

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #375 - Sides A/B/C

Subject: Rotha Williams French - With Video

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Date: May 11, 1995

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

(Note: Barbie Arnold is too far from the microphone to pick up all of her conversations.)

...

DOROTHEA PURDY: Okay. This is Dorothea Purdy, along with Barbara Lofgren, and today we are talking with Rotha French at the Harney County Library in Burns, Oregon.

Today's date is May the 5th ---

BARBARA LOFGREN: How about the 11th?

DOROTHEA: 11th --- I'll never get these things right. I've got to turn this up a little bit (tape recorder). Following our interview we'll be doing a short video, and it will be stored in the Library along with the transcript and cassette tape. Rotha we're going to begin by asking you your full name.

ROTHA FRENCH: It was Rotha May, M A Y, Williams French.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And where were you born?

ROTHA: Haines, Oregon, September 15, 1913.

DOROTHEA: When, 1913?

ROTHA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Who are your parent's, names?

ROTHA: My mother's name was Effie Lee Holladay, H O L L A D A Y. And she was born at Columbia, Adair County, Kentucky. Born May the 11th, 1882.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

ROTHA: And my father was Samuel Sylvester Williams, he was born February the 3rd, 1872 at Panguitch, Utah.

DOROTHEA: What brought them to Harney County?

ROTHA: Dad, and my grandfather were stage contractors. And I understood that Ben Holladay was sub-contracting, from Ben Holladay. And they made a policy, my granddad did, when somebody faulted on a mail contract he would usually come in and bid, and pick up the contract. And that's how they happened to come. And they carried this mail from Ontario to Burns, that was 1894.

DOROTHEA: And is this Ben Holladay some relation of your mother's then?

ROTHA: A distant cousin, yes, uh huh. All Holladay's, no matter how they spell their name, they're all related. Barbie (Arnold, Rotha's daughter), will you go out and bring in -- - good, you did.

BARBIE ARNOLD: I hope I got what you wanted.

ROTHA: Yeah, the homesteads and things are listed.

BARBIE: ...

ROTHA: No, I want mine.

BARBIE: Well he's gone. I'll call ... and bring it back by.

DOROTHEA: Let's go on with why did your mom come to Harney County?

ROTHA: Well she was 17, and she came out to visit her brother, Uncle Frank Holladay, and he was married to my dad's sister, Grace Williams. And they operated the stage stops for the Stinkingwater. So that's how my mother happened to come. And of course the train stopped in Ontario, and she rode up on the stage. But I don't think Dad was the driver on that stage.

BARBARA: His father then.

ROTHA: One or the other. Like I said, who knows. I always said if Mother had stayed back in Kentucky, there wouldn't have been and Sitz out here. You know Uncle Lou and Aunt Georgia, the Sitz family, if she hadn't of come out. She said it was quite a long trip on the train then. She was 17 when she came out.

DOROTHEA: I bet it was a long trip.

ROTHA: Uh huh, it was for her.

DOROTHEA: And then I suppose the train stopped in Ontario, so ---

ROTHA: That was the stopping spot for the train. But she and Dad, you know, were married in 1900, in September 17th, 1900. And they were married here in Burns, and I've always been going to the court to see if I could find which hotel they were married. And I have never done it. And I don't remember what she said.

BARBARA: Did she say how they happened to meet? She came when she was 17, but how did they ---

ROTHA: Well Dad was carrying the mail, see, between Ontario and Burns, and they had stage stops all, you know, coming over Bendire Mountain and ever so many stage stops. I'm surprised Lee didn't mention (in his interview) --- Drex can probably give you a better resume on the stage stops. You know they'd only travel maybe 25 miles, and they had to have teams, a place to keep their horses to change.

DOROTHEA: Now were they their own teams, or were they, did they

ROTHA: No, I --- some of the teams were their own, because that's how they happened to buy the lower ranch down there, was a place to keep the horses. But that, I don't know, whether they owned their own teams or what.

BARBARA: Or whether the company just happens to have these horses, or the people have them and rent them out, or whatever?

ROTHA: Whether the people that had the stage stops --- now that's something I don't know. Drex might remember. I'll ask him if they were all, if they owned all their own horses.

DOROTHEA: I've often wondered this, you know, when you see pictures of the stages going through, and they change the horses, whose horses those were.

ROTHA: I know some of them were ---

BARBARA: And do they ever get back again. You know how far down the line do they go?

ROTHA: Right.

BARBARA: Do they come back again?

ROTHA: But I think they, no, the horses would stop at the stage stops, and then when they came back, the horses would be rested and then they would go on.

DOROTHEA: Trade again.

BARBARA: So they just go basically from maybe the two different stage stops.

ROTHA: Stage stops, uh huh. There were a number of stage stops. There is one over here south of where Oards are; there was a stage stop there too. And then something else, mail went through regardless, whether mud, snow, and they had terrific winters in here then, when the folks came.

BARBARA: So it was just your mother met him on the stage trip then?

ROTHA: No, well no, she went to visit Frank and Aunt Grace, and stayed there at the stage station.

BARBARA: At the --- I see, okay.

ROTHA: See I expect they probably fixed the meals, you know, for the passengers that were on this stage. And ---

BARBARA: He saw a pretty young thing there then?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. Yes, my mother was lovely; I've heard other people tell about coming out of Kentucky, this beautiful cream skin. She was a good-looking woman.

DOROTHEA: You mentioned something about the homestead earlier. Can you tell us something about where they homesteaded, and how long they lived there?

ROTHA: Well let me think. Stewarts owned, had the place that they first bought. I mean homesteaded by Stewarts --- oh if I get that piece of paper I can tell you more about it. And then when my dad and granddad came in, they bought that homestead from these people. And then as time went on, there were others homesteaded, the Stewarts and the Giddings there on the lower part of the ranch. And then in time my father bought those homesteads. And then he homesteaded a piece of ground --- we have what we call an irrigation ditch going down through the lower field. ... it comes down through Otis Valley, and the irrigation ditch ran along like this, and the old other ranch house was here. But Dad homesteaded 160 back up above that ditch. And I've heard my mother tell about, it wasn't much of a cabin they lived in when they were first married. And she said you could sit in front of one of those isinglass-heating stoves, and toast the front of you, and your back would be freezing.

But it wasn't too long, and we have no record of this before Dad had that other house built down below the irrigation ditch. And that was a nice house. I have a picture of it there at home, but I didn't bring it. And that house was there until it caught on fire and burnt up. We had a --- but in the meantime my mother moved away from there. Lee was born out at the stage stop by the Stinkingwater. And Midge was born down at the lower ranch, and George was born at the lower ranch. But when he was about a year and a half old he got out, and got drowned. So after that my mother wouldn't stay there. So she went up to Drewsey, and there was a house up there, and she stayed there. And Lee went to Drewsey school, you know, stayed up there with his mother at school, during the

school year. And then they built the house over home, where I am. That was built in 1913. I have a picture of my mother out on the front steps holding me as a baby. The house is as old as I am.

DOROTHEA: And that's where you live now?

ROTHA: That's where I live now. Have you ever been out that way? That's about a quarter of a mile out from Drewsey, going Otis ... and it's a two story white house with a lot of trees around it.

DOROTHEA: Oh, we went out and did an interview with Glenn Sitz, we probably drove by it.

ROTHA: Yes, you did, if you went out to where Glenn lived, out Otis ...

DOROTHEA: You say out Otis, and I knew that that's where Glenn lived.

ROTHA: Fredrick's place, they bought the old Fredrick's place. Chet Stallard owned it for a while. Then he persuaded Glenn, you know, to buy it.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Tell us something about your school years. Do you remember who your teachers were, and ---

ROTHA: Mrs. McConnell was some of them. And there was a lady by the name of Short. I was trying to look and see if I could find my grade, my cards, you know.

BARBARA: Report cards.

ROTHA: Report cards, but I didn't have much luck. I don't know who the first teacher --- Mrs. Stack, Arila Stack was one of them too. But we'd walk to school, and you've seen pictures of our schoolhouse over there, haven't you?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ROTHA: There was a three-room schoolhouse, and Sattgast, a man and his wife taught there, and one of them taught the 9th grade. They had the 9th grade upstairs there. But there were a lot of pupils that went to school there when I was a, you know, first went. But

I can remember we had a large pail out there in the hallway, and a dipper in it, that's where we all drank when we went out there and drank. Of course we all packed our lunches too.

DOROTHEA: And all drank out of the same dipper.

ROTHA: We all drank out of the same thing.

DOROTHEA: I know, that's what I said, every year --- buddy, every time they get a drink now; they have to have a clean glass.

ROTHA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I said I don't know how we ever grew up; we all drank out of the same dipper. Never changed it. My grandfather had had it before we --- and I remember scrubbing that yellow stain out of the bottom of it. Because I don't think he ever washed it. But anyway ---

ROTHA: One thing about --- but another thing, I'm sure we all had chilblains too, you know, walking to school. Because our winters were cold.

DOROTHEA: A lot worse than they are now.

BARBARA: Did you wear those old brown heavy socks?

ROTHA: I'm sure, probably black ones, and underwear and every-thing, you know, the warm clothes that ---

BARBARA: Did you get to wear pants when you were a girl, or were they mostly dresses?

ROTHA: Dress, skirts, skirts. I can remember walking on top of the snow, it would be crusted. And there would be frost on the side of the barbwire fences, that wide on each side. But it was fun when we would walk on top of those drifts.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah, it would get so crusted you could just walk right on top. I'd probably sink through now, but ---

ROTHA: And we used to, you know, have ice in the rivers too. Really, you know, it would be a foot and a half, two feet.

BARBARA: Did you ice skate on them?

ROTHA: I never did, but Lee and Midge and all the older ones did, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You're talking about Lee and Midge, let's get your brother's and sister's names. And approximately who the oldest, and where you came in line.

ROTHA: Okay. Lee Edward Williams was born January 5th, 1902. And as I said, he was born out at the stage stop on the Stinkingwater. And Frances, and that's E S, Marie Williams was born October the 9th, in 1904.

BARBARA: This is a boy?

ROTHA: Girl.

BARBARA: A girl, okay.

ROTHA: Frances Marie.

BARBARA: Okay.

ROTHA: And incidentally, there was always Frances's in the Holladay family, it came down through generations.

DOROTHEA: And you had an Uncle Frank, or something?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. And George Allen, A L L E N Williams born March 28th, 1907. And he was the one that they thought they had the gate secure on the yard, and he got out and drowned August the 16th, 1908.

DOROTHEA: Was that in the water that went by?

ROTHA: Yes, in the irrigation ditch.

DOROTHEA: The irrigation.

BARBARA: So he was just a year old then?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. A year and a half. And Drexel Woodrow Williams was born ---

DOROTHEA: Drexel?

ROTHA: Uh huh, D R E X E L. Born January 29th, 1911. Then myself. And I think you have that, Rotha May Williams, September 15, 1913.

DOROTHEA: You're the youngest?

ROTHA: Uh huh, yes.

BARBARA: You were talking about a Mitch?

ROTHA: Midge.

BARBARA: Oh, Midge.

ROTHA: Uh huh. Well someone met Dad on top of Stinkingwater, that's in the days of the buggies and the team, and they told him he had a baby girl. And they said the last they saw of him; he was whipping the team up, headed for home. And when he saw Frances she was so tiny, he called her Midge. And that was --- we've always, she's always been Midge to me.

BARBARA: So her nickname is Midge then. I see.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And are there just the two of you left then, you and Drex?

ROTHA: Right, yes.

BARBARA: And he is in Juntura now, is that right?

ROTHA: Right. And ---

DOROTHEA: We were talking about your parent's homesteads, and places that they lived. Did they have any other close neighbors at that time?

ROTHA: Well I think there were neighbors up Otis Valley. Now ---

DOROTHEA: You don't remember yourself?

ROTHA: No, I don't. See I knew nothing about that life. But they would get together even; I've heard my mother tell about in the wintertime, see Mary and Bill Robertson were

up there then. And I think the South's lived up in there. I heard somebody say the other day they thought that Gladys' people, her mother and her dad lived up to Otis there at one time. But as far as I know, I just don't know. But I do know they got together, maybe once a month, maybe oftener. But they would play the fiddle, and they had, you know, social life.

BARBARA: They would get together in different people's homes for dances and things like that?

ROTHA: That's right.

DOROTHEA: How about picnics, did you ever remember going to a picnic? Because Silvies Valley had a lot of picnics and dances.

ROTHA: Well so did Drewsey have lots of dances. And I remember one time, it was when Lee and Gladys lived at the lower ranch, and also Jim Taylor, and her mother. After Gladys' first husband, I don't know whether he passed away or not, but she married Jim Taylor. And they worked down at the lower ranch. And they had a get together down there. There was quite an orchard there at the lower ranch. And I can remember the long tables set up out there, you know, and everybody brought food. And there was quite a crowd there. But I was pretty small.

