

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #387 - Side B

Subject: Arthur J. & Alberta Dunn

Date: May 13, 1994

Place: Paisley, Oregon

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: This is Ed Gray with Art J. Dunn, right?

ARTHUR DUNN: Yeah.

EDWARD: D U N N.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: In Paisley, Oregon on May 13th, or --- yeah, May 13th, 1994, at his home in Paisley. Art, how old are you?

ART: 92.

EDWARD: 92. You're about the same age as Shelby Petersen.

ART: Yeah. You know Shelby?

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

ART: Yeah, I know Shelby well.

EDWARD: He helped me on that book, and he is helping me on this too. There is a couple things, Art, I'd like to clarify. Who was William J. Dunn?

ART: My father.

EDWARD: Your father. Was, did he live on the south side of Malheur Lake?

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did he have a brother or a son named William too?

ART: Well my grandfather's name was William J. Dunn too. William Dunn, I don't know

about the J or not.

EDWARD: Now I'm going to read you something out of the transcripts of the Oliver, State versus Oliver Trial.

... (Pause in tape, telephone rings)

EDWARD: Do you like to be called Art or Arthur?

ART: It don't make any difference, Art is all right.

EDWARD: Art, in the transcripts, 1898 trial, William Dunn states, "I lived 3 miles east of Narrows."

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: "Know Oliver knew French."

ART: Yeah, he did.

EDWARD: "Have some cattle. About two years ago, conversation with Mr. French was angry. Said, riding in field got the stock. Oliver has ranch in field, I'll kill him, that's what I'll do." That was from the mouth of William Dunn. Which William Dunn, I don't know.

ART: Well I don't either. That could be my grandfather or my father either one.

EDWARD: Now when, was your dad William J. Dunn?

ART: Yeah, William, let's see, William --- James, yeah it was James.

EDWARD: William James Dunn.

ART: Yeah, I think so.

EDWARD: When was your father born, Art?

ART: He was born when we were at Jacksonville.

EDWARD: 1865?

ART: Yeah, I think it was, just about that. Because he was 83 years old when he died.

EDWARD: 83. And where did he die?

ART: He died ---

EDWARD: Did he die in Burns?

ART: Yeah, I think so, yeah. Now I don't think he did, I think he died over here at Ashland. I think he was brought back over to Burns. He is buried over there at Burns.

EDWARD: Okay. He is buried in Burns?

ART: Yeah, he is buried in Burns.

EDWARD: Okay, I can find that out then easy.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Now that was your dad?

ART: Yeah. My grandfather's name was William Dunn too. I don't remember what his ---

EDWARD: Did, did your grandfather have a place south of Malheur Lake too?

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Were they near the Sod House Ranch?

ART: Yeah, yeah, right up there above the Sod House Ranch. Just about --- grandfather's place was on the east side of the river, and my dad's place was on the west. Yeah, just across the river.

EDWARD: The Blitzen.

ART: The Blitzen, across the Blitzen, yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. At the base of the lake?

ART: Well it's up there a ways from the lake. It's above the Sod House about; you know where the Sod House Ranch is?

EDWARD: Uh huh.

ART: It's about three miles above.

EDWARD: Three miles.

ART: Yeah, just about.

EDWARD: Did, did your father ever have problems with Pete French?

ART: No. No, my father --- well my father told him --- Pete French claimed everybody left his gates open. And he told my father, he met my father, and he said, "You left my gates open." Dad told me, he says, "I looked him right in the eye and I told him I leave no man's gates open." And he didn't! ...

EDWARD: Did your father ever have a physical tussle or fight with Pete French?

ART: No.

EDWARD: No.

ART: No.

EDWARD: Never, nothing like that.

ART: No. The Dunn's didn't have no kind of trouble like that at all.

EDWARD: Oh by the way, Arthur, where were you born?

ART: I was born down there on Malheur Lake.

EDWARD: At which, which ranch house?

ART: Well, I don't know for sure. But ---

EDWARD: Was your granddads or your dad's?

ART: Was, believe my dad's.

EDWARD: Your dad's place.

