

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #364 - Side A

Subject: Austa Carlon - On Wagonfire Mountain

Place: Carlon Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: June 29, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

Release Form: No

EDWARD GRAY: Austa, what date is this?

AUSTA CARLON: June 29th.

EDWARD: 29th. This is Edward Gray with Austa Carlon at her home in Burns, Oregon, on June 29th, 1991, in reference to Wagonfire Mountain. Austa, I did find out when Link passed on. Of course, I just found that ---

AUSTA: Today.

EDWARD: Today. The date I don't know; do you have any idea what month it was by any chance? That will save me time going through the papers.

AUSTA: Wasn't it on his tombstone?

EDWARD: No.

AUSTA: It wasn't?

EDWARD: Okay, here we go. I have quite a few questions; most of them deal with Wagonfire Mountain, which I was just on for the last two days, as I told you. Number one, when did you and Homer Carlon go to Wagonfire, what year?

AUSTA: About 1930 ---

EDWARD: Was it after Jackson's died?

AUSTA: It probably, yes I think it was. 1930, I had two kids as I recall. So that's what I'm trying to think.

EDWARD: Yeah, you remember that.

AUSTA: Yeah. 1934, I think, right around there.

EDWARD: 1934. You and Homer ---

AUSTA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Where did you stay the first time that you arrived at Wagontire?

AUSTA: On the old Hutton ranch at the south end, where Bill had a trailer, Bill Peila.

EDWARD: Oh, where his trailer is now?

AUSTA: Yes, and that home burned.

EDWARD: Okay. That, did you just move in, or did you buy it?

AUSTA: We just moved there. It belonged to a friend of ours, Frank Dobkins.

EDWARD: Okay, Dobkins bought that?

AUSTA: Yes.

EDWARD: Well, that's what I have on my maps. Why didn't Link get his dad's place? That was Samuel Hutton's ---

AUSTA: I don't know unless he just wanted to sell it.

EDWARD: That original place, that's where I stayed, you know.

AUSTA: Yeah, and that was where they all lived, I think, when they first came there.

EDWARD: Right. And then Link moved on down the road.

AUSTA: Right.

EDWARD: That always got me, because Dobkins did own that place.

AUSTA: Yes.

EDWARD: And it was the Samuel Hutton's place.

AUSTA: Was it?

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: Or his dad's?

EDWARD: That's where ---

AUSTA: Yeah, I think it was the old, the first place that they owned when they moved to ---

EDWARD: Now did you, now Frank Dobkins owned that at that time?

AUSTA: Right.

EDWARD: And this house you're talking about, do you know if that was, 1934, do you know if that was Samuel Hutton's original house?

AUSTA: Well, I'm sure it was, uh-huh. It had a blue glass window in the front door, which was rather distinctive. It was a two-story house, had a big country kitchen.

EDWARD: Was the spring running then?

AUSTA: Yes, but the pipes to the house were broken, and we had to haul water.

EDWARD: From that spring next ---

AUSTA: We didn't haul water from the spring that originally went into the house, no; we hauled water from one down below.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's where we got our water Thursday.

AUSTA: Oh, did you?

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: Yeah, yeah, we had to haul water. So, we only stayed there one summer.

EDWARD: Okay. Do you know if anybody has a picture of that house?

AUSTA: I doubt it, I doubt it.

EDWARD: I'm a picture, as you've read my book, you know, I love pictures.

AUSTA: I would have them now, but at that time, I wasn't into pictures.

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: I was too busy raising kids.

EDWARD: When did that Samuel Hutton's house burn down, do you have any idea? It was before 1959.

AUSTA: I don't remember.

EDWARD: Don't remember.

AUSTA: Dates don't mean a heck of a lot to me, really.

EDWARD: Why did you and Homer go there?

AUSTA: Well we had cattle; we took cattle up there for the summer.

EDWARD: Did you lease land, or just let them run?

AUSTA: Well, they were on the range, so we must have just leased a range right. Probably was Dobkins, but I don't remember.

EDWARD: And Link Hutton was living there at that time?

AUSTA: Yes, yes.

EDWARD: In that nice little two-story house by the poplar trees, right? About ready to ---

AUSTA: About ready to fall down, isn't it?

EDWARD: Yeah. Was there a garage there then at Link Hutton's house? Do you remember?

AUSTA: I don't remember, I don't remember. I just remember the house.

EDWARD: Who was he married to, do you recall then? Okay, back to Dobkins. Dobkins had let you stay in the old Samuel Hutton place, and then he lived up the road.

AUSTA: Right. And the next summer, we moved up there. And he moved a house from across the valley for us. It was a small house on the, set on somebody's homestead on the east side of the valley; they moved that over.

EDWARD: Frank Dobkins moved that homestead house clear across that valley there, and put it next to his house.

AUSTA: Right. He lived in the garage. He fixed up the garage for himself. It was just a one-room building.

EDWARD: Frank Dobkins lived in this garage even when he was killed?

AUSTA: Yes.