DOROTHEA: How about school? How many kids was in the school?

ROTHA: Well when I first started, there must have been 20 or 30 anyway. There was quite a few.

DOROTHEA: Quite a few kids in Drewsey. And did you go all your years of school at Drewsey?

ROTHA: Through the seventh grade. And then the eighth grade I went to Salem. And I went to Parish Junior High at Salem.

DOROTHEA: How about high school?

ROTHA: Ontario High School, and I stayed with Dalton Biggs family. He was a brother, you know, to John Biggs and all these attorneys. He was an attorney himself.

BARBARA: Why did you decide to go to Ontario rather than Burns? Just because of that family that you stayed with?

ROTHA: No, the folks weren't just right certain where to send me. See my sister had gone to St. Teresa's Academy, you know, went from her seventh grade on. You know she was sent over there because she was, you know, had musical, and they wanted a good place for her to go. Well so many of the girls from up in here, Frances Smith and Lucille went over there. And the Robertson girl Arlie, went there. And there was people from over around Crane, women, that went over there.

DOROTHEA: Why did you only go to the seventh grade?

ROTHA: Because I wanted a little better preparation for high school.

DOROTHEA: And so when you went to Salem, who did you stay with?

ROTHA: Part of the time, my mother stayed there for a couple of months, and my dad wasn't feeling well, so she came home. And then I stayed with my sister and her husband. He was a state policeman there in Salem. In fact Willis was one of the first members of the state police.

DOROTHEA: Well that's interesting.

ROTHA: And Midge and Willis they never had any children.

DOROTHEA: And what was his last name?

ROTHA: Genn, G E N N.

BARBARA: Okay, can we get the pairings on Drex's and Lee's wife's names?

ROTHA: Well Irene Goodman, Dean Goodman was down at Juntura. And Irene was one of his daughters. Dean and Mattie Goodman had the two girls, Irene and Mary Gail. Mary Gail married a Blackaby from Ontario, he's in the insurance business. Drex married

Irene. And I was trying to think what year. I have that down, and I don't ---

BARBARA: Irene Goodman. Would that have been any relation to the Goodman's that was a sheriff here at one time?

ROTHA: I don't think so.

BARBARA: Different family.

ROTHA: I think Dean came from Washington, up in the State of Washington.

BARBARA: Okay. And Lee's wife's name was?

ROTHA: Was Gladys, G L A D Y S South.

BARBARA: Okay, and Midge was ---

ROTHA: Willis Genn. And she passed away in '46, in the fall of '46. She wasn't very old.

BARBARA: And George died early, and then you. Okay. And you married?

ROTHA: LaVerne R. French. L a V E R N E R. French. He went by the name of Verne.

DOROTHEA: He had an E on the end of it.

ROTHA: V E R N E. And I was going to tell you about Irene and Drex, they had two boys. They had Bill and Gary, was their family.

DOROTHEA: Do any of them live around here?

ROTHA: Yes, they both live at Juntura, and are active in the ranch. And of course you know with Lee and Gladys they had Alan and Terry.

BARBARA: And Terry is still in the Drewsey area, is that right?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. Alan, they still live at Drewsey, but he is retired, you know, he was in the post office, he and Sissy. But Juanita was her name. And they had Kay, who you know, you remember her passing away. She was 30; I mean she had that brain tumor. And then they had an adopted son Joe, and Joe --- where is Joe now Barbie?

BARBIE: Caldwell.

ROTHA: Caldwell. And he married Monica ---

BARBIE ...

ROTHA: They were at the Lamb Ranch for a while. And of course you know who Terry is married to, Nancy Haines. And you know they had the two ---

DOROTHEA: Two children.

ROTHA: Uh huh, Travis and Dianne.

BARBARA: And do you have just Barbara?

ROTHA: Uh huh, just Barbara. And some step-grandchildren.

BARBIE: And great grandchildren.

ROTHA: And great grandchildren.

DOROTHEA: Barbara is a grandma, a step-grandma.

BARBIE: I call grandma.

DOROTHEA: Right, right. That's ---

ROTHA: Let's see what year --- And see Drex and Irene were married in '38, June of '38. And that's something I'll have to pinpoint, and find what date, I don't remember. And I don't remember --- I think Lee and Gladys were married in the fall, and he was probably about 21. They were married in Ontario, and Ruth and George Riley stood up with them, I remember that. Midge and Willis were married in Eugene.

DOROTHEA: Boy, you can remember all these things.

ROTHA: I don't remember the dates though.

BARBIE: ... had their 50th anniversary when I was in college.

BARBARA: Okay, how did you happen to meet your husband, and why was he in this country? How did he get here?

ROTHA: Well his folks were born; he was born in Iowa Falls, Iowa. And his granddad and his dad they had quite a large acreage back there, and they raised corn. And they

fattened out bulls and took them to Chicago market, and all this. But I think it was a health problem that brought, they came west, you know. So many people came west about that time. And they settled in Sutherland, and that's where LaVerne went to school, was Sutherland. And then how I happened to meet him, he was up here working on the road, when they put the highway through. That's where I met LaVerne.

BARBIE: Tell them where.

ROTHA: Pardon?

BARBIE: Tell them where.

ROTHA: Well I think it was at a dance. I think Marjorie Dunten introduced me to him.

BARBARA: A great many people met each other, either at school or at dances.

ROTHA: Right, they did.

BARBIE: This would have been a Drewsey dance.

ROTHA: But anyway ---

BARBARA: A Drewsey dance. How old were you when you met him?

ROTHA: Oh, probably 27, I think. But in the meantime, I worked, you know, I worked a lot in Portland. That's where I went --- I went to Behnke-Walker College for two years. I worked down there. My sister was living there in Portland too, by the way, and I stayed with her when I went to Business College. That was the days of the depression. I was going to Stanford, but the depression made a difference on us.

BARBARA: And so this was a business school you said?

ROTHA: Yes.

BARBARA: And then when you got out of there, who did you go to work for? What did you do?

ROTHA: I had a number of different jobs.

BARBARA: Were you in an office?

ROTHA: I did secretarial work, uh huh, right. And then LaVerne bought into a station down in Portland, you know, when he left up here with the road. And then we got together down there. Then we went to Reno and got married, that was in '42.

BARBARA: So you first met at a dance in Drewsey.

ROTHA: In Drewsey.

BARBARA: And then you went off to college, and then he ---

ROTHA: No, I went back down to Portland to work. After my father passed away, I spent quite a bit of time with my mother because, you know, she was there by herself. So I would go back and forth, I did a lot of temporary work, you know, no problem. When you were, you know, when you knew stenographic, and bookkeeping, and all those things, so that's what I did.

DOROTHEA: Well what kind of a car did you have to drive? Or did you ride the bus, or stage, or ---

ROTHA: I used to ride the bus a lot back and forth to Portland. No we, Barbie --- do you remember? I think my mother, we had a, I believe we had an Oldsmobile coach; it seems to me like they did.

BARBIE: How would I remember Mom, I wasn't even born.

ROTHA: Yeah, I know you weren't even here. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Okay, I haven't quite got this figured out. You met in Drewsey at a dance, and then how old were you at this time? You were out of school at this time?

ROTHA: Let's see, if I was married in '42, and I was born in 1913, I was 28 when I was married. And I was probably 27, like I say I just went back and forth. I didn't stay up here too long, I'd come up with my mother --- A lot of times she would go back with me, and we had an apartment down in Portland. And so we would go back and forth. And I worked, you know, all the time, I mean, whenever I was in Portland.

Besides that I spent a lot of time, in the wintertime, on Mount Hood. I used to love to ski; I belonged to a ski club. I spent a lot of time skiing. In the summertime my sister was a great golfer, and we would play a lot of golf.

DOROTHEA: And so he owned a what, a service station?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh, until he was inducted.

DOROTHEA: And then he went into the service?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And were you married then?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. We were married; we were married on Washington's Birthday in '42.

DOROTHEA: And so where did you go?

ROTHA: Well he was inducted and sent to Fort Lewis. And then from there he went to Fort Knox, Kentucky. And as soon as I found out where he was stationed I went back and stayed in Louisville. And see that was close to Fort Knox. And then there was a lieutenant's wife, my sister happened to catch her down at the depot in Portland, and that's where I got on the train to go back. And so Betty and I teamed up. Because her husband was back there as a lieutenant, and they were, you know, getting, processing them and getting them ready to ship out. And so Betty and I, we shared a hotel room. And then after we were there awhile we got a room with Miss Enright up across from Cherokee Park there in Louisville.

DOROTHEA: And what was Betty's last name?

ROTHA: Vinson, V I N S O N. And Ben was her husband.

DOROTHEA: And he was the officer?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Tell us about how you came back to Harney County, and some of the

things that you have done. Do you ride horses, raise horses?

ROTHA: Well I rode them, we didn't raise them, but I rode them, you know, to help gather cattle, and work cattle, and all those things. And also hayed, ran equipment, and also helped feed cattle in the wintertime. It was a family affair, you might say. Came up, back in '51. My brother, Lee, suggested we come up, so we did, my husband and I we came up.

BARBARA: So what did he do after he got out of the --- how long was he in the service, and when did he get out?

ROTHA: He was out in, last of October '45.

BARBARA: And then so what did he do after that?

ROTHA: Then in Portland he was selling for an automotive place, and he traveled quite a bit.

BARBARA: So when the suggestion came to come back on the ranch, you decided that might not be so bad after all.

ROTHA: No, Lee decided, he thought maybe we could help. My husband was quite a mechanic, he was real handy. In fact that's what he did back there at Fort Knox, armored force school. Now incidentally I worked there too, I worked on the post. I had taken Civil Service, that was in '41. And about the time war, the Japs bombed us, so I was able to get a position on the post if I could find a place to stay there. Well I found one. I walked from the non-commissioned officers headquarters, I walked from door to door --- Master Sergeant Baker who incidentally had been in the army ever since he was old enough, I stayed with them until they said no you can't keep people. And then I went to Elizabethtown, and that's where we stayed the rest of the time.

DOROTHEA: So Barbara was born while LaVerne was in the service?

ROTHA: No, Barbara was born here when we were on the ranch. She was born in

Ontario.

BARBIE: Mom and Dad's wedding date is 2-21-42.

ROTHA: See Barbie was born April 5th, '55 down in Ontario, Holy Rosary.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I thought she was born in '42, so okay.

BARBARA: No, that is when they were married.

DOROTHEA: That's when you were married.

BARBIE: Mom's first daughter was born in what, '50 ---

ROTHA: '46.

BARBIE: '46.

DOROTHEA: So you had a child before?

ROTHA: Uh huh, stillborn.

DOROTHEA: Let's find out what you did when you first came back to Harney County.

ROTHA: Like I mentioned, it was more or less just doing everything that needed to be done, you might say. Like, you know, chasing water down to where we put in the, farmed, and put in corrugations.

DOROTHEA: Where did you live, did you move right in ---

ROTHA: We lived with my mother; she was there by herself, uh huh. We lived with her.

DOROTHEA: So you more or less ranched with your mother then?

ROTHA: Well Mother was more or less out of it. But we all lived there together.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a partnership, or how did they work this?

ROTHA: Well everybody just kind of did their own thing, you know. Lee took care of his end, and I took care of my end, so that was the way we worked.

BARBARA: Was Drex gone, had Drex gone to Juntura?

ROTHA: Drex was down to Juntura, uh huh.

BARBARA: Okay.

ROTHA: He went, he and Irene went to Juntura a year after, or a year or so after my father passed away. See Lee and Gladys were up at Van on the Gearhart place, and they lived up there and took care of that place. And Drex and Irene were down at the lower ranch. And then Dean became real bad, and he wasn't able to take care of his ranch in Juntura. So Drex consulted with my mother and decided, you know, that it would work out all right if he went down to run that place. So that's how he happened to go to Juntura.

BARBARA: And when did your father pass away?

ROTHA: I've got it down here. He died January 31st, 1937, from pneumonia. Then they didn't have wonder drugs. And remember the old hotel down there that Hines had built, the end of the street? That's where he was. The old stone hospital was too drafty and too cold, so he was, took him in there.

And that was a terrific winter. I can remember the snowplows, not the snowplows, but the blowers. They had to come in from Western Oregon to open up the mountain pass up here, Stinkingwater. It was blowing shut all the time, and the snowplow couldn't do anything. That was a terrific winter. I don't know if that was the year it was ten below, averaged ten below the month of January here, I think it was. And Portland had a lot of snow too then, all across the country. Coming from Portland there was a lot of snow, and it was cold.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, kids don't know what it's like anymore, do they?

ROTHA: No, they don't.