ART: I think maybe it was my Grandfather Hutchinson's place. Grandpa Hutchinson done some of that kind of work. He was, he had a, he'd raised a bunch of kids ---

EDWARD: Didn't they all?

ART: Everybody had to be --- couldn't hire no doctors or nothing.

EDWARD: No.

ART: Was no such thing as hiring a doctor in those days.

EDWARD: Never heard of such a thing.

ART: Yeah, hardly.

EDWARD: What did your dad, your father say, and you recall about Pete French? Good man, bad man, okay?

ART: Well he said he was a hot-tempered guy. But people was trying to run off with his land to an extent, I think a lot of them was.

EDWARD: Using his pasture for their cows?

ART: Yeah, they was putting cattle right in, run them in there. My dad didn't do that, but there was people that did.

EDWARD: Uh huh.

ART: And ---

EDWARD: In other words, Arthur, you're saying your dad thought Pete French was an all right guy?

ART: Oh he, he thought he was all right. He was just hot-headed, and ---

EDWARD: Uh huh. Did he ever say, did your father ever say any-thing about Edward Lee Oliver?

ART: Well Oliver was --- I wouldn't be surprised if Oliver left the gates open all right. But -  
--

EDWARD: You can say anything you want, Arthur. (Laughter)

ART: Well I know. Everybody knew Oliver too, that is he had a place there, up there. A place called Oliver Springs up there ---

EDWARD: Correct.

ART: --- and I think he had a place there ...

EDWARD: He had a homestead two miles west of Oliver Spring too.

ART: Yeah, yeah, I think so.

EDWARD: Did you ever see that house?

ART: No, there was no house there. Hasn't been any house there that I ever known.

EDWARD: Okay. Was there ever a place at, that Ed Oliver had at Oliver Spring that you know of?

ART: No, I don't know of any, no. I've been there at Oliver Springs, and I know where it is and everything. But ---

EDWARD: When, did you ever, or did your dad or grandfather ever tell you that Ed Oliver had another place north of you, northwest of you? Ever hear of that?

ART: Oliver's folks, Oliver's wife's folks had places there.

EDWARD: Simmons.

ART: Yeah, Simmons, yeah.

EDWARD: Shelby Simmons.

ART: Well ---

EDWARD: Nancy? Jeff, I mean Jim Simmons?

ART: I don't know what their --- I don't know what her --- it was the Simmons' place right there by us, and a bunch of Simmons raised there.

EDWARD: Right.

ART: One of them was a barber, and ---

EDWARD: I'm going to give you some names, Arthur.

ART: All right.

EDWARD: Billy Dunn Ranch.

ART: Well that's my dad's.

EDWARD: That's your dad's.

ART: That's my dad's ranch.

EDWARD: Did he go by Billy sometimes?

ART: Yeah, that's what he went by all the time. My dad went by Billy all the time.

EDWARD: Uh huh. Good. Dunn Island, ever hear of that?

ART: No, don't think so.

EDWARD: Dunn Lake. No? Martha Dunn.

ART: Martha Dunn was my grandmother.

EDWARD: Your grandma.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Martha Dunn was your grandma.

ALBERTA DUNN: What?

ART: Yeah. Yeah, Martha Dunn, yeah.

ALBERTA: Martha.

ART: Yeah, her name was Martha.

ALBERTA: I never heard what her name was.

ART: Yeah, that's what it was, Martha Dunn.

EDWARD: How about Dunn Spring?

ART: I don't know of any Dunn Spring.

EDWARD: Ted Dunn.

ART: Ted Dunn was my uncle.

EDWARD: Okay, now Ted was your daddy's brother?

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay. Thomas Dunn.

ART: Well --- Thomas Dunn, actually Ted Dunn, I think.

EDWARD: You think so?

ART: Yeah. I don't know any other, I don't know of any Thomas Dunn.

EDWARD: Okay.

ALBERTA: Better listen in on this, I'll get some dirt.

EDWARD: (Laughter) Now it's real important where all these places are in relation to

when, where Ed Oliver was the morning he left. Because he says that he went to the George Curtis house to have lunch two hours before he shot Pete French.

ART: Well that could be very well.

EDWARD: Where was the George Curtis place?

ART: Right there, the first, George Curtis place was right there close to the Simmons' place.

