

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #387- Side A

Subject: Viola Oliver

Date: May 13, 1994

Place: Paisley, Oregon

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: This is May 13th, 1994 at Viola Oliver's house in Paisley, Oregon. This is Ed Gray talking about the Simmons and Petersen, and Oliver family. Did --- in reference to what I was just talking about Viola, you ever hear of Annie Ward? Ever hear, the family, Oliver family ever mention it?

VIOLA OLIVER: I heard Grandpa Petersen mention, but he called her Laura instead of Annie.

EDWARD: Laura Ward, that's what he referred to her.

VIOLA: That's what he referred to it, that he had left there with her.

EDWARD: Did Grandpa Peter Christian Petersen; did he ever say anything about what happened to Ed Oliver after he left with Laura or Annie Ward?

VIOLA: No, no, never. Not a thing that we ever knew of.

EDWARD: Did Peter Petersen ever mention anything about the death of Pete French?

VIOLA: Not to me he didn't, no.

EDWARD: Peter, you knot head. (Laughter) He lived until 1959 or something.

VIOLA: Yeah, I know he lived a long, long time.

EDWARD: Okay, the Oliver family, you married Roy ---

VIOLA: Yeah, I married Roy Oliver ---

EDWARD: --- Vernon Oliver.

VIOLA: Yeah, I married him as Earl Oliver though.

EDWARD: As Earl Oliver.

VIOLA: Because when they made his initials out, a E instead of a V, when he registered to go to the First World War. He said V and they put it down E, so he said he just changed it to Earl, and it was that way from then on.

EDWARD: When did you two characters get married?

VIOLA: 26th of August 1926.

EDWARD: '26. Where at?

VIOLA: Lakeview.

EDWARD: And --- in, how long did you court --- how long did he court you, I guess.

VIOLA: Well I knew him from the time I was five years old. Then after him and his wife separated up at Powell Buttes he came back down here. Oh, I suppose it was six months, was as long as we went together.

EDWARD: Let me back up a little bit, Viola. What was your maiden name?

VIOLA: Windom, Viola Windom.

EDWARD: You one of those --- no that's Witham isn't it that's out here?

VIOLA: Yeah, there is Witham's, but there is Windom's too.

EDWARD: Oh, there are?

VIOLA: W I N D O M.

EDWARD: Okay. Boy, there is a bazillion Elders, isn't there?

VIOLA: Yes.

EDWARD: I can't keep ---

VIOLA: Now the Elders and all that are all intermixed.

EDWARD: Yeah. So, Viola Windom Oliver.

VIOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Roy Oliver was married one time before you married him.

VIOLA: He was married 13 years before he and his first wife separated, but I can't give you any dates on any of that.

EDWARD: Oh, we don't care. And you had how many children from Roy?

VIOLA: I had three.

EDWARD: Three.

VIOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Married in 1926. In that lifetime together, did Roy Oliver ever mention anything about the death of Pete French?

VIOLA: He never, he always said he didn't know anything about it.

EDWARD: Did he ever mention anything about where he, wait a minute, where, when was he born, 18---

VIOLA: '95.

EDWARD: In '95. Did he ever mention anything in your life together about where he lived when Pete French was shot by his dad?

VIOLA: I can't recall him ever talking about any place, only the Sod House. But I don't know whether that was at the time of the shooting or not.

EDWARD: Pete French's coroner's inquest was held at the Sod House.

VIOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Did Roy ever mention anything about where in the world the Simmons lived?

VIOLA: Huh uh, no.

EDWARD: Why did he leave at age 15, do you know?

VIOLA: Because of the, after his step-dad married and brought this new ---

EDWARD: Peter Petersen.

VIOLA: Yeah, when Peter married he come back to Burns with a woman, and it didn't

work out, just say that.

EDWARD: She was a jerk, from what I hear. (Laughter) Somebody is going to translate this, I had to say that Viola.

VIOLA: Well that's all right, they won't know what it is anyway. I hope not.

EDWARD: No, they don't know.

VIOLA: But anyway, he left because of that. It was his stepmother mainly that ---

EDWARD: Did Burt Simmons ever mention anything about Pete French to you, or when you ---

VIOLA: I never met any of the Simmons.

EDWARD: Oh, you didn't?

VIOLA: Well I take it back; I met Uncle Dick, that was one of the Simmons. But no, none of them ever mentioned anything to me.

EDWARD: Did Roy ever mention anything to you in relationship to what happened to his father after the shooting of Pete French?