BARBARA: So your mother was a widow for a very long time then, wasn't she?

ROTHA: Yes, she was.

BARBARA: She never had any idea of re-marrying or anything?

ROTHA: Never met anybody, I think, that would appeal to her. She was 53 when Dad

died.

DOROTHEA: Tell us some of the things you did for entertainment.

ROTHA: You mean when we were growing up?

DOROTHEA: And since.

ROTHA: Well, you know, they had the dances over at the Odd Fellows Hall there at Drewsey. And everybody went, I mean, you know, it was wonderful. I can remember Charlie Cramer calling, you know, the square dances. He was really excellent. And the children were, everybody came, and they put the children along on the benches, you know, or up on the platform. And they would dance until daylight. And of course there was always a few fights, you know, with the bootleg. (Laughter) But it was nice, and that was a well-built hall, the Odd Fellow Hall was fine.

DOROTHEA: It's a shame to see it going to ruins.

ROTHA: Yeah, they tore it down, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they tore it down?

ROTHA: Uh huh. They thought it was leaning, so they thought it was dangerous. And of course they had Odd Fellows upstairs, their meeting. But they really celebrated there at Drewsey. You know on the Fourth of July I can remember, I wasn't very old, but I can remember when they had a racetrack there. And that was below our sub-station, and it was quite a long track. And they had bleachers there, and I can remember sitting up on those bleachers watching the horse's race.

And they had a ball diamond there, where Conley has that cutting place now for the horses. I can remember we'd go over there and watch teams play. They'd come from Burns, Crane, Juntura; this was a lot of fun, you know, to watch the baseball.

BARBARA: We've heard about some wild baseball games over in that country.

ROTHA: And you know it gave the fellows all something to do. They enjoyed it. I can

remember Glenn; well Glenn was real good. And Jimmy Capps, the Capps were excellent. That was nice. And then usually they would have dances around the Fourth of July for two nights, they didn't stop with one. And I can remember the hired men would go and dance all night. And they would be down there stacking hay the next morning, you know.

DOROTHEA: They used to bring lots of food, and they would have more than you could ever eat.

ROTHA: And then they did, you know, I suppose it was Valentines time, I just don't remember, but I know the people would make the baskets, and people would bid on them for their suppers. I can remember that. And one year Beulah had the, had built a platform over there, out in the open in the sagebrush, and we went over there. I went with Lee and Gladys over there, and they danced two nights. That was one thing about Lee, when he -- he would always gather us all up, and we would all go. It wasn't anything to go to, like Beulah or maybe John Day. You always ---

BARBARA: He liked to dance or party, was ready to go.

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. And like I say, he'd gather --- a lot of people would say, well heck I don't want to drag my little baby sister or my brother along. But he, we all went; we were family, a family.

DOROTHEA: Well tell us something about the horse races. What were they like?

ROTHA: I, like I say, I was pretty small. I remember Drex had one grey horse he rode, and how it did I don't know. I was too small to remember. But they raced, and it's in here, (Lee's interview) Lee refers to it.

And then they'd have foot races there in front of Porter-Sitz Store, and the post office. Kids would race. Glenn Sitz was quite a runner; I can remember my Aunt Georgia talking about it. Glenn running, she said, he could really go.

BARBARA: Okay, you mention your Aunt Georgia Sitz. How was she related now?

ROTHA: My mother's sister. And there was about two years difference.

BARBARA: Okay.

ROTHA: And Aunt Georgia, that was really how Aunt Georgia came out here. She came out to see my mother, they were always real close. And Aunt Georgia depended on Mother, and I don't think there was hardly a summer --- that's when the roads were passable, that Aunt Georgia and Uncle Lou, and Glenn and all --- they were down there for Sunday dinner at our house. We all, we grew up together, we were real close.

BARBARA: And Georgia's husband's name was?

ROTHA: Uncle Lou, Lou Sitz.

BARBARA: Lou, okay.

ROTHA: You know Rube was his brother.

BARBARA: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Rube Sitz?

ROTHA: Uh huh. I think they had a store or something down at Lawen when they first came here. They come up out of California. And I think, I don't know, I don't remember, I kind of think they came out of Nebraska or someplace, that Uncle Lou and Rube did. But I won't swear on that. But I think Jerry down there has information. You know Nels, that was ---

DOROTHEA: Do you have a special story that you can tell us about?

--- Barbara asked me to ask you about your plane ride.

ROTHA: Oh, yes. The first summer Midge and Willis were married they were, came up home, and Lee and Gladys were there too. And there was a little cub plane; I guess you would call it a cub plane, a very small one. This fellow came into Drewsey, and he was taking people for rides. And why he --- he landed up around the cemetery. And so Dad

was always, you know, encouraged us to do different things. So he bought us tickets, and we went on the plane. And there was a fellow by the name of Edgar Wilson that lived right below us there, and he wouldn't look out at all. I don't --- I think Jay Smith was in with me too. And he just looked at the floor. Well the plane flew down into the valley, and turned and came back. And you know with those when they turn, bank, and turn, you're looking straight down. But anyway my sister said when he went to land, he almost hit the fence. Just barely missed the top of that fence.

DOROTHEA: Well that would have been nice, you'd have blown some tires.

ROTHA: But we couldn't, see Jay and I could not get Edgar to look out. He just sat there and looked at the floor.

BARBARA: Petrified, huh?

ROTHA: Petrified.

BARBARA: Oh, goodness.

ROTHA: But it was so funny, but I know, she said she held her breath, because she thought he was going to hook the fence.

BARBARA: Did your family really push education on you children? Did they feel that it was very important that you get a good education? Made sure that you went to school?

ROTHA: Well my dad's theory was, he thought that a woman should be educated enough so that they could take care of themselves. That was his theory, you know. So he would have liked to have had Drex go on to college, but Drex told him no, he'd rather have the money to buy some cattle. (Laughter) No, you know, schooling was real important.

My mother was a great one, well it seemed like women did more of it than the men, but hearing us on our schoolwork. You know then we took things home and had schoolwork to do at home. And they were a big help, I mean they encouraged us to study

and get good grades. In fact they just expected it of us. But like, just like when I was in high school in Ontario, I know some of the girls I knew said, "What I wouldn't give to be like you are." See, nobody was responsible for me. And I just looked at her and I said, "You know, my folks trust me." That was, you know, the answer. That's why I say, our foundation was wonderful. But, I mean Aunt Georgia was the same way, and I'm sure Mrs. Hamilton and all those were the same way, helping, you know, encouraging their offspring to study, I'm sure.

DOROTHEA: You had chores to do as a child, what kind of chores did you do?

ROTHA: Well I think, well the only thing I can remember doing was gathering eggs.

BARBIE: ...

ROTHA: Well that's right. I was, you know, then in those days, our hired men were down at the lower ranch. They weren't up around where we kids grew up. But, so we didn't get to work out, you know, running equipment or anything. But I remember one time my father was short of a pull-back gal, so I got to ride a horse two days, and I was so proud to pull that net back.

And then when I was in high school, that was before all those fences were in ---

SIDE B

ROTHA: But anyway, that was my chore, you know, to gather the bulls and cows, and take them back down the river, down below Drewsey field.

DOROTHEA: Did you, your mother sell chickens, or eggs, or anything like this?

ROTHA: Well my mother, they had dairy cows, and a separator, and they sold cream. And then not only that, one year she raised about a hundred turkeys to sell. But the men from the lower --- the hired men came up and they did the butchering of them.

BARBARA: Did they have trouble raising --- turkeys are pretty dumb birds.

ROTHA: I know. But no, she did fine with them.

BARBARA: Oh, good.

ROTHA: Of course she always had chickens and eggs. But the only time we had any hired men up there for dinner, or anything, was when they were haying in the alfalfa field right below the house. So we always had men for dinner then.

BARBARA: Did you help your mother cook, did you learn to cook as a young girl?

ROTHA: No. No, you know what was funny; I took cooking when I was in the eighth grade at Salem. (Laughter) Oh, my mother did it so fast, you know --- But of course it rubbed off on me, I knew pretty much how to cook just by watching her.

BARBIE: ...

ROTHA: Well after Drex and Irene had gone, I don't know what happened, but anyway we needed a cook down there. I went down, I had fourteen men I cooked for. We had threshing crew, and cutting the last alfalfa, and I had fourteen men to cook for. And I stayed up at the house with my mother, and I would set my alarm at four, then I would go down. But Mom was great; she'd bake the bread and the pastry for me, which was a big help.

BARBARA: I should say.

ROTHA: So it was ---

BARBARA: They always expected to have bread with every meal, and dessert with lunch and dinner.

ROTHA: That was just part of it. And we were fortunate, I mean, it was in the summer, late in the fall, and I --- when I'd go to be in Ontario --- and then you could buy a crate of cantaloupe for a dollar. Yes, a dollar.

BARBARA: Instead of a dollar a piece.

ROTHA: And watermelon, yes. And so then of course the men had that for dessert.

BARBARA: Oh, they'd love it.

ROTHA: But they were, Buddy Cramer and all of them, they were wonderful. They would come and help me with the dishes, and things. The men were really nice.

DOROTHEA: Did you have three meals a day, or just ---

ROTHA: Oh yes, and right on time, you bet. And I'd always have enough cooked at noon that at suppertime it was easy, it was warm-up.

DOROTHEA: That's how I got broke in when I first got married. We had like fourteen, fifteen, sixteen people to cook for every single day.

ROTHA: You know you get, I mean it isn't really that big a chore. I mean you have a set program, and you do it. I can always remember my dad; he always kept a close watch on his cooks, because he always said some of them, you know, are pretty wasteful. But he was real fortunate, I mean, most of the women could cook, couples that worked there.

But Joel Sword, is what was funny, I always thought it was Joel, but his brother had come out. I guess they came from Oklahoma, the Swords did. But anyway he was down there. One morning my alarm didn't go off. I hurried down there, and he had the breakfast going, and everything, his brother did. Like I said ---

DOROTHEA: What was his name?

ROTHA: I don't remember what his first name --- I always thought it was Joel, but he told me no, it was his brother. But I thought that was pretty nice.

BARBARA: That was very considerate. And when did you lose your mother then? What year was that, do you recall?

ROTHA: '77. But it was after her birthday, she was 95.

BARBARA: My goodness.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: She had a long full life then, didn't she?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. But what, when she was 86 leukemia showed up with her here. You remember when everybody had the flu in; those hospital halls were full up here? And so that white blood count skyrocketed, and Dr. Cliff and (Dr.) John they said we better send her to Portland to the blood specialists. And that's what they did. Irene rode in the ambulance with her. And she was at St. Vincent's and Perosky was her doctor. But in a month's time, it was controllable with her taking medicine. So, you know, they were able to get it under control. But I can remember up here at the hospital she was just weaving from side to side.

It was a good thing though they did that, because it was after that, that Drex flew her back to Kentucky, and she was able to see some of her first cousins, they were 86 too. And see the home place, Holladay's still live on the home place back there.

BARBARA: Oh, isn't that nice.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: That's great. So you and your husband lived for a very long time then with your mother.

ROTHA: Yes.

BARBARA: In the same home. Was it ever a conflict having two families in one home?

ROTHA: No, huh uh. I was outside so much, and of course whenever I was in, you know, I did the cooking and took everything --- I look back and marvel, how did I do all this stuff. And the lunches I'd fix up, see, we farmed 25 miles from home too. And I'd always, I really would fix lunches for her, she knew ... Looking back, I marvel, at nighttime I'd go out and sprinkle my garden. Where did I get the energy? But it was fun.

Mildred was a widow, her husband died when she was 53, and the only way she would come up and stay with us, is if she could help out in the field. And we had a lot of fun. It was fun, it was pleasure.

DOROTHEA: And this was who?

ROTHA: Mildred. Her name was Mildred French Chapman. And then later she married Latham. But I ---

BARBIE: Dad's sister.

ROTHA: LaVerne's sister, one and only. But Verne too, I mean we would have a rest about 10 o'clock in the morning. Stop and have a coffee break. Then in the middle of the afternoon we would. And Barbie and LaVerne would go home early, and Mildred and I would stay up there and buck until about dark, you know, so to get the hay bucked in. But it was fun.

BARBARA: And when did you lose your husband then?

ROTHA: '77.

BARBARA: The same year that your mother died?

ROTHA: A week apart.

BARBARA: Is that right.

ROTHA: Mother died Tuesday, and LaVerne died the following week on Tuesday.

BARBARA: For heavens sakes.

ROTHA: But it was a blessing for both of them. Because he had emphysema too. No complaints on either side, neither one of them were complainers.

BARBIE: Yeah, I was in college; Mom was running the ranch basically by herself. Going to Bend to see Dad, and Ontario to see Grandmother, she was in the nursing home in Ontario. Dad was in the hospital in Bend.