EDWARD: He never actually had a house?

AUSTA: He had, there had been a house there, but it had burned, too.

EDWARD: Oh.

AUSTA: So, they moved this one over for us, and he stayed in the garage. He was already living in that garage part because the house had burned.

EDWARD: And he moved it over, and you and Homer stayed in this little homestead shack.

AUSTA: Right, until we bought the Jackson place.

EDWARD: Okay. Did that little homestead shack burn down, too?

AUSTA: I think it did.

EDWARD: Yeah, because there is nothing there.

AUSTA: Yeah, I think --- is the garage there?

EDWARD: There is like a garage next to the corrals.

AUSTA: That must be it.

EDWARD: The corrals are kind of hooked up right next to that place, that garage.

AUSTA: It's been so long since I've been over there, so many years since I've been over there.

EDWARD: Oh yeah. Oh, Austa, how old are you?

AUSTA: 84.

EDWARD: Good age.

AUSTA: I'm still alive.

EDWARD: Okay. So you and, let's say, in '35, you and Homer moved into this homestead shack right on Dobkin's place. Or was it later than '35?

AUSTA: Well, I had Larry, and he was born in '34. Yeah, so it would be '35, at least it was '35.

EDWARD: '35. Well, here is Homer, Austa, and Larry. Any more kids?

AUSTA: The two girls, they're older.

EDWARD: And what's their names?

AUSTA: Doris and Betty.

EDWARD: Doris and Betty Carlon, all living in this little ---

AUSTA: Two bedroom.

EDWARD: Two bedroom ---

AUSTA: Shack, if you want to say it.

EDWARD: Shack.

AUSTA: Yeah, it was a homestead home.

EDWARD: And that was '35. And then, did they still run cattle? Did you run cattle with Frank

Dobkins together?

AUSTA: No. Well, I don't know, I don't think so. We owned the Ede's place, which is on the west side of the mountain. You weren't around there, I don't imagine.

EDWARD: Pretty close I bet, but not ---

AUSTA: And we brought the cattle through there, across the mountain. And I don't know what kind of a deal they had, that they could bring the cattle up there, I really don't.

EDWARD: How many cattle did you have in those '30's, do you have any idea? One hundred head, two hundred?

AUSTA: Probably five hundred.

EDWARD: Five hundred.

AUSTA: There was three boys.

EDWARD: How many cattle did Dobkins have?

AUSTA: I don't remember that he had any. He was just living out there. I don't think he had any.

EDWARD: You don't think he ever had any?

AUSTA: Not there.

EDWARD: Not there, huh. Now when you bought the Jackson place, now I was in that, and it's about gone too, Austa.

AUSTA: Yeah, they haven't kept it up.

EDWARD: And it is sad. That's a beautiful place.

AUSTA: Yeah, that used to be quite a nice place.

EDWARD: Now you guys, after Jackson was, committed suicide, or murder, or whatever, who knows, you bought his place. And did you ---

AUSTA: And we lived there the rest of the summers that we were there.

EDWARD: You only lived at the Jackson place during the summer?

AUSTA: Yes.

EDWARD: Okay. And you came back to Burns in the winter?

AUSTA: No, no, Summer Lake.

EDWARD: Oh, you went to Summer Lake. Oh, that's right, the Carlon's were from ---

AUSTA: The home ranch was in Summer Lake.

EDWARD: Okay. You never stayed the summers in the Jackson place, or winters, excuse me?

AUSTA: No. No, the snow got pretty deep through there, at that time.

EDWARD: I was wondering about that. Somebody said you lived there year around.

AUSTA: Huh- uh.

EDWARD: Did Link Hutton live there year round?

AUSTA: As far as I know, he did.

EDWARD: Okay. So you're in the Jackson place, who built that fireplace? Was that already there?

AUSTA: Yeah, when we bought it, it was there.

EDWARD: That big ---

AUSTA: Big fireplace, hardwood floors in the living room.

EDWARD: Do you know who built that house?

AUSTA: No.

EDWARD: Do you have any idea how long Jackson had it before he went to the heaven ---

AUSTA: No. Great beyond.

EDWARD: Wherever he went. He was older than what I thought.

AUSTA: How old was he?

EDWARD: Seventy ---

AUSTA: In his seventies, wasn't he?

EDWARD: Seventy-three, I think.

AUSTA: Well, he was an ex-schoolteacher.

EDWARD: No, he was 68.

AUSTA: 68.

EDWARD: Yeah, he was a Lake County School Superintendent.

AUSTA: Was he at one time?

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: There was a story that he, when he walked into a school room he laid his pistol on the desk, and said now you SOB's are going to behave yourself. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Oh, he was a mean dude, you know. See, he taught some of the Bradley kids, and I interviewed, talked to Grace Bradley.

AUSTA: Oh, did you talk to Grace?

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: She's the only one that lives around this country.

EDWARD: Yeah. What are your, I mean, here you're moving into this Jackson's house, and this guy --- what is your theory on Jackson's death?