VIOLA: No, they never, said they never knew whatever become of him.

EDWARD: Did Roy show, or did you get a feeling that Roy liked his father, Ed Lee Oliver?

VIOLA: Well I would think he would have, yes.

EDWARD: And there was never any ---

VIOLA: And if he was anything like Roy he was a good man, I'll put that in for you.

EDWARD: Roy was a damn good father.

VIOLA: He was a damn good father, yes.

EDWARD: Which probably --- well see Roy would have been approximately 3 years old when his father ---

VIOLA: That's right.

EDWARD: --- kind of like disappeared.

VIOLA: Yeah, uh huh. So he couldn't remember anything about him.

EDWARD: And you never met any of the other Oliver children? Did you ever meet Burt Oliver?

VIOLA: Yes.

EDWARD: Okay.

VIOLA: Yes, I knew all of them.

EDWARD: Did they ever talk; did any of the Oliver children talk?

VIOLA: Never talked about it at all.

EDWARD: They never talked about what happened to their father?

VIOLA: They'd just say they never knew what happened to him, and that's all. They never --- Burt did say one time that he went up, he heard his dad was at John Day, and he went to John Day looking for him and he couldn't find him. They said, "Oh he was here, but he just left."

EDWARD: Do you know approximately when that was, 1920's, 1910's?

VIOLA: Oh it had to have been after the war, I'm sure.

EDWARD: After World War I?

VIOLA: Yeah, because Burt was in the war.

EDWARD: I've got to say war.

VIOLA: Yeah. But they never ever did talk about it very much, just like it was a closed book to them. They didn't remember him, didn't remember anything about him.

EDWARD: Is there any diaries or anything left from the Oliver's?

VIOLA: Not that we knew of. If there is anything at all, it would be over there at Shelby's, so there isn't anything, no. See Roy was, what was Roy, 12 when his mother died.

EDWARD: 1907, yeah.

VIOLA: Yeah, he was only 12 when his mother died. Then they sent him down to an aunt in California for a while. And then after Petersen got married and come back, he got them all back home again. So ---

EDWARD: Did --- so the Oliver kids, we got Ada ---

VIOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: --- we got Burt, we got Roy, and we got ---

VIOLA: Leatha (Leathie).

EDWARD: --- Leatha.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Between Ed Oliver and Lee Oliver and Ida Parmilee (Parilee) Simmons.

VIOLA: Yeah, that was their children.

EDWARD: What the heck happened to Ada, A D A?

VIOLA: Ada. She lived and married, after she got older she was

--- I never did know for sure just when she went to California. But she married a man in California. And she lived at Santa Rosa for, until she died.

EDWARD: Do you know approximately, Viola, when she died?

VIOLA: I don't think it is on this.

EDWARD: I don't think it is either. That's another thing I want to try and straighten out.

VIOLA: Let's see, Roy died in '68, and she outlived him. So I would say, I would say she might have gone in '70 or '71, sometime like that.

EDWARD: I know what happened to Burt. Know what happened to Roy. Where did Roy die, here in Paisley?

VIOLA: He died in the Burns Hospital, and he is buried up here on the hill.

EDWARD: Okay. Leatha, what the heck happened to her?

VIOLA: Well Leatha was married twice, didn't get along with either one. I shouldn't be

saying this on this tape.

EDWARD: That's all right.

VIOLA: But anyway, she moved to, she got sick then her --- our oldest daughter, stepdaughter, my stepdaughter, they moved her to Carson City, her and her husband.

EDWARD: Nevada.

VIOLA: Nevada. And she died down there.

EDWARD: Do you know approximately when she died, '60's, '70's, '80's?

VIOLA: Well she went after Ada did, so it would have had to have been sometime between '75 and '80, I think.

EDWARD: And none of these kids ever called up Roy and say, hey we found Dad?

VIOLA: No, never said one word about ever finding Dad. No, never.

EDWARD: That guy run off with Anna Ward, and got twenty-two more kids.

VIOLA: No, never did hear that.

EDWARD: Damn.

VIOLA: Nobody ever --- after Burt tried I don't think anybody else ever tried. Just thought well they didn't want anything to do with us, so ---

EDWARD: Have you ever been talked to before?

VIOLA: No.

EDWARD: Because you talked to --- you married Roy in 1926.

VIOLA: Yes.