EDWARD: Close to the Simmons' place.

ART: Yeah, was right there by it.

EDWARD: West of your dad's place?

ART: My dad had a homestead right there by, he was right there by the Simmons' place.

ALBERTA: He's 92 years old, and he might slip up ...

EDWARD: Oh that's fine. I've interviewed over forty people over 90. One is 101.

ALBERTA: Well I wished you could have seen his mother. We had a book here on Harney County, and she read it out loud. And she'd stop and say, well Alberta that's not right, and then she'd tell me the real thing of it. I wished I'd have had a tape recorder, it was just ---

EDWARD: That's right, yeah, I know what you ---

ART: She never ---

ALBERTA: She never forgot a thing.

EDWARD: You mean Martha.

ART: No.

EDWARD: No, no.

ART: No, that's Effie. My mother's name was ---

EDWARD: Your mom, excuse me, Effie Dunn. That's right ---

ART: Effie ... Dunn.



EDWARD: You wait a minute, Arthur, wait a minute. Let me turn this thing ---

... (Pause in tape)

ART: No, his name was William something.

EDWARD: So Thomas T. Dunn is the son of Martha?

ART: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Ah, and your mommy is Effie.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: We're getting there. Okay, here is your dad, I think; this is your dad speaking.

Mr. William J. Dunn, "I am 67 years of age, and at the present time I am living at the mouth of the Blitzen River near Malheur Lake on the old Jim Caldwell homestead." ART:

Yeah, well that's Comegys' place.

EDWARD: Comegys?

ART: That's Comegys' place there.

ALBERTA: The one he bought it from.

ART: Yeah, he bought it from Comegys, Sid Comegys.

EDWARD: And your dad says, "This was over on the south side of Malheur Lake, toward the west end. I've been living there on that place for 15 years."

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: "But I settled above there on Section 15, 27-31, when I first came to this country in 1885."

ART: Yeah, he come across.

EDWARD: From Jackson ---

ART: Come from Jacksonville.

EDWARD: From Jacksonville.

ART: Then over there to Harney County.

EDWARD: "That is about 3 miles above where I now live. Then I took up a homestead just west of the place that I am now residing on, and proved up on that."

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: "Then I bought," again this is your dad, Arthur. "Then I bought," oh no, don't tell me --- Well, I don't have that next page. Okay, that was your mom and dad.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: And uncle.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Now what is your dad saying, he is saying ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Now, if you could help me out, Arthur, on old Ed Oliver.

ART: I don't know much about Ed Oliver anymore than ---

EDWARD: Viola (Oliver).

ART: Well then --- well Viola could probably told you more than I could about him. Because probably Roy (Oliver) talked to her a lot, see.

EDWARD: Yeah, not too much.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Do you have any philosophy, theories, ideas, on what happened to Ed Oliver, or heard any?

ART: Well, he went to the penitentiary for a while for shooting, for killing Pete French. But he didn't have any grand reputation, and ---

ART: Neither did Link Hutton.

ART: No, I'll say not.

ALBERTA: What a ...

ART: I know a lot about Link Hutton too.

EDWARD: You do?

ART: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: You got to read that; you got to buy that book, Arthur.

ALBERTA: He can't see. See that tape over there and all those things? Those are from the library in Salem.

EDWARD: You know I got, my youngest son is 24, he is getting a doctorate degree in psychology, and he is legally blind.

ART: Well.

EDWARD: So he can ---

ALBERTA: Well I had friends that were blind lawyers. And I'll tell you he was a cracker jack in court too.

EDWARD: I'll bet he was. Got different feelings, you know.

ALBERTA: Well his wife was his secretary, and she ... to him and everything, and boy I'll tell you he was a smart old bird.

EDWARD: Well you probably help Arthur, don't you?

ALBERTA: What do you mean, help him?

EDWARD: Well with the sight.

ALBERTA: I take care of him.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALBERTA: Yeah. That's what we got married for, was to take care of each other.

EDWARD: I'd say something Arthur, but I'm not going to. (Laughter) I love women, they're good people. We need them, don't we?

