

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #37 - Sides A & B

Subject: Marion Louie

Place: Burns Paiute Indian Reservation, Burns, Oregon

Date: June 17, 1973

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

MARCUS HAINES: This is Marcus Haines and I'm interviewing Mrs. Marion Louie on the 17th day of June 1973. And Mrs. Louie would be a daughter-in-law of Chief Louie, who died about 1928, and he was blind for many years before he died. You don't remember him probably, do you? Do you remember him?

MAN: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, you were a pretty small kid then.

MAN: ...

MARCUS: Mrs. Louie, I think you told me you were born up here above Buchanan.

MARION LOUIE: Yes.

MARCUS: And what year would that have been?

MARION: That would be 1900.

MARCUS: 1900. You were born ---

MARION: July 3rd.

MARCUS: What were you doing --- you were born at Nigger Flat, what were you doing up there? How did you happen to be there?

MARION: Usually Indians gather there to gather their roots. My old aunt sitting here, she has been witness in my birth. It was on July 3rd, when everybody have fun come over

here to have their fun. But only her and her mother and sister, my grandma and my mother were left on, right north of Nigger Flat. There's a creek there, and old log house there.

MARCUS: Yes.

MARION: And below on the north side, that's where we were, I guess.

MARCUS: It was. Uh huh.

MARION: When we were start to --- our birth. And all these old folks, of my old grand folks, were our doctor. You know how Indians are; they don't have born in hospital like nowadays. We were out there and they did have done our birth by them own self when every-body was gone. That was Fourth of July guess they coming over here. Day before Fourth of July, we had our birth.

MARCUS: Yeah, back in those days they started celebrating the Fourth of July about the second or third, and it went on for a week. So they were, yeah, they would have been gone about the third. That's right.

MARION: That was the story of my old aunt. Here, she is sitting here. She is the one was there.

MARCUS: Mrs. Louie, what was your maiden name now? What was your parents ---

MARION: My father's name was Buckaroo Jim, her brother.

MARCUS: Her brother, uh huh.

MARION: And my mother's name is, way back time her name was Nettie, Nettie when she was at Yakima. They tried to put them in school, and her name was Nettie Smoke.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh. Well now were you living at the Indian Camp here now, or were you out at Drewsey at the time that you were born? There were quite a few Indians in Drewsey at that time yet, wasn't there?

MARION: We probably, carrying us around Drewsey when we were baby. Till I get

grown up, began to know something. You know how the children are.

MARCUS: Yes.

MARION: I remember. Just between time I remember things, on and on till I get older, I remember. All what my grand folks tell me, I remember that. And around about, I should say that I know Drewsey was the first town I ever know, when I grow a little older. When my grand folks were staying around on a hillside of old schoolhouse, was setting there. A big schoolhouse.

MARCUS: Yes.

MARION: They were along there living all their winter. And they go out toward the Nigger Flat those times. When everything grow up, all this Indian food to dig out, to live on for winter. Digging every kind of roots, beside the deer meat they dry. Usually they don't have no license to kill deer. All they want to kill the deer as much as they can and dry them up for the winter. Also the roots. They dried up to live on in winter. They usually hang around in the thicket around here, and when time comes in winter, they move into certain towns. Some are here; some are at Harney, and some over at Drewsey. That's why I been in Drewsey with my old folks. But I don't know anything about this Burns and Harney, I wasn't --- till I grown up.

MARCUS: You grew up in Drewsey then, didn't you?

MARION: Yes, I knew the first town.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

MARION: I know that old building is about falling on side. We were there last, about three weeks ago. Her and her granddaughter, we were down there, still there sitting.

MARCUS: Yeah, they got it propped up on one side.

MARION: Yeah, they were braced up.

MARACUS: You bet.

MARION: I saw.

MARCUS: My two daughters live in Drewsey, so we go over there. We spent the day there yesterday. So we're pretty well acquainted over there.

MARION: Yeah, we go there to shop sometimes when we out there and digging. Then mostly we hang around place to place, not around in town. Me and his mother were twins.

MARCUS: Oh, this is your aunt.

MARION: Yeah, her mother and we were twins. And this old aunt, when we were twins, when our mother was not handled two children, and she took one of us, wrapped up in a cloth and raised us up to big. Then we begin to grown up, and they separate us, one staying with their mother and sister and grand folks, and one of us staying with our mother and grandma. And my oldest brother Davey Jim he stays with other relatives. We were all separated. And there's a, I guess you heard, this nursing home up here now, the oldest sister of ours, are still there. Annie Smoke Robinson, they call. She still there. Old lady. She must be close to a hundred now.

MARCUS: She's still in the nursing home.

MARION: Over here. That's how I began to know all these things. Till around 1910, must be, we come here to this place here. We stayed with the old folks back the town, how they used to live. Then from Warm Springs, our uncle, cousin, uncle, close cousin come from Warm Springs Reservation to pick us up to put us in school.

MARCUS: Put you in school, uh huh. You were around ten years old then?

MARION: Around about ten years old. We used to be over around in Diamond, all over. I know all those people. One winter we live with John Jenkins, I guess you remember.

MARCUS: Yes, you bet.

MARION: Living --- and Jim Mahon.

MARCUS: Jim Mahon, up at Anderson Valley, yeah.