ROTHA: Of course I would get Scott sometimes to help bale and everything. Barbie was a lot of help in the summer. She was a regular ranch hand too. And we'd, you know, with gathering our cattle and everything. Yeah.

BARBIE: A lot happened in '77. You got your, I guess it was in '78 you got your first

broken bone you ever had in your life.

ROTHA: Yeah, when a horse went to bucking I ---

BARBIE: Didn't get out of the road quite ---

ROTHA: ... the gal that had been riding him, she had loosened that cinch on that saddle, and didn't tighten it up. And the horse, somebody ran up behind him and spooked him, and he jumped and that saddle went down, and he hit me with his shoulders. And boy I rooted my nose in the sagebrush. But I got up. You know you can get up. Because I knew he would buck right back over where I was. I've watched these guys in the rodeo and I think no wonder you get up.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Lots of times too if they're frightened it seems like they will come to a person. And we had tied up a horse and she pulled that, it was to a stub post, and she pulled the post out. Well when she did that, she frightened herself. And I was out in the yard with my littlest girl. And she went around, and that old post was just a whipping back there. And every time it just scared her to death. And she run right up to me and stopped. And I couldn't have gotten out of the way, because I was trying to get Kelly out of the way. I thought if she hadn't have stopped, she'd have run right over the top of us.

ROTHA: You know horses are odd. This one, she stepped on my leg. It was when I broke the bone on the inside, you know, on the ankle. But anyway, Tommy Howard was helping us, and he caught the horse and got it stopped. And thank heavens she hadn't wrecked the saddle.

Talking about that reminds me of Barbie. We had a cubby horse, and Barbie, that horse just loved to chase horses. And Barbie --- Conley's horse had been in, and Barbie had been running some of them out. And so she wasn't very old, and she come up to the house, and I said, "Alright," but I said, "you walk the horse out to the barn, walk the horse." Because I could see cubby was hyper. And she paid no attention. She went,

letting him run, and he went through the gate, and he jumped one way. She stayed with him a couple of jumps, and the next one off she went, and landed on her back, and on hard roadbed. So I walked out, and walked over and turned cubby loose. I just ignored her, I just walked on. Let the horse loose, and came back. It kind of stunned her. I picked her up and brought her into (Dr.) Cliff.

But, you know, that horse he whirled as soon as he felt her leave, he whirled and he looked, and his eyes were just huge. And the next day LaVerne said he almost ran over him out in the field. And when I went out in the field he almost --- he come running up to me, just like he was going over the top. Horses, they say horses don't think. He was worried about Barbie. I think he kind of --- But I was so disgusted.

BARBIE: About the same I felt with you ... I yelled at you to get off that horse ...

BARBARA: Well, we all do things that we ---

ROTHA: But I mean ... was telling me about, cubby felt her leave, and he whirled, and he knew, he just stopped and looked.

DOROTHEA: That's strange too, how a horse will stop and --- some of them.

ROTHA: Yeah, some of them. And then the fact that he was so worried, he'd run, you know, up to LaVerne and then up to me. Worried to death about her.

DOROTHEA: She wasn't hurt then?

ROTHA: No, she wasn't out of the house though. No, Dr. Cliff said that she was okay. I don't know, I still think she did something to her collarbone.

BARBIE: ...

ROTHA: Yeah, I think as hard as she hit that ground.

DOROTHEA: I've done the same things several times. It's not fun.

ROTHA: No.

BARBARA: Well then you have taken over your family's ranch, and your ranch.

ROTHA: Well I did Mother's portion, we took half of it to farm.

BARBARA: Since 1977, so you have had ---

BARBIE: No long ...

BARBARA: Well I mean your husband was gone, and your mother was gone in 1977.

ROTHA: Yes.

BARBARA: So you were in charge of seeing that things got taken care of since that time on your own then, basically.

ROTHA: Right, that's right.

DOROTHEA: Did you hire men, or have you done a lot by yourself?

ROTHA: Well yes. When we, I did a lot by myself too. But in haying, you know, we sometimes we get Scotts to help bale. And Barbie was real handy, and we'd hire, you know, someone. But in the wintertime I fed the cattle by myself. I, you know, knew how to run the feeding rake, and it wasn't that bad, except it was a little cold. I would have to plug in the feed rake, you know. Thank heavens for LaVerne, like I said, had everything set up. It was a little cold though going across the field when it was about twenty below to go down to the haystack. That's when we had loose hay to feed. But I'd lived it.

BARBARA: So over the years, what kind of numbers are we talking about, of cows that you had, and acreage that you did hay, put up hay? Are we talking big, big, or medium, or what?

ROTHA: Oh no, not big, big. I, what did we have Barb, about 400 head of cattle?

BARBIE: Average 400.

ROTHA: 400.

BARBIE: Then we averaged haying about 400 acres.

BARBARA: Well that's pretty good numbers.

ROTHA: And I irrigated too, I like to irrigate, you know. I could go between home and

Van, I mean --- One year I know that we were short of water, short of snow in the mountains. I was up there setting dams when it was icy. But it kept me busy, kept me busy.

BARBARA: So where is your property located, you know, for someone listening or reading this, that don't know. Where are you located basically?

ROTHA: Well a fourth of a mile northeast of Drewsey. You go out across the Malheur River, and it's the first house on the right hand side. Two story white house with a lot of trees.

BARBARA: And then the land that you run your cows on and hay on

ROTHA: It's BLM. We are on BLM down around Warm Springs Reservoir. That's our range.

BARBARA: Okay. But the property that is involved with your, that your family had, is right there in the Drewsey area then?

ROTHA: Well Dad farmed the Gearhart place too. You know, he was loaning people money and things like that, and a lot of property he had to take back, you know. I mean he had to, you might say, take over.

BARBIE: ... 25 miles northwest of ...

ROTHA: We're up there; you know where the Acton place is, or the Co-op. Have you ever been up that way?

DOROTHEA: Believe it or not I've lived here a long time and not been to Drewsey but about three times, and that's with Barbara. Marcus took us up once.

BARBARA: We did Glenn Sitz up there, and we did Tom Howard, and we did the Jordan's, and Mrs. Dunten. So we've been there a few times to ---

ROTHA: But you keep going, you keep going up, straight up toward Van, and go across

the Malheur River. And Acton's used to live there, but Ken, that's where Bentz are, they bought out, you know, the people, the Acton's, they bought Acton's.

BARBARA: And then you can go on clear on through to the John Day highway.

ROTHA: Yes, you can go clear across, you can go up through the timber.

BARBIE: But our place is where Wolf Creek and Calamity meet.

ROTHA: Meet. And there is a junction there. There is, there was an old quaking asp forage there. That was pretty well known. I think they say it lives a hundred years. But the Gearharts used to live there.

DOROTHEA: I've heard of the Gearhart place before.

ROTHA: Well that was --- Glenn's wife was a Gearhart.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

BARBIE: That's where she was raised.

ROTHA: She was, and Lela and Vivian, the one Vivian married, Robertson, you know. That was quite a settlement up in there. I think it was settled earlier than we were down there around Drewsey. And I can remember as a youngster the Indians having tepees over there at the junction of the road, you know, where the road separates and goes to Otis and Van. They had tepees there.

BARBARA: Yes, we've heard people talk about a number of Indians up there. And about some burial grounds someplace up there, where they would ride off and --- nobody knew exactly where it was.

ROTHA: I think Tom Howard knows pretty well where it is, there's a burial up above there. But Martha Washington, I was talking to Chas Miler about that, and she used to work over there at the Bartlett Hotel, but she also helped my mother with washing. And I was home one summer, it was late in the summer, I was probably about a freshman in

high school, and here come an Indian lady with her children. And she had come over there as a girl with her mother. They did washing for my mother. And I thought that was real nice that she remembered, and came.

BARBARA: When you were young, do you remember any of the Indians working on the ranch, or helping at all?

ROTHA: No, but they cleared the land below the house there. They grubbed out the sagebrush.

BARBARA: So later on there were not that many Indians that remained out there?

ROTHA: No, I don't know. But like I said, I can remember them as the tepees. I was pretty small when they were there.

DOROTHEA: Did they, do you remember them coming and going? Because I understand that the Indians came there to work for the ranchers. But in the wintertime, as a rule, they went back to California.

ROTHA: I don't remember, I wasn't old enough. But I also remember the sheep people bringing herds up by the house, you know. They would come in out of Idaho and graze, you know, going north. And then they'd turn around and come back in the winter. They didn't own an acre of ground. That was one thing the BLM did, they stopped that.

DOROTHEA: That's called the Taylor Grazing.

ROTHA: Uh huh. Yeah, Taylor Grazing is right. But it really changed things.

BARBARA: I guess at that time the sheep people they just went wherever they wanted to.

ROTHA: And didn't own any ground.

BARBARA: They didn't own a bit of ground.

ROTHA: PLS Company had a tremendous amount of cattle in here too. And I heard Drex talk about Stanboroughs, that was when we had that other drought and the river dried up

at Drewsey. About him bringing 1500 head of cattle in. And they tried to blame us for the poor condition of the range. And he said grass got about that high and burnt up, and yet this fellow brought 1500 head along with PLS Company, and all their cattle.

BARBARA: Wow, gosh.

BARBIE: Plus ... ranchers.

BARBARA: No possible way.

ROTHA: Right.

BARBARA: Oh, goodness. You say you went to Reno to get married. Did you have a honeymoon?

ROTHA: Oh, we were down there just a couple of days.

BARBARA: Just while you were down there.

ROTHA: Uh huh. My husband had to be back, you know, to work. And I was working too.

BARBARA: And why did you pick Reno?

ROTHA: Oh, just crazy.

BARBARA: Just for a fun place to go.

ROTHA: For fun, something different. Didn't want to bother with a wedding, a big wedding either.

DOROTHEA: Or blood tests.

BARBARA: Did any of your family at all go?

ROTHA: No, we didn't tell anybody, we just went.

BARBARA: You informed them when you got back.

ROTHA: When we got back.

BARBARA: Mr. and Mrs.

ROTHA: That's right.

DOROTHEA: What did your parents think when you came in and said, "Hi Mom and Dad, I'm married."

ROTHA: No, it was just --- my dad was gone then. I told my mother, of course my sister when we got back. Well, you know, it saves a lot of problems. You just go get married and that's it.

BARBARA: Is there anyone around in the Drewsey area that you were childhood friends with, that are still there at all? That you have friends with at all?

ROTHA: I, you know, I'm friendly like with Marge Dunten and everything. But, you know, we're not that close. I'm closer to Betty, Jim's wife.

BARBIE: ...

ROTHA: I don't think there is anybody, Barbie.

BARBIE: Well I guess ...

ROTHA: No, Chas, that's all right, I mean Chas was one. He was a grade; I believe Chas was a grade behind me. I have some old pictures over there that were taken when we were at Drewsey. Now Jay Smith, I think he is still alive, but he lives up in, out of Spokane, and he was there. And Jessie Cramer, of course, is deceased, she was in the class. And Mary, she was younger, but she, you know, last year she, her son brought her over for Memorial Day. So, no --- And the Russell, you know, the Arnolds were over there, Russell and Dick, but they were younger.

BARBARA: Were there, just one community church in Drewsey? Did you go to --- Did they have a Catholic and a regular church?

ROTHA: My mother --- the Catholic Church has always been there. I mean, you know, they came in right at the start. But my mother and the Sattgasts, and I'm sure Mrs. Grandma Hamilton was in on it. They started the Presbyterian Church. Mother belonged to the First Church of Christ back in Kentucky. That seemed to be the church, you know,

that they were associated with. Everything back there in Kentucky, all their activities centered around the church. Are we going overtime?

BARBARA: No, no, we're doing fine. So were you active in the church here then as a youngster?

ROTHA: Well yes, with Sunday school and all that. Then of course then when we lived in Salem we always went to church. I didn't join any, certain church because we'd go to the Methodist, or Baptist, or whichever.

BARBARA: Whichever was handy.

ROTHA: Uh huh. And in Ontario, the Biggs were Baptist, so I always went to the Baptist Church up there. And then of course up here, you know, we had a community church over here, which was excellent. We had different ministers come in.

BARBARA: Mrs. Howard told us about that too, the different churches.

ROTHA: And that was nice. Now we have Skip Day, he works between there and Juntura. But I liked it when Bob Dean was there, and Gene Luttmann, and Smith, Rev. Smith. I liked ---

DOROTHEA: Well what do you do for entertainment now? Do you still work the ranch pretty much?

ROTHA: I keep my yard, just about. And if they happen to need a rake hand, or somebody to drive the rig while they're feeding, I do that.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any hobbies?

ROTHA: No. Reading, and working out in the yard. I always was a yard person; even as a youngster I had my flowers and everything. I'd rather do that than stay inside.