ART: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. Well Ed Oliver. Did your dad ever talk, you know, sit around the campfire, or sit out in the desert out there and talk to you about Ed Oliver by any chance?

ART: He never talked to me a big lot about Ed Oliver. He didn't  
--- well he knew he killed Pete French up there in Wright Field up there.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ART: That's up close to ... where, it was right there next to my dad's place there.

EDWARD: Correct.

ART: ... or the, yeah, it was a pre-empt.

EDWARD: Right. I think your dad had some properties, looking at the maps, quite, all  
around.

ALBERTA: He had them all around.

ART: Oh he did, he had ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

ART: --- yeah he had places down there on Mud Lake.

EDWARD: That's right, yeah.

ART: He had a lot of land.

EDWARD: Right. You have no idea what happened to Pete --- to Ed Oliver, or do you?

ART: No, I don't. I don't know much about what happened to him later on, because he  
wasn't around that country. He didn't ... or nothing.

EDWARD: Did you ever hear of Annie Ward, or a Laura Ward, or Albert Ward?

ART: Yeah, I think Albert Ward sounds familiar.

EDWARD: Yeah, he lived out there. Supposedly Mrs. Simmons, Ida Parmilee (Parilee)  
Simons Oliver ---

ART: Simmons.

EDWARD: --- Simmons, I say Simons. Ida Parmilee Simmons Oliver Petersen.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: That's her whole name.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: She married Peter Christian Petersen.

ART: Yeah, she married Petersen.

EDWARD: That's Shelby's mom.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Ida Simmons.

ART: Yeah. She knew my dad when ...

EDWARD: Right. She sued for divorce from Ed Oliver in 1898, and she said that Ed Oliver was committing adultery with Annie Ward, and run off with her. (Laughter)

ART: Well that might be ---

ALBERTA: Well it ain't any worse than it is now, is it?

EDWARD: No. All right, by any chance do you know the Simmons family well?

ART: I knew them pretty good, yeah.

ALBERTA: Didn't you go to school with some of the kids, grandkids?

EDWARD: Grandkids.

ART: Not much, kids --- The Simmons left there pretty early when I was a kid.

EDWARD: Oh, when you were young.

ART: Yeah, they ---

EDWARD: You were born in 1902.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: You would go to school in about 1908.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did you go to Sod House?

ART: Yeah.

ALBERTA: Do you know anything about the Sod House? His dad donated that house.

EDWARD: Donated it, yeah.

ALBERTA: The house, so they would have a school.

EDWARD: And did you ever hear of the Ed Oliver place north of the Sod House?

ART: No, I never knew he had any place there.

EDWARD: Okay. There was a Paul Weare that said he did.

ART: Well Paul Weare might have.

EDWARD: Said he did.

ART: There is a Weare place too.

EDWARD: Yeah. Unfortunately, Arthur, I think every darn one of them are long gone.

ART: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: Now John Scharff knows where some of them were. It's very important ---

Oh ---

ALBERTA: This ---

ART: Scharff still out there now.

EDWARD: Oh yeah. He's 92.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: You guys were all born in 1902.

ALBERTA: Hey, how about the guy that owns your mother's place, your folks' old place there? Or your grandmother's place? Oh, what's his name, Georgia and --- Crows ---

EDWARD: Crow.

ART: Crow, yeah.

EDWARD: I've talked to John.

ALBERTA: Oh, you've talked to John. And I'm going to see John as soon as school is out, which is about a month and a half, and we're going to go out to where, he knows where Pete French was killed, the exact spot.

ALBERTA: Oh, he does too.

ART: I do too.

EDWARD: Yeah. And we're going to go there. And I've got all the permission from the Malheur Game Refuge.

ALBERTA: We had a big Dunn reunion over there, here a year ago.

EDWARD: Oh, really. Shoot.

ALBERTA: And he's part of the family, he was there.

EDWARD: Oh Johns a neat guy.

ALBERTA: John and Georgia.

EDWARD: You know he was in bad shape here not long ago.

ALBERTA: Well he has been in bad shape for quite a while. You know he used to run the paper, or the mail route, from Lakeview to Burns over on that road over there, he and Georgia for years.