MARION: Back and forth with our old grandma, helped them. We dig up potatoes for them and we live at the John Jenkins for winter in the little cabin. And the Jenkins, I guess you know Sweek, old Sweek, the pictures at the courthouse.

MARCUS: He used to be here in Burns, yes. Yeah.

MARION: His daughter was teaching this John Jenkins children, three. And he want us to put them with them. And this old grandma told us; these women want you to be with these children in the school here. So we got off, we got away from, we shouldn't do that. We should learn more. We skipped out from that place, where we were.

And after in the fall, we came here back the town, old uncle came from Warm Spring Reservation to get us, to put us in the school. We were there five years.

MARCUS: You went to school five years at Warm Springs.

MARION: 1915, we move back to here again. Then I be going again. And after ... we taking to Fort Bidwell, California for our school. We been down there but I didn't get my education. Only fifth grade I know, but I don't know anything about all this what nowadays, these children are in high grades. All I remember is Indians around here, how we used to live. Then we came back. Quite a while we living around here. And his mother married first before I get married to Jim Louie. ... she get married to him. Then I went back to Bidwell for myself for school, one year after she got married.

Then I began to know all these things, what is my old father-in-law's story. He used to sit there, Blind Jimmy, and another old guy from Warm Springs, his name is William Johnson, and Old Tabby. MARCUS: I knew Tabby, you bet.

MARION: I guess you've seen him. He is the oldest man I ever know here in Harney County.

Way back yonder I seen a lot of old people, old man, and old womens gather up in

one bunch and have a big tepee. And the old men in one tepee. That's how we lived.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

MARION: Yeah. And some are come into the town and work for a little money to buy this coffee, sugar, I suppose. But most the time they working for the food. Or the townspeople feed them. Took them home and ... and warm it up, and coffee things. And they buy a big chunks of meat, was fifty cents. Used to be, everything cheap. Nowadays you can get a little piece of, you can get nothing. Those days everything was cheap. We used to get coffee, twenty-five cents. I don't know how many pounds, twenty-five cents. Sugar, all those things.

MARCUS: Well, there was always a little work around town here for you. I remember you folks used to, when everybody burned wood, that was one job that you had, splitting wood and putting it in the woodsheds.

MARION: That's right.

MARCUS: That would be your fall job, wouldn't it?

MARION: That's right. Mrs. Holland, we used to chop wood for her, long time.

MARCUS: Yes. Annie Bardwell, you ---

MARION: Everyone.

MARCUS: You bet. ... Annie Bardwell, you bet. I remember when you used to do the work for them too.

MARION: Yeah. And the wash all day, half a day, for dollar and a half.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah. Hibbards were pretty good to you folks too, weren't they?

MARION: Yeah, we used to ---

MARCUS: Yeah, I know they, Dr. Hibbard was always quite interested in you folk's welfare, the old man.

MARION: Yeah, and Julian Byrd, and his father-in-law to him, whatever they call him?

Everybody that I know here in town, Reeds, Emmett Reed, all them. Lot of people I know.

MARCUS: And Mrs. Withers, Olivia Withers, I bet you worked for her too.

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, I bet you have. They lived out at Harney. See, my uncle, we were talking this morning about Fred Haines that run the store at Harney, he was my uncle.

MARION: Yeah, he had a big bell by the door.

MARCUS: Yeah. And then Charlie Haines that run the store at The Narrows, was an uncle of mine.

MARION: I know him. Yeah, I remember.

MARCUS: You remember him. You bet. You weren't too old. He died in 1916, but you'd remember him, you bet.

MARION: Yeah, all the Harney people I know.

MARCUS: Yes, I bet you would.

MARION: Of course we go around the same thing as we do here. Go around for our, grandmother was to wash for them. She was a young woman.

MARCUS: Well you must have had some pretty tough winters, Mrs. Louie.

MARION: Tough.

MARCUS: You're darned right. When the snow used to get deep and thirty, forty below zero. And it had to be tough. Now there is no ---

MARION: Pretty tough. In 1923, we had a tepee and someone had a tent, and we had a pretty hard winter. Deep snow and people had this flu.

MARCUS: I'll bet.

MARION: Most the people were down with the flu. But we were skip the flu. But some are. Not much wood. We come down here to the creek and haul some of this willow, dry willow. They had to use a sleigh. Use the horses. We tough it out. In the springtime,

finally came this housing. 1925, it came. That we Indian lives in tepee, pretty hard. Cause there no wood, nothing but sagebrush. Old folks out to the spring out here, you know where the spring is?

MARCUS: Yes, yes. I think out at the old Miller Springs, isn't it? Yeah.

MARION: Pile up sagebrush, and pile it. And they had to be haul it with the back, back to camp, tepee.

MARCUS: I seen you pack sagebrush on your back, you bet. I sure have.

MARION: Yes, I used to carry it. All these things. Pretty tough living for our people.

MARCUS: You say you moved down here in 1937?

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well that was a, '37 was a tough year too. Cold.

MARION: Yeah, cold.

MARCUS: And a lot of snow that winter too, you bet. I imagine it seemed kind of like a palace to get into a house like this, though. MARION: In February, an Indian from, what he was tribe? Cherokee Indian, I suppose. His name was Strong Heart, came to the theater where Mr. Byrd, Julian Byrd, used to have a theater.