DOROTHEA: You mentioned a garden; did you always have a garden?

ROTHA: As a rule. Except a couple of years ago on account of lack of water we didn't bother.

BARBARA: Did your mother can?

ROTHA: Oh yes.

BARBARA: Fruit and vegetables, and meat?

ROTHA: The only meat she ever, that I can remember, was sausage down in lard. She did that. But she wasn't much on canning meat. I think she was a little afraid of it. And my dad always, well you know in those days people were self-sufficient. We had sheep, we had hogs, and they did a lot of butchering along in January. And they cured hams, and bacon, and shoulders. And so when they weren't butchering, you know then in those days people traded. Maybe somebody would butcher and you would get a quarter. And that's the way they kept fresh meat. The ranchers would --- especially in the summertime, you know, in haying and all, they would rotate. I mean somebody would butcher ---

DOROTHEA: Well you didn't have the refrigeration like you do now, or freezers, and so you had to get it out in the evening and let it air out, and cover it up in the daytime.

ROTHA: Yeah. Put it under the hay in the daytime. I know it was quite an event when we had the first refrigerator, propane. You know that's what ---

BARBARA: When did you get your electricity into ---

ROTHA: '48.

BARBARA: '48.

ROTHA: But you know really, we didn't miss it that much. We had a windmill over there, and that pumped the water for us, you know, for the bathroom and everything. So it really wasn't that bad. I can remember ironing with a gas iron back in the bedroom, you know, about 120! Windows all open.

BARBARA: Did you iron everything too?

ROTHA: Yes, we ironed.

BARBARA: I remember growing up, we ironed everything. I mean we just did it.

DOROTHEA: Rolled up your white shirts, because we always had a lot of white shirts. Rolled them up as we sprinkled them, and then we ironed those things until they were just perfect, you know.

ROTHA: I can remember my mother, you know, and the old copper boiler. Everything white had to be, with Phillips Naphtha Soap, and boiling.

BARBARA: And boiled on the stove.

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. And of course --- then in the wintertime they'd hang these clothes out on the front porch, you had lines on the front porch, and of course they'd freeze solid, you know. And then we'd have all the lines in the house, you know, over the kitchen stove. Underwear and all those things, drying.

BARBARA: But you know, people didn't change clothes everyday like we do now.

ROTHA: We had a, I'd sit in front of the stove in the tub, our bath Sunday night for school. And not only that, what clothes we had we pressed and cleaned those clothes. You know of course we had wash pans, and we wash our necks and what have you at night.

BARBARA: Right.

ROTHA: And of course remember out, the two seater out there when it was about twenty below. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You didn't tarry.

ROTHA: People don't know what they missed.

DOROTHEA: You were lucky though; you said you got electricity in 1948. We didn't get it until 1950.

ROTHA: You were under REA weren't you?

DOROTHEA: No.

ROTHA: You got Idaho?

DOROTHEA: It was Cal-Pak, or whatever they called it, yeah.

ROTHA: No, we were fortunate. I know we --- we were up home and came over to Geer's to get Mom's refrigerator and stove and, you know, for her. And we had a Maytag; we had a gasoline Maytag washer that set out on the back porch. You know which worked fine in the summer, of course in the winter I suppose we took it in. I don't remember. But remember the washboards?

BARBARA: Oh yeah. I mean I didn't really use them myself, but I remember my mother having them. And once in awhile when there was something really tough, she would get that old washboard out. And I thought, knuckles, skinned ---

ROTHA: I still take it out when I'm trying to clean the socks. And Lee, I can remember Lee; he was always real particular about his clothes. I can remember --- he'd get the ironing board out, and press them, sponging and pressing his pants. I can remember him doing that. That was before he was married.

BARBARA: Put bluing in the water to keep things white.

ROTHA: Oh yes. And they really, I mean ---

BARBARA: They worked at it, they really did.

ROTHA: Yes, you bet they did.

DOROTHEA: Did it once a week, and that was a big day. You had to wash all those, and the next day they ironed all that.

ROTHA: You know the people worked. Maybe that's why they lived so long.

BARBARA: Well they didn't sit around and watch TV all day.

ROTHA: No, right. I can remember when we first, the first Atwater-Kemp radio, and Lee had a long pipe and he stuck it up by the chimney so it would stick up above, and pick up the signals. DOROTHEA: ...

ROTHA: Yes, how happy everybody was.

DOROTHEA: What was it, the Lone Ranger?

ROTHA: What were the, Amos and Andy.

DOROTHEA: Amos and Andy.

ROTHA: Uh huh. Lee was pretty proud of that though when he got it to work. He was a good son. And in town, I know, my mother told about when they lived over there. In the house he always kept her wood box full, and her water, packed her water in. He was, you know, quite the fellow. And I'd, he'd always walk up to my mom, that's when he was older, and give her a big hug and a smack. You know, he was always real affectionate.

BARBARA: That's good.

DOROTHEA: Well you've been chosen as the 1995 Queen Mother. What kind of preparations have you made? This is quite a job, I understand.

ROTHA: I --- am I still recording?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ROTHA: I won't say what I think. (Laughter)

BARBIE: You agreed.

ROTHA: Well, I know. But I thought afterwards ---

BARBARA: Well it will be fun to see a lot of people, and have the opportunity to visit with them. Preparing about your life's story is not the fun part, I'm sure. But it will probably be all well worth it, and you'll enjoy it.

ROTHA: We haven't done anything about the entertainment. But Twyla (Turner) said, you know, you can get the Fiddlers as far as that goes. Maybe people would enjoy hearing the Fiddlers.

BARBIE: Well you talked about all your nieces and nephews, are you going to talk about your own family?

ROTHA: What family?

BARBIE: Oh, thanks! (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well we are going to get to your family. What, and where was Barbara born?

ROTHA: At the Holy Rosary Hospital in Ontario.

DOROTHEA: And what date did you say?

ROTHA: April the 5th, '55. Dr. Sanders was my doctor, he was a, wonderful for, you know --- gynecologist.

DOROTHEA: What kind of a change did it bring to your life, having a baby in the family?

ROTHA: Well, you know, it took just a little more time to do everything, and to take care of things.

DOROTHEA: So did you get to stay in the house more, or ---

ROTHA: Well yes, uh huh. I was around in the house more. We hired, you know, my husband hired men, and then I did the cooking and what have you until Barbie was older. I don't remember how old she was before I started going out again to help.

DOROTHEA: What kind of --- did you self teach her, or did she go to school, or did she go to school?

ROTHA: She went to Drewsey. But like all mothers, you know, the way we learned to count, we'd go up and down steps, we'd count. And then I read so much to her, you know, and she'd know before you even got to the bottom of the page. I read lots of Bible stories and things like that to her. And of course she had her, you know, the toys and things. But she wasn't very old, her Granddad French, and they were up here right around the Fourth of July, and we had a little duck hanging from our lights, chandelier in the dining room. And he came in real excited, he said, you know she said, "Little duck." He couldn't get over it; she was about three months old. Saying little duck.

DOROTHEA: Little duck.

ROTHA: Uh huh. But that's, you know, like everybody, you talk to your youngster and

they learn naturally.

BARBARA: Sure.

ROTHA: And Mrs. Miller was her first teacher there; she was out of Jordan Valley, when she was a freshman. And then what's --- Ruth Ward (Brutsman) came up and taught them until she was up in the upper room. She taught three grades, she was excellent.

DOROTHEA: Now was that school just a one-room school?

ROTHA: Two, two rooms, yes. Oh, we've had two rooms for, ever since they, you know, tore the other building down. Two teachers there.

BARBARA: And then on into Ontario or to Burns?

ROTHA: Barbie went to Ontario for the eighth grade, and stayed with some people there. And then she came to Burns. They were too permissive down there, you know, in their high school. They were allowing them more or less do what they wanted to. And Barbie said, "I don't think that's for me." So she came to Burns. And Barbie, you'll have to tell them who you stayed with.

BARBIE: Too many.

ROTHA: Yeah.

BARBARA: A number of different families, huh?

BARBIE: Yeah, the last few years I stayed with Larry and Yvonne Woodell. The first year I stayed with ---

ROTHA: Twi --- the one that married ---

BARBIE: No, that was my sophomore year.

ROTHA: Was it?

BARBIE: ... Joan stayed with her their freshman year. Ashlocks.

ROTHA: Uh huh, out at Hines.

BARBIE: ... then I stayed with Mrs. Twinam the next year, part of the year. She sold her

house part way through, and I kind of just wandered around. I stayed with Bob and, Miller, extension agent, I stayed with him. I stayed with Roy and Joann Mims part of the time. Kind of, wherever I could find a place to throw my suitcase until school was out. I kind of moved around.

BARBARA: And then ---

ROTHA: And of course Barbie was in 4-H too, and you know that took up a lot of time too, with the 4-H.

DOROTHEA: Well most kids were in 4-H though, I mean, and especially in Drewsey and that area.

ROTHA: That's right, that was wonderful. Norma Miler was so great in teaching leather craft too.

BARBIE: I was on the fair court in '72, and you and Dad I don't think missed a rodeo.

ROTHA: No, we were hauling the girls.

BARBARA: Well that's nice.

ROTHA: Well we didn't miss much when you were in 4-H either. We were over here, like everybody. Then Barbie went to Oregon State and graduated from there.

BARBARA: Well that is part of the fun of having children is to be able to participate in their activities, and organizations too.

ROTHA: That's right, that's what makes life go around, isn't it?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

ROTHA: And I know Ruth was so worried when LaVerne died, for fear Barbie wouldn't go on to school, you know.

BARBARA: And what did she take in college?

BARBIE: General agriculture with a minor in journalism.

BARBARA: And then she is now married, and who did she marry?

ROTHA: Ken Arnold, out of the Arnold family, Pete and Joe and that bunch.

BARBARA: A local family.

ROTHA: Uh huh, yeah.

BARBARA: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Did he live in Drewsey?

BARBIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Or Crane, Crane, Drewsey.

BARBIE: I got married ...

BARBARA: And do you have children?

BARBIE: I have two stepchildren, Joe and Bridget, and they each have married. Joe married Renee Hamilton, the young lady that just left. That's my daughter-in-law. Her dad is a, she is a local. Her dad lives here in Harney County. They have a young daughter, 8-month-old daughter named Kendra Jo and one more on the way. And Bridget married Keith Landon, whose family also is a Harney County family. And they have a young daughter named Paige McKenzie. So Mom has two grandkids, and two in-laws, and two great-grandkids.

BARBARA: Okay.

ROTHA: And you and Ken have been over there, what year did you come?

BARBIE: We got married in '78, and moved out to the ranch in '79, and started helping Mom. She pretty well --- a couple years ago she said, "I'm going in house, and I'm done, you guys go do it."

BARBARA: So are you in a different house, or are you in the family home?

BARBIE: We're in our own home.

BARBARA: Okay.

ROTHA: About a half mile from me.

BARBIE: And Joe and Renee they have a mobile home right by her home, and they live there. That's where they live.

ROTHA: You know I used it for a hired man, the mobile home. So right now they're there, living there.

DOROTHEA: So Joe and Renee live out there on the ranch.

ROTHA: Joe is over in Nevada.

BARBIE: They are, yeah he works for ... He works 12 days on, and comes home for a week off. This is home; this is where they come back to.

BARBARA: Well have you belonged to any organizations over the years? With all your busy work, you probably didn't have much time other than maybe Cow Belles ---

ROTHA: I wasn't active.

BARBARA: --- or Grange, or something like that.

ROTHA: But I've been a member of Eastern Star since '34. I received my fifty-year pin a few years back, and I told them I didn't feel entitled to it. But they say as long as I pay my dues. I belong to the DAR, and of course the National Cattlemen, and the Oregon Cattlemen. But I've never been active, because I've had, you know, I had too many things. When my husband wasn't well, and my mother wasn't well, and doing --- I just didn't have time.

BARBARA: By the time you took care of the necessary things, there was no more hours in the day.

ROTHA: Yes, that's right. That's right.

BARBARA: When you were a youngster, did you get your clothing out of the catalog?

ROTHA: Oh yes.

BARBARA: Did your mother make it? Or ever have store --- go to town and buy something out of the store?

ROTHA: No.

BARBARA: Montgomery Wards or Sears?

ROTHA: When Midge grew up, my mother was quite a seamstress. And she was telling about one time Midge wanted another dress. And my mother said to her, "Why don't you go in there and count your dresses." And she counted 17 of them. But she --- that's what I say, but when I came along, it was Montgomery Wards. We ordered clothes through there, the catalog. And then of course as soon as I went down to Salem, and then, you know, we started buying.

Every summer, my sister loved having me there, she and her husband did. And I'd spend at least a month with Midge and Willis every summer, a family see. So of course there we'd, whatever I needed for school I would buy there before I, you know, left.