EDWARD: And nobody has ever come to you and said, "God, you're an Oliver, what happened to Ed?" Nobody, what happened to Ed Oliver, nobody has ever talked to you about this?

VIOLA: Nobody ever asked me.

EDWARD: Because there is not hardly any Oliver's around.

VIOLA: I was introduced to a fellow here one time, and as, the ... to the guy that killed Pete French. And I said, "Yes, and I'm proud of it."

EDWARD: I don't blame you. Pete French was ---

VIOLA: Well that's it. I don't know if you know --- that's the way with me now, I'm just blank to all of it. Just what you read in the books, I've the read the books that's been written about him.

EDWARD: Do you have any pictures of Leatha, Burt, Roy, Ada?

VIOLA: Yeah. I might take a little while to find some of them, but ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: How tall was Burt?

VIOLA: About five, eleven.

EDWARD: Oh, pretty tall for those days.

VIOLA: Yeah, he was taller than Roy. Here's Roy. (Looking at pictures.)

EDWARD: There is Roy.

VIOLA: I probably got another one or two of him someplace. That was the biggest one I grabbed.

EDWARD: Could you look up, and if you find some younger pictures of Roy ---

VIOLA: Let me do some ... I know I got one with him and Ada here someplace, one of these books, but I wouldn't know which one.

EDWARD: This is Leatha. That must be ---

VIOLA: That's Ada.

EDWARD: Ada.

VIOLA: Uh huh, just shortly before she died.

EDWARD: This was taken at the state capitol. This is ---

VIOLA: That's Burt.



EDWARD: This is Burt. It's the only picture I've seen of Ada. Because I know Shelby doesn't have any.

VIOLA: I've got one in one of these books of the four of us, our son and Ada, and Roy, and I together. I don't know which one. I've got too darn many pictures.

EDWARD: Do you know, did Roy or any of the Oliver's ever talk to you about Ida Parilee Simmons Oliver Petersen, that's the only way I can do it is by --- want to figure it out. Did they ever talk about her, their mother's family, the Simmons?

VIOLA: No not, not too much, huh uh. The only thing I can remember that Roy ever said was that his grandmother smoked a corncob pipe, and that's all I know. Whether that was a step-grandmother or what, I don't know.

EDWARD: Do you know --- it's so hard to straighten this family stuff out. I'm going to --- I'm going to give you some names, Viola. Maybe you can help me out on this. It's so hard to figure out this family stuff if you're not a family member.

VIOLA: Yeah, this isn't the right book. This is just ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: ... names, Viola. This is the Simmons family; this is all I got so far. There was Ida.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: There was a Sadie.

VIOLA: Yeah, Aunt Sadie they called her.

EDWARD: Aunt Sadie. There was a Maud.

VIOLA: That one I don't remember ever hearing.

EDWARD: There was a Burt Simmons.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: There was a Jim Simmons.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: There was an H. B. Simmons. No?

VIOLA: I don't remember that one. But there was a --- well maybe it was Uncle Burt Simmons, yeah, A. D.

EDWARD: H. B.

VIOLA: H. B.

EDWARD: But there was a Burt, but this H. B. is somebody else.

VIOLA: That's somebody else, yeah.

EDWARD: Okay.

VIOLA: Then there was an Eldrid Simmons that was a cousin of Roy's.

EDWARD: Okay, that was Burt Simmon's son. Oh, I think.

VIOLA: Here is part of, Roy, there is a picture of Roy. That's part of his family.

EDWARD: Holy cow.

VIOLA: Some of the relatives, and some of the in-laws, and a few other things.

EDWARD: A bazillion of them.

VIOLA: Yeah, that's just half of it.

EDWARD: That looks like in the '40's. There was a George Simmons.

VIOLA: Never heard of him.

EDWARD: There was a Taylor Simmons.

VIOLA: Yeah, I've heard Roy speak of Uncle Taylor.

EDWARD: Uncle Taylor. Then there was a Mrs. T. M. Rose, and a Mrs. C. S. Johnson.

VIOLA: Mrs. C. S. Johnson had to been Aunt Sadie, because she was married to Charlie Johnson.

EDWARD: That's it. Sadie Johnson.

VIOLA: She lived over at Klamath Falls and she died and was buried up at Burns.

EDWARD: Okay, that takes care of her.

VIOLA: I thought maybe there would be a picture of Roy and the kids in here, but I don't -

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EDWARD: Shelby said that, Shelby Petersen --- Shelby.

VIOLA: There is one boy, younger.