AUSTA: I think he was killed. But they didn't do, there was no investigation to amount to anything, as far as I know. And it was called a suicide.

EDWARD: I'm going to try to find the coroner's report. I want to see that.

AUSTA: I've never seen it.

EDWARD: Hopefully, it's in the courthouse.

AUSTA: There was so much tension out there, and so many murders.

EDWARD: Why was there tension anyway, Austa?

AUSTA: Well, most of it was over water. See, we went through a period of drought at that time.

EDWARD: They're doing that right now, by the way.

AUSTA: Again, I know. And he had access to Lost Creek on the north end. And then we ran towards the highway, towards Highway 20 with cattle.

EDWARD: Who, what property did you own on the west side of Wagonfire Mountain?

AUSTA: Ede's place.

EDWARD: I'm not sure where that is. Just a second ---

Okay, we're back to Mr. Jackson's death. Do you know, recall a Henry Wilcher?

AUSTA: No.

EDWARD: He was supposedly; he was supposedly at the ranch at the time of Jackson's death.

AUSTA: Oh, was he?

EDWARD: Frank Foster, do you have any idea who that is?

AUSTA: He was America Sutherland's first husband.

EDWARD: Ike Foster was her first husband.

AUSTA: Ike Foster.

EDWARD: So was Frank Foster ---

AUSTA: Oh, well I don't know, he may have been related.

EDWARD: I don't know whether she had any children by Ike Foster or not. Ike Foster died in 1916, and then she married, you know, James Sutherland.

AUSTA: Well, she must have had, because Bill Foster, who lives in Burns, is her grandson.

EDWARD: I need to talk to him. Okay, this Jackson guy, you met him?

AUSTA: Very briefly, yes.

EDWARD: Very briefly. You're thinking is that he was murdered.

AUSTA: I don't know why I'd say that, because ---

EDWARD: I've heard that a lot.

AUSTA: Except, because the general aura of that sort of thing was around that.

EDWARD: Was Harry Arnold there then, in 1938?

AUSTA: I think he was.

EDWARD: His house is about ready to ---

AUSTA: Well, I'm surprised it's still standing.

EDWARD: It's up, way up there on that hill.

AUSTA: Uh-huh.

EDWARD: I drove up there. Okay, you're, you think --- was Link Hutton always raising hell around there?

AUSTA: We didn't have any problems with him.

EDWARD: You didn't have any problems with him?

AUSTA: No. But he and Frank Dobkins were enemies, I know that.

EDWARD: Dobkins owned, I've got the map, I've got it all laid out, a lot of land, somehow.

AUSTA: Yes, he did, because he owned the second place where we moved to, the second summer we were out there.

EDWARD: Okay, let's get, back up. First, you went to Samuel Hutton's house and stayed a summer. The next summer you went somewhere else?

AUSTA: Uh huh, to Frank Dobkin's place.

EDWARD: To Frank Dobkins, okay.

AUSTA: Up the road.

EDWARD: And then you went to Jackson's.

AUSTA: To the Jackson place.

EDWARD: Okay. Where were the Sutherlands, James and America, where in the heck were they living, at the Egli place?

AUSTA: Egli place.

EDWARD: Egli.

AUSTA: But I think she was a widow, when we were there. I don't remember her having a husband. And my kids used to go over there; they liked to go horseback and go over there.

EDWARD: James Sutherland died in 1955. Well, maybe they were separated, I don't know.

AUSTA: I think maybe they were. Now, Bill Foster will know about that.

EDWARD: Okay, you had Arnold's place, Dobkins, and the Carlons worked together. And then the Sutherlands were at the Egli place. And then Link Hutton was on down the road.

AUSTA: Further south.

EDWARD: Whoops, I forgot Jackson, he was in there, too.

AUSTA: Well, yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. Okay, then, after Jackson's death, you had Arnold and "Two-Gun Sue", I guess. And then you bought the Jackson place. Was Sutherlands still at Egli?

AUSTA: Uh-huh.

EDWARD: And then, well, for a short period of time, Dobkins, and then Hutton, again.

AUSTA: Uh-huh.

EDWARD: Yeah. Okay, anything else about Jackson? For example, when you guys, this would be scary, Austa, when you guys --- you guys must have had a lot of guts. When you guys bought the Jackson place, you know darn well that he was either murdered, or shot his ---

AUSTA: Brains out.

EDWARD: --- brains out, up in that one little bedroom up there.

AUSTA: Uh-huh.

EDWARD: And yet you guys just ---

AUSTA: Well, it didn't seem to bother us any. It bothered the kids a little, I think.

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: It didn't bother me particularly.

EDWARD: I'm going to ask you a silly question, just for the fun of it, but I've been told this. Jess Gibson told me this.

AUSTA: You can't believe half the ---

EDWARD: No. He was right on many things, but he carries the stories out a little.

AUSTA: Yeah, I think he embellished it.

EDWARD: Yeah. He said that one, after Dobkin's death, Homer was scared of this Burk, and Homer carried guns with him all the time.