MARCUS: Yes.

MARION: When everybody had the flu. Just only a few men were, didn't get the flu. He came down to the theater and he was there talking to the people in the theater how the Indians are live. And some of these, did you know Billie Byrd, Sam Mothershead and some other men?

MARCUS: You bet.

MARION: They say that they are living all right. But he told them I have to go out myself to my Indian people how they living. So Johnny Pete came down in a sleigh and pick him up to the camp in deep snow, in sleigh. And Frank Miller had a little cabin, he talk to



these people there. And next day he go around and inspect how the Indians are living. There was poor way. Nothing but these campers, they got put up for the winter. He took a picture. No one from us, no doctor come out to see Indians. But they had good luck. Not any one of them are died with the flu. They all got over it.

Then in springtime, a superintendent from Warm Spring came over here. He was speaking to the Indians in my father-in-law's tepee, tent. He had all the other Indians. And was talking with them. And he said to help them, help these Indians, some way. And pretty soon they sent a word to Sam Mothershead and some others. A letter came and they explain to him that's going to be our army tent. Thirty army tent, it was a big army tent. One pole in the center. They was going to ship over by the train, far as Crane. And Indians suppose to go get it themselves. There was Johnny Pete, Willie Pete, Don Frank, and Tom Jim, I think. Four men were went after the tents in the wagon. Oh, this road was nothing but mud in springtime, in February. Then they brought up to Dr. Smith, in the garage, was a big tent. Pretty soon when the dry weather comes, they distribute among the Indians, those tents. And the, clear on this side of cemetery, you know where the cemetery is, was clear up this place. And there they going to put up these tents for the Indians. And they build up; give them a little board to be built underneath. And in 1925, we went to Warm Spring Agency. Here's another new scheme the government's going to help Indians with the houses. So we return back quickly to here.

Then they make a clean up at the dump ground, where the old camp is. There was a dump ground. Piles of cans and trashes and all that. They hitch up their horses and they clean it their self. But they loaned their scrapers, what the horse's drag, you know. They cleared it up, ten acres. So we moved up there round about May. People were moving up there. They tried to drill a well there, but it wasn't so good. But they drill another one on the flat where they got the water now.

We put up the tents there, move the tents up there. Then they say to the Indians, there is going to be lumber. Haul it. With a train comes to this town here, there is lumber hauling. And they got to haul it. They got to haul it by their self. Pile the lumbers to make a house, twenty-five houses. And they built up two rooms to a person, twenty-five houses.

Then they built up, but no can remember, maybe some after here they built this community hall up there for the school. Those days they sent the children over to Ft. Bidwell cause they got nobody to teach them in school. So they built this building for teach children.

Then after a while the other superintendent from Warm Spring come again. A bunch of Indians from there. They looking for a place, they going to move it out. The place for us. They looking around for a place, they went on the other side of Hines. The Warm Spring, on a flat. And there it wasn't so good, most alkali place. They look around and they pick out a place on this side between the creeks there, and it was too narrow, they said. They still looking for a place. And they tried to look on a hill, way up on the hillside, and that was too rocky. People can't do anything up there in hill.

So finally Brown, Mr. Brown, had this land here. He found this land. Indians all decide they going to get this. So they pick out this place in 19 --- what time was the timber cleaning up in Seneca? 1924 --- '25?

MAN: ... '24 ...

MARION: Is one of those years. The day my father-in-law died, we went up there a brush pile for everybody. Then the, some of the men are work on this place here. They was going to leave from town, all around here and circle round, but some are discussing about it. They should be in one place, in a bunch, closer. That's what they said. And they call a bunch of Montana people here; boys to be work on these buildings.

A woman, her name was Mrs. Wallace, finds us women. She brought us up; there was a log cabin by the riverside here. Here we pick out the place before these houses were made. We pick out the ground. I pick this ground for myself.

MARCUS: Oh, you picked out your own location right here in the place.

MARION: And Dot (Jim) picked the place, and the Kennedy's picked where they are now. And all those others. Certain, just certain people, picking a place where they going to build a house.

MAN: ... over by the bridge ...

MARION: Log house.

MAN: No, over by the bridge. You know where the bridge is? That's where ...

MARION: Yeah, Parker.

MAN: ...

MARCUS: She's certainly enjoying herself, isn't she? You bet, she is enjoying it. Well C. B. McConnell helped you folks quite a bit too, didn't he?

MARION: McConnell, yeah. McConnell was a great man for us.

MARCUS: You bet he was. He just didn't live long enough to see it through here for you.

SIDE B

MARCUS: Well, getting back to Chief Louie, the old fellow. Tell us some of his early days. Did he tell you anything about the Bannock War? Was he in it?

MARION: In the Bannock War?

MARCUS: In '78?

MARION: In '78, you know he was a scout. He was living on, in part of Klamath, around in California.

MARCUS: Oh, he was down in there.

MARON: After, when he quit in the Modoc War he stayed around here. But these others, in the first beginning when they giving out this reservation, they kept it here in the Malheur. Other people from here, they all kept it at villa.

MARCUS: Yeah, down here, they called it the Agency.

