

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #380 - Sides A/B

Subject: Jess Gibson & Leora Houston Eggers

Place: Prineville, Oregon

Date: June 19, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: ... 1991.

JESS GIBSON: Yeah.

EDWARD: I'm in Prineville, Oregon; this is Ed Gray with Jess Gibson and Lenora Houston Eggers.

LEORA HOUSTON EGGERS: Leora.

EDWARD: Leora Houston Eggers, at Mrs. Eggers' place with her husband Bruce. Jess here is going to tell us some stories about Bill Brown. Okay, go ahead Jess.

JESS: I was working for Davey Jones there at the old Foster place, and Bill come there and wanted to stay all night, that night. So Mrs. Jones was a schoolteacher, and she really had a smart way about her, you know, just thought she was so much smarter than everybody else.

EDWARD: Davey Jones' wife.

JESS: Davey Jones's wife, yeah.

EDWARD: Was a schoolteacher.

JESS: Yeah. And she wore her dress, the neck of her dress way down low. And old Bill didn't go for that at all. So we was sitting there at the supper table and Bill always said doggone it when he was talking about anything, he never swore at all. And he said, "Doggone it, it makes me sick to see the way these women dress anymore." He said,

"They don't have half enough clothes on them to cover them." And he said, "They're a school teacher," and he said, "they don't know enough to come in out of the rain." And that made her mad, and she come very near kicking him out that night. He just about didn't have a place to stay all night. So finally Davey told him, he said, "You'll have to shut up, or she is going to put you out of here." (Laughter)

EDWARD: What, can you reiterate that story about Reed and --- for the tape?

JESS: Oh yeah. We was working there at the Gap Ranch and old Bill come over, after, from the Buck Creek Ranch with a wagon and team to get a load of sheep pelts. A lot of sheep had died and they had skinned them and taken the hides back to sell them. And Ray Reed was working there for him, he was a half Mexican, and he had his truck sitting there. So old Bill had him to help load the sheep pelts, and they piled them on just as high as they could and tied a rope over the top of them. And they had to climb a steep hill going up out of there, before the old highway was there. And Ray Reed jumped on the back of the wagon going up that hill, and Bill never looked back, he always just drove and looked straight ahead. And Ray went to throwing off sheep pelts going up that hill, and when Bill got to the top why Ray jumped off of there and went back and got his truck and come loaded the sheep pelts and took them to Burns and sold them.

EDWARD: Took them to Burns. Bill never drove?

JESS: Never drove a car.

EDWARD: Right.

JESS: No, huh uh, no.

EDWARD: I think he tried once.

JESS: Yeah, he did. He bought a, I believe it was a Buick, and he had somebody else drive it most of the time. And finally one day he decided to drive it himself, and he tore down about a half acre of sagebrush with it. "And doggone it," he said, "I don't think I was

made to drive a car anyway."

EDWARD: I bet you that would have been hilarious.

JESS: He never would try again.

EDWARD: He had a Model-T Ford truck too.

JESS: That might have been --- yeah, I know he did.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: One time when Paul Wilson was driving that truck for him, and they went to Burns, and they didn't have any anti-freeze in it. And coming back, it was an awful cold winter, and coming back I met them over there at the top of Sage Hen Hill, they was going towards Burns, and he had froze up the radiator on it and it burst the whole bottom out of the radiator. So Paul says, "Well it is cold enough to drive without any." He just took the radiator off and threw it in the back and drove it clear to the Gap Ranch without any radiator. (Laughter)

EDWARD: These guys had to be something.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: This Davey Jones, who was he, Jess? I mean what ---

JESS: He was an Irishman from Lakeview. Jones and Lane come up there together and bought the Foster place.

EDWARD: The Ike Foster place?

JESS: Yeah, uh huh. They bought it, and then in about four years after that why Elaine went to Lakeview and started to come back, and they run off of the field down there someplace on Crooked Creek, this side of Lakeview, and killed himself.

EDWARD: Did this --- Davey Foster, or Davey Jones was a friend of Bill Brown?

JESS: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: They were real close.

JESS: Davey was a friend to everybody.

EDWARD: Did, Ike Foster --- he was around that country on Silver Creek for a long time, wasn't he?

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Did he, did he ever work for Riley and Hardin?

JESS: Yeah, that's where he got that place was from Riley. And that's how they got the name Riley over there, and Hardin over at Twelvemile.

EDWARD: Right.

JESS: And they come in there, horse raisers, and Hardin settled down at Twelvemile Creek there and called it Hardin, and he raised work stock, draft horses. And Riley moved over to Riley, and he raised saddle stock.

EDWARD: They owned the Double O Ranch, as the Double O Ranch is called.

JESS: I believe they did once, yeah, I think they did.

EDWARD: We're talking 1880's?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay. I'm not going to say anything, but I want to ask you a few questions, and --- Jess your memory is fantastic. Oh, first of all, how old are you Jess?

JESS: 82.

EDWARD: 82.

JESS: I'll be 82 in November.

EDWARD: Where were you born?

JESS: Burns.

EDWARD: Oh, in Burns.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Your father was Tin Gibson?

JESS: Yeah, yeah. He was raised right here at Prineville on the Post.

EDWARD: When did your father come to this area, Prineville area, Post area?

JESS: He was raised there.

EDWARD: Oh.

JESS: He come there when he was 3 years old.

EDWARD: When was he born?

JESS: He was born in 1876.

EDWARD: About the same year that Charlie Parrish was born, and Fred Baker --- or Fred --- Bob Baker.

JESS: Bob Baker, yeah.

EDWARD: I want to back; I'll back up here a little bit. On this Foster guy, I won't say what I'm getting to, Jess, I'll just let you talk. Did he happen to have a brother named Joe?

JESS: I don't know. He had a boy, Frank.

EDWARD: Did Ike Foster ever have any sheep?

JESS: Not that I ever knew of, he was always a cowman. Now he might have had sheep, because the Hutton's had sheep, so he might have had sheep too. But that was before my time if he did.

EDWARD: Do you know anything about Johnny Overstreet?

JESS: I know where he is buried all right; I've seen his grave a lot of times.

EDWARD: It's still there?

JESS: It's there in the Silver Creek Cemetery, yeah.

EDWARD: Thank heavens.

JESS: Yeah. And I've heard the story about it so many times.

EDWARD: What did you hear?

JESS: Well they claimed that it was something over --- I think this Overstreet was a

cowman, and Brown was a sheep man. And at that time the cattlemen and the sheep men didn't get along anyhow. And the cattleman thought the sheep man was running them out. And the sheep man thought the cattleman was trying to keep him out. So they had several range wars, all right. But this Johnny Over-street was just a young fellow, and he come in there and tried to run Brown, and it didn't do any good. Brown, I think he shot two shots at Brown or something like that, and Brown shot him.

EDWARD: That occurred in about April 28th, or 29th, 1886.

JESS: I can't remember now ---

EDWARD: I finally found the papers on that. But it said that a Joe Foster was involved.

JESS: Might have been.

EDWARD: I don't know whom in the heck Joe Foster was.

JESS: I don't either.

EDWARD: Because a lot, you know what most of the books say, they said it was Ike Foster.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: But in the newspaper, it was Joe Foster. And I know where it was; it was there on Lost Creek.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: You know at the end of the Sinks there, because Brown had ---

JESS: Well all the Hutton's lived out there at Wagontire, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: So it possibly could have been Ike Foster in on the deal too, yeah.

EDWARD: Were Ike Foster and Link Hutton buddies, do you know?

JESS: Yeah, they was brother-in-laws.

EDWARD: Oh, they were brother-in-laws. That's right, America is Hutton.

JESS: Yeah, she was a Hutton.

EDWARD: Married Ike Foster.

JESS: Yeah, and then when he died she married Jim Sutherland. Jim had worked for Foster for years and years. I don't know where Jim come from in the first place.

EDWARD: Before I forget, this is real important, it really helps, Jess. Do you have any idea what happened to Link Hutton?

JESS: I don't think, what did happen to him? I knew him well.

EDWARD: Nobody seems to know whether he just up and died and fell in a hole out there in the dessert, or he took off, I don't know. When I get to Harney County I'll go through the deeds.

JESS: I wonder if the Bradley boy might have killed him. You know he killed the Bradley boy's father?

EDWARD: Right.

JESS: No, he killed the Bradley boy's brother.

EDWARD: His ---

JESS: The brother, Harold.

EDWARD: He killed his, Ira Bradley's son he killed.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, Harold.

EDWARD: But you don't have any idea what happened to Link Hutton?

JESS: I never thought of it until right now, but I can't think to save my life what happened to him. Tom got killed in a car wreck.

EDWARD: Oh Tom did?

JESS: Yeah. Had an old, about a '31 model Chevrolet I think it was, and he rolled it over and killed him. But ---

EDWARD: When was that, do you know?

JESS: That was quite a while before Link died.

EDWARD: In the '30's. Well first of all, let's try to narrow it down. Do you know about what year Link Hutton just disappeared off the face of the earth? '30's, '40's, after World War II?