AUSTA: Oh, that's a bunch of ---

EDWARD: That's a bunch of ---

AUSTA: In fact, Burk was in the pen in Salem.

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: And he was never supposed to come back to this country, but he did.

EDWARD: That's right.

AUSTA: Later.

EDWARD: I know he did, yeah.

AUSTA: We found out he did, later.

EDWARD: You're the second one that said that. I'll tell you who told me he came back, was Judge Dick Hoppes in Prineville, because he saw him.

AUSTA: Yeah, well we heard that he was back. He never saw him, I don't think.

EDWARD: But Homer was no way afraid of this guy.

AUSTA: He never carried guns.

EDWARD: No.

AUSTA: He never carried a gun in his life, except to shoot a deer, a rifle.

EDWARD: What was some of the --- Okay, then, when did you leave, when did you leave Wagontire, what year, approximately what ---

AUSTA: Well, we moved to Riley in, we bought the Riley place in '41, I think. And then we brought the cattle, our share of the cattle, and brought them to Burns and wintered them that winter. And by that time, Jones had gotten off the ranch, he had sheep and cattle up there. Well, he had just cattle, I think, when we bought it.

EDWARD: Jones?

AUSTA: Davey Jones.

EDWARD: Oh Davey, yeah.

AUSTA: We bought it from him.

EDWARD: Him and ---

AUSTA: But the first winter, we didn't stay there, because he was still there with his livestock.

EDWARD: On Silver Creek?

AUSTA: Right.

EDWARD: Yeah. So, you weren't in Wagontire too long? You weren't at Jackson's old house too long then?

AUSTA: No, not really.

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: Five or six years.

EDWARD: When did you get rid of the Jackson's place?

AUSTA: We didn't.

EDWARD: Oh, you didn't?

AUSTA: Roy Carlon took it as part of his share when they divided up.

EDWARD: Oh, I see. Who in the world did the Carlon's sell that place to after ---

AUSTA: Doesn't Peila own it?

EDWARD: Yeah, Peila. Did the Carlon's sell it to Peila?

AUSTA: No, I don't think so.

EDWARD: It was somebody else before that.

AUSTA: I don't know; I don't believe they sold it to him.

EDWARD: Jack West, and then there was Jefferies.

AUSTA: Yeah, maybe Jack or Jefferies, one of the two.

EDWARD: Yeah. They didn't have it very long.

AUSTA: No. Peilas had it quite a while.

EDWARD: You know, Peilas got, now got 38,000 acres up in all that country.

AUSTA: I'm not surprised, but he doesn't have very good cattle.

EDWARD: He doesn't have very good ground.

AUSTA: No.

EDWARD: They got to haul water all the time.

AUSTA: Well, they didn't used to have to, but they do, they have since this drought hit us.

EDWARD: You've been out to Dry Valley, haven't you?

AUSTA: Never did get to Dry Valley.

EDWARD: Oh, you ain't missing nothing.

AUSTA: I knew Sam Boyce, who lived there real well, but, and he just passed away last fall.

EDWARD: Right.

AUSTA: But I never got up there. Homer had been up there several times.

EDWARD: You don't know who built that Jackson house, whether it was Jackson? That was a pretty nice house for that time.

AUSTA: Yeah, it was well constructed, and had a big fireplace.

EDWARD: For being so far out, you know.

AUSTA: And a big kitchen.

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: We put the bathroom in ourselves.

EDWARD: Did you have electricity there, Austa?

AUSTA: No.

EDWARD: Never did?

AUSTA: We didn't.

EDWARD: Okay, well, let's finish up old Jackson. What other stories have you heard about Jackson? Any other ones?

AUSTA: No, no.

EDWARD: Besides, maybe he was, very possibly, somebody murdered him. And who would that person be? Austa, they're all dead.

AUSTA: Well, I assume it was some of the Hutton outfit, but I don't know. You know the fellow that killed Frank Dobkins was staying with "Two-Gun Sue" and Harry Arnold when he was killed. And he admitted to killing him, made no bones about it. Said he was told he needed to be killed, so he did it.

EDWARD: That was the next thing, this Dobkins. Well, Frank was married about a month before he was murdered. He married, can't remember her name now. I think it was his third wife, but it, you know, it doesn't --- that's not too important.

AUSTA: I don't remember that.

EDWARD: This is the Dobkin's file. Does that look like Dobkins?

AUSTA: Yeah. But I knew ---

EDWARD: At South Creek Spring.

AUSTA: Yeah. I knew the ex-wife when we lived at Wagontire. She wasn't ---

EDWARD: That's all Dobkin's stuff.

AUSTA: --- married to him, but I didn't know he had married again.

EDWARD: What kind of man was Frank Dobkins?

AUSTA: Stubborn, quite sure of himself. Nice person, if he liked you.

EDWARD: Was he a smart mouth?

AUSTA: Not to us.

EDWARD: Did he cuss a lot?

AUSTA: No.