MARION: Yeah. And after that when the Indians were already kind of settled up, given out things, this Bannock War started from Ft. Hall. There was a young guy, a young guy in the gambling. He gambling with the White people. He had the money, and his father was rich also, in horses. He gambled all night and he was losing because he was a drunk. He losing his money and he start on his father's horses, everything that his father had. After he lose everything, he shot that man. He shoot the man folks around the table. They got away.

They were in a bunch of tepees where he lives. He got away to his tepee, and all these other people, they trying to talk to these others. They was going to pick him, only the one had done and put him in the jail. But they all fall in with this young guy. And a chief from there, he been try and talk around to his people do not do those things. They going to pick that guy and put him in jail. But in the night when they got in with this guy, young guy, his folks, in the night they get pack up everything. All their tepees. They got away towards this way. And next morning there was none there in the tepee. All coming this way. They were coming this way and destroying things on the way. Anything that they can get a hold of. They coming, they coming, they coming, along there they were coming. Take anything that they can steal.

And they met some of the Owyhee Nevada people, and a bunch I guess, on the way. The chief tried to talk to them, so they give him a word that we going to be with you. But they didn't. They got skipped away from them. They went back to Owyhee, Nevada.

MARCUS: That was Chief Winnemucca, wasn't it?

MARION: Chief Winnemucca? No! Chief Winnemucca, that was another one.

MARCUS: That was a different ---

MARION: And this --- then they keep coming along the Snake River, keep on coming towards this way, because they heard these people were here, a whole bunch people here. But it was just; the main guys name ... the headman of the trouble ...

MAN: ...

MARION: Who was it? What was his name?

MARCUS: Chief Buffalo Horn?

MARION: Yeah, that's him.

MARCUS: Yeah, he led them in here.

MARION: Yeah, him. They were keep coming, and they were keep coming towards this way, but they in one spot that I know, this one of them got shot, somewhere on the way. And when he was about to die, they put a, you know how the, kind of spring go, you know, the soft spring goes like that.

MARCUS: Bogs and quicksand.

MARION: Uh huh, yeah. Quicksand, yeah. They put a willow; lay him across there when he was already wounded. Couldn't get out. He just put him on top of the willows and leave him there, and they left him.

MARCUS: Now, this was Chief Buffalo Horn?

MARION: I guess.

MARCUS: Yeah, I think so. Then Chief Egan got with them after they got over in this country, you now. He led the group on in through Silver Creek and there. So that's probably who it was.

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, Egan was shot a time or two over there.

MAN: ...

MARCUS: But Chief Louie was never involved in any of the wars as we know them, was he?

MARION: Yeah, then when he is already about to happen, those things. When they were already here, those Bannocks, he came here. He had another wife, but not my mother, Jim's mother, another wife.

MARCUS: Oh, yes.

MARION: They came from south. And he stayed around here when the bad trouble was ready. All this Indians in villa. Indians were already doing pretty good. Giving out things. They have rations. They were begin to, the older children were begin into school. The trouble came, and some were at Harney, but Old Tabby you see in the picture.

MARCUS: Yes.

MARION: He was a laundry helper. And Scarface Charley ---

MARCUS: Yeah.

MARION: You know him, Scarface Charley. And my father-in-law, and another young guy, they were already there helping these soldiers, doing things, working for them. And the message came from the Agency.

MARCUS: Al Johnson.

MARION: Al Johnson, Al Johnson already promised that he throw his gun away. He's going to be live the way, a good way. He already promised to throw that gun away. But he got in with these Bannock, with them. And the trouble was already burning now. And the message came into Harney how the, already were happen. A man came there to tell what was going on. There was another man names Lewis. They were already helping this Harney, working. And soon as he heard it, they got away in the night towards the Agency, what's going on. And only this Old Tabby was left here and another young guy,

and Scarface Charley. They were stayed here. But the ones with horses, they went. Beyond Juntura, way back below there somewhere some Indians were, they were fishing, camping there. And some of the Agency, so they went down there. No one was there, but nothing but this salmon spreaded on where they drying salmon. There were a lot of them. They went there, no one there. All been gone. Only one old lady was walking around, crying. So they went to meet that old lady. Old lady came, and she was glad, she told them everybody already went with the Bannocks. I am only left. She had nothing, no horse, nothing.

So my father-in-law (Chief Louie) they stopped there and she had two salmon in her carrier, something, to go follow that track, the old lady. So they stop and they stayed overnight with her, and she make a kind of saddle with something, put it in canvas to make a saddle or something to ride on horse. They give her one horse, the next day.

So they went, follow the track round in Crowley, you know where that Crowley is?

MARCUS: You bet.

MARION: Around there on other side.

MARCUS: There in Barren Valley.

MARION: And any houses they see, they destroyed. The Bannock. All around there and this Al Johnson, did nothing. They were a foot. They were a foot following the others. He's the one where, with these Bannock first, the one that was promised.

And my father-in-law, they were following and they stop by them. They were sitting under the juniper tree. They had a child, died. They told them, our child is passed away. We are going to put it somewhere, then we going to go on. So they just went on, followed those others. Way around in the Steens Mountain there where they were gathered. All these Bannock Indians, some of these people here.

And the soldiers gave a note to Egan, the one that they left there. The White man

give him a note to go and get this note and show to them. But those Bannock Indians go on. And return this Malheur Indians back to here again. But they won't. They keep going with them because they were fear, we going to do something to you if you don't.