JESS: I can't think. It was after I was grown, because Jim Sutherland bought a bunch of steers, 500 head of 3-year-old steers, and he took them out to Pat Cecil's at Riley Station, or Riley, Oregon.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: And they kept them in a pasture there for, oh a month I guess. And then he wanted to move them on to Wagontire, and he couldn't get anybody to help, and Pat told him to come down and get me. And at that time I was about 18, 19 years old, something like that. So he come down and got me, and asked me if I thought the two of us could move 500 head, just the two of us together. And I said, "Well if we can't, they can't anybody, because we both cowboied all our life." So we left there early in the morning with that bunch of cattle, bunch of steers, and took them out through by the Gap Ranch. And just got out over the top of the hill at the Gap Ranch, about two miles from the Gap Ranch, I guess, and we went through a gate. And that was --- do you know when the army maneuvers was in there, that was the next year after the army maneuvers.

EDWARD: Oh, the CCC.

JESS: Yeah. That was the next year after they went in there, was in there.

EDWARD: 1934, I think.

JESS: We just got through that gate, and old Jim says, "Well we got our lunch with us, and these steers are getting kind of tired," he said, "let's let them spread out here and graze while we eat our lunch." And I said, "Alright." And the sagebrush was about that high on average. There was a few bigger bunches. So we just let them scatter out, we

could see both sides of them, and the hills just kind of sloped out like that. So when we started on after we had ate our lunch, we started on, Jim says, "Well you go out on that side, and get them on the left hand side, and I'll go get these on the right." And I said, "Alright." And I was riding an awful good horse, that old bay, dandy horse I used to ride. And I just rode out there, I don't think it could have been over 150 yards from the road, and that old horse stopped. I was looking at some steers when he stopped. I looked down, and here is a hole in the ground about as big as this table, right straight down. So I got down, and laid down and looked down in that. And you could look down; oh it looked like 40 feet or something like that. And you could see some caves went back off from it. And so I just went on a little ways from that, and found one of them army rifles, one of them 30 M-1. And it was in good shape too; the army had just lost it the year before. So I got off and tied it on my saddle. And when I come back old Jim he says, "What was you looking at when you laid down on the ground?" I said, "I found a hole in the ground, a cave, right straight down, looked like it was 40 feet deep. And then there was some caves that went off from it, you could see way back in there." And he said, "Well I've rode all over this country, and I never did see that." And I said, "Well you remember about where I got off?" And he said, "Yeah." I said, "Well that's where it is at."

Well I went back over there after about 20 years, I decided to go and find it, because of that story they had in the "Oregon Farmer" about some guys finding a cave like that out there on the desert. And they said there was a lot of amethyst hanging down in, just strings of amethyst hanging down, and they never could find it again. And so I thought I could go straight back to it. And when I got back there they had put in four or five fences out across there, and I never was sure when I was at the right place. And I didn't have time to just stay out there and look for it. So some time I'd like to load a horse and go out there and look around.

EDWARD: Wonder there isn't horses laying down in the bottom of that.

JESS: Yeah, it is.

EDWARD: Cattle, oh there's got to be.

JESS: You bet, cattle and everything else.

EDWARD: They are just falling into that, deer, whatever.

JESS: Yeah. And we took them on, took the steers on over there, and Link Hutton come out there and met us and helped us put them in. And we took them over through, by where Burk lived, that Burk that killed the Dobkins.

EDWARD: Oh, oh, yeah, Jim Burk, Burk.

JESS: Yeah, Buck Burk they called him. Yeah. And he killed Frank Dobkins out there.

EDWARD: Right, 1939.

JESS: We took them through that field by where Burk lived, right out in front of the house, and turned them up against the hill to-ward the old Bradley place. And that's the last time, I think, that I ever saw Link Hutton.

EDWARD: That had to be about '36. Were you married?

JESS: No, it was a long time before I got married.

EDWARD: Oh, okay, way before that. That CCC Camp came in about '34.

JESS: But I got married in '38.

EDWARD: Nobody knows what happened to Link Hutton. I want to finish up on ---

JESS: I hadn't thought about that before.

EDWARD: I want to finish up on Link, because what did you think of Link Hutton? What kind of a man was this guy?

JESS: Well he is a guy that you wouldn't want to turn your back on.

EDWARD: Short tempered?

JESS: Yeah, and he was a little guy, little bit of a guy. He wasn't nothing like as big as I

am. He might have been as tall, and I weigh 176 pounds, and I doubt if he weighed a 110 pounds.

EDWARD: Really?

JESS: And that guy always --- of course all them old cowboys at that time used rawhide rope, and my dad did too. And I'll tell you Link Hutton could throw a 50 or 60-foot loop right to the end of that rawhide rope. He was a roper, and a good one, Link Hutton was.

Now I never saw Tom ever on a horse, I don't think. But --- and I knew Tom well, Tom was a lot bigger man than Link. But Link Hutton was an all around cowboy. I don't know if he could ride a bucking horse or not, but I have an idea he could all right now. Most all them old cowboys could. But he could really throw a rope.

EDWARD: He was born in 1872.

JESS: He was? Then he is a little older than my dad was. Dad was born in 1876.

EDWARD: He married a Mary in 1900.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Mary, I don't know her maiden name. Did you ever know of his first wife?

JESS: No. I knew --- that's what he killed the Bradley boy over, was over her.

EDWARD: Was over Mary?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: They had a daughter, do you remember her name? Veva.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, Veva.

EDWARD: Veva.

JESS: Yeah, she went to school there at Riley for a while. Stayed up there at Fosters and went to school.

EDWARD: Do you know what happened to Veva?

JESS: No.

EDWARD: And then evidently this Mary died. It had to be after 1910. And then Link married Molly Gibson. Do you know Molly Gibson?

JESS: I know a Molly Gibson, but it had to be a different one.

LEORA: Yeah, your Aunt Molly, she had to be a different one.

JESS: She lived right here at Prineville.

EDWARD: The first thing I asked ---

JESS: Oh, wait a minute, wasn't she a sister to old Billy Gibson, that married Rose? You know Billy Gibson married Rose Gibson, but they spelled their names different. She spelled hers G I B S O N, and he spelled his G I B B S O N.

LEORA: Oh, really.

JESS: And I believe that Molly Gibson was his sister. I think Dad told me one time that him and Link Hutton was some relation or other.

EDWARD: Everybody is related in those days, I swear.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did you ever meet Link's second wife, this Molly ---

JESS: No.

EDWARD: --- Gibson, Hutton?

JESS: No, don't think I ever did.

EDWARD: Who did, who was Link Hutton's wife when he shot Harold Bradley?

JESS: I don't know.

EDWARD: Molly or Mary? I think it was Molly. I can't prove it yet, haven't been to Burns yet, I'll find out.

JESS: Can't remember.

EDWARD: What do you think Link shot Harold Bradley for?

JESS: He knew that Harold had been hanging around her for a long time, and he told him

two or three times to stay away, and it didn't do any good. And he just went out there, and Harold was in the house with her, and he went out into the woodshed or garage or something, and Link shot him right there.

EDWARD: Cause Mary was younger. Who in the world was it, Mary or Molly?

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: We're talking about the Gap Ranch.

JESS: See that old windmill tower sticking up there?

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: Well now there is --- used to be, I don't know if it is still there or not, but there was a corral fence from the corner of that one out here to the road. And there is a big corral in here behind.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's there.

JESS: Well we was there branding calves, I was working for Carlon's outfit, they'd bought the Gap Ranch.

EDWARD: Okay.

JESS: Worked there branding calves. And an old green pickup drove in there, and this fellow by the name of --- Long was his last name, but I can't think of his first name. And him and I was working together, and this pickup drove in there, and we'd just got off of our horses and went to get a drink of water over to that well. And that fellow got out of that pickup, and he got about half out, and he had a rifle in his hand, a 30-30 rifle, and he put it up like that. And he pulled that rifle off, and he shot his leg off, right at his knee. And then he rolled out of there and he tried to get it up to his chest. But we run over there, and his name was ---

EDWARD: What the heck was wrong with him?

JESS: He was a brother-in-law to old ... Carr, what was his last name?

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Okay, now we're back with old Link Hutton. He was born to Samuel F. Hutton in Iowa, in January 1872. The 1910 (corrected to 1900) census, he was married to Mary, who was born in 1878; they were just married, in the 1900 census. 1910 census, he was still married to Mary; they had a daughter Veva who was 6 years old.

Now Tom Hutton was born in 1880. Molly Gibson, okay, I've already discussed that. What else you remember about Link Hutton? Was he a, what kind of personality I guess is the word I'm looking for?

JESS: Well he had an awful good personality. Just to meet him, anybody would like him. But he was a man that you, as soon as you talked to him 15 minutes, you'd figure I better not turn my back on that guy, you can't trust him for anything. And everybody that knew him said that same thing.

EDWARD: Yeah, I've heard that a lot.

JESS: Now Tom was entirely different. Tom was a man that every-body liked, and nobody was the least bit suspicious of Tom about anything.

EDWARD: Was --- did Link Hutton, did you ever meet Sam Hutton, their father?

JESS: No, no.

EDWARD: Was Link Hutton --- were you ever in his house?

JESS: Never was.

EDWARD: Never was.

JESS: Oh, wait a minute, yes I was. When we took them steers out there, we went in there and ate dinner.