EDWARD: Oh good.

VIOLA: He's got his hat on.

EDWARD: Who is the child?

VIOLA: I have to look a minute. Oh, that's our son. No, that's his older son's stepson's boy, yeah.

EDWARD: Shelby Petersen said that Shelby and his first wife, Simmons, had around ten kids. I don't know how many that Nancy, this Nancy had some too.

VIOLA: Well I think that had to have been the two families, I, first and second. Because I don't --- I don't know where the pictures are. I have plenty of them if there was just ---

EDWARD: Okay. May 11th, 1907, approximately three weeks after Ida Parilee Simmons Oliver Petersen died, her stepmother died.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Says, died at her home this city 2:30 a.m. today, Mrs. Nancy J. Simmons, age 62. Okay, here we go. Her husband died eight years ago.

VIOLA: Here's Roy's mother.

EDWARD: Yeah. She's got that face, that look.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Are these all the kids? No?

VIOLA: No, huh uh.

EDWARD: There is five of them here.

VIOLA: This was the old home there in Burns after he, Petersen and her got married, before they tore it down and built a new one.

EDWARD: Okay. Looking good, Viola. Wonder who in the world ---

VIOLA: I don't know for sure, some of them are hers and some are neighbor kids, I think, or some of the nieces and nephews or some-thing.

EDWARD: This one boy here couldn't be Burt, that's for sure.

VIOLA: Huh uh, I don't think so.

EDWARD: Don't even look ---

VIOLA: Don't look like him.

EDWARD: Huh uh. Her husband died eight years ago. Shelby Petersen, 1899 he died.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: The children are Mrs. J. V. Cawlfild, well that was James Cawlfild. Mrs. F. J. Cawlfild, Mrs. W. C. Brown, Mrs. Horace Scott, Mrs. Maud Simmons, George Simmons, C. T. Simmons, and then it goes to the four stepchildren.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Which I don't understand, because it is the same name.

VIOLA: All the same, but got a ---

EDWARD: And then there was a George Newton, who was a sister ---

VIOLA: Well I don't know. Shelby must have got you mixed up. I couldn't tell you.

EDWARD: Do you have, Viola, do you have any theories on what happened to Ed Oliver, personally?

VIOLA: Not really, no. Because I didn't pay too much attention to it, I guess.

EDWARD: And when you were married to Roy from 1926 on, Roy never received any letters, nothing.

VIOLA: No, nothing, never, ever. I have nothing to go by at all. These are all old pictures

and everything else. But I thought I might run across another one of him.

EDWARD: Yeah, you never know.

VIOLA: There is another one of him and his, one of the stepdaughters, and her ...

EDWARD: I'm stuck, I'm stuck.

VIOLA: I doubt if you'll ever get anywhere on it, I really don't.

EDWARD: I'm going to try like heck. I want to know what happened to him.

VIOLA: Well try ---

EDWARD: Yeah, that was my next, got any ideas?

VIOLA: Not really. But I was going to suggest this woman that came to see Lola over there at the hospital, said she was a great, great, granddaughter of his, or great granddaughter of --- was supposed to have lived in Klamath, and her name was Brown before she married. But I don't know who it would be at all.

EDWARD: Here is a Mrs. W. C. Brown.

VIOLA: Well I don't know ---

EDWARD: That's the obituary for Nancy Simmons.

VIOLA: Yeah. I wouldn't have any idea who she is, but I don't know whether you could find anything out on the vital statistics over there in Klamath about it or not.

... (Telephone) Excuse me.

EDWARD: How long ago was that, Viola, a long time ago?

VIOLA: Oh, ten years at least. ... probably hasn't worked there for quite awhile.

EDWARD: It's worth a shot.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Okay, Leatha had a child; Viola says Leatha had a child

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VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- that lived two months ---

VIOLA: Lived two months.

EDWARD: --- and died.

VIOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And Leatha was married twice.

VIOLA: Yes.

EDWARD: How many children did Ada have?

VIOLA: Five. She had four boys and a daughter, and there is only just the daughter living.

EDWARD: Just the daughter. Lord, she might be up there.

VIOLA: Huh?

EDWARD: Her daughter must be in her 80's.

VIOLA: Awful close to it.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VIOLA: Uh huh, yeah.

EDWARD: And Ada is the oldest one, right?

VIOLA: Ada was the oldest, and then Burt.

EDWARD: '89, yeah, right.