MARCUS: Yeah.

MARION: So they come down from there toward Coontown, I guess you know where Coontown is?

MARCUS: You bet, uh huh. There at Happy Valley.

MARION: Happy Valley. They were coming to that, all these Indians. And my father-in-law and wife, they were keep on following. Here Blind Jimmie, I guess you know Blind Jimmie?

MARCUS: Uh huh.

MARION: He was coming on following, foot. They know him, that he was there coming, following the others. Then they come to there into Smyth's. You know where the Smyths are all ---

MARCUS: Yes.

MARION: I guess a building on the side. We used to see where the house burned. On Riddle ---

MARCUS: There on Riddle Creek.

MARION: Uh huh. They come there, the Bannocks. They surround the building because they know that somebody is there, the people is there. They surround the building and the man from upstairs, I guess, he shoot down through the windows, shoot at them. He shoot two men. The headmen got shot and the one shot on his heel. And when, they couldn't do anything, they burn the house. I guess all these little children with the mother went into the cellar, you know, they crawl in there I guess trying to hide. But the man was fighting alone in house. That's what my father-in-law's story.



Then the men, when they burn this building, start to burn, the men just jump out the window from above, upstairs. His clothes was already start to burning, come down to the ground, lay on, fell on the ground. There they just hang him. They shot him supposed, a whole bunch of them.

And my father-in-law, he heard something kind of scream. The smoke just went to the cellar, you know, when they were in there. The smoke goes in there. And when the children are, mother must be smothering with the smoke. They kind of hollering something, hollering in, way in, he heard it, when the father was killed. He had all kinds of money in his pockets, he said, these men. But they don't pay any attention to the money.

All they after that man. And the one guy, he knows about the money because he stick his hand in his pocket, and took out a gold, used to have gold money. He had a lot of those things out of his pocket, he kept it.

And this other, the other one, other Indian died right there where he go shot. But the other one, the one that had shot on heel, they took him up there on the hill. You know how they just mumbling these people crying, things like that. And the one was the dead man, they took him up, you know, where the little castle going around the little hill. They buried him there.

And my father-in-law, brother-in-law, Indian ... they call, I don't know how he was, he already learned drinking from Harney, cause he was one of them there. He got drink somewhere. He was a real drunk, laying around under the tree. He said, I couldn't do anything. You better go follow. Whatever you want to do with these Indians.

And a bunch of men, I guess they went towards Diamond. And others were still here. They went on towards Diamond and they meet a wagon hauling a barrel of whiskey. A big keg, you know, a big kegs, all kinds size. He saw them. They went after them towards them, and this man saw, saw two White guy saw them, unhitched their

wagon. They got on this workhorse. They got on the horse; leave all these old things there. They run towards Diamond. And when they come to the wagon, they stopped there and they breaking all this kegs whiskey, let it just drain every way. They didn't drink it. Maybe they don't know what that was. So after that they went on again. After they destroy this whiskey, they went on.

Those two guy keep a going, keep a going to Diamond, carrying this message what the Indians are done, coming after them. They went on to Diamond. Just in time I guess they having a dinner or something, all the workers must be there in Diamond.

There was a Chinaman, a Chinaman was a cook. And this Indians keep on following them. They were the ones took off from the wagon. They got there to Diamond where they were going to have a dinner. They were just about to have their lunch. Everything was on spreaded a big canvas on a flat ground. And everything was already set up; the food was on there. They saw those Indians coming. They all got onto their horses and they run on to this way. The Indian comes there; they got there where they run off.

And I guess there is another guy with a wife. Must be two couples. Because keep way on a hill. They had a dog with them, but the dog didn't bark. Some of these Indians saw that dog, but they didn't tell these others. The dog was sitting; they must be hiding in the brush. But all these others got on their horse to run. And these Bannock Indians, they shake all the folks all over. And the Chinaman cook was left. Finally was a mule in the corral. Only one mule left. The Chinaman, he was hiding himself. He got under the mule; he got on the mule and followed these other guys, the ones that run away. You know how the mule runs, how fast. He tried to whip the mule. He just galloped slowly. He just catching him up. Chinaman tried to whip his horse and he fell off of the mule. And some of the, they didn't do anything; they just stopped by him and go on after the

others. And the last came, the last man came. That shot the Chinaman. And they follow on the others. The mule just keep on following slowly towards, how they call it?

MARCUS: Well, they went up McCoy Creek there towards "P" Ranch.

MARION: Yeah, toward "P" Ranch they going.

MAN: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, then John Witzel was shot then.

MARION: Yeah, he got shot on his leg or somewhere.

MARCUS: Right up on top of the hill.

MARION: That was the Bannock that done all these things. Make us lost this big reservation. We were, our people would be ... with these Bannock Indians if they would turn back. Nothing would be happen.

MARCUS: No.

MARION: Because everything was already happen at the villa. Just starting to school, everything. It happen.

MARCUS: Your people were treated just like the Bannocks then, when they finally caught them over here by Battle Mountain. They really made it rough for them then, didn't they?

MARION: Yeah, they were all gathered with these, mixed up with the Bannock Indians. Go round in Riley, you know. Just around there and destroying things. ... to Pendleton. They was going to go to Pendleton and let those people be with him, but they won't.