EDWARD: That house is still standing.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Believe it or not. The garage is gone, I guess. Was there a lady in the house

then?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Wonder who that was?

JESS: Must have been his wife, but I don't know which one.

EDWARD: That had to be in the '30's.

JESS: Yeah, it would have had to.

EDWARD: He may have married three times.

JESS: He might have.

EDWARD: What about Americas? Ever meet her?

JESS: Oh yeah, knew her well.

EDWARD: What kind of person, lady was she?

JESS: She was a nice lady.

EDWARD: Good looking?

JESS: Not really.

EDWARD: Of course we all think good looking in different ways.

JESS: I'll tell you who she reminded me most of than anybody I know of, is Carol Burnett.

EDWARD: Oh really.

JESS: Yeah, she is built just like Carol Burnett. She wasn't as big as Carol, quite, but she was built like her, and her face was shaped like Carol's an awful lot.

EDWARD: And she was a Hutton.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And she married Ike Foster.

JESS: Yeah.

LEORA: Sam Hutton ...

EDWARD: I don't know ...

JESS: And Link Hutton was a man that liked to brag about what he had done, and could do, and everything all the time.

EDWARD: Link bragged.

JESS: And Tom never bragged about nothing. Tom was just as common as anybody could ever be.

EDWARD: Did Link carry a gun with him?

JESS: All the time.

EDWARD: All the time.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: And he drove a car?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Sutherlands and Hutton's were buddies?

JESS: Who?

EDWARD: Sutherlands and Hutton's.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: I've got a map of all the land that they all owned. Okay, back to this Bradley, Harold Bradley death.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: I forgot, Jess, sorry. Your story was, why did Link shoot Harold.

JESS: Yeah, it was all over her. And Harold was older than Hom, have you got Hom's name down there, Hom Bradley? Yeah.

EDWARD: Harold was the oldest.

JESS: Yeah. I think Harold was about 23 years old or something like that.

EDWARD: You got it, he was 23.

JESS: That's what I thought. And Hom, at that time Hom must have been about 16, I

believe, or something. I'm not sure, but it seems like he was. I remember well when it happened all right.

EDWARD: Was it a shock to you that Link would have shot and killed somebody, murdered, or just shot them?

JESS: Oh I think he would if he thought he could get away with it. He had a mean streak.

EDWARD: Link Hutton did?

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: This is all Bradley material. This is what they wrote about everything.

JESS: Did they tell how Ira Bradley was killed?

EDWARD: Yeah. Hom found his father.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Harold was born in 1902, Hom, Hosmer was born in 1908.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: What you heard is that Link shot Harold Bradley because Harold Bradley was, quote, messing around with his wife.

JESS: Yeah, that was it.

EDWARD: Whether it be in bed, or out of bed.

JESS: That was a well-known fact; everybody had known it for years before he killed him even.

EDWARD: Was there any single men around that Link Hutton place at the time Harold Bradley was killed that you can recall?

JESS: He is the only one that I know of.

LEORA: ...

EDWARD: Okay, let's move on, we'll get all this hard stuff out of the way. This Ira Bradley, he was beaten to death.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Up at Bradley Springs, in the second house that Harold had built.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Because the kids used to go up there during the summer and spend time.

JESS: Does that tell why he was killed?

EDWARD: No.

JESS: Well what happened see, him and the Thompson's, old Bigfoot Thompson and ---

EDWARD: Bigfoot, you're right.

JESS: Yeah. Him and his dad, old man Thompson, and Bigfoot was making whiskey with Ira Bradley, and they had made a 50-gallon barrel for each one of them.

EDWARD: Ira Bradley and oh ---

JESS: And the Thompson's.

EDWARD: I can't remember his first name, Bigfoot Thompson, but I can't remember his first name.

JESS: Yeah. And they made it over against the hill from the Bradley place. Up on the mountain there was a spring come out and that's where they made it. And they took their 50 gallon barrel, each one of them, and buried them in the hillside there, and put brush all over them, and was going to just, go and get them as they needed them. And it was well understood that each one of them owned a 50-gallon barrel of whiskey. Well Hom Bradley, and I did know who was in with him ---

EDWARD: Hom and Ira --- or Harold wasn't around.

JESS: Kind of seems like it is Spike Pointer, did you have Spike Pointer's name down there? I believe that's who it was. They saw them hide the whiskey, so they went and stole the whiskey, the whole thing.

EDWARD: Hom and ---

JESS: All three barrels of it. Hom and Spike Pointer, I believe is who the other one was into it. Anyway they stole the whiskey and took it way off someplace else and buried it, and when Thompson went up there to get his whiskey and it was gone, he thought Ira Bradley had done it, so he went down there and killed him.

EDWARD: Got the wrong one.

JESS: Hom felt terrible about it, because he said he knew it was his fault that his dad got killed.

EDWARD: Okay. Hom and Jess Pennington ---

JESS: Yeah, that might of been who it was, I knew him too.

EDWARD: --- found Ira's body in this cabin at Bradley Springs.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Jess Pennington.

JESS: Well that might have been who it was with Hom that stole the whiskey too, probably was.

EDWARD: Now is there any, anybody told you this, or was it just a lot of people?

JESS: Oh, just all the people talking.

EDWARD: Just people.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Was anybody against Ira Bradley?

JESS: Oh no, everybody liked Ira Bradley. And the only way they suspicioned him was to, when he died, when he got killed, why Len Rickman, you ever remember your dad talking about him?

LEORA: Len?

JESS: Len Rickman.

LEORA: No, I never heard about Len Rickman.

JESS: Well he was out in that area too. And he was working for Bill Brown, I think, at the time. But anyway they gathered up all the people they could around there that knew him, and went over there and stayed with Ira Bradley until the sheriff and the under-taker came to take him away. And they brought old Bigfoot Thompson down there too, and he wouldn't even go and look at him or any-thing, and he just was so nervous he just walked back and forth all the time. And finally Rickman says, "Is that man always nervous like that?" And they said, "No, they never saw him like that before." He said, "I got a feeling he killed Bradley." So when the sheriff come, why he told the sheriff, he says, "I think that fellow right there, Bigfoot Thompson is who killed Bradley." So they arrested him for it. And so they took him over to Burns, had him in jail, and had the trial for a long, long time. And finally, it seems to me like they proved him guilty all right enough, and then let him out on parole, or something.

EDWARD: I don't think anything ever happened to him.

JESS: I don't know whether they did or not.

EDWARD: That's one thing I will do in Burns.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: You know the Thompson place that the Bradley family stayed in the Thompson house --- see that wasn't Thompson's original house that was built by somebody else. And the Bradley's stayed in this place, it was later called the Thompson house, from 1917 to 1919, until Harold built another cabin up there for all the kids. And their mother wasn't around much, because she was kind of ---

JESS: I never knew anything about, never knew anything about her at all.

EDWARD: Yeah, she wasn't around.

JESS: Yeah.

LEORA: Was she hospitalized, or just ---

EDWARD: And the Thompson house from Bradley cabin was only about, I guess, about a mile.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: We're going to try to find that, John Peila and all of us, a week from Saturday. So, it's hard to say, you know, you don't know.

Oh, now then we've got --- Oh, before I --- did Link Hutton after he shot, I'm not going to say he murdered or whatever, he got off, you know, nothing, self-defense.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Of course now I want to tell you the Bradley family says that Ira never drank whiskey in his life. Who knows?

JESS: I don't know whether he did or didn't.

EDWARD: That's for me to have to try to figure out. Hopefully there is a coroner's report or something like that. But anyway, did Link Hutton ever shoot anybody that you ever heard of after he had shot Harold Bradley? Did he ever kill another guy? Now in 1925 ---

JESS: Somebody killed Ray Jackson up there.

EDWARD: Okay, that's ---

LEORA: Is that Tomcat Jackson?

JESS: But they never did know who did it.

EDWARD: Now here we go, that's the next one, that's 1938.

LEORA: Is he the one who was shot in his bed?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: They never did know for sure, but after Dobkins got killed, why they said Dobkins is the one that killed Ray Jackson. I don't think so. I think Jackson and Dobkins was good friends. I'd come near to thinking Link Hutton killed Ray Jackson.

EDWARD: Hutton, every time he got in trouble, you know whose house he run to, Jackson.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: It's a zoo. How to figure this out, I'm not sure if I ever will. Maybe I don't want to. I just want to put out the facts, and let people decide what the heck. Maybe it's not that big of a deal.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Jackson was the Lake County School Superintendent. He was a teacher of the Bradley's.

JESS: Yeah, right, he was a teacher.

EDWARD: And then he was school superintendent for Lake County. And then he went out there to Wagontire, and he owned 2,000 some acres. And they said that he shot himself by using a poker and hitting the trigger of the gun and blowing his head off.

JESS: Yeah, that Jackson did?

EDWARD: Jackson did it himself.

JESS: I'd always heard that he was shot in the chest.

EDWARD: Now --- then comes our old buddy Frank Dobkins.

JESS: Yeah. And do you know as long as he was alive there was trouble there all the time. And as soon as he got killed, that ended the whole thing. They never had another bit of trouble.

EDWARD: What were they fighting, why are they beating one another to death, shooting one another over all that garbage?