VIOLA: Then Burt, and then Roy.

EDWARD: Where is this daughter live, do you know?

VIOLA: Santa Rosa, California.

EDWARD: I wonder if she knows anything.

VIOLA: I doubt it, because Ada never told her kids anything about it.

EDWARD: Okay.

VIOLA: I was ---

EDWARD: Shoot.

VIOLA: Two years ago I had one of Roy's nephews, great nephews, come up here and he was trying to find out a lot of family ---

EDWARD: Oh, he was? Okay.

VIOLA: And of course he didn't know anything about the Pete French killing or anything. Ada didn't tell him nothing. When she left home, she left home. And then of course after they got older, Burt and Roy and her got, and Leatha got together. But ---

EDWARD: Shelby told me that the kids died, a couple of them, from emphysema.

VIOLA: What kids?

EDWARD: Oh, Burt, Burt Oliver ---

VIOLA: Oh. Roy had emphysema.

EDWARD: Yeah, Roy.

VIOLA: Roy had emphysema, and Burt had, well he had a heart condition along with his, where Roy didn't, he just had the emphysema. But it was just from their smoking, sure.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, don't remind me, Viola. Geeze, I'm 53 and I've got to quit. I --- Did any family members mention to you, or anybody that knew the family, the Oliver family, say that Burt Oliver looked like his father?

VIOLA: Not that I know of. I haven't got any, one of Roy in here.

EDWARD: Oh, we got this one.

VIOLA: He is surrounded by kids all the time.

EDWARD: Yeah, we got this one.

VIOLA: That's what I say, as good as he was with kids, his dad must have been a good man.

EDWARD: Okay, Leatha was born in --- oh my god, look at this, Viola. Leatha was born November 25th, 1897.

VIOLA: She was a month old when he was, that happened.

EDWARD: Yeah. That poor Ida had to go nuts.

VIOLA: Why sure she had to go nuts with four kids and everything the way it was.

EDWARD: And exactly a month to the day later, after Leatha was born ---

VIOLA: Yeah, he shot French.

EDWARD: Yeah. I bet you Leatha was born in Burns.

VIOLA: Probably born at home, out there where they lived.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, that's possible. I got to look that up when I get back to Burns too, is these birth certificates and stuff.

VIOLA: Yeah, uh huh.

EDWARD: Just for the fun of it. Huh, that marriage license helps. Now can I re-photo these?

VIOLA: If you want to.

EDWARD: That would be great. Because that's the only Ada picture around.

VIOLA: Yes.

EDWARD: Only one. Great. And this house is gone.

VIOLA: Yeah, that house was torn down and a new one built for the Petersen's.

EDWARD: He, I think old ---

VIOLA: The second Petersen family.

EDWARD: Yeah. I think old Pete Petersen had some money.

VIOLA: Why sure he had money.

EDWARD: And we don't know who, with the Leatha here, with all these kids. Geeze.

VIOLA: No, I couldn't say when they were at all.

EDWARD: Was she a schoolteacher?

VIOLA: Ada?



EDWARD: Is that Ada?

VIOLA: No, this is Roy's mother, Ida.

EDWARD: Ida, I mean, Ida.

VIOLA: No. That's probably some of her nieces and nephews. I wouldn't have any idea who it is, but that is the mother.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, yeah. Doggone it; it doesn't say where it was taken, probably Burns. Sometimes the photographer, you know, puts his name.

VIOLA: Yeah, has a mark on them, uh huh.

EDWARD: Oh man. Just trying to remember when they came. Yeah, they came to Harney County in 1888.

VIOLA: Just after they was married ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

VIOLA: --- two or three years.

EDWARD: And I think, I got all the kids --- It seems to me that Ada was born in California. Maybe Ida went back to California with her parents or something. It just seems to me ---

VIOLA: I just don't know, yeah, just don't know.

EDWARD: It's not really that important.

VIOLA: No.

EDWARD: But these dates are important.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: And the pictures of the family members are important.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Shoot. Annie Ward (Laughter) --- you're going to have fun with that.

VIOLA: Yeah. That's a different one.

EDWARD: Pictures of Leatha, we got that.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Didn't we?

VIOLA: Didn't I give you a picture here of her, yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah, right there, okay.

VIOLA: Yeah, that's Letha.

EDWARD: Okay. Well we did pretty good. What did --- oh, what did Roy mention about the Sod House, do you recall?