DOROTHEA: Did you sew yourself?

ROTHA: No. I took sewing. I made a pair of pongee bloomers when I was a freshman, nobody could have wore. No, I was strictly an outdoor person.

BARBARA: You didn't make quilts and that sort of thing?

ROTHA: No, it didn't appeal to me. I was too busy outside. I was out on my horse, you know, or working in the yard.

BARBIE: She is still ... this winter my husband had surgery, and confined him to the house for three months. So it was pretty much Mom and me feeding.

ROTHA: Yes, I drove and she fed. I mean I enjoy doing that.

BARBIE: And a friend of my husband's came in and helped, he helped ...

ROTHA: But we'd walk down, John was a good walker, and we'd walk to meet Barbie. She --- of course, you know, she has equipment to load with. So wasn't having to handle those bales. So it worked, got me out of the house. I enjoyed it.

DOROTHEA: Gets fresh air in your lungs.

ROTHA: It's something to do.

DOROTHEA: And not really a cold winter, either.

ROTHA: It wasn't. That's the same way with my brother; he's getting to the stage he's going to have to quit. Like he says, it's bad. And his wife has, Irene has arthritis, so she spends the winter in Las Vegas. It wouldn't be so bad if there was an auction yard or something down there that he could, you know, associate with, people. But there isn't anything, you know, that way.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's just a big city of gambling.

BARBARA: Oh, there is a lot of other things --- I was just down there a week ago.

ROTHA: Were you? Can you believe it?

BARBARA: It's growing so fast. My son was stationed there for three years, so we used to go down and visit him. But just in the four years since he has been gone, it's just really --- can't believe how much bigger its gotten.

ROTHA: I know, I couldn't either. It's been five or six years since I've been down there. I went down with my brother for a week. Irene has condos down there, so I went down with him, and I couldn't believe it. You know when we first went down there we stayed out in the old section. It was so nice out there around the Plaza, the Union Plaza. It was just wonderful. And now, you can't believe it.

BARBARA: It is huge.

ROTHA: And they are still building, still building.

BARBARA: Oh, yes.

ROTHA: Where are all those people coming from?

BARBARA: It takes a lot of people to run casinos 24 hours a day too. Did the --- are we about over here? (Tape recorder)

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ROTHA: About through.

DOROTHEA: About done there, but you can go ahead.

BARBARA: I was just wondering, did the depression affect you out on the ranch at all, do you remember?

ROTHA: We were real fortunate, Dad had, and Uncle Lou had gone into sheep. At that time they bought ewes and paid \$6 a head for them, and right after that the market dropped. But anyway, it, then we had lambs. And our lambs were all shipped back to Omaha, and they were on the train, Lee was with them, when the banks closed. So that was our salvation, you might say. I mean we had money coming from those lambs. And Dad shipped a lot of his cattle back to Omaha. He had a nephew that worked for Armour's back at --- for years Dad shipped cattle back to Armour's in Omaha.

DOROTHEA: In Omaha.

BARBARA: Did you get down to Crane at that time, to ship out of Crane?

ROTHA: No, to Juntura, yes.

BARBARA: To Juntura.

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. Juntura had, you know, the train then. And I can remember one, like I was telling you Dad was always diversified. We always had grain in the granary to sell. People would come and buy grain. And also he had the sheep, and of course that took care of our own blankets and wool. And didn't owe any-thing pertaining to that. And then hogs, I remember one year Lee drove a hundred head of hogs down to the train. And he told about camping out up on top of, well it was over past Drinkwater. They went the old road, and he camped, and having a fire, and camping out with those hogs. So that's what I mean, Dad was diversified. BARBARA: Well that's pretty smart.

DOROTHEA: It hurt a lot of people, you know.

ROTHA: Yes, you bet. And that's why I say; I went to Portland to stay with my sister to

go to college. Otherwise, I probably would have had a pretty rough time. Of course he paid, they paid my sister, you know, money for board, but not a lot. And ---

DOROTHEA: Well can you think of any interesting stories that you would like to share with us? That's happened during your marriage, or since your husband passed away, or during your childhood?

ROTHA: No.

BARBIE: You can tell about your South America trip.

ROTHA: Huh?

BARBIE: About your trip to South America with the Cattlemen.

ROTHA: What year was that, Barbie? '90, ...

BARBIE: ...

ROTHA: No. I think I broke my leg in '89, wasn't it, yeah. The dog broke my leg for me. I laughed at Marcus Haines; he sent me a picture of a dog on the thing. A dog, a young dog, and he must have weighed 45 pounds. But anyway, I was going out to feed the cats, and I didn't see the dog, and he came full force and hit me behind my knees and twisted me. And I got a beautiful broken leg.

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

DOROTHEA: Okay, are there any interesting stories that you'd like to share with us?

ROTHA: Well when Drex, and Helen, Wilma Duntun, the rest of them, they were in school, and Buster Baker, and I believe Mrs. Stack was their teacher. The kids really tormented her. There was quite a group of children in that --- we were in a one-room school, schoolroom then. And we learned, you know, the others would go to the board and diagram and everything, and we benefited by it, we learned. But anyway, the boys were being boys, they were chewing tobacco, you know, and my brother had, must have

had a tender stomach because his cousin Helen was sitting right in front of him, and the overshoes at the side of the desk. And he urped up into the overshoe. She still, whenever she sees him, laughs about that. And poor Mrs. Stack, they were always tormenting her, just anything to get her goat; they didn't like her for some reason. And Buster was a big, large person, he was around eighth grade. And he picked my brother up and dropped him out the window. Mrs. Stack had her back turned. And then looked around, no Drex, and he had to come around to get back in. (Laughter)

BARBARA: This was Buster who now?

ROTHA: Baker.

BARBARA: Baker, okay.

ROTHA: They lived at Drewsey, you know. His dad, his family came up from California, and Buster was one of the younger ones.

And the telephone office was there, they operated that exchange there for Drewsey. You know they were hooked up to Burns and John Day. They could talk anyplace, you know, as long as there wasn't too much interference, with that telephone company.

And then Mildred always was pleasing Barbie there, and Barbie was a great one for building rafts and things up at the Gearhart place. And one day she was over on Wolf Creek and she had her raft over there. And it was above a beaver dam, a beaver dam; beavers were real thick up there. And they were always damming off the water. So Barbie had the raft there, and she coaxed Mildred into going, getting out on the raft. And Barbie went to jump on it, and it tipped over. And it was pretty cool that evening; it was late in the evening. And I looked up and here the two wet dripping people came. And Mildred had lost her glasses. But the next day LaVerne broke the beaver dam and luckily they found the glasses. But we made a lot of fun, we'd take wieners and things up

there, and a lot of times have wieners and marshmallows and things at night. We'd build a fire, and have our evening meal up there just for fun. Or we would drive on up in the timber, you know, we were right by the timber. One time I started to get out, and looked, and there was a huge snake. And I just got back in. I said, "That's it, let's go eat, find another spot." You know those timber rattlers are pretty good-sized rattlesnakes.

BARBARA: Oh gosh. Isn't there a hot springs up there ---

ROTHA: At Clarks, you know, where Norm Clark is, or where Laddie used to live.

BARBARA: Did the people around there used to go swimming in the hot springs?

ROTHA: No, Uncle Lou Sitz is the one that had the hot springs. And Uncle Lou had a green thumb. He utilized the hot water, and he would grow, start watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, all those things. And then he farmed a place about two miles east, southeast of where the warm springs was. He had alfalfa and strawberries and cantaloupe, he'd set out his plants, cantaloupe plants and watermelon plants, and cabbage and those things. And people would come out there to buy strawberries, and swim. He had this swimming pool. It was quite a large swimming pool, and boards along the side, and then the rock bottom. And he'd clean that every week. But when he drained it, you couldn't get in that hot water for a couple of days because, you know, it was hot and it would sap your strength.

BARBARA: Too hot.

ROTHA: He also had a bathing house there with two tubs, separate rooms, and people would come out there to bathe. You know it was good for rheumatism, and well people that didn't have --- You know hired men and everything would be happy to go out there and have a bath. And we, that summer that Midge and Willis were up there, and Lee and Gladys we all lived there at the house, we went out every night after haying to swim.

And my Grandmother Holladay lived out there; she homesteaded that place for

Uncle Lou. She came west too, and her husband acquired spotted fever and died, so Grandmother was a widow. And that's how she happened, you know, she homesteaded that place for Uncle Lou. And she lived out there until she was, you know, until she wasn't able to. So it was a drawing card out there.

BARBARA: Did they charge at all for ---

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh, they charged for bathing. And also for their, you know, their produce, what they sold. And there was a charge for the swimming.

BARBARA: Well that was a good little side business then, wasn't it?

ROTHA: Yes, it was.

BARBARA: Yeah.

ROTHA: Uncle Lou had a green thumb. He planted over a thousand trees up there at his place. And he was the one that planted the orchard down home too. I can remember Uncle Lou out there on the old hand pump, pumping water to keep those fruit trees alive.

BARBARA: Did you have apple, or cherry, or peach?

ROTHA: Apples, and sour pie cherry. But --- well all we had were the apples, the yellow transparent, and Gravenstein, and delicious. And, but the lower ranch, they must have, they had a lot of trees down there. They had pear trees, and prune trees, and plums, down at the lower ranch.

And I can remember Dad told --- of course they had hired men then in those days, \$30 a month, you know, and room and bunkhouse. BARBARA: Board and room.

ROTHA: Uh huh. And they would smudge in order to keep the trees from freezing.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say, how did you ever keep those ---

ROTHA: Well they smudged, the men smudged. And you know the men were glad to do that. And we, also the men were interested, some of them, and they would raise a garden too. But they didn't mind doing it after work.

BARBARA: Because they enjoyed what they got out of it.

ROTHA: Yes, they liked doing it too.

BARBIE: Something that was brought up earlier, didn't you ... didn't you have an Aunt Frances?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh, she lived up in Seattle.

BARBIE: That was your Grandmother's sister.

ROTHA: Yes. See Grandmother had thirteen children.

BARBARA: Oh gosh.

ROTHA: Yes.

BARBARA: Yes, they had large families.

ROTHA: Yes, they did.

BARBARA: I know my mother was the twelfth one in her family, so they were a big family.

ROTHA: But Grandmother, of course coming from the south, I never heard Grandmother raise her voice.

BARBARA: Such patience.

ROTHA: Yes, such patience. But how she put up with the Sitz kids, I don't know. But we'd set on her lap, she had a, kind of a large wart here, and how we'd love to sit there and pull it. I don't know why she didn't bop us one, but anyway --- And then she would, this beautiful Bible with all the pictures with the velvet covers on, we kids would go out to the hot springs to stay with my Grandmother, I mean we loved her and we'd go out. But she wouldn't let us handle the Bible. She would have it on her lap and turn it, and we would ---

BARBARA: Oh, it was very special.

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well tell us about your trip to South America did you say?

ROTHA: Uh huh. I went with the national cattle people. And I can't think of the name of the couple that led us. He would have been the president of the national. But it was fun. We were gone all told 21 days, it was quite a trip. But it was interesting, we flew into Santiago, Chili first, and then we went from there to Argentina and Brazil.

DOROTHEA: What was the country like?

ROTHA: It was beautiful.

DOROTHEA: What time of year?

ROTHA: It was February.

DOROTHEA: And that was like summer over there?

ROTHA: Yes, hot and sultry. Very hot and sultry.

DOROTHEA: Did they take you to different ranches; was that the purpose of this?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. That's right. We went out to different ranches, and then the experiment stations too.

DOROTHEA: Show you, more or less show you how they raise their ---

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. And we went one place where they were taking the semen and sell it, you know, they took us all through the plant. We had to be in sterilized clothes and everything before we could even go into that place.

DOROTHEA: How many people went along?

ROTHA: Oh, there must have been twenty of us, anyway. If I had thought of this, I would have brought the information with me. But it was interesting.

BARBARA: How many were on the tour, group?

ROTHA: There must have been twenty of us at least.

DOROTHEA: The couple that led it more or less, were they from around, you said he was the president of the national.

ROTHA: Uh huh. No, they lived back in the Middle West. And I can see him and his

wife, but I can't think of their names.

BARBARA: Were the people from all over the west that came?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. There were even some Canadians on that trip. And there was a couple from Idaho, these are the ones I told you that read the article (in the newspaper) and came to see me.

BARBARA: That's great.

ROTHA: But it was interesting. It was a good group. Of course you know how those trips are, you have your suitcases and things outside your door along about 4 o'clock in the morning. I mean they ---

BARBARA: They are ready to go.