JESS: I don't have the least idea.

LEORA: I have Tom, Tomcat Jackson in ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Why was Ray Jackson out there all by himself like that?

JESS: I think he come out there on account of his health. They said that his health was bad.

EDWARD: Oh, okay I've heard that before.

JESS: They said that his health was bad, wherever he come from, someplace in the east.

BRUCE: He made a bad choice.

LEORA: Yeah, a bad choice.

JESS: He come out there. At one time they had a stock convention over at Burns, and him and my dad was pretty good friends. And when the convention was over they was going to have a big banquet, and he asked my dad, he says, "Are you going to the banquet?" And Dad said, "No, I don't think so, I think I'll go on home." And he says, "Why you just as well stay and have a big dinner." Oh Dad says, "I don't like to get around with them big shots." He says, "I don't know how to act when I get around them big money men." Well he says, "I'll tell you what to do." He says, "Go in there and set down to the table, if they pass you anything, you want it, take it and pass it on to somebody else. If you had enough of it, say no thanks, I have an "elegance sufficiency, anymore would be supperflority, I have about all the ... will take me."

EDWARD: Holy mackerel, how do you remember that, Jess? Geeze!

JESS: Took me a week to learn that.

EDWARD: Now Burk, who was this J. W., J. Burk?

JESS: Buck, they called him.

EDWARD: Buck Burk.

JESS: Yeah. And they claim, told later, that he had killed a 17 year old boy before he killed Jackson, or Dobkins, and had killed a man someplace else. He had killed two before he killed Dobkins.

EDWARD: He, he shot, him and two other guys were together, he shot at a county sheriff in Klamath County, and he got sent to prison for it.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And he had gotten out just, like 1936.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And then he goes over there, and he ends up at Wagontire. Now was Burk a buddy of somebody?

JESS: Yeah, Harry Arnold. He was staying with Harry Arnold all the time.

EDWARD: Oh, that's where he lived?

JESS: And they was two guys come out there, they was Greeks, and they got to trapping around there, and they was trapping right in around close to all the houses and catching the dogs there, and crippling up the dogs. So what's his name --- no, I said Harry Arnold, not Harry Arnold, Punk Robertson. Punk Robertson is who he was staying with. And it was right out in front of Punk's house; they had pulled a trailer house out there, just down the hill a little ways below the house. So Punk and Dobkins, or Punk and Burk got in the car and followed these guys when they was setting out traps, and pulled the traps right behind them. Just as fast as they set them, they would watch them, and they would pull the traps. So they took the traps and piled them up there by the house.

And these guys come back to their camp and Burk says, "I'm going down and tell them to move." He said, "That they don't know enough to move when we pull their traps, I'm going down to tell them to move." I mean Punk did. And Punk walked down there, and he said, "We want you guys out of here," and he says, "that's the reason we pulled your traps, we thought we would give you a hint. And he says, "Your traps are piled up there to the side of the house, you can pick them up." And this Greek says, "Well I'll show you that you can't run us anywhere."

And this Robertson was a man, 70 years old I guess then, short fat guy, and Robertson just threw his arm around that guy's neck, and the guy stuck his tongue out, and he grabbed a hold of it and just pulled it way out. And the guy says, "For that I will kill you." And he just went into the camp to get his gun, and Robertson said he just looked up, and he saw Burk standing in the door with his rifle, and he pulled right on. And he told him, he says, "You better get that gun and get back in there," he said, "that guy means business." He knew Burk would kill him. So Robertson went on up and made Burk put up the gun.

And they moved out right enough. They moved out and left. And it was right after that, that Dobkins and Homer Carlon was together when he killed Dobkins. And Dobkins was always pulling a gun on somebody. And he had his gun tied down on the front of his saddle. And I can't remember now what the argument was over, seems like it was over a gate, or a pasture, or something. But anyway he reached to untie that gun, when he did why Burk shot him. And Homer Carlon whirled his horse and started to run. He shot two shots at him, and never got him.

EDWARD: Yeah, I'm going to talk to Austin (Austa) Carlon.

LEORA: Who is Austin?

... (Pause in tape)

JESS: And I was working there for him, and Austa was teaching school in town, and she stayed in town, and us fellows was just baching out there. And Tom Griffith was working there too. And Tom liked to kind of have fun out of Homer anyway, and he knew Homer was scared to death of Burk. Because Tom told him, he says, "I heard that Burk is getting out of the penitentiary." And Homer was just scared to death, and Homer says, "I've got a gun planted in every building around here so I can get at it, no matter where I'm at." And he says, "I'll kill him on site, because if I don't he'll get me."

And Tom, we was eating supper, and you could look right across the table to the door into the bathroom. The door was shut, had a big white porcelain doorknob on there. And Tom says, "Why you couldn't hit him if you shot at him." And Homer was about half drunk, and he says, "You see that doorknob over there, I've got that old 30 Luger," he says, "I can just bust that doorknob right off of there the first shot." And Tom says, "I bet you \$25 you can't hit that from here." He was just wanting him to blowholes in that door. His wife would have killed him if he had of.

EDWARD: Austa.

JESS: And Homer was going to do it all right, and finally somebody else come in and it stopped the whole thing. Oh, it would have tickled me to death if he had shot that doorknob, Austa would have killed him.

EDWARD: Where --- I'm going to go up the road here. Whitehorse Ranch, that was Sam Hutton's, the father of Americas, Tom, and Link's original homestead.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: There was a post office there in 1890, called Rest, lasted one year.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay, then we go up the road, and then you come --- I haven't been there yet, then you come to Link Hutton's house, it's on the east side. And then the --- what is the Burnt House, what's that, do you know?

JESS: The Burk house.

EDWARD: The Burnt, B U R N T, they call it Burnt House now. Don't have any idea what that --- I think it was the Dobkins' place.

JESS: Might have been.

EDWARD: Where in the world was the James and America Sutherland house?

JESS: They always lived at Riley, there at the Foster place.

EDWARD: Oh, they never lived at Wagontire?

JESS: No, huh uh.

EDWARD: Oh, for god's sakes.

JESS: No, he had worked for, Jim Sutherland had worked for Fosters for years before old Ike died.

EDWARD: Even in the '30's, they didn't live at Wagontire?

JESS: No, huh uh.

EDWARD: Oh, for god --- I've been looking for that house, I've asked a zillion people, they didn't know. No wonder!

JESS: No, they didn't --- lived right there at the Foster place until ---

EDWARD: Okay, well that solves that problem.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And then there was the Egli ---

JESS: Egli place.

EDWARD: Egli place.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: I don't think that's there anymore. I'm not sure.

JESS: Well let's see, I did know where it was.

EDWARD: It's right on the side of the road a little ways.

LEORA: Egli Ridge is just on the other side of T-Bo Arnold's place. And this is Egli Ridge, and there is a little building there that is not a 100 years old. But Daddy said that this is Egli Ridge where they lost the horses.

JESS: Yeah, I know where Egli Ridge is.

EDWARD: Oh, that's ---

LEORA: And this is the, up, right in here there is nothing. We got to drive in there, but

there was a locked gate here, so we didn't get to go on through.

EDWARD: There is locked gates all over the place.

LEORA: Uh huh. This is T-Bo Arnold's place right in here. And just turn around and just opposite ---

EDWARD: Harold Arnold --- Harry Arnold.

JESS: Yeah.

LEORA: Is that his name?

EDWARD: Yeah, Harry Arnold.

LEORA: And that's Two-Gun-Sue's husband?

EDWARD: Yeah.

LEORA: Well T-Bo is all I've ever heard him called.

EDWARD: Now whose house was Harry Arnold's place originally?

JESS: I think he built it.

EDWARD: Oh, he built it?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay. I mumble a lot, I'll keep my mouth shut, because I don't have my maps here.

JESS: He worked --- he was an awful big man. And he worked rawhide, and he hardly ever said anything to anybody. And over at Riley, a man by the name of Sturgess run the store there at Riley, and he had a sister there, her name was Eva, Eva Sturgess. And old Harry Arnold got to going to see her. And she talked a blue streak all the time, and he worked rawhide. And he'd take that rawhide and was standing there, and worked that rawhide, and he'd take it in his mouth and pull them strings tight that way, and her a talking to him all the time, and he'd just nod his head or shake it. And finally she told him not to come back the next morning. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Then there is the Jackson place. Well I can't do any-thing.

JESS: The Jackson place is on down toward Wagontire Station, on the right hand side, up against the hill.

EDWARD: Do you know who that guy is?

JESS: Well I should, but I can't ---

EDWARD: That's Dobkins.

JESS: Oh, is it?

EDWARD: Yeah. Now Dobkins came in there --- oh, here we go. I'll let you have one of these too.

JESS: When my wife and I got married, Dobkins had known both of us for years and years, and he was down there to my mother-in-law's, down to The Narrows, below Burns.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: At her place. And we was there just after we got married. And he said, "Well I'm not much for buying wedding presents for anybody," but he said, "I've known both of you all your life," he says, "I'm going to get you a nice silverware set for a wedding present." Now he said, "Don't buy a set, because I'm going to send immediately for it, for a nice set of silverware for you for a wedding present." And I'll tell you, he must have got the costliest set he could get, it was really a fancy one. It was in a big hardwood case about this big, real nice.

