.

DOROTHEA: It just kills your, kills everything.

HAROLD: Well, and there is no grass grows under those junipers, they're kind of halfway poisoned the grass or some sort; I don't know just what they do. Yeah, they just won't ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think it more or less is a poison that they put out. Well, they take so much moisture, and then they kill off the grass.

HAROLD: Yeah. But now we're letting grass grow and deferring it so we can get a fire started in, into some of those junipers and kill them. And it's working, they're ---

DOROTHEA: Does the grass come back then, after you kill that juniper, will it come back? The ground isn't sterile to the point where it won't grow back?

HAROLD: No, generally it don't get those bottom roots. In spots, it will.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh.

HAROLD: But then it will gradually seed in. On that Three Forks country up there, Fred burnt it five years ago, or six, I don't remember, and we've got more grass there than, and heck that grass is up there like that. The elk, and the deer ---

BARBARA: They enjoy it too, huh?

HAROLD: Yeah. We're trying to bring some of those springs back, because --- and the BLM and the, well we got started on, the experiment station here started making surveys and cutting some of those junipers, they did, and the Forest Service, or the BLM got into it and cut a bunch. See they're killing out all of the quakies and all of that kind of stuff there in a lot of places. And by getting rid of the juniper, why there is some of them species is starting to come back now, where we got rid of them several years ago.

Then the snow pack, you see, when that snow gets blowed over and drifts in some of those, why it was just a, some of those springs were drying up from just too many junipers.

DOROTHEA: Uh-huh.

HAROLD: I know that's what was causing it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it's doing the same thing up on the, what we call Baker Hill Corral now, or Corral Hill now. It's so thick that there is just bare ground of just nothing but rock, because all the grass is gone. Once in a while, you might see a flower, dandelion or something. But they're really getting too thick, and that's a bad deal.

HAROLD: Well, and a funny thing is, you know, one reason that the junipers are getting thicker, until the elk got too thick, we had, for a long while, we had a big deer population. And a juniper seed almost has to pass through an animal before it will not be, so it will grow. And I think that's part of the reason, when those deer got plenty thick, why they went to scattering those, because they'd eat the juniper in the wintertime.

BARBARA: And they end up everywhere?

HAROLD: Yeah. Because for a long while there wasn't hardly any, and then as soon as the deer started getting thick, why then you started seeing these little junipers around.

DOROTHEA: And that shouldn't do it anymore, because the deer is not very thick.

BARBARA: Do you have any elk out in your valley there?

HAROLD: Yeah. Last winter, or fall, why, we was out, four or five head of bulls, and we found them, and it was during elk season. So they was up on one of the pockets in the gorge, and Doug (Stott), he and two of his boys went down to push those bulls on down into the Kiger so they could

come on down. And Fred's boy, and Doug's and Sherry's oldest boy, they had hunting license and elk tags, so they went over the saddle the other way there. They got right in the middle of a bunch of elk, and they kept a radioing to Doug and asked him if they could shoot one. And god it was six miles up from the trail and ---

BARBARA: If you want to carry it, huh?

HAROLD: So finally Doug, they wanted to know if they could shoot it. Well, Doug is kind of a comic anyway. He said, "Well, yeah, if you don't hurt him." (Laughter) Kyle shot one cow, and shot it kind of in the jaw, and the jaw was hanging down there, and she turned and went right square toward Toby, and it scared him half to death. He had to shoot that cow to keep from getting run over. (Laughter) And then they got the other one; Kyle got another one then, another cow. So Doug got the bulls down to the creek, and then he went back up around, up the creek, back to where they were with these elk.

So, he boned them all out, and they went back the next day, and he boned them out, and they hung them up. And he went back the next day --- well, I guess that's when they boned them out. And they packed them out, Fred went with them, and two of the other boys, and they packed them all out in one load, on the back with backpacks. But they boned them out; they just packed the meat out. Doug told them, though, he says, "Now, I've helped you this time." He says, "If you ever get them in there again," he says, "you know how to do it now, you're going to get them out of there." (Laughter) "Boy," he said, "I don't think I want to get one down there anymore."

DOROTHEA: Just taught him a lesson.

HAROLD: But those elk was still right there the next day.

DOROTHEA: I'll be darned.

BARBARA: That's strange.

HAROLD: They wouldn't move, they wouldn't move.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Have you done a lot of hunting in your time, and fishing, or do you enjoy doing that?