EDWARD: Okay, try to help me out on this one, Arthur. Oh, I hope you can. Do you have by chance any photographs of your dad's homestead or cabin on the south side of Malheur Lake?

ART: No sir.

EDWARD: Darn.

ALBERTA: And I don't know of any one of the family who does, unless Mavis might have.

ART: No, I don't think so.

EDWARD: Darn, darn, darn.

ART: There wasn't much --- see my dad donated that schoolhouse when they started that school there. It was on the west end of his ---

EDWARD: Property.

ART: --- property. And ---

ALBERTA: Was that the cabin?

ART: It was my dad's home house. He donated it to them for a schoolhouse. They built it over, and used it for a school. I went the first couple years of my life, as a kid, there, going to school there.

ALBERTA: Until it burned down.

ART: Well yeah, it burned. A kid set it afire.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah it happens. It happened a lot.

ART: Yeah, the kids were riding along; he didn't want to go to school.

ALBERTA: Didn't want to go to school.

EDWARD: Yeah, sure.

ART: And he was going to have to go to school that fall, and his dad told him, his name was Marshall.

EDWARD: Oh yes, Marshall's, George Marshall.

ART: I don't see ---

EDWARD: That's all right; there was two Marshall's.

ART: ... Marshall's.

EDWARD: Two of them there that I know of.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay, I'm going to ask you about some photos, Arthur. I hope you can help. Do you have the photos of any of the following, Sod House?

ART: No.

EDWARD: Alvin Springer place?

ART: Alvie Springer place?

EDWARD: Yeah.

ART: That's there on the game refuge.



EDWARD: Right. Any old --- any --- George Curtis.

ART: George Curtis place was where I was raised, where I went to school from the very first years of my school. But in 1913, my dad bought this Comegys' place and we moved there.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALBERTA: Well I tell you where you might find a lot of those old picture.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's important.

ALBERTA: Is in the Senior Citizen's building in Burns.

EDWARD: The Senior Citizen's building?

ALBERTA: Maybe they don't call that --- what do they call that?

EDWARD: The Harney County Museum?

ALBERTA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah, I've been through there. I'm going to go through it again, yeah. Yeah, Harney County Museum, is that what you're saying?

ALBERTA: Yeah, because the senior citizens always, we always had our senior deals up there. We had 95th birthday for, no, 90th birthday for his mother for a party. We rented the building up there, and had it up there. The whole community could come.

EDWARD: When did Effie Dunn pass away? Not long ago?

ALBERTA: Oh, she's been dead quite a while.

EDWARD: Oh, quite a while.

ALBERTA: But it was for her 90th birthday that my sister-in-law, that's his oldest brother's wife, and myself got together and we got this ... open to the county and all her friends.

EDWARD: So you have ---

ALBERTA: And this was taken at that time.

EDWARD: You have very few, if any, pictures of that part of Harney County?

ALBERTA: He doesn't have any pictures at all.

EDWARD: Any?

ALBERTA: No, not any.

EDWARD: Darn. I'm ---

ALBERTA: Blanche might have.

EDWARD: Blanche?

ALBERTA: That's our sister-in-law.

EDWARD: Blanche, what's her last name?

ALBERTA: Sam Dunn, her name is Dunn, Blanche Dunn.

EDWARD: Where does she live?

ALBERTA: She lives there at Buchanan. You come down the hill there at that service station.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, yeah.

ALBERTA: Well that's our niece and nephew and she lives there with them.

EDWARD: And she ---

ALBERTA: This is the family taken down there at her 90th birthday, her 90th birthday.

EDWARD: Darn. Effie, I like that name.

ALBERTA: Well I have a sister Effie. And his daughter is named Effie.

EDWARD: That's a neat name.

ALBERTA: That's an old fashioned name, it's a lovely name.

EDWARD: Yeah, it is. Something about it rings real nice, you know.

ALBERTA: Well it makes you think of a very gracious person. And his mother was gracious.

EDWARD: Kind of like a deer or something, you know.

ALBERTA: She was dear to us.

EDWARD: Yeah. Well let's see, Arthur. I didn't come very pre-pared here; I'm kind of lost. You see all that country was very important in this murder deal.