EDWARD: Did he drink a lot?

AUSTA: No.

EDWARD: Okay, was he a hard worker?

AUSTA: Yes.

EDWARD: And he was, he wasn't running any cattle?

AUSTA: I don't think so.

EDWARD: Sheep?

AUSTA: No. He may have been running some cattle, I don't recall.

EDWARD: On the --- were Homer and you, were you guys there when Dobkins was shot? You were living there?

AUSTA: Homer was with him.

EDWARD: Right, okay. What, I went to that gate where Dobkins was shot by "Buck" Burk.

What was Dobkins --- this is really confusing, what was Dobkins and Homer doing there? Running cattle?

AUSTA: They went to; they were going to check on some cattle. And Homer was riding a colt, and Dobkins didn't want him to go by himself riding that colt, so he went with him; that's the only reason he went.

EDWARD: Okay, that, see, I didn't know.

AUSTA: And Frank opened the gate; he was on foot when he was killed.

EDWARD: Frank Dobkins was on, walking, opening the gate.

AUSTA: Opening the gate. And Homer's horse bolted, and when the gun went off, and ran down the fence. And by the time Homer got back to him, why, Burk had gone.

EDWARD: Homer heard the shot?

AUSTA: Oh, yes.

EDWARD: Was there any talk?

AUSTA: Now, I don't believe, I don't believe Frank was married, unless he married one of his wives again. Because Myrtle was out there, Myrtle Dobkins was out there. And Homer went back and got her, and she had a big car. Got her, and she came and got Frank and brought him right to town.

EDWARD: Boy, that road going up to that gate, that's a really bad road.

AUSTA: Pretty bad. Well, that's the way it happened, and I know that she was living out there with him at the time. But I didn't know they had remarried.

EDWARD: Have you been to that gate?

AUSTA: Well, I've been through it.

EDWARD: Now, they were going to check, Homer, your husband, and Frank Dobkins left your, the Jackson place?

AUSTA: Uh-huh.

EDWARD: And they were going to go check on some cattle. And they were running, probably going across ground, you know, not following the road, they were just going across.

AUSTA: Well, the road went pretty much through that area, didn't it?

EDWARD: Yeah, it's down the hill quite a ways.

AUSTA: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: The main road.

AUSTA: Oh, it isn't at the gate?

EDWARD: No.

AUSTA: There is no gate at the, on the road, is that right?

EDWARD: I was going to draw a picture. ...

The gate in which Dobkins was killed isn't more than, oh six to eight blocks from Arnold's house.

AUSTA: Yeah, close to ---

EDWARD: Now, you said the colt bolted, so Homer went after it down the fence line.

AUSTA: Well, he was on it.

EDWARD: Oh, he was on it, oh, he was on it.

AUSTA: Yeah, yeah. But he "kettled" and ran, you know. And by the time Homer got him to stop and went back up there, Burk was gone.

EDWARD: And then Burk took off. And then Homer went down to what house?

AUSTA: Came back to where Frank was living.

EDWARD: And picked up a car?

AUSTA: Got his wife, Myrtle.

EDWARD: Did Homer ever have any feelings on why that happened, why Burk shot this Dobkins?

AUSTA: Yeah, he felt that Harry Arnold, and "Two-Gun", he blamed "Two-Gun" more than anybody else. She had a big mouth and he thought she instigated it. Is she still alive?

EDWARD: Nobody knows. Because we have a tough time figuring out who in the heck she was.

AUSTA: Well, I don't think anybody knew that.

EDWARD: Huh-uh. And Harry Arnold, I think, is dead.

AUSTA: I think he is, and then she is gone.

EDWARD: I don't have any idea how long Harry Arnold was at this place, do you?

AUSTA: Oh, quite a while, I think.

EDWARD: Ten years, twenty years?

AUSTA: Probably.

EDWARD: He might have been a homesteader?

AUSTA: Might have been.

EDWARD: I'll try to find that in the courthouse. Did Arnold run cattle, too?

AUSTA: Yes, he run cattle.

EDWARD: So we had, in 1939, we had Arnold running cattle, Link Hutton running cattle, I'm just taking a guess, correct me if I'm wrong, Sutherlands were there running cattle. Dobkins may not have had any cattle.

AUSTA: I think he probably did.

EDWARD: Probably did, okay. Who am I missing? Oh, what about Thomas Hutton --- no, he was dead.

AUSTA: He was dead.

EDWARD: He died in that car wreck, yeah.

AUSTA: That's about all there were there at that time.

EDWARD: Did this Arnold, I mean Burk, did you realize "Buck" Burk had shot a deputy sheriff in Klamath County in 1925, and was in prison?

AUSTA: Oh, I think I knew that, that came out at the trial, I think here.

EDWARD: And he was already in prison.

AUSTA: But I didn't get to listen to the trial, because they might have called me as a witness. They didn't call me.

EDWARD: What kind of, those records are probably in a courthouse, and I'll look at them. I don't know how much --- all I'm going to do is get some facts, and let readers figure it out.