MARCUS: That was the Umatilla, wasn't it? They wouldn't join them.

MARION: Umatilla Indians. They were already well off. They tried to sent our people back. They wouldn't do it, they would keep it going. That's how they got in trouble with ... also. Many are killed I guess. That's why they killed this Egan.

MARCUS: Yeah, he was killed up there around Battle Mountain.

MARION: Yeah, he was ---

MARCUS: And he was wounded out here on Silver Creek. Yeah.

MARION: They already wounded him. That was --- they already wounded him. That's why they get him.

MARCUS: Well talking, getting back to the early days of Chief Louie. You read these early diaries here, and there was very little game here in this country at one time. Did you ever hear Chief Louie say anything about the scarcity of game? Here in the 50's, they tell about coming through here, some of them eat their horses. And this McClure, and some of the other fellows. I have their diaries and they just can't find any game. The country evidently dried up at one time, and the Sand Reef blew in down here, and that's when the buffalo perished in the mud trying to get water down there below the Sod House Springs. 1931 we dug out a wagonload of buffalo skulls when the lake, that's about the driest the lake has been in our day anyway.

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: And we found the buffalo skulls. And on toward The Narrows, and farming I've dug out buffalo skulls there. But did he --- he told you about buffalo, didn't he?

MARION: Yeah, he told us.

MARCUS: You told me this morning that he ---

MARION: Yeah the buffalo was here in the valley.

MARCUS: Yeah, there was buffalo in here.

MARION: And in summertime, buffalo goes into thickets, and they comes to valley again. And this Old Tabby when he was in young age boy, he saw, he saw there were nothing but Paiute Tribe here in Harney Valley, way back times.

MARCUS: Yes, yes.

MARION: And along this way, a man, he had a real bad witch doctor of Indians. His wife

was dead, and he had one son. And out this way, and he sent his boy to go look for some woodpecker. You know how they --- the nest are in a tree.

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

MARION: He sent him out there to look for some, look for some. And that young boy went, I guess he climb in the tree and stick his hand into that hole. There was a snake in there. And the snake he just bite his hand. It swell up. He couldn't get his hand out. He was hanging in that hole, his wrist were all swell up. He was hanging there and his father were missing him for around about three or four days. He was looking for him, looking for him. Finally he found his son was hanging up, dead. He just cried, cried all summer long. Crying for his son. I don't know why. He was talking to his people, crying. Those time, in the fall, in ripe time of the seed, it was a black seed what they call "Wada". That's what they call "Wada" for this valley here.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

MARION: And that day I'm going to destroy all my people, he said to his people. I'm gonna destroy.

And in the falls when they gather up these seeds, all the people were lying in their bed, dead. He was a real witch doctor.

MARCUS: He really did the job then?

MARION: Yeah. Killed lot of people. When this Old Tabby was a little boy, he didn't get to die. He knows about it. And the second time, do the same thing, he said the same thing. The second year. All people the same thing, they dying off. They're still crying. That day my father-in-law's mother were one of the dead, in the second death. He don't know, they were little. Him and their sister and brother, when the mother died. All the others died, just a few people that's left.

MARCUS: That happened here in Harney County?

MARION: Here in Harney County, by the lake. ... we don't know, they were little. Him and their sister and brother, where the mother died. All the others died, just a few people that's left.

MARCUS: Well that happened here in Harney County?

MARION: Here in Harney County, by the lake.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

MARION: Then the people, a big man, they decide they're going to kill that man. He was, he is living by himself. There he was sitting by the fire. They took all the bow and arrow. They went to him. They try to shot him. They could do nothing. After they run out there ... They just grab him. Grab him and tell the others, put this wood by his fire, make a big fire. We're going to throw him in there. So they grab him, the witch doctor. They grab him, a bunch of men, threw him in the fire. But yet he don't die, they just keep on holding him in fire. And he said, his body was just sounding like a gun. He was a real witch doctor.

MARCUS: He was a good one, wasn't he?

MARION: Yeah, that's how they destroyed him. So they leave a list, after they done to him. Oh, he destroy his own people. There were many. There was a second ... Old Tabby was kind of a big boy, he remembers everything. He used to name the name, those man's name, but I forget. All these old guys sitting together, and tell story one another. How they were doing, and how these people were living in the wintertime. Out in the country, some live in the cave, pretty tough it out.

MARCUS: You bet, you bet.

MARION: Living on the rabbit, things like that.

MARCUS: Well now they did a lot of fishing down on the lake here too.

MARION: Yeah, you know where the --- on this, how they call it

--- The Narrows.

MARCUS: Yes.

MARION: There is --- I didn't see, but he said the water just come from underneath up the hill or something.

MARCUS: Yes, Sod House Spring, that's the ---

MARION: A kind of spring, and the water just comes swift under---

MARCUS: I live a half mile away from that Sod House Spring, that's the place.

MARION: Yeah, that's where the men folks, during the wintertime, because they've got nothing to wear. In the wintertime the women, women folks carry a lot of sagebrush wood to build fire to keep the men folks, to get warm, and get more fish. That's how they catching fish. Some catch enough fish, and you just saving them, and warm by the fire and go get more fish. That's why they living on the fish in the winter.