ART: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: You know, you got George Curtis whose house Ed Oliver went to and had lunch. And I was hoping to find pictures of some of these places. I might, in that book on Bill Brown, and Link Hutton ---

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- oh boy. You're going to have to have your wife read that Link Hutton part.

ALBERTA: I think my daughter and son-in-law have that book down there. They live in Cottonwood, but then they was ---

EDWARD: Wait a minute, whoa, whoa, whoa. Alberta, right?

ALBERTA: Yes.

EDWARD: Cottonwood, California.

ALBERTA: Yes.

EDWARD: What is down there?

ALBERTA: My daughter, my daughter. He has a daughter, and I have a daughter. We've both been married before.

EDWARD: Oh.

ALBERTA: But I was married to one of the boys that was raised out in Harney County there at Catlow.

EDWARD: You ever heard of Jack Jeffries?

ART: Yeah, I've heard of him.

ALBERTA: He probably has, but I haven't.

EDWARD: He lives in, Jack Jeffries was on Wagontire Mountain, and he ---

ALBERTA: Oh yes, I did too. Jeffries was there for a long time.

EDWARD: Yeah, he was living in Link Hutton's parent's house, the white house, on the hill when it burnt down.

ALBERTA: Yeah, sure we did.

EDWARD: And Jack lives in Cottonwood, California.

ART: He does.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALBERTA: Well I wouldn't be surprised my son-in-law might know him. Because he was raised in Shasta County, he was raised at what they call Oak Run.

EDWARD: There is a Carlon that lives down there too.

ART: Yeah, they live down there.

ALBERTA: Well that's her --- Barney --- all of, Viola's son-in-law.

EDWARD: Oh man, I can't ---

ALBERTA: She lives at Red Bluff, and they only --- before the kids, or Carlon's moved to Red Bluff they lived within about a mile of where my daughter is at.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALBERTA: Yeah.

EDWARD: That's why I was going, this is crazy. I'll tell you another one that lives, you know where Anderson is?

ALBERTA: Well I ought to.

EDWARD: Paul Wilson lives in Anderson, California, and Paul Wilson is 98, and worked for Bill Brown for 30 years.

ALBERTA: He went down to Redding and picked me up. I had business property right on Pine Street, in the middle of the town of Redding.

EDWARD: You know where Millville is?

ALBERTA: Yes, I used to go out to the Rebekahs Lodge; my aunt lived out there. I'm

related to the Humps and the Hailey's out there in all that country.

EDWARD: Okay just wait a minute Alberta, just wait a minute here. You're getting too far ahead of me, that wife of yours, Arthur.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Ed Oliver was born in Illinois, Ed Oliver you know killed ---

ALBERTA: Yeah, I know.

EDWARD: Was born in Illinois.

ALBERTA: I didn't know him.

EDWARD: Guess where he married Ida Simmons? Millville. That's true.

ALBERTA: Then you could look in the Shasta County records.

EDWARD: Well married --- I've got the marriage certificate right in the box.

ALBERTA: Oh, you've got their marriage certificate.

EDWARD: He married; Ed Oliver married Ida Parmilee Simmons. Am I saying that right, Simons?

ART: Simmons.

EDWARD: Simmons. I have a Simons at school. I teach school, so I get --- Simmons. Ed Oliver married Ida Simmons at Millville, California in 1885. I don't think there is anything left at Mill-ville.

ALBERTA: Oh yes there is.

EDWARD: There is?

ALBERTA: Oh yes.

EDWARD: Did they have a forest fire down there?

ALBERTA: Not there.

EDWARD: Not there.

ALBERTA: No, it's up on Hatchet Mountain, way up at Montgomery Creek and ...

EDWARD: So you know something about Millville?

ALBERTA: Well I lived in that country for years.

EDWARD: You ever hear of Oliver or any of those Simmons?

ALBERTA: No. My grandfather is buried up at Clear Water. He was murdered up there. He wanted his water rights for power, and they had him murdered.