AUSTA: Yeah, that's about all you can do.

EDWARD: I'm not going to say this and that, except on Bill Brown. The only reason I'm including Wagontire is, because it has never been written about, number one. Number two is it's, a lot of it is part of Bill Brown's property.

AUSTA: Was it?

EDWARD: Yeah, a lot of it. In fact, that field in front of the Arnold place, Bill Brown owned that.

AUSTA: Oh, he did?

EDWARD: Yeah, at one time. Okay. Bill died in 1941, but he lost everything in 1935, mortgaged out. They foreclosed on him, and they lost everything. On this, on the death of Dobkins, do you think Dobkins deserved it?

AUSTA: No, I don't.

EDWARD: Nobody deserves to be murdered.

AUSTA: No, there are other ways of settling disputes.

EDWARD: Well, what would ---

AUSTA: And he didn't have any, he didn't own a thing there, or have any reason to kill Bill --- or any reason to kill Frank.

EDWARD: Do you think Burk was just a ---

AUSTA: Oh, just a patsy, and mean.

EDWARD: And mean.

AUSTA: Been convinced that he should be killed, so he just killed him.

EDWARD: Where did Burk go after he shot Dobkins, back to the Arnold place?

AUSTA: I think so, as far as I know. They didn't have any trouble arresting him.

EDWARD: Do you know where they arrested him?

AUSTA: No.

EDWARD: The main thing that I wanted to know, and it wasn't in anything I've seen, is, you know, what they were doing at the gate. Evidently, they were going, probably to Lost ---

AUSTA: Creek, probably.

EDWARD: To check out cattle. How did your kids react to that when Homer came back to the house?

AUSTA: Well, we got in our car and went to town, too. They were real fond of Frank. And it was kind of traumatic for them, especially the oldest, she was about ...

EDWARD: Did you like living out there, Austa, during the summer?

AUSTA: Oh, I wasn't crazy about it. I wouldn't have minded it if I could have gone with them when they rode, buckarooed. But having three little children, you don't go very often.

Occasionally, I had one of the neighbor girls babysit. There was another family out there at the time. They lived between the store and the post office and Hutton's first ranch.

EDWARD: Addington's?

AUSTA: Addington's, uh huh. Vera babysat. She's trying to write a history of that country.

EDWARD: Who is that?

AUSTA: Vera Addington.

EDWARD: Where does she live, here?

AUSTA: No, in Southern Oregon.

EDWARD: Is that her last name now?

AUSTA: No. I can't think of it.

EDWARD: Oh, Austa ---

AUSTA: I'll tell you who can give it to you; she has a nephew here, the Tylers. Call Wesley Tyler.

EDWARD: Wesley Tyler.

AUSTA: He can give you her address. She moved since I've seen her. About the last time I saw her, she was moving; her dad just moved, so I don't have her address.

EDWARD: What were your feelings on the death of Dobkins?

AUSTA: Oh, I was pretty --- it was pretty bad for us, because he was our best friend, good friend. Had been very, very good to us.

EDWARD: Was Harry Arnold, and the Sutherlands, and Hutton's all buddies?

AUSTA: I'm not sure about that, but I assume they were.

EDWARD: And this "Buck" Burk, had you seen him before, or he just, when did he show up?

AUSTA: I don't know. I don't know how long he had been out there.

EDWARD: I'm going to try to find that out through the prison records, because evidently, he had gotten out early.

AUSTA: And why he came here, I have no idea.

EDWARD: Probably to hide.

AUSTA: Yeah, I doubt if he knew anyone there at the time.

EDWARD: Right. Before I forget, Austa, do you by any chance have Hannah Myers' address?

AUSTA: Uh-huh.

EDWARD: Oh, thank heavens. ... More, Austa, except Couch Field, I got that, okay. Let's back

up a little bit.

AUSTA: Where was that Couch Field?

EDWARD: Right where the gate, they were going through the Couch Field, into the, probably government land, and then the next right over, not more than three blocks, 150 yards was the fence line of Arnold. On this Bradley's, did you ever know the Bradley's, Ira Bradley, Harold Bradley, Hom [Hosmer] Bradley?

AUSTA: Hom was my brother-in-law a number of years.

EDWARD: That's right.

AUSTA: And Harold is the one that they caught and killed; he was driving a stage. I didn't know the dad; I knew the mother slightly.

EDWARD: Ada.

AUSTA: Ada ---

EDWARD: Ada.

AUSTA: --- they called her, she was off her rocker.

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: Traveled around all the time with her Bible, the kids hanging on.

EDWARD: In fact, the family told me that, I got all that.

AUSTA: Who did you get that from?

EDWARD: Grace and Lena.

AUSTA: Oh, you interviewed Lena.

EDWARD: No, I didn't see Lena.

AUSTA: She has moved to Washington, too.

EDWARD: And Iris.

AUSTA: She lives in Portland.