ROTHA: Yes, we were ready to go. But in Argentina, even then they were talking about how they killed those youngsters, you know, I mean --- any street youngsters, they were exterminated. And we had real good people on the buses. I mean in all the different locations, that gave us the resume of the history of the country. And I thought to myself, I think you're kind of brave telling us a lot of these things. There was one woman, especially, down there in Argentina that was telling us a lot. Of course we all made notes. It was quite an experience.

BARBARA: That's great.

ROTHA: I was still using the cane.

BARBARA: From your broken leg, huh?

ROTHA: From my broken leg, right.

DOROTHEA: So what year was this, '89?

ROTHA: Yes, that's when I broke my leg, uh huh, was '89.

BARBIE: But this was in '90.

ROTHA: '90, would have had to been '90 when we took the --- And I had a friend, and

she was 80, but she went, Erica Gannaway went with me. She lives at Lebanon, and she went with me. I didn't think she would. I called her along in the summer, and I said, "Let's go." And she did, I mean we, she went with me. So we, you know, it's always more fun if you have somebody to share things with.

BARBARA: Oh, you bet.

BARBIE: Now Mom ... next year.

ROTHA: I don't know, Barb. Well it's just a, this one is only 12 days. It wouldn't be 21 days.

BARBARA: That's a long flight to Australia, what 19 hours or something.

ROTHA: It is, it's a long ---

BARBARA: It's a very long flight.

ROTHA: Drex and Irene, they've been, you know, gone over to Japan and around. They've been a lot of places. I know he was telling what a long flight it is going.

BARBARA: Did any in your family, or the hands ever go out coyote hunting, or trapping, or anything on your ranches?

ROTHA: My brother Drex was the trapper in our family. When they were paying the five-cent bounty on jackrabbits, you know, he and Delmas Drinkwater would, they did a lot of trapping, you know, with the wire.

DOROTHEA: Snares.

ROTHA: Uh huh. So I don't know how many they caught. But he was, he always trapped. You know he trapped a lot of coyotes even, you know, after they were married and everything.

BARBIE: I was going to say, when did he quit? He was ... a few years ago.

ROTHA: Well you were still in college, Barbie, when he ---

BARBIE: No, he was trapping after ---

ROTHA: Because I know when the coyote's price dropped on them he quit. But he and Irene would take their camper and go up in the mountains in the fall. He had a secret recipe to draw the coyotes. But he made quite a lot of money that way, he enjoyed trapping.

BARBARA: Did they ever do beavers? You talked about beaver dams.

ROTHA: Oh they're, you don't want to --- beavers are terrible to skin. That's the reason they don't do beavers.

BARBARA: You don't do it, I see.

DOROTHEA: They are terrible to skin, they smell, and they are hard to get their hide off.

ROTHA: To handle, aren't they. That's what everybody says. Now, you know, Jim Sitz dealt in furs too. I mean, you know, he's bought and sold.

DOROTHEA: I guess it's quite a deal to get a license now to do such things.

ROTHA: I suppose, with the environmentalists. They won't let them. But Drex would take his furs up to Seattle to the fur market up there.

DOROTHEA: Did he ever sell his coyote furs for, you know, the pelts for coats and things.

ROTHA: I expect that they probably used some of them. But up there on the market, you know, everybody has furs and they grade them. I don't think he ever followed up. But you know, you've seen how much those fur coats, coyote fur coats --- I'll never forget down in Reno, I went down in the basement there, and the price on those coats!

DOROTHEA: Yeah. My daughter had one, and it started shedding.

ROTHA: Did it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ROTHA: Was hers a silver or a red one?

DOROTHEA: It's kind of red.

ROTHA: We had two beautiful coyotes up there at Van. There was one, I'm sure they were older, one with a beautiful silver coat, and the other one had a red cast. Just beautiful.

DOROTHEA: It's not really; it's kind of orange.

ROTHA: It isn't a real red, but like you said more of the orange. But the coats I've seen were made out of the silver.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, those are the expensive ones.

ROTHA: And that's the ones Drex got the most money for, were the silver ones.

DOROTHEA: I understand also that your best furs on a coyote is the months that have R's in them?

ROTHA: I don't know. But Drex was up there hunting, Barb, you know, before you even went to school that year. We drove up ---

BARBIE: Yeah, but he was trapping after Ken and I got married too, before he quit up there.

ROTHA: I know, but what I mean is in the fall, Barbie, was late in the fall when he went up, wasn't it?

BARBIE: November, October.

ROTHA: Well you hadn't gone to college yet.

BARBIE: I didn't go until the end of September.

ROTHA: Yeah, I know, but that was later in there. But he judged when the fur, the pelt was good and they weren't shedding or any-thing.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did the depression affect you at all?

ROTHA: Oh yes. I can remember --- I didn't pay much attention, but I had \$10 a month spending money. And I used to pat myself on the back when I'd come out with a dollar or

two over. Yes, I think I paid board then at \$35 a month. And like I said, didn't expect a lot, you know. I don't think anybody that lived on a ranch expected a lot. Of course I had, you know, I had sufficient clothes and everything. Because I was usually down with my sister and we'd go to Meier and Franks or some of those and grab the bargains.

BARBARA: Friday Surprise!

ROTHA: Right. So ---

BARBARA: What about rationing, did it affect the ranch at all?

ROTHA: Well we were back there at Fort Knox, and we were rationed. Gasoline rationed, and food ration, and meat, butter. Yes, that's where I learned to use oleo.

DOROTHEA: Sugar, and tires.

ROTHA: Uh huh, all of it. We were rationed back there.

DOROTHEA: I remember us kids got into my mothers stamps, and we didn't realize what they were. So we did without sugar all month. It wasn't a good thing!

ROTHA: Uh huh, I don't imagine it was either. But no, I was back there with all that rationing. And you know something was interesting, one of the times there, President Roosevelt came and I wasn't any farther from here to the door, I mean, from him. Open touring car, no guards around. He was there at Fort Knox.

See I worked there on the post. I was Civil Service and I managed, you know, to have a job. I took care of all the travel orders for the civilians, the ones that hauled, you know, brought the food in and everything, did all of that. And then I ended up in the finance branch, working with the soldier boys that they were bringing back from overseas. They worked in there. And let me tell you one time, kids had a flashback. And he was kicking the heck out of me; he was sitting across from me. I had a paper clipper, and I just reached down and hit him. But LaVerne said it wasn't anything at all out there, the plane --- see we were right next to Godman Field, and that was a colored field, the fliers,

they were all colored. And the planes when they were going over, he said, some of the fellows would dive in under their desk or anything. Dive, they'd say, they'd come out and say I'm sorry, I can't help it.

But he was fortunate, he was an instructor, and every time he was slated to be shipped overseas, Colonel Gaggard kept him because he wanted him for an instructor there. He had Chinese officers and others under him, I mean, that came through his classes in the armored force. But like I said, he was fortunate, his group went, the first group went to California for desert training, and then overseas. And they were over there in the desert, you know, in Northern Africa, his bunch was. So he lucked in.

BARBARA: Yeah. Well that was good for you too.

ROTHA: It was. I enjoyed it back there; we made a lot of friends. It was nice.

DOROTHEA: Do you still hear from some of them?

ROTHA: Some of them, uh huh. There is, some of them aren't here anymore. But it wasn't too many years ago I was in San Diego and saw a couple that we were real close, and they came to the hotel. And I looked at them, and I said, "You look just like you did when we were back at Fort Knox." But it's nice, and the Master Sergeants wife, she's in her 90's, and she still writes to me. We write at Christmas, and she sends me a picture of herself, and it's nice.

BARBARA: That's nice, yeah. That's great. Did, were there any doctors or dentists in Drewsey during the time that you were growing up?

ROTHA: Well I don't remember. There was a dentist there that came, and Drex said afterwards he wasn't there all the time. But I can remember I had a decayed tooth, and I probably was driving them crazy yelling. But Dad took me over, and the tooth was pulled. And that took care of the tooth.

DOROTHEA: Now they don't pull teeth, they fix them.

ROTHA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I don't know which is smarter, to fix them or to pull them.

ROTHA: Oh yes, take the nerve out. But some of them, you know, even so I know that when they did that with me, they waited quite awhile to make sure that they could use that tooth.

Well yes, Dr. Marsden there, and there was a Dr. Smith, I guess, that took care of Aunt Georgia when she was --- Aunt Georgia was a little woman, a small woman, and when she had Glenn they were quite worried because she was in labor a long time. The big, all the Sitz youngsters had large heads, you know. And for a first child, that they were quite concerned, they thought they were going to lose Aunt Georgia. But after Glenn, I guess the next ones probably came easier.

BARBARA: He paved the way for the rest.

ROTHA: He ...

BARBARA: Oh, gosh.

DOROTHEA: Well I've run out of questions a long time ago.

ROTHA: Well I hope you haven't been taping all this.

BARBARA: Oh, yes.

ROTHA: You know what is kind of interesting though, on the Holladay side, they came from Scotland originally, and they backed the wrong king over there, you know, king. And then there was over a thousand of them ... to the holy lands to fight in that war. That's because they backed the wrong king. Irene has done a lot of genealogy, you know, her mother wasn't well, and Mattie was down in the nursing home there in Ontario. So Irene really got into the genealogy work. And so she traced, did a lot of tracing, you know, on our side, and on my, you know, on Dad's side, and my mother's side. And on her, the Goodman's side, and the Huffman's side. And she ended up, you know, working with the

DAR. In fact she was regent for Oregon back in Washington, D. C. And Drex was pretty proud of her, he said she really made a nice speech back there, he was pretty proud of her.

BARBARA: Oh, good, good.

DOROTHEA: Tell us what the DAR is.

ROTHA: Daughters of the American Revolution. We had a drummer boy, Zachary Holladay. That's what I went in on, was Zachary. Zachariah I guess is the right name. But one of our distant cousins in Tennessee, his dad had started the research on the Holladay family. Spent time in England and around, and then when he wasn't able to, then his son was retired and had the where-with- all and the money and he went and followed up. So he made it, edited books, leather bound book on the Holladay family. But, you know, made it real nice for us, because it gave us our history. And you know what was crazy, over in England, whenever anybody passed away they would bequeath a chair, or a pot, or a bed, or anything. I mean he went to the records and he edited some of that. It was interesting, yeah. And a couple of them are Lord Mayor of London, a couple of my mother's ancestor was. But I had always heard that ... hear Mom and Aunt Georgia talk, you know, how word of mouth comes down. So he, like I said, he substantiated, he said, it is true, what was word of mouth coming down.

BARBARA: Do you happen to remember the first automobile ride you went on, or the first car your dad had?

ROTHA: No, that's something else funny. But I can remember, they didn't know how to drive the Fords. And like you say the Sitz were always with us, like going to the mountains and anything, it was just second nature. When we come to a hill everybody would jump out and push. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: They didn't go up hill very fast.

ROTHA: No, ... back up.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, backed up. Clinton can't believe that. He says, "Oh you don't know what you're talking about." I said, "That's what they all say, they backed up." So ---

ROTHA: But it is funny when you think about it. And of course they were, Uncle Lou and Dad both were tobacco chewers.

BARBARA: Oh, you didn't want to sit behind them, did you?

ROTHA: The kids got the ... got pretty, you know, we could avoid, they'd duck. But Dad gradually graduated to a can when he and Mom would go someplace. But funny things.

And I'll never forget we had this old Model-T, so I was learning how to drive it, and I was --- I don't know how old I was, Drex was with me. So I pulled up in front of the yard and I'd forgotten how to stop it. So we just went around and around---

BARBARA: In circles until you run out of gas?

ROTHA: Yeah. (Laughter) Oh dear, funny things that happened like that.

BARBIE: You should tell what you always did in the summer ...

ROTHA: Oh yes, and the folks always in between the second cutting of alfalfa and the wild hay, they'd always go to the mountains, the Blue Mountain Springs and camp. And Uncle Lou, like I said, he was always a honey. He'd go up and help set everything up, tents and everything. And of course they had dances there at the Blue Mountain Springs. And Midge was older, and Helen was older, you know, and the older ones enjoyed, you know, the dances and things. And they'd get tired of us, Jim and Norman and myself tagging along after them. So they'd --- one time I'll never forget, they said, they told us they saw a bear. So we ran for the tent, you know. And I split through the water, and Jim went over the log. I don't know how that happened. (Laughter)

And another time they were great on riding these, bending these lodge pole pines over the small ones and riding them. And one time Drex somehow he slipped, and the

tree caught his suspenders, you know, that kids wore overalls with suspenders. He said, "By the time you sons-of-bitches get through laughing, get me down from here." The tree was taking him back and forth.

BARBARA: Oh, that's great.

ROTHA: And Jim was always, that Georgia, I don't know why, she was always --- of course they grew up with the Negroes and had to be careful and everything, I don't know. But anyway, she was always timid. And Jimmy, kind of made him a coward, and the tip fell down on him, and he thought something had him. He said he screamed, "Come and get me, its got me, its got me." Funny things that happened.