HAROLD: Oh, just once in awhile.

DOROTHEA: Do you like to fish?

HAROLD: Not particularly.

DOROTHEA: Now, that's my only desire, I love to fish. I don't like to eat them. I don't like to hunt; I don't want anything to do with hunting.

BARBARA: Have you had any bad accidents on your places, or had to have medical attention? Run into problems with your people?

HAROLD: Oh, nothing besides some broken bones, or something like that. I guess we had one woman cooking for us there that we thought had a heart attack. And the only thing I knew to do was to run out and brought my oxygen tank in and went to turn the torch on her so she could ---

DOROTHEA: Breathe.

HAROLD --- breathe, and she got so she could get up, and they hauled her into Burns. The doctor told her husband that what probably is what saved her life was getting that oxygen to her. I didn't have a mask or anything, so I just turned the torch on her so that oxygen was, well, you know she wasn't breathing straight oxygen, but it was a mixing with the air where she was breathing. Outside of that, I can't think of anything real bad.

BARBARA: Pretty lucky then, fortunate I should say.

HAROLD: Yeah. Well, Charley, my youngest brother, when he was, they was haying the Bell-A. He got in a rake runaway and tore the back of his leg off, muscle down on his leg about that long. He was laid up for a long while with that. But that was right here close to Burns, and they got him into ---

DOROTHEA: Does that present a problem where you're so far out? Do you, are you able to get medical attention right away?

HAROLD: Well, we can now. If they've had those --- well, belong to Air Life.

BARBARA: They have the first responders in the different communities now, don't they?

HAROLD: The first, yeah, they're out, there is a couple three of them out there.

BARBARA: Uh-huh, that can help people out.

HAROLD: And no, I think that's a good thing.

DOROTHEA: Well, I've run out of questions, and unless Barbara has got some more to do, or you can think of anything else that you'd like to add --- we always go blank whenever we ---

HAROLD: Well I'm, I get blank too when I ---

DOROTHEA: --- come in for these things. Do you plan on doing any traveling at all?

HAROLD: Not besides just going to ---

DOROTHEA: See the kids.

HAROLD: --- to see the kids and that. I don't want to travel.

BARBARA: Do you think you'll stay retired on your ranch? That's where you want to end up?

HAROLD: Well, it depends on how long I live.

BARBARA: Forever, and ever, and ever, huh? You don't have any desire to move on into, back into Burns, or anything like that?

HAROLD: No, not really.

BARBARA: Just, it's a peaceful place out there, and you like it.

HAROLD: Well, part of the reason, I need something to do.

BARBARA: You just can't get up and sit and watch the boob tube all day.

HAROLD: I can't, well, I, that drives me nuts.

BARBARA: Yeah, I think people need a little something to keep themselves occupied. Putter around the ranch and tell your kid what to do, huh?

HAROLD: Well, my main problem is it takes me two days to do a days work anymore. So I've got a long while to go.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Mary have the honey-do list for you to do, too?

HAROLD: Oh, not too much. She does all the books and everything anymore. So I kind of give her the, that part.

BARBARA: Give her something to do, huh?

DOROTHEA: She does the haying, the cutting, and what else? Does she bale?

HAROLD: Well, we don't bale, we stack loose.

DOROTHEA: You stack loose.

HAROLD: Yeah, she'll run a power buck, or the rake.

DOROTHEA: She likes to do the outside work, doesn't she?

HAROLD: Yeah, she helps feed cattle all winter. Her and I feed all the cattle just about, most the time.

DOROTHEA: Well, like you say, with the modern equipment, that's not too hard of a job anymore.

HAROLD: No, we load it with a, loose hay on the wagon with a loader, and then just drive out and pitch it off. Once in a while, we get a load that's tough, but most of the time, we can; they pitch pretty easy.

DOROTHEA: I hate to have Clinton or Tim load the wagon because that doesn't pitch easy. But when I load it, I shake it a lot. (Laughter) So it comes off easier. So, well, Harold, if you can't think of any other stories you'd like to tell us, then we'll thank you for the afternoon and your time, and we'll go on to a little short video that you said you didn't want, but we'll do anyway.

HAROLD: Okay.

BARBARA: We make it painless.

DOROTHEA: Thank you for the afternoon. We've spent a good time here, so thank you.

HAROLD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Thanks a lot.

(END OF TAPE)

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