EDWARD: Right. On the Bradley --- with Link Hutton, now be honest. I got to get some feeling, what have you heard, why Link shot Harold Bradley?

AUSTA: Because he thought his wife was having an affair with him.

EDWARD: That was 1925. Do we know who in the world his wife was, her name?

AUSTA: Her name? I don't --- I knew who she was having an affair with, it was a partner to my brother-in-law.

EDWARD: A neighbor.

AUSTA: A partner in the cattle business.

EDWARD: Was he, this person, a neighbor in that, around Link Hutton, was he living around there?

AUSTA: I think so.

EDWARD: What was his name?

AUSTA: Link Woodard.

EDWARD: Woodard. Oh boy.

AUSTA: He was a partner with Emery.

EDWARD: Everett Emery from Silver Lake.

AUSTA: Silver Lake.

EDWARD: This --- what was his first name?

AUSTA: Everett ---

EDWARD: Everett.

AUSTA: --- Emery.

EDWARD: Emery. Had a partner named?

AUSTA: Link Woodard, and I don't know what Link stood for.

EDWARD: I don't either.

AUSTA: I'm sure he had a name, but that was the name ---

EDWARD: Link Woodard, that would be W O O D A R D ?

AUSTA: I think so. And they took off after Hutton killed Harold.

EDWARD: He's the guy that took off with Link's ---

AUSTA: With Link's wife.

EDWARD: Did they go to Mexico?

AUSTA: I don't know where they went. Does anybody know?

EDWARD: Well, they've said that they took off and went to Mexico.

AUSTA: Could be.

EDWARD: Everett Emery, now what ---

AUSTA: My brother-in-law.

EDWARD: The old man Emery ---

AUSTA: Called him "Crooks", well he had arthritis and he was real bent over.

EDWARD: He's still alive I think.

AUSTA: Oh no, no.

EDWARD: Well, not the old, old ---

AUSTA: None of them are alive, except one grandson ---

EDWARD: One of them is.

AUSTA: --- my nephew.

EDWARD: One of them lives in Bend, he's about 80.

AUSTA: Oh, Russell.

EDWARD: Yeah, Russell, that's it.

AUSTA: Russell is still alive.

EDWARD: Russell Emery, and he's not in too good of shape.

AUSTA: That's what I've heard.

EDWARD: Yeah. That would be ---

AUSTA: Have you talked to him?

EDWARD: No, I can't have time, I want to.

AUSTA: It would take you a couple three years to talk to everybody.

EDWARD: Yeah. So, this Woodard was messing around. Now the funny thing is, Harold, and what you heard and say something, Austa, if I'm wrong. Harold stayed there overnight while he was picking the mail up.

AUSTA: I think so, yes, right, yeah. It was his headquarters.

EDWARD: And like he'd go from Stauffer, and he would go over the mountain and go to Link's house and stay overnight. And then in the morning go to Wagontire and get the mail, and then go back.

AUSTA: Come back, uh-huh. I don't know how often he made that trip.

EDWARD: Every two days, I think.

AUSTA: About three times a week probably, that was the usual for those country mail deliveries, three times a week.

EDWARD: You think that Harold was just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

AUSTA: I think so, at the wrong time. And why he was suspected, I have no idea why that Hutton suspected him.

EDWARD: You know the Hutton's first wife died in 1910, Mary.

AUSTA: Yeah, that's what you said.

EDWARD: Yeah, and they had a daughter, Veva, who was six years old in 1910 census.

AUSTA: I don't know what his second wife's name was.

EDWARD: What, this Woodard, was he around, or was he just a cattle hand or something?

AUSTA: I don't know much about him, I really don't.

EDWARD: I've seen that name, see, before. He was around that area.

AUSTA: Yeah, I think he came out with their cattle. He stayed out at Wagontire in the summertime, I guess, like we did. And Emery lived in Silver Lake, so Woodard did the work away from home.

EDWARD: Yeah, he must have did a pretty good job.

AUSTA: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Oh geeze, poor old Link, he --- He must have been a --- what have you heard personality wise about Link, short tempered?

AUSTA: I heard that he wasn't very well liked, but then that's just hearsay. I don't know.

EDWARD: Did you ever see him?

AUSTA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Was he a short man?

AUSTA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, good. Like I'm six, two, he was a lot ---

AUSTA: Oh, he was probably five, eight, something like that.

EDWARD: Okay. Didn't weigh much?

AUSTA: No, slender.

EDWARD: Jess was right.

AUSTA: Jess Gibson told you that?

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Said he only weighed about 130 pounds.

AUSTA: Probably.

EDWARD: And he could throw a rope like you, anybody.

AUSTA: Could be.

EDWARD: Do you know anybody that has pictures, that would have pictures of Link Hutton?

AUSTA: Nothing in the museum? No.

EDWARD: Is there any Hutton, any Hutton kids around, relatives besides ---

AUSTA: Well, Bill Foster, see would be, would have been Bill's great uncle.

EDWARD: Now, okay, you mentioned that you had an Emery that was a brother-in-law.