EDWARD: Oh, that reminds me, Arthur. I was talking to some of George Curtis' --- the reason I bring up George Curtis, two reasons. Number one, Ed Oliver stopped at his house the day he shot Pete French and killed him, okay.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Had lunch with George Curtis. Second thing is, 1935, George Curtis wrote the Oregonian, the Portland Oregonian newspaper explaining his side of Ed Oliver shooting Pete French, okay, from Ontario. And so I got a hold of some Curtis', one in Nevada, Washington, blah, blah, blah. And they said Warren Curtis, who lived down by George somewhere ---

ART: I lived right there close to George.

EDWARD: Close to George?

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Was shot in his doorsteps.

ART: Oh, he was shot out there in the ---

EDWARD: Aha.

ART: --- out there in the ---

EDWARD: Warren Curtis.

ART: Yeah, Warren Curtis was --- Myrtle Haines was Warren Curtis' wife. And ---

EDWARD: Geeze.

ALBERTA: Oh I'll tell you it is a mixed up mess.

EDWARD: (Laughter)

ART: Oh, I know that ---

EDWARD: Every time I come over here, everybody is related, no kidding. Okay, well anyway I'm getting off on something else. What happened to Warren Curtis?

ART: He was the one that was killed.

EDWARD: By?

ART: By ---

EDWARD: Horse thieves?

ART: Warren Curtis' wife had stole a colt that belonged to George ---

EDWARD: George Marshall? That's the only George I know of. George?

ALBERT: It will come to him in a little bit.

EDWARD: Oh, no rush.

ALBERTA: Where are you from?

EDWARD: Eugene. I hate Eugene. But I've got 7 years of teaching left before I retire. I've written three books on Oregon history. That's where I'm going, down to Lakeview to give a speech on that book to the County Historical Society tomorrow.

ALBERTA: It is still a society.

EDWARD: That was in the paper last week.

ALBERTA: Well I didn't get the paper last week, we weren't here.

EDWARD: George. The only one I can think of is George Marshall. Now you said, now there is George Marshall again. You said his wife; Warren Curtis' wife stole a horse?

ART: Yeah, she stole a colt. Stole the colt, and these guys went down there to --- the doctor, the lawyer advised them to get possession of the colt. He had the colt there in the corral there, at the barn. And --- I can't think of that guy's name that killed him.

ALBERTA: Oh you told me a dozen times and I can't remember.

EDWARD: Oh, okay. Warren Curtis' wife was Myrtle.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: And they had a daughter in 1895, that was born in 1895, named Dora.

ART: Dora, yeah. I went to school with her.

EDWARD: So what was the circumstances? That she stole a colt and these guys came looking for it to get the colt?

ART: Yeah, they come to get the colt, and they stayed --- oh they was drunk and everything else. But ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALBERTA: Bootlegging days.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ART: Well they made their own whiskey in those days, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah, well that was before. I think it was about 1902, does that sound about right?

ART: I don't know really what time that was. But I know that when I was a small kid they talked about it.

EDWARD: It will be in the newspapers, in the Burns Times-Herald, yeah. But you can't -- - that will probably be in the newspaper, the guy that shot him. Well I know it will be.

ALBERTA: Yeah, way back when.

EDWARD: Yeah. Oh every week, I've been through almost every Burns Times-Herald there is, you know, when I do this research. Every week, somebody is getting shot down there, killed.

ALBERTA: You know, we know of people that were shot, and they don't know whatever become of them.

EDWARD: That's what happened to Ed Oliver. If I don't find out where he is, or what



happened to him, it is going to drive me nuts.

ART: Well he is long dead, you can bet on that.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

ALBERTA: He'd be a real, real old man.

ART: Viola ought to have been able to give you some kind of ---

EDWARD: Yeah, we help. And we got a lot of --- Shelby helped a lot.

ALBERTA: She didn't have any pictures?

EDWARD: We have no pictures, nobody of Ed Oliver. But he looked like his son, Burt Oliver, and I have a picture of Burt Oliver. I have a picture of all the Oliver kids in fact now.

ALBERTA: Van Oliver?

EDWARD: No, no.

ALBERTA: That's Barney's --- we call her Barney. Viola's son.

EDWARD: No, of Ed Oliver and Ida Oliver's kids. Let's see, what else? That's all I can think of.

ART: I can't think of that guy's name that ---

ALBERTA: He'll think of it and then he'll give me a whole rigmarole.