LEORA: He's a nice looking person, looks like a nice friendly man.

JESS: Dobkins was a little man.

EDWARD: Another ---

JESS: Yeah, he wasn't as big as ---

EDWARD: Did Hutton want to just keep him off the damn mountain? Or ---

JESS: I don't know.

EDWARD: Because if you look at that map, that's 1936, it will show you the Dobkins ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Okay.

JESS: Dad got a contract at ---

EDWARD: At Lost Creek.

JESS: At Lost Creek, to plow up the field out there.

EDWARD: On Bill Brown's old place, down at the base?

JESS: I think it was, yeah. And I remembered there was a little old house there, a one-bedroom house, and it had a cellar built into the side of it like. And they had about four hogs, and they was --- oh that tall, I guess. And them hogs could run up on top of that cellar, run up on that cellar and jump over on top of the house. It just liked that much connecting up, and they'd jump over on it, run up and down that, until they just about ruined the roof of that.

And when we moved there, that place was just alive with bed bugs, and you could tell it when we walked in there. Dad says, "I'll bet they got bedbugs here, look at the print on the wall-paper." And you could see it. And sure enough, there was bedbugs there by the thousands. And we stayed there that whole summer and did the plowing.

And down in the field was a big flat rock, I don't remember whether it was close to the road or not, but every night, or every morning early there would be a coyote or two go out on that flat rock and just howl.

And when we started to move out of there, there was shepherders there by the creek. Little Lost Creek come down there, a shepherd was there, and he saw us boys and his camp was right there. And he'd just made some Dutch oven bread, and he'd killed a sage chicken and roasted it in the Dutch oven, and it was all warm. So he says, "While you're here I want to fix them boys a sandwich." So he went in and cut some of

that Dutch oven bread, and sliced some of that sage chicken breast and put it there and gave it to us boys.

EDWARD: Ooh.

JESS: My brother was a year older than I was, and I was 5 years old then.

EDWARD: Now you were born, Jess you were born in 1907?

JESS: '09.

EDWARD: '09, '09.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did --- I wonder if that cabin by any chance was Bill's?

JESS: It could have been.

EDWARD: You know he got that land there --- that's where they first went was Lost Creek.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: And he had the two other brothers, Robert and George, and Bill.

JESS: Yeah. Well I just have an idea that's who Dad was plowing for. Because he worked for Bill a lot.

EDWARD: Now your father's name was Tin?

JESS: Tin, yeah.

EDWARD: And he married a who?

JESS: Johnson.

EDWARD: Johnson.

JESS: Lula Johnson.

EDWARD: Any relation to Columbus?

JESS: Yeah, niece to Columbus.

EDWARD: I don't want to even to get into that.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: I get some; I get so lost with relatives.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, niece to Columbus.

EDWARD: Because they're all inter-married.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, one other thing too before I forget. This Kitty Houston, did you ever hear of a Kitty Houston?

JESS: Who? No, I don't think ---

LEORA: Someone tried to get in contact with Mama; someone from Klamath Falls tried to get in contact with Mama just recently about a Kitty Houston. And none of us have ever heard of Kitty Houston.

EDWARD: I think it is H O U ---

LEORA: H U, you mean.

JESS: Oh, wait a minute.

EDWARD: H U S T O N.

BRUCE: ... talked to you about that?

JESS: Yeah, what was that --- Dean, wasn't that Dean Huston that used to own the Cold Springs Ranch? I think Kitty was his wife.

LEORA: Was it H U ?

JESS: And he spelled it H U S T O N.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Because when the Bradley's were at Bradley Spring, you go up the creek, I mean creek ---

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JESS: I think it had been about four years, or five years or something, since he had worked for Bill Brown then. So he had been working then for George Wiley, went to Yakima, and up in that country breaking horses there for the Calvary.

EDWARD: Well he probably worked for him approximately 1894, '95, to 1901 or '02.

JESS: Yeah, I think so, yeah.

EDWARD: And that's what he did. Summer, winter ---

JESS: Yeah, they'd break horses in the winter, and run them wild horses, and gather them in the summer.

EDWARD: Where were some of their breaking --- breaking horses was in corrals?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: I'm going to name some names and see if they sound familiar. Lost Creek.

JESS: Well they nearly always wintered at Buck Creek.

EDWARD: Oh, they did?

JESS: Yeah. They stayed there an awful lot in the wintertime.

EDWARD: Oh they would ---

JESS: That was the headquarters then.

EDWARD: Would they bring the horses from Wagontire, let's say, up to Buck Creek?

JESS: Oh yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: And then use the corrals at Buck Creek.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, right.

EDWARD: Oh. Let me name some camps that I think that Bill Brown had, see if any of them sound familiar.

JESS: Well they'd usually go from Buck Creek, they'd go to maybe the Gap Ranch, and then out to Lost Creek. Then they'd go on down to, I guess the next camp would probably

be, oh Sand Springs. They'd camp at Sand Springs an awful lot. That's down by the Lost Forest. And there was an awful lot of horses run in that area. And then they'd go over to Rawhide, and natural corrals ---

EDWARD: Now where ---

JESS: Now that's in, southwest of Wagontire Station.

EDWARD: Rawhide, was that a camp's name?

JESS: Yeah, yeah, that's the name, Rawhide. That's southwest of the Wagontire Station about, oh probably 15, 20 miles.

EDWARD: Southwest of --- Wagontire Post Office?

JESS: Yeah, from the Wagontire Post Office. Have you ever saw Iron Mountain standing up out there like that?

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

JESS: Well Iron Mountain, Rawhide would be almost due south of Iron Mountain.

EDWARD: Now see, that's a new one. Iron Mountain, south --- Rawhide, Rawhide south.

JESS: And they had natural corrals there. The creek there at Rawhide come down the canyon and they was big high rim rock on the side, and there was a round place on that rim rock they called the natural corrals because the rim rock just come around like that, and there was just a narrow place to go into, and they could corral quite a big bunch of horses in that, because it's too high for them to jump off from it. It was 20, 30 feet high.

EDWARD: And from Rawhide they would possibly go where?

JESS: Then they could go, well before they go to Rawhide, let me see, they might go to --
- yeah, I guess Rawhide would be the next place from Lost Creek. And then ---

EDWARD: There is Hayes Spring, Benjamin Lakes.

JESS: Then they go to the Gap Ranch, I guess, would be next. And then when they come back, why they would go out to, by Elk Butte and Pilot Lake. That's west of

Hampton Station.

EDWARD: Okay. Got that one.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And Dry Lake is over there.

JESS: Yeah. And ---

EDWARD: Benjamin Lakes?

JESS: Yeah, they camped at Benjamin Lakes most of the time.

EDWARD: Did you ever hear of Hayes Spring?

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Cheeseborough?

JESS: Yeah. I don't know where Cheeseborough is, but I've heard of it.

EDWARD: Yeah. And of course there is the Pest House.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, I know where that is.

EDWARD: Brown's, that's Brown's Well.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Last Chance.

JESS: Yeah, I know where that is.

EDWARD: He had a lot of property at Last Chance.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Were those, were there --- did your father or you ever see big corrals there, by Bill Brown, at Last Chance?

JESS: Dad has been there a lot of times, because he rode there and all. But I never was to it.

EDWARD: That's another place I got to go.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Those are the only ones I've got. Lost Creek, Windmill, which is Brown's ---

JESS: Yeah, I know where that is now.

EDWARD: Or is that Brown's Well, Windmill.

JESS: Yeah, Windmill is up that canyon between the two Glass Buttes.

EDWARD: Oh, oh, okay, that's a separate --- And then Brown's Well. South Creek, Fred Houston used to take horses over to South Creek. That's the one Dobkins fenced in.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Hampton Buttes, Dry Lake, Benjamin Lake, Hayes Spring, Last Chance, Sand Springs, Rawhide. And then you've got, you've got Freezeout.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, they camped there a lot. That's, that would be northwest of the Buck Creek Ranch.

EDWARD: Right. And you've got Twelvemile.

JESS: Twelvemile.

EDWARD: That's Hardin.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And you've got McIntosh.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And you've got --- I'm taking these off the top of my head, Jess.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: There is one more, god dang it. Lilliard?

JESS: Oh, Lillard place, yeah, yeah.

LEORA: And Freezeout ...

EDWARD: We got that one. Freezeout might be Lillard.

LEORA: No, no.

JESS: No.

EDWARD: No it isn't? Okay.

JESS: Freezeout is Long Hollow.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's right. Fred mentioned that a lot in here. Oh, Freezeout, Long Hollow. I'm missing one. I got Dry Lake, I'm missing one, I can't remember it. Well that's quite a --- we've got two, four, six, eight, ten, twelve, fifteen places, not counting Buck Creek.

JESS: I kind of think they used to camp at Grindstone too.

EDWARD: Think they went that far north, huh?

JESS: That's north of Hardin.

EDWARD: Yeah, I was up Grindstone this last summer.

JESS: Yeah. I believe they used to camp there. I know there was some awful big horse corrals there years ago.

EDWARD: You know Ike Mills had all that?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay, now we've got --- I think that, probably getting pretty close, I don't know. Okay, your father, what did he ever say, what did he tell you about Bill Brown? Anything come off the top of your head, Jess?