VIOLA: I can't remember anything too much only that they were at the Sod House, when they rode horseback to school, and that's the only thing I can remember. But I don't know what --- that was after she married Petersen, so it could have been Petersen and her that was at the Sod House. He had sheep camps and things all over the country, I guess.

EDWARD: Well, there was a Sod House School.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Which was very close, within two miles of the Simmons' ranch house.

VIOLA: Uh huh, ranch house, uh huh.

EDWARD: All right. Yeah, Shelby said that Ida met Peter Christian Petersen down on the Steens at a sheep camp.

VIOLA: Yeah, I think she was cooking for, through lambing.

EDWARD: Right, right.

VIOLA: Yeah, that's where she met him.

EDWARD: And Peter had three bands of sheep. And this other guy that was madly in love with her only had one band.

VIOLA: Oh.

EDWARD: (Laughter) Guess who won?

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: The guy with three bands.

VIOLA: The guy with the most sheep.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VIOLA: Instead of the most money, it was the sheep.

EDWARD: And I guess Peter ended up in the banks and stuff.

VIOLA: Oh yeah, he was --- and he was at one time he was, him and a guy by the name of Brown was in one of those banks over there. About the time Roy and I were married he was ---

EDWARD: In fact Shelby still has some of these dollars --- I forgot the real name for them. That the Harney County Bank ---

VIOLA: Harney County, yeah.

EDWARD: --- issued. Way back.

VIOLA: Way, way back. Yeah, Shelby has got everything.

EDWARD: It may be it. He had some old furniture or something too, I can remember that.

VIOLA: Yeah. Yeah he's got a house full of furniture over there, he did have. Got those old fashioned beds that goes clear ---

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah that's what he was showing. He thought that was really neat.

VIOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: I don't know how old they are or anything like that.

VIOLA: I wouldn't give a ... I don't like that kind of stuff.

EDWARD: No, I don't either.

VIOLA: I don't like it.

EDWARD: That's good enough.

VIOLA: I'm comfortable just the way I am.

EDWARD: Can you think of anything else, Viola?

VIOLA: Really I can't, huh uh.

EDWARD: Can you think of anybody else that might have some knowledge of ---

VIOLA: Not in this country, they're all died off.

EDWARD: Yeah, I know.

VIOLA: There was one or two others that might have been, but they have been dead for years and years.

EDWARD: How old is this A. J. Dunn, do you know?

VIOLA: He is up, 93 I think his next birthday. He'd be just like Shelby.

EDWARD: I love the --- I love those guys.

VIOLA: I shouldn't say that. Close --- they're good old guys.

EDWARD: Yeah, they are.

VIOLA: Yeah.

... (Pause in tape)

VIOLA: Two, if I'm not mistaken.

EDWARD: Roy said, Roy Oliver said ---

VIOLA: His mother was born at Millville.

EDWARD: Born in Millville. Married in Oak Run.

VIOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Are these like two neighbor ---

VIOLA: Just right together.

EDWARD: Right together.

VIOLA: They're just close towns, uh huh.

EDWARD: 1865. There was a Simmons ---

VIOLA: And Millville had had a fire once before and destroyed it pretty much. But the cemetery was beautiful, I'll admit that. It was a beautiful high, high headstones.

EDWARD: That's another thing I got to do, I've got to go through the cemeteries. And if they're fairly big, oh --- To look up Simmons, I just want to see ---

VIOLA: Yeah, just to see.

EDWARD: --- if there is any Simmons, and, or Oliver's. Now Oliver, I believe, said he was from Illinois.

VIOLA: Yeah, he was originally from Illinois, yeah.

EDWARD: I wonder how in the god's name he ended up down in Northern California, I don't know.

VIOLA: I have no idea.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: I remembered something. Did any of the Oliver's ever mention how big their father was, how tall?

VIOLA: No, never mentioned. But Roy was only six foot six.

EDWARD: Five foot six.

VIOLA: Yeah, five foot six. And Burt was five, eleven.

EDWARD: Five, eleven.

VIOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: It looks like Ada might have been kind of tall.

VIOLA: She was taller. I would say maybe seven, six or seven. Leatha wasn't very tall either, she was kind of like Roy, she was smaller.

EDWARD: Wonder how tall Ida was, Petersen?

VIOLA: I have no idea.

EDWARD: She looks fairly short. Because I know, because Pete Petersen wasn't too

tall.

VIOLA: No, he was just a little short man.

EDWARD: Yeah.

(END OF TAPE)

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