But they were, like I say, they probably got tired of us, the young ones, following after them. They'd be Glenn and Midge and Helen, some of the older ones. A lot of Drewsey people would go over there to the dance, you know, to the Warm Springs swimming pool and dances.

BARBARA: You talked about your dad chewing tobacco. Did you have a spittoon in your home?

ROTHA: Oh yes, a can, a can, just a can.

BARBARA: A can, uh huh.

ROTHA: And then they had a stone a fireplace there in the dining room. And I don't know what happened, but anyway Mom got tired of him spitting tobacco into the fireplace. It wasn't long before it was boarded up. Well she always said it got to smoking. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Your home was built in 1913. Can you describe what your home is like? I mean ---

ROTHA: Well there is three bedrooms upstairs. Now I've got to stop and think. Draper, the contractor that built the house, and I think they built it for \$5,000, if you can imagine.

And it's a well-built house. But anyway, there were three ---

DOROTHEA: That was an expensive house though in those days.

ROTHA: And I think we were the first ones over there that had a bathroom in the house. And we had closets too. You remember so many of them never had closets, they had the wardrobes. And there is three good-sized rooms upstairs, and then heavens the attics. We've got to have an attic off the south room, and an attic off of the east room, a good size places to store things. And then down-stairs the original plan, you had a "U" porch around it. And here was the parlor here on this side, then the dining room. Then the bedroom off from that. And then the kitchen. Between the kitchen and the bedroom was the bathroom.

Of course, you know, you had the coils in the stove to heat the water to go into the bathroom. And then at that time they had a tank upstairs in that attic, and they pumped the water from the well up into that tank, and that's how we had hot water down, you know, through the faucets.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, it was siphoned.

ROTHA: Uh huh. And the stone was quarried from up, there is a place a short distance from the house where there was stone, and that's where they quarried the stone to make our cellar. Our cellar is made out of stone. And up over head there is room there, I mean if it was, you know ---

BARBIE: Another attic.

ROTHA: Yeah, there is a large space upstairs on that. But the cellars are right next to the back porch. If I had a pencil I could kind of draw you a deal.

BARBARA: Did you have wallpaper in your house?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh, there was wallpaper.

BARBARA: And wainscoting, did you have wainscoting around there too?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. And let's see ---

BARBIE: Lead panes in the China closet.

ROTHA: Lead panes in the China closet. And we also had gas, with the lights; I don't know what kind of gas it was. But that didn't last very long, we went back to coal oil. But they had lights in each of the rooms.

DOROTHEA: I don't know how old our house is for sure, but there is a lot of those lines still in it.

ROTHA: That's where they had the gas, whatever kind of gas it was.

BARBIE: ...

DOROTHEA: They really had fancy houses in the older days.

BARBIE: ... between the upstairs and the downstairs, ...

ROTHA: And not only that, our chimneys, they had chimneys going upstairs so that you could have a stove, heating stove in the rooms. The only one that didn't have it was the south one. But the west bedroom and the east bedroom had the flues, was the place for a stove to hook into.

BARBARA: Well even with the flue it created heat in the rooms too then.

ROTHA: That's right, uh huh. And ---

DOROTHEA: I think they had a chimney with an outlet in every room.

ROTHA: Then downstairs ---

DOROTHEA: I don't know what kind of stove they had, but ours does. Ours has one in the kitchen, and one in the living room, dining room.

ROTHA: They did, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: One in the, well two upstairs. It comes out into the hallway, and out into the big entry in the bedroom, I think it was. And then one into the, one east bedroom, and into the west bedroom.

ROTHA: Well ours is where the dining room was, see, and the kitchen was on here. And then this flue was here, and the deals on each side, see. I mean there was an opening on each side of this. And then it went upstairs to the bedroom on the east, the east bedroom, and there was an opening there. And then over here, between the parlor and this corner, there was another flue there; chimney, and it went up. And there was a place up in the west bedroom where you could have a stove. And then here was the kitchen, and then here was our back porch, and here was the cellar, the stone cellar.

And that's a wonderful thing, I mean that stone cellar. I can remember my mother, you know, when they kept the separator there, and she'd take --- and it was cement floor and we had a drain in it, and she'd throw water in the summertime. You know, we kept our milk out in there, and the butter and things to keep it cool. And then in the winter, you know, it was fine except, unless it got too cold. It stayed cold too long where the frost came through. But then, like I say later years, (Clarence) Young and Ball, Mom wanted it changed. And so we took in the porch here on this side, put it into the front room. And over here we made a bedroom out of this porch. Before we had doors going out on the porches, each place. And we slept out there in the summertime when it was blooming hot, I mean, you didn't sleep upstairs. We had beds out there.

But the stone quarry, I started to tell you, the stone that that house sets on; it goes down in the ground at least this deep. I mean they really put a foundation under that two-story house. Then of course later on, later in the years they dug out under there, because we had a huge pressure tank. I guess that was put in there when they went from the gas motor to the windmill. And then eventually we got it cemented, I mean made a regular basement out of it, and put a furnace in it. But quite a few changes.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah. Do you still have the holes for the chimneys, or have you plugged those up?

ROTHA: Well those have been, plaster board put over them, or sheetrock.

BARBIE: Well that one chimney is still ...

ROTHA: Yes, I took this one out. When Buster took this out, I swear the ---

DOROTHEA: The house sunk?

ROTHA: Or sunk, or whichever way it went. But --- But it made it a lot better when, you know, made another bedroom here, which we turned into an office there. Well there was so much dust from the road; you couldn't use the porch if you wanted to.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ROTHA: A lot of dirt.

DOROTHEA: Can you imagine if they were wood stoves, can you imagine packing the wood to those stoves? My crimeney, they would never get done packing wood.

ROTHA: And they used coal, you know, they'd get coal from Juntura.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

ROTHA: And that helped. Then as soon as we could, Mom got a Heatrola, and it was, it would heat the whole house, you know, if we put enough coal, and well mahogany and juniper in it. It would heat the whole house, and it held the heat at night. And then from that they went to oil, after they started in with the oil. We had, Aldred came up then, Mom had an oil stove which --- you know you weren't packing ashes and everything.

DOROTHEA: Right, and you got to the place where you couldn't get coal.

ROTHA: That's right, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So I don't know if you can even buy it now.

ROTHA: I don't either. But I know the coal bin is still out in those, wood shed there. And the men used to go up, you know, on the mountains in the wintertime, up on Drinkwater to get the mahogany and the juniper. And they would always bring our Christmas tree down for the school, when they were up there cutting wood.

BARBARA: Well how is your land, or the use of your land, changed over the years? Do you run pretty much the same as you did early on?

ROTHA: The only difference is we don't do quite as much farming. When my dad grew up, you know, they were always rotating. They would have a grain couple years, and then back into alfalfa. Like I say, I think they did more farming than we do, or have been. So many people went into wild hay for pasture, and everything. And I think they raised a little more grain then. You know, they always ---

DOROTHEA: Well unless you have a good irrigating system, you can't hardly afford to sprinkle anymore, it's so expensive.

ROTHA: Well to me, there isn't anything like flood irrigating. Because two of those --- and with your sprinkler, you're going over, and over, and over, and you can't make me think there isn't more evaporation of the water. I don't see how it can help it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: So it is just pretty much the same, but with a little less grain.

ROTHA: That's right, the families do it themselves anymore, you have to.

BARBARA: Can't afford to hire too many people anymore.

ROTHA: Not at the price they want, no, huh uh. Not the price cattle are.

BARBARA: Well you've certainly had a long interesting life out there in Drewsey. And it sounds like you've enjoyed pretty much every year of it too.

ROTHA: I did, I like, enjoyed it.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And you'll have a good time, again we repeat where you are going to be Queen Mother of the Pioneer celebration. You will have a good time remembering all this on that day too.

ROTHA: Well you know Drex has been coming for years, and picking me up, and we come over together. And Twyla was wishing that Drex and I both could have been on,

you know. She thought that would have been real nice. And they said well no you can't, where he lives in Malheur County.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ROTHA: Even though he still has property up in Otis.

DOROTHEA: Well I understood there was two asked before they come up with Grover in the men's for the president.

ROTHA: Well they said that they asked Chas Miler, and he flat footed, you know, that was early, real early. And I thought it was too bad, you know, because Chas could have remembered. By jogging his memory, you have to jog it, he remembers. But I know before someone said something to him about talking. "Oh, I don't know anything." And then I'd say to him, something about you remember the Indians? And --- That was too bad, he didn't.

But it is entertaining, I don't know, that's going to be the bad thing. They have what they call a Glow, you've heard of Glows, or have you? A group of Christian people who have a deal --- a group getting together, and I don't know when they go to Portland, sometime around the Rose Festival. Now is that going to be the same time as this?

DOROTHEA: This will be the 10th of June.

BARBARA: Well it is usually the second weekend in June, is the Rose Festival.

ROTHA: I know last year ---

DOROTHEA: It will be the end of this too.

ROTHA: I know the last year I won some tickets; I got some tickets for the Rose Festival. And the Pioneer doings was the same time.

BARBARA: Same, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: It's going to be this year too, because it is the second weekend of June.

ROTHA: Uh huh. So there will be a lot of them, I suspect, go, probably like Helen

Sergeant will go down there. I doubt if Nancy does, because Diane graduates the next day. So I don't know. I had thought maybe asking Helen Sergeant if she wanted to play, and Katie sing. But I think maybe we will just go with, if we can get the Fiddlers. I don't know if Twyla will see them or what.

DOROTHEA: I don't know either.

ROTHA: I said maybe we won't find anybody. Maybe we will play the record machine.

BARBARA: Probably be just as good.

ROTHA: I laughed at Ann Clark ---

BARBARA: Most people want to come and visit anyway, so I think that's true, yeah.

ROTHA: I know it.

DOROTHEA: Well they have a big dance afterwards, don't they?

ROTHA: Well usually, but we never, Drex and I always, we go.

DOROTHEA: Stay for it.

BARBIE: It's in the evening.

ROTHA: Evening. We stayed one time for it, and that's been years ago, Drex and I stayed. Mary Hamilton was over and, you know, we were always real fond of Mary. So we stayed that time for a little while. That's when Turen was still alive, fiddling. So that's going to put a little, you know, different aspect on who we could get. No one in our family is musical. So --- Not like Raymond and all the rest of them.

DOROTHEA: Well you might ask Helen and see if her and Katie, Katie has got that new baby. So it might be a little difficult for her.

ROTHA: Yeah, I think it would be, uh huh.

BARBARA: Well it has certainly been an interesting afternoon. And we've really enjoyed visiting with you, and learn all about your life.

ROTHA: Well there is a lot of things, I mean, you know, like the people that went on our

trip with us. And I could have gone through my notes and told you a lot of interesting things there.

BARBARA: Well maybe some other time we can have another little session and do some more visiting, and get all this other stuff down too.

So well, we wish you a very happy day on Pioneer Day, and hope you enjoy seeing everyone and visiting with them.

ROTHA: Well thank you. Oh, and Lela Sitz, I don't know whether that dear, someone told me she wasn't very well. Evelyn's ...

DOROTHEA: She is very ill.

ROTHA: And she is such a sweet person. Is she in the hospital?

DOROTHEA: She is in a foster home.

ROTHA: Which one, whose is she in?

DOROTHEA: Colleen Allen's, I think her name is Allen. It's out at Hines.

ROTHA: Oh, is it? She was always so quiet; I mean well she felt like we were family. Eldon, and they all used to call me cousin. They'd come to the dances, and they'd always call me cousin.

DOROTHEA: Well our time is running a little bit short. So I think we had better close for this time.

ROTHA: Well I hope I haven't kept you too long.

DOROTHEA: Oh no, no, no.

BARBARA: Certainly not, the day is yours.

ROTHA: Barbara, this is Everett Lofgren's wife. Did you recognize her?

BARBIE: ...

DOROTHEA: But I think that probably you're getting tired. I see you grabbing your back, and I know these chairs are not the most comfortable.

ROTHA: No, I wasn't aware of it. I was probably just straightening my shoulders. But anyway, this has been fun talking with you.

DOROTHEA: Well good. It has been an interesting visit. And we sure appreciate your coming in and doing this with us.

ROTHA: Now what will they put in the paper?

DOROTHEA: Pauline will go over our notes and ---

ROTHA: Have her condense it. I mean ---

BARBARA: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: She'll just write up a little short article.

ROTHA: That's good, so it isn't too lengthy.

DOROTHEA: So that's the way it will go. But we'd like to thank you again, and now we'd like to have you join us and let us do a little short video. Doing just a brief summary of what we've talked about.

BARBARA: Okay, thank you.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Thank you.

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