JESS: Not that I can think of.

EDWARD: What kind of a man was Bill Brown?

JESS: Oh, he was a man that anybody could get along with if you tried to work at all. And a lot of guys took advantage of him, on that account. One guy even come in there one time, and some of the men knew it, and never told Bill for quite a long time afterwards. Bill was paying the men for the month's wages, and this guy just rode in there and stayed all night with them. And he said, "Well I just as well collect my money too while we're here." And Bill says, "How long have you been here?" And he said, "Three

weeks." And he says, "Well let's see, I'll just figure it up." And he give him three weeks wages. And the guy just rode on down the road. After he left, the other men told Bill. (Laughter) He just stayed all night ...

EDWARD: Now Jess, do you think that's a true story?

JESS: I kind of think it is, yeah.

EDWARD: Because boy, it's going to be a battle for me to figure out this ...

JESS: At one time they had a bunch of horses out there that they couldn't keep together. When they'd go to run them, they'd just kind of spread out and want to go every direction; they couldn't do anything with them. And old Bill said, "Now doggone it, I'll get that bunch myself." He said, "You fellows just let them alone, I'll get them." And he always packed a pocket full of raisins, every place that he went he had a pocket full of raisins, always eating them. So he says, "I'll just take a jug of water with me and a pocket full of raisins," and he said, "I'll walk them horses down. I'll just keep them moving till they can't eat, and I'll make them give out." And he did that very thing, and corralled them a foot too, there at the Buck Creek Ranch.

EDWARD: Did Bill ride horses much, or did he walk?

JESS: No, he walked most all the time. And a lot of times he'd go right along by the side of the wagon, or anything, and say, "Doggone it I'd rather walk than ride." He'd just walk along side.

EDWARD: Now you realize that Bill Brown had a sister that was a doctor.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And two brothers ---

JESS: Two brothers, yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: --- that were doctors. And his family were somewhat religious.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Not what I would call a full-blown ---

JESS: He was pretty religious, yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah, but didn't attend church every ---

JESS: Yeah, yeah, right.

LEORA: Daddy said that he was a real Christian ...

EDWARD: Think so?

LEORA: Daddy said that he was.

EDWARD: I don't know if he was ever in a church. Of course there was no churches out there anyway. He's out there walking in the tule berries.

JESS: I'll tell you another guy, you haven't got his name down there, is Newt Windfrey. He rode for him for a long time.

EDWARD: I've seen that name Newt, which is Newton.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Windfrey?

JESS: Windfrey.

EDWARD: Oh, yeah, I think it was. Yeah, I run across that too. What, your father, how big a man was he?

JESS: How big a man?

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: Same size as me, just exactly.

EDWARD: You're about five foot nine?

JESS: Five feet seven.

EDWARD: Five foot seven.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Why did he like chasing stupid horses all over the desert for?

JESS: I don't know, I'm the same way. I did, for four years I did nothing but run them wild horses for the Forest Service and the BLM.

EDWARD: What is in their blood, it's not money?

JESS: Oh no, but you get --- it's just like a man fishing or something.

EDWARD: Oh.

JESS: You get it in your blood, and you can't get away from it.

EDWARD: Yeah, I know what that's like, I can't stop.

JESS: And you got to run, got to own some of the best saddle horses you can get anywhere when you do that too.

EDWARD: Did, oh I'll forget about this Jess. Did Bill Brown, okay, wild horses have stallions, right?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And that stallion controls a bunch of mares.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: I don't know how many, twenty.

JESS: Oh, usually about twenty, yeah.

EDWARD: Now when your father and Bob Baker and all those guys, all those buckaroos and so forth --- was there another name for them by any chance?

JESS: No.

EDWARD: They just called them buckaroos.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Those buckaroos, they round up let's say, could they round up a 100 head?

JESS: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: And put them in a corral?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: One of Bill Brown's corrals?

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Easily?

JESS: And when they was handling enough every year, you know, that they'd get used to a fence or anything. So when they put them in the corral why then they'd cut out the ones that he wanted to sell, because he'd tell his boss, Bob Baker, or Charlie Couch, or whoever was the boss, he'd tell them what he wanted. If it was draft horses that he was going to sell, or if it was saddle stock to sell to the cavalry, or what it was, so they would hold them and put them in a pasture and gather whatever amount he wanted. Then they'd move on someplace else to ride and gather them horses and brand up everything all the time.

EDWARD: But did Bill Brown buy stud horses specifically ---

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- to breed for these wild horses?

JESS: Yeah, special horses, yeah.

EDWARD: Because Fred Houston mentioned that.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: I want to say Fred Houston because there is a lot of Fred's.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Huh. So there was a lot of thinking going on here.

JESS: Yeah, right.

EDWARD: Particularly during World War I.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Were you ever at one of Bill Brown's auctions, personally?

JESS: No, never was. Nope.

EDWARD: Do you know where he auctioned off his horses?

JESS: No, don't know that either.

EDWARD: Okay.

JESS: But they, after the railroad come into Bend, you know, why then they could load horses there and take them to The Dalles. That's where most of the horses sold then, in The Dalles.

EDWARD: So your father --- well no, that was 1912. But your father, did he ever mention driving horses a long distance?

JESS: Oh yeah, they drove them a long ways.

EDWARD: Like California?

JESS: No, I don't think he ever went to California. He drove to Washington, and to The Dalles, and they would ferry them across the river and take them into Washington.

EDWARD: These were Bill's horses?

JESS: Yeah. And the horses went up there; George Wiley took care of them. And he had old Skip Russell here too, was a kind of a straw boss for him, and he went along. And my dad broke horses for him up there, and then Bill sold them to the cavalry.

EDWARD: What did Bill pay your father, Tin Gibson? Do you have any idea?

JESS: Don't have the least idea.

EDWARD: Of course money probably wasn't that important, was it?

JESS: No, huh uh. And the horse bucked off the rim rock with my dad there one time, and it broke him all up. It broke his arm, and his leg, and cut his head in a place right down like that, that his right eyelid always kind of hung down over his eye like that after that, and he was laid up a long time. And old Bill told him, he said, "Just take your time getting well," he said, "you will get wages for it too, and I'll pay all your doctor bill and everything."

EDWARD: When did you start working for Bill Brown?

JESS: Well I think I was about 17 years old when I first started riding for him.

EDWARD: 1926.

JESS: Well must have been about that.

EDWARD: And who was buckaroo boss then, was it Sumner or Charlie?

JESS: No, it was Sumner, I never worked under Charlie Houston.

EDWARD: Sumner.

JESS: I knew him well, but I never did work for him.

LEORA: Was Charlie a buckaroo boss?

EDWARD: For a short period of time.

LEORA: Oh.

EDWARD: It seems that Charlie may have stolen some of Bill's horses.

JESS: He might have. When I lived down here on the Madras high-way, I had a ranch down here, leased it for three years, and my wife and kids and I moved down there. Then one day I went up on top of the ridge, and I had a big pasture back there about, oh I guess 400 acres. I went up there to the spring, and here is a bunch of horses in there. And I didn't know whose they was. In a few days Charlie came out there and unloaded his horse and started to ride up there. And I went out there and I said, "What are you up to Charlie?" He said, "I'm going up and check on my horses." And I said, "Well where are your horses at?" He says, "Up there at that spring on top." And I said, "Well you get them out of there and do it quick too." I said, "I need every bit of pasture I can get for my cows." And I said, "Get them out of there." And it made him mad. And do you know there was a trail that kind of come down like that around off of that steep hill, and old Charlie turned them horses off of there, and that hill was that steep, and he just run his horse right down off of them mountain. He wasn't afraid of nothing, and he was an old man by that time

too.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

JESS: But he just run that horse right down off of there, and took the horse ---

LEORA: He would have been an old man by the time you lived ---

JESS: Huh?

LEORA: He was an old man by the time you lived there.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: I think Charlie got himself in trouble with old Bill.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And Bill canned him.

JESS: Yeah, might have been too, yeah.

EDWARD: Thank you, Lee. Now you started work for Bill Brown in about 1926.

JESS: Surely was.

EDWARD: What did you do for old Bill?

JESS: Rode.

EDWARD: Out there on the desert?

JESS: Yeah, run the horses out there.

EDWARD: Oh.

JESS: Oh I've been horseback ever since I was 4 years old.

EDWARD: Oh, I guess so. Jiminy criminy, Jess.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: What's the toughest thing about doing that? I mean a horse can knock you silly, right?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Knock your brains out?

JESS: That's it, if a man hasn't got a gentle horse, why that's the roughest part of it. Because maybe you'll just be running horses and think you're just doing fine, and all at once something will scare that horse, be a rattle snake or a rabbit or something like that, and throw his head down and buck, you got to be able to ride him, or you're a foot a long ways from home.

EDWARD: Did you break horses?

JESS: Oh yeah. I broke horses for years.

EDWARD: How many --- did you break some of those wild horses of Brown's?

JESS: Oh yeah --- not of Brown's. No, I never ---

EDWARD: No, he kind of gave up by that time.