MARCUS: When I was a kid, there was a walk built out in the Sod House Spring, where we were talking of. It was down from where that you were relating here. And we would take a ladder --- or a lantern at night, go out and set it on the end of this walk, and take a ... and you could just get a washtub full of fish. They would come up to that light and just, you could ... them out.

MARION: Uh huh.

MAN: ...

MARCUS: Yeah.

MAN: ...

MARCUS: I bet that's where --- You see them Sand Reefs down below The Narrows, you get across there ---

MARION: Yeah, soft.

MARCUS: Yeah, it was ... you see, and it held Malheur Lake. It was ten or fifteen feet

deeper than it was after this went out, which I guess went out in '83, I think. Mart Brenton, you remember Mart Brenton, don't you?

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: He's the guy that was supposed to have kicked the Sand Reef through. You see Malheur Lake drains into Harney. So after that happened, then it lowered the Malheur Lake, then it filled up again as high as it was at that time.

MARION: Oh, yeah.

MARCUS: You bet. Well, we still got quite a little tape left. Now you were telling me some pretty good stories, you better think of another one. You'll have me afraid to go home. (Laughter)

MAN: Well, that's what you're after.

MARCUS: You bet. She was telling some good ones here. Those are the things that are going to be lost with people like her too. So we've got to get them on, get them here so somebody else can enjoy them, you know.

MAN: Oh, yeah.

MARCUS: You bet. We've waited a little too long, actually on some of this stuff. And then these old timers, and they're just; they're dropping off pretty fast here all the time.

MAN: ...

MARCUS: They know the history. A new crop coming along, but they don't know it, is the thing of it. Yeah. I was going to ask you something else here, too. You have been across the, you've been all around Harney Lake there too, haven't you?

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: Did you ever live down, when you were a youngster, around in that country? Or you'd just be passing through, probably?

MARION: We would stay by the Harney and Malheur Lake one time, when they was



boys. Was you there? You know, they killing those old sheep's, one time.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

MARION: They stayed around there for quite awhile. But we didn't walk around in the lake.

MARCUS: Uh huh. But there, where the refuge headquarters are now, that's the Sod House Springs.

MARION: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And I helped build those buildings in 1935, and that was a burial ground. Actually dug out lots and lots of skulls and artifacts. And while I was a kid, we used to play around the spring there, and there was arrowheads laying everywhere. When we'd find a nice one, slip it in our pocket, and in about three days it was gone. You don't pack a good arrowhead around very long, it cuts it's way out.

MARION: Uh huh.

MARCUS: But that was a great campground right there.

MARION: Yeah. Did you ever hear a story of the Modoc and the Paiute Indian were meet?

MARCUS: No.

MARION: On this side of Frenchglen. The rock used to be; you can see it plain from way in the hill, down. I don't know how close.

MARCUS: ...

MARION: Used to be plain, you could see the rock coming --- two strips, one the Paiute, and one for the Modoc Indians.

MARCUS: Oh.

MARION: Where they have a great war with the spear.

MAN: No gun.

MARION: No gun.

MARCUS: Comes in from both sides of the mountain then.

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well there is some good Indian legends about the Malheur Cave down here too.

MARION: Uh huh.

MARCUS: You have probably ---

MARION: We been go to see them.

MARCUS: Yeah, I bet you've been there lots of times.

MARION: That's where some of the old Indians --- for the winter. We used to see a rock, crawling up like that, and the sagebrush grow over. Now it's all clear.

MARCUS: Yes.

MARION: They cleared it all.

MARCUS: You had to crawl in.

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: The first time I was there forty years ago, you had to crawl in, that's forty-five years ago.

MARION: Yeah, it was real little hole. But now it's wide open.

MARCUS: You have to ... Yeah, it's cleaned out. The Masons fixed it up. But ---

MARION: The Malheur Cave.

MARCUS: There have been some great battles fought there, you know. They are still cleaning arrowheads out of there.

MARION: Yeah. And there is --- I guess the Indians, Paiute Tribe, and the Modoc Tribe, they want to meet in the morning with the --- our tribe, fighting with this Modoc. And two brave men was against one another. But the rest were fighting with it, besides them.

They had a --- when they --- everybody were ready, they heard the noise coming toward them. Early in the morning, before sun's rise, they could heard the walking, and they were getting ready. Here they just meet, and some were work these rocks, piling between them, and they shot one another. And one a great doctor, a mean doctor. But it was my father-in-law's father, way back time. He just --- he just suckered out the arrow, arrowhead out of his people. Some of them, some died, but some are live. And he'd get a bunch of arrowhead out of other Indians. But the others were killing right off of the Modocs. But only two left, these two brave men. They were fighting, fighting, finally the Paiute wave ... Modoc.

MAN: Our chief.

MARION: Uh huh. So they just turn back, they all turn away back. Because nothing protect them after that. But where the story is, a ... story.

MARCUS: I'll tell you something we haven't talked about, and that's the smallpox epidemic over in Drewsey. We talked a little bit about that this morning. That's when your father died, wasn't it?

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: In that? But were there many Indians died, do you recall whether there was?

MARION: I don't, I don't remember. But our father, but our father died with the smallpox, right by the bridge.

MARCUS: Yes. Mrs. Drinkwater told me about it yesterday, and she told about a doctor that was part Indian.

MARION: Oh, doctored in Drewsey.