ART: --- that killed Warren Curtis.

EDWARD: Well these, all of these pictures are from Viola. I've got to get them re-done. That's Ida, Ida Oliver.

ALBERTA: You don't mind if I look at them.

EDWARD: No. I've got better pictures, but they're out ---

ALBERTA: This here is all right.

EDWARD: Okay, I'll go --- That's Roy Oliver, that's Ada Oliver, just before she died. This is Leatha Oliver.

ART: Leatha, yeah, yeah I knew her.

EDWARD: This is Burt Oliver, and this is Ida Parmilee Simmons Oliver Petersen.

ART: That's Shelby's mother.

EDWARD: Right.

ART: Yeah.

ALBERTA: Well now this here Burt Oliver looks a whole lot, her daughter looks an awful lot like him.

EDWARD: Well Ed Oliver was supposed to look like him. And this was the house --- it's gone now, in Burns, that Pete Petersen and Ida lived in.

ALBERTA: Yeah. But you know I've seen that house because I was corralled there in the early '30's.

EDWARD: It's gone now.

ALBERTA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. All right, just for fun, Arthur, Link Hutton --- Link Hutton born in 1872 in Iowa came out west. His parents came to Wagontire, Samuel and, oh boy, Samuel --- can't remember his mother's name, in 1884. Bill Brown came there in 1882. Bill Brown owned most of the west side of Wagontire Mountain, the Hutton's owned most of the east side.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Until Bill Brown sold out South Creek Spring, Lost Creek, Bradley Meadows, one more, Lost Creek Spring. Lost Creek, Bradley Meadows, South Creek Spring. He sold all that to America Sutherland in 1932.

ALBERTA: Oh, that's my boy.

EDWARD: Link Hutton was quite a character.

ART: Oh yeah.

ALBERTA: Come on in ...

EDWARD: And I think he just downright murdered Harold Bradley. I didn't say that in the book, but I think he just outright murdered him. He shot him once in the chest, then came up and shot him with his rifle in the head. Did you know that?

ART: No, I didn't.

EDWARD: Yeah, it was in the coroner's report. Did you know the Bradley's?

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. Ira?

ART: I knew the Bradley that was killed out there, yeah.

EDWARD: Right. Well all that history is in this book.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: But anyway, Link thought that Harold Bradley was messing around with his wife.

ART: Oh.

EDWARD: And shot him. Well he wasn't, it was Clarence Woodard, Link Woodard. So it got kind of messy, but Link got off, you know.

ART: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: And then Ray B. Jackson, you ever hear of him?

ART: Oh yeah. I knew Jackson.

EDWARD: You did?

ART: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: God dang, I should have talked to you before I wrote the book. Anyway there is a lot in there about Ray B. Jackson. I don't think that was suicide, I think he was murdered too. What do you think?

ART: I expect he was ...

EDWARD: Yeah. Guess who found his body, so they say? Link Hutton.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: And the Foster kid, America's kid, William Foster.

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh boy, that was a mess out there.

ART: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: Five men murdered on Wagontire.

ART: You know ---

EDWARD: Five.

ART: Yeah, there was a lot of them murdered out there at Wagon-tire.

EDWARD: I was sure hoping that you would have some pictures. Do you have a picture of your father, Arthur?

ART: I don't think I do, anymore than --- I don't think I've actually got a picture of my father, unless it would be on some of these old snapshots or something I might of had.

EDWARD: Can I give you my address ---

ART: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- and if by chance you find a picture of your father --- because he ---

ART: I don't think I'll find a picture of him unless --- I only got one sister, and she's blind.

EDWARD: Uh huh.

ART: And she is in a rest home in Vale, and that's all that is left of us.

EDWARD: What's her name?

ART: Ada.

EDWARD: Ada.

ART: Ada Jones.

EDWARD: Jones.

ART: Sometimes she comes to a recollection a little, they say.

EDWARD: I talked to somebody that gave me that name. I don't recall who it --- oh, it was somebody in Ontario. Oh --- can't remember.

ART: She's out there at the rest home in Vale.

EDWARD: I've got to head for Lakeview.

(END OF TAPE)

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