JESS: Yeah, I never broke horses until after I left Brown. But I still ride cranky horses too. I took a black mare that bucked a couple of them off down here at the fair, at the rodeo grounds, in January and I rode her for two months for them, until a woman could ride her, and then she paid \$1600 for her.

EDWARD: How would you break a wild horse?

JESS: Well, the way I do it, and the way most of them do it, just put it in a corral and put a saddle on it, and work it around with a, drive it like you was driving a work horse, and get it so it will handle with the bridle that way. And then just tie up a foot, I do, and tie up a foot and climb on it with a hind foot tied up until he can just barely touch that foot to the ground, and they can't buck hardly.

EDWARD: Now wait a minute, where do you tie the rear foot to, the saddle horn?

JESS: To their neck.

EDWARD: To their neck.

JESS: Yeah, uh huh. And then climb on them with the foot tied up, and work them around for a few minutes like that, and let the rope down and go to riding.

EDWARD: When you put the bridle --- I'm not thinking, Jess --- the thing in their mouth, that's not the word I want.

JESS: Bridle, put the bridle in their mouth.

EDWARD: Yeah, bridle.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Can you do that?

JESS: Oh yeah, as soon as you start working with one, you put the bridle in the mouth. But there is a lot in learning how to do that. Too many guys will just shove the bridle up there and try to push it in their mouth, and they'll lock their teeth and ---

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

JESS: --- and then they bump their teeth with it, and it just makes them worse. If you just reach up and stick your finger in the corner of the mouth like that, push in, they'll open their mouth and you put the bridle right in there.

EDWARD: Do you think that your dad, when he was working for Bill Brown, could take a wild horse and put him in that corral at Lost Creek or Last Chance, or wherever, Freezeout, Buck Creek, Gap Ranch, do you think he could break that thing in a day?

JESS: Oh no, no, it takes a man a couple of weeks to ever get them so as he can handle them good enough to take them out and ride them.

EDWARD: Because that, Bill Brown sold one heck of a lot of horses, and I swear those things must have been the wildest ---

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: I don't think they were broken, how could they be.

JESS: No, they wasn't when he would take them like that. And that's the reason he had George Wiley take that bunch up to Yakima and put them in a pasture there, and they had a lot of Yakima Indians riding them too.

EDWARD: Oh.

JESS: And my dad, and oh, half a dozen other guys would ride them up there. Dad said one time they had a little brown mare there, said she was the prettiest little thing he ever saw, and would only weigh about 900 pounds. And he said he'd lead her to water, and he got so he'd just jump on her bareback, never had a saddle on her, jump on her bareback and ride her to water. Finally got to just riding her with a halter, no bridle or anything. And the man come from the cattle, ready to buy horses, and this mare was tied to the fence out there, the guy looked at her and he says, "I'd like to have that little mare for my wife to ride." Says, "Is she broke to ride?" And Dad says, "I'll show you." And he just went and got on her bareback with just a halter and rode her all around. And she sold for as much as the bigger horses did, and she'd never had a saddle on.

... (Pause on tape)

EDWARD: I have my version, you give yours. This Ras Lewis, what did he say about this guy?

JESS: Well I don't think he ever rode with him much. He knew him, but I don't think he ever rode with him much. But I worked, the summer that my wife and I got married, I worked down to The Narrows with the, for the Dunn family, and they was always telling me about Ras Lewis. And they said that Ras Lewis never saw the horse that he couldn't ride. He said, "That man could ride any horse that ever walked." And he said, "He done it easy too." And he said, "One day they was going out to get a bunch of horses or cattle or something, and they saw a bunch of horses there, and they was wild as could be, and they run off out there, and one horse was running away in the lead of them." And Ras says, "Ain't that a pretty horse though?" He said, "I'd like to have him." And this horse he was riding, just kept a bucking all day, and finally give out with him. And he says, "I want you fellows to go and bunch up them horses and catch that horse that was running in the

lead." He said, "I'll go to riding him, and turn this one loose."

And they just went and rounded them horses up, and that horse come by one of them guys, and he roped him and they choked him down, and put Ras's saddle on him and turned him loose. And he just went ahead riding him the rest of the day.

EDWARD: Huh. Well Ras Lewis, I got people working on this, I don't know whether I'll put it in this book or not, may have been an outlaw.

JESS: Well I wouldn't wondering what he was.

EDWARD: He may have been an outlaw on the Wild Bunch.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Seriously.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And that's Butch Cassidy, and Sundance Kid, and all that stuff. Because they robbed a bank up here in Washington, Roslyn, Washington, out by Ellensburg. And he ended up working down here for Bill Brown. I never even mentioned this to Fred Brown, and Bob his father told Fred that hey, this guy is an outlaw dude. And they had just robbed a bank, and he came down here on the desert and went to work in 1894. Who knows?

Out there in that Wagontire country, you know, I mean there is some pretty rough roads and stuff. Well they didn't have roads in those days.

JESS: Well him and Charlie Couch, and Charlie Williams, Charlie Williams run the Brown outfit for a while too. And then he got killed, a horse fell and broke his neck. And Charlie Couch and Charlie Williams, and Ras Lewis, and Charlie Hart, that was Cecil Hart's dad, was all stealing horses all the time from Brown and everybody else. And they went up in the mountains to Boone Ferry; you've been to Boone Ferry haven't you?

LEORA: Huh uh.

JESS: Well your dad has lots of times, and your mother. And they went up there, and they was a big field there, 160 acres fenced there, and they was stealing horses up in that area, and getting all ready to ship them to The Dalles. And so a bunch of the neighbors decided, they was all neighbor's horses over in there, Bill Brown didn't have any horses up in that area at all, they belonged to the Silver Creek men. So they decided they was going up there and lynch all four of them. So my dad found out about it, and Charlie Hart's wife at that time, that's Josephine mother, and my mother were first cousins. So my dad got on one of his best horses and rode clear up there, about 32 miles, he rode up there that night and told them, and told them to get out of there, and then he come clear back home. The next morning he was back home.

EDWARD: Charlie Couch. What about Billy Bedell?

JESS: Yeah, I don't think he ever buckarood too much though.

EDWARD: No. He must have been dingy.

JESS: Oh he was, he was crazy as could be.

EDWARD: He shot at old Bill over there at the McIntosh place.

JESS: Well he shot Joe Gibson's horse right from under him up here at Post too.

EDWARD: (Laughter)

JESS: Just a wonder in the world Joe didn't kill him.

LEORA: Why did he shoot at Bill Brown at the McIntosh place?

EDWARD: Because he was either drunk all the time or ---

JESS: Oh yeah, old Bill says, "I run crooked so he couldn't ..."

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: I remember that.

EDWARD: Because they got in an argument about some stupid thing, and this guy was crazy enough, he killed his wife's lover, or his wife or something, I don't remember.

LEORA: I don't remember hearing about Billy Bedell, when was that?

EDWARD: Oh, he must have been dingy.

LEORA: Was that in the '20's, or ---

EDWARD: Oh, early --- Bedell's were over there on Silver Creek like in 1880's.

LEORA: Oh.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And like their son --- this was about 1926, '24, when Bedell took some pot shots at Bill.

LEORA: Huh.

JESS: Bedell was a, was brothers; Charlie and Bill were brothers to Carl Cecil's wife.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. And I get confused, I don't even talk about

--- I get all these people confused. Why do you think Bill Brown went broke, between your father talking to you and yourself?

JESS: Well, he just tried to be too good a fellow to organizations like churches and things like that, and give them the last dollar he had. And then people stealing from him too.

EDWARD: Did they actually --- I'm not going to say yet what I think, but did they actually steal that much sheep from him, and horses and ---

JESS: I doubt if they did.

EDWARD: --- from the store?

JESS: I think he got to where he just spent more than what he was making ...

LEORA: Do you think the farmer's recession after World War I had something to do with that too?

EDWARD: Had a lot to do with his horses, yes.

JESS: Yeah.

LEORA: The sheep ---

EDWARD: He had to sell his horses for chicken feed to Schlosser Brothers in Portland.

JESS: Yeah, when he sold them why they was worth about a cent and a half a pound.

EDWARD: Yeah, it just broke his heart, he didn't want to do that.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: But he had no choice.

LEORA: And sheep, the bottom fell out of the sheep market too.

EDWARD: Yeah, everything. Mike Mayfield went broke; he lost his home ranch up here at Prineville Reservoir.

LEORA: Grandpa Houston lost ...

EDWARD: Yeah. Well Mayfield's all, I don't know which Houston's your --- there is too many of them. Everybody is up there around Robertson, up in that country. A lot of people lost their butt. I wanted to show you ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: I wish in --- Bill hid in William's cellar?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Cold cellar I guess you would call it.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: I wish, I don't know who that Joe Foster was, probably never find out either.

LEORA: This says Sherman ... has to be Uncle Calvin.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's Calvin.

LEORA: Isn't that something.

EDWARD: You won't believe where that came from.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: ... and Judkins.