AUSTA: Uh-huh.

EDWARD: So your sister married an Emery?

AUSTA: He was her first husband.

EDWARD: And which Emery did she marry, Everett?

AUSTA: Everett, they called him "Slivers", real tall and skinny.

EDWARD: That's a neat name.

AUSTA: And he was a rounder, too. He had a girlfriend on the side.

EDWARD: Oh, Emery was, Everett Emery was around old Hutton's wife, too?

AUSTA: No, no, Silver Lake. Yeah.

EDWARD: In Silver Lake, oh. There was a lot of that.

AUSTA: Must have been.

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: Well, he was nasty. I was a girl going to high school at the time. I remember him. And they lived on the ranch down by the lake, Silver Lake, and I went home with him once to stay the weekend, and he tried to get smart with me, and I never would be alone with him again.

EDWARD: Horny little devil.

AUSTA: Yeah, he was terrible. It's exactly the right word. Yeah, we was terrible.

EDWARD: Emery's were pretty tough characters.

AUSTA: Yeah, there were about six of those boys.

EDWARD: Now was Everett the old, the father?

AUSTA: He was the oldest. No, no, he was the oldest son.

EDWARD: Oldest son.

AUSTA: ...

EDWARD: Who in the heck was the father of all these boys?

AUSTA: They called him "Crooks", because he was so crippled up. And I think one of his boys was --- well his wife played around a little. His wife played around a little, because one of the boys doesn't look like the rest of them. He looks like one of their neighbors.

EDWARD: These guys were out on the range a long time.

AUSTA: Well, yeah. Well, this was the woman, uh-huh; one of the boys doesn't look like the rest of them. He's dead now, but he didn't look like the rest of them.

EDWARD: Well, just so he wasn't black, or we'd really have a problem.

AUSTA: We didn't have any black people around at Silver Lake at that time. He was dark though, his dad was dark complexion, and so was he.

EDWARD: Oh my, it reminds me of Wagontire again. So poor Harold, he just got the brunt of everything.

AUSTA: He just --- uh-huh. And he was a good person. He took care of those kids, those brothers and sisters of his. Really kept them in food.

EDWARD: Ira, did you ever meet Ira Bradley?

AUSTA: I've seen him, uh-huh, but I didn't know him.

EDWARD: What about his death, what have you heard?

AUSTA: Well, he was killed too, and I heard that was over moonshine. He was supposed to have stolen somebody's moonshine.

EDWARD: Thompson.

AUSTA: Thompson, right, yeah.

EDWARD: They called him "Big Foot" Thompson.

AUSTA: Yeah, right. And Bradley lived up at ---

EDWARD: Bradley Springs.

AUSTA: Bradley Springs.

EDWARD: Yeah, I was just there; I took a picture looking down.

AUSTA: Was that the same as Lost Creek?

EDWARD: No. Lost Creek goes through it.

AUSTA: Lost Creek went through ---

EDWARD: Bradley Meadows.

AUSTA: Bradley Meadows. I've been up there several times.

EDWARD: Boy, that is rugged country.

AUSTA: Yeah, I've been there a horseback.

EDWARD: The only way to go. Don't never try it by truck. I did.

AUSTA: You did, huh?

EDWARD: I made it, and I don't know how. Over from Bradley Spring, over, up, there is a canyon that goes up, and then about a mile away was where Thompson's cabin was.

AUSTA: Oh, uh-huh.

EDWARD: And Grace Bradley Gowdy was born in that cabin.

AUSTA: Oh, was she?

EDWARD: In 1917, in that little, there is a little meadow there. And it's ironic that the Bradley family stayed in that Thompson Cabin for two years.

AUSTA: Did they?

EDWARD: And then evidently, Thompson came in, and him and Ira was making --- now Grace won't admit to this.

AUSTA: Moonshine, oh, I'm sure they were.

EDWARD: Moonshine. And I'm just going to say it wasn't Ira that stole it, the father, it was, the word is that Hom took it.

AUSTA: Oh, is that so?

EDWARD: And Jess Pennington took it.

AUSTA: Oh, oh really? Yeah, that could be.

EDWARD: And old man Thompson ---

AUSTA: Thought Ira took it, and killed him.

EDWARD: Yeah, and they got in an argument.

AUSTA: Hom and my sister lived up there a year or two, too.

EDWARD: At ---

AUSTA: At the Bradley place.

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: When they were first married.

EDWARD: What did Hom ever, well wait now, who did, what was your sister that married ---

AUSTA: Neva.

EDWARD: Neva. Your maiden name?

AUSTA: Graves.

EDWARD: That's what I saw, I saw Graves all over there in the cemetery. Big ---

AUSTA: At Prineville?

EDWARD: No, in Burns here.

AUSTA: I have a brother buried there.

EDWARD: Yeah.

AUSTA: Just died three years ago.

EDWARD: Oh, I thought there was --- Are you by any chance related to the, no ---

AUSTA: ...

(END OF TAPE)

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