MARCUS: ... called him, what did she call him? ... And anyway he doctored the people around there. And there was two White people died, a fellow nineteen years old, and a younger girl I believe she said. And then she wasn't right sure how many of your people

died. But this fellow, after the epidemic was pretty well over, he got the, this doctor got the flu, got the smallpox.

MARION: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And he went into the sweathouse, and then went down and jumped off the bridge, the big bridge there into the water. And she said that he died with consumption, as they called it. Then he managed to live out the smallpox, but he died shortly after it from lung disease there.

MAN: ... bridge she was talking about.

MARCUS: Over at Drewsey, Drewsey Bridge there. You know Mrs. Drinkwater that runs the store there, she and Sam Burt, there at Drewsey.

MAN: ...

MARCUS: She was born there in '88, Mrs. Drinkwater was. I visited with her yesterday ... We've got an interesting tape that's on the other side of this one. That was really good.

MAN: ...

MARION: Yeah, she's the one, her and her mother and sister and ... one carry our daddy I guess, way up to bury him. To put him on a horse, lead him, and bury him way up on the mountain somewhere.

MARCUS: Well you know Mrs. Drinkwater told me that when an Indian died there, he was put on a horse and led back over the hills there, and nobody ever knew where they were buried. They had, the ... would come back with the horse without the corpse.

MARION: Probably him.

MARCUS: Said they tried to follow you people.

MARION: Probably him. That's what she said.

MARCUS: Yeah. Said they couldn't even follow you.

MARION: Uh huh. That's what she said. She told somebody.

MARCUS: Said they knew where you buried your dead.

MARION: Yeah.

MAN: ...

MARION: Yeah, a lot of Indians, I guess usually be buried anywhere in the rocks.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

MARION: Where we dig the roots, usually were there in the roots. I saw the rocks, you know how the rocks when they turn up, from the ground, and white. I used to see --- I want to see what that is. And a year ago, last year ago I stopped there, I was going to dig it up. I used my digger. I just push those rocks, big rocks, on side. Under this big rock, kind of a cave underneath, and I stick one of my digger, and I start into dig in the thing, under the rock, after I pushed those other rocks away. I keep on digging; I keep on digging, what's under there? And I took it up, a little piece of a board. A board, must be like a baby board, broken on side. And I thought it must be a little baby, must be buried there. But it's all gone but a little piece of a board. ... back in there. But I didn't find anything besides that piece of board.

MARCUS: I dug up at Buena Vista; you know where Buena Vista is, up toward the "P" Ranch?

MARION: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Dug up twin babies that had been buried there. I remembered what had happened. They had been there thirty, thirty-five years I suppose. And all that was left was just a skull, it had black curly hair.

MARION: Huh.

MARCUS: And they died at birth, and they were wrapped up in a little casket. And we dug them out there, and they were all gone except this hair and skull.

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: They wouldn't last so terribly long, you know, unless they're really buried. Youngsters, their bones are soft and all, and they go pretty quick.

MARION: Yeah. In 19 --- what, was that Mr. Page was here? And there was two couples, hauling the dirt out this way. And they found a little grave there. They dig it out, a little skull, and a bone I guess, and the beads.

MARCUS: The beads were still there.

MARION: And this boys were carrying the dogs, and they saw it, in the morning. He picked them up and he dug in the ground and put it in there and covered it up. So they told, Mr. Page told me, picked me up on the road and told me.

MARION: Then me and my husband, we walked up, we walked, we walked and we know where that is. Cause they kill one dog right by that. There we see the rocks, showing in the ground. We dig it out, we dig it out, and my husband said it was a little round thing like that. Must be blanket or something. And he dig it up, and he says what that is? What's that? He put it toward me, and I got it. There was a three and a half, a silver dollar, in the little piece of rag. Yeah. Three --- there was two silver dollar, and three half dollars that were sticking into this rag. But it won't come out. He tried to wash it, it won't come out. Everybody come here, and they going to see a ghost money. We show it to them. And we find besides, beads, and one little teeth. And Mr. Page tell by the teeth, it must be seven years, seven or six years, a girl.

MARCUS: Oh.

MARION: Uh huh. And we tried to dig way --- we didn't find any-thing but these beads and this money, and a little shell. And it must be a bone of the fingers. We put them back. And way after that my daughter when she came, she gathered those beads into a bottle and put it back. It's still there.

MARCUS: Well, I'll be darned.

MARION: After we kept the money.

MARCUS: You didn't bury that anyway, did you?

MARION: No.

MARCUS: Were you able to break it apart and use it, or do you folks still have it around?

MARION: No, one of the daughter of mine, she took it to Portland and somebody stole it away from her.

MARCUS: That's the daughter I met here last winter?

MARION: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

MARION: No, it's another one.

MARCUS: How many children do you have, Mrs. Louie, have you raised?

MARION: I have three boys, three boys and five girls, all grown.

MARCUS: At least eight children.

MARION: Uh huh. But grandchildren, many grandchildren.

MARCUS: I bet you have. Well Earl ... told me he had seven children, is that right?

MARION: Yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh. We've worked together once in awhile. I live right across the road there from ... He's quite a fellow. I like ... quite well. We can visit a little bit.

Well we're just about out of tape. And I imagine you're just about to give out, aren't you?

MARION: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And ---

bl