JESS: One time Sam Judkins was running a coyote in a Model-T Ford. And he was going

down a little grade, and the coyote was down below him in a lake bed, and he was trying to get down there to it before he could shoot it. And he rolled that Model-T off of there just before he got down to the bottom, and it rolled over about three times. And it was an old touring car with the top taken off. When it quit rolling, it was laying on his back, he was face down, it was laying on his back with the fender. And there he was alone, and it had knocked his right eye clear out of his head. It was just hanging down on his face. And he took, reached under there someway with his pocket knife, and got his pocket knife and dug the dirt out from under him until he could crawl out from under there, and then walked to Iron Mountain or someplace and got a ride to town.

EDWARD: There --- Sam Judkins is in my Klamath Falls --- or Klamath Falls, Klamath County book, under ...

LEORA: ...

EDWARD: Yeah, that's ---

LEORA: I plan to read that pretty soon now this summer. I have a lot of reading to do this summer.

EDWARD: Let's see, what else, what else Jess.

JESS: Does that say anything in there about Sam's wife being Gertrude Balmer?

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: That's who she was.

EDWARD: Yeah, they homesteaded down by the Double O.

JESS: Yeah, yeah I remember that, Gertrude Balmer. That has been a long, long time ago.

EDWARD: She just died not long ago. You know the one that gets me, is that Lena Street.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: She died last summer, 101.

JESS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: I don't even want to live that long.

JESS: She was a little older than Paul.

EDWARD: That's gross, I don't want to live that long. I don't want to live with this environment we got. I got to name some names, Jess, just off the top of my head. I'll try here. Was there another Wilson that worked at Buck Creek Ranch?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: That ripped Bill off a lot?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Peter Wilson?

JESS: Yeah, there was a Pete Wilson.

EDWARD: Pete Wilson.

JESS: And Paul had a brother Charlie; he worked there a while too.

EDWARD: Yeah, Charlie did.

JESS: But I think Charlie was a pretty good kind of a guy.

EDWARD: But Pete wasn't related to Paul.

JESS: No, huh uh.

EDWARD: Who was this Pete Wilson, he was ---

JESS: I don't know.

EDWARD: He just stole things.

JESS: I think he was a brother, or a uncle, or something to Lester Wilson, and what was the old man's name? Did you ever hear your dad say what Lester's father's name was?

LEORA: I don't think I ever heard of Lester or Pete Wilson.

EDWARD: I can't --- we got a little bit of tape left.

JESS: They worked at Cold Springs for a long time.

EDWARD: But I guess Pete Wilson was a, he stole a lot.

JESS: Yeah. ... Pointer did too.

EDWARD: They stole a lot, just anything.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: From the store.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, that's another thing. Did your father, or maybe yourself, do you have any idea when that Horseshoe Bar Store was built?

JESS: I don't have any idea.

EDWARD: Any years?

LEORA: ...

EDWARD: Oh, thanks.

JESS: I don't have any idea.

EDWARD: Oh god. Paul Wilson, who should know, he's 96. He went around that crazy Buck Creek country forever.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And Lena, of course.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: He told me, and no doubt about it, his memory is just like --- boy that guy is sharp.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: A little tiny guy.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: He told me that a guy by the name of McCracken built Bill's house there at

Buck Creek, that huge thing, in 1910. And that just makes sense with what Lena said in here, and everything, it makes sense. But the store, from what your father, Fred Houston has said, it is hard to figure out. It may have been there before that. But it's the same; it's the same wood, see.

JESS: It was there before that.

EDWARD: Think so?

JESS: And I'll tell you how I know. Oh, maybe the store wasn't, but the old ranch was, the old house was. And I suppose they was built about the same time, I don't know. But anyway, my mother was raised there at Buck Creek until she was about 15 years old.

EDWARD: Where at on Buck Creek? Up the James Street place, the Joe Street?

JESS: No, there is a house between the Joe Street place and the Bill Brown house.

EDWARD: Okay, there is ---

JESS: Is it still there?

EDWARD: There is ---

LEORA: Is that the Balfour ---

EDWARD: Balfour, and then there is Lemons.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay, it goes Joseph Street, Grant Barney's place.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: And then Lemons, Mac Lemons.

JESS: Lemons, yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: And then Balfour, and then Bill, or Columbus Johnson.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Bill, then Bill's place.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay.

JESS: Right there I guess is where she lived. Because her, see Columbus Johnson and my granddad Bill Johnson were brothers, and they was in partners all the time until they moved to Riley. And when they moved to Silver Creek there, why granddad built the place there that they always had, you know. And Uncle Columbus took the upper place.

EDWARD: Okay. Hang on just a second. You don't know how many hours this morning I spent trying to find this stupid problem out.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: In 1889, I got --- Columbus Johnson, he owned some land up in there.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: He went in with half interest for \$3,250.00 to a guy by the name of Richard Whitaker.

JESS: I've heard of him, but I never ---

EDWARD: Down in Modoc County, California. In other words, Whitaker paid Columbus \$3,250.00 to have half interest in this land. Whatever for, I don't know. And that was 1889. So evidently, I'll get to this here in a second. In 1894, Columbus bought back that interest. In 1899 Columbus sold Bill Brown's, where the Buck Creek Ranch house is, sold it to, that property, to a guy by the name of --- I can't say it, I'll try it here, Smite. Cragdon (sp.?) something, Cragdon Smite, Smith. This Cragdon guy sold the Buck Creek Ranch property to Bill Brown. It wasn't Columbus Johnson, it was this Cragdon guy.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: It was about a year later, 1901, I think. It's all right here.

JESS: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Anyway, so I look at this 1889 as Columbus Johnson. I'm trying to figure out, okay, who homesteaded this Buck Creek, where the house is? Before, it had to be before

1889.

JESS: Well I bet you can find that out right here in town.

EDWARD: That's what I was looking for.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: In the courthouse.

JESS: Willis, talk to Willis Gray.

EDWARD: Now you mention a William Johnson?

JESS: Yeah, that was my granddad.

EDWARD: Who do you think homesteaded where that ---

JESS: I don't have any idea, I never even thought of it before.

LEORA: Who did you just say to talk to?

JESS: Huh?

LEORA: Who did you just say to talk to, Willis Gray?

JESS: Willis Gray.

EDWARD: Will.

LEORA: Does he live here in town?

JESS: Yeah, he lives, you know where the ... flat road is, goes out toward Paulina. Well when you get up on top of the hill, that first house you can see to the right, right up against that hill up to the right, there is a lane goes up there, just before you break over to where that old schoolhouse sets by the side of the road.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: Just before you break over to that, look right up to the right up that lane and you can see a house up there, and that's where Willis Gray lives.

EDWARD: Well you know what I did?

JESS: And he is related to Thomas Johnson.

EDWARD: Oh.

JESS: His mother was a Gray. Yeah, that was it, his mother was a Gray.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: What was your mother's maiden name?

JESS: Lula.

EDWARD: I forgot.

JESS: Lula.

EDWARD: Lula.

JESS: Johnson.

EDWARD: Oh that's right, Johnson.

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Who was her father?

JESS: Bill.

EDWARD: I bet you that's who that --- I bet you that's whose got that.

JESS: There was Bill Johnson, Alfred Johnson, and ---

EDWARD: Yeah, I saw Alfred.

JESS: --- Columbus Johnson, yeah.

EDWARD: I bet you Williams, the guy that has that place.

JESS: And Alfred Johnson moved to Susanville, California and raised his family down there. And this Alvin Johnson that run the store up here at Paulina, you know?

LEORA: Uh huh.

JESS: He is Alfred Johnson's grandson.

LEORA: I never knew that.

JESS: Yeah.

LEORA: Isn't that something? You had no idea of that either did you Bruce?

EDWARD: Good heavens.

LEORA: My oh my.

EDWARD: Geeze. What did your mother ever say, did she, Lula ever say anything about living up there at old Buck Creek?

JESS: Never talked much about it, no.

EDWARD: Huh. I had no idea she was a Johnson. There is Johnson's, Houston's ---

JESS: When she was about 17, or 18 years old, her and two other girls, I think one of them was her sister Mary, and the other one was Mary Pruitt, I believe. And Mary Pruitt's name was Williams at that time. She was a sister to that ---

EDWARD: Williams on Silver Creek?

JESS: No, that Williams we was talking about a while ago that worked for Brown.

EDWARD: Oh.

JESS: Charlie, Charlie Williams.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JESS: They took a wagon and team and left Silver Creek and went down through by, on the Paisley road, and down and hit the highway and went clear to Susanville, California and stayed there about two months and canned fruit, and then hauled that canned fruit back up here, just the three of them girls.

LEORA: They went down to Uncle Alfred's?

JESS: Yeah, uh huh.

LEORA: Well.

EDWARD: Oh, they got ---

JESS: Well I don't think they went to his place, he was living at Susanville and they went to Cedarville.

LEORA: Oh.

JESS: And that's quite a little ways apart. But there was lots of fruit in the Cedarville country, and that's where she was raised when she was a little kid, was there. So they went back down there and took all that trip down there with a wagon and team.

EDWARD: Do you know where Bill's big house is?

JESS: Yeah.

EDWARD: And I'm pretty sure it was built exactly what we were talking about, 1910. They moved, there was another cabin there, and they moved that, which then became --- that map I gave Lee, then became a bunkhouse for cowboys.

JESS: Yeah. I ... remember where it's at.

EDWARD: Yeah. Now would you look at that map, Jess ---

(END OF TAPE)

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