

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #389 - Side A

Subject: Shelby Petersen

Date: March 23, 1994

Place: Burns, Oregon

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: ... P E T E R S E N.

SHELBY PETERSEN: Yeah.

EDWARD: In Burns, Oregon, on March 23rd, 1994. We're going to talk about Peter French and Shelby's dad, Peter ---

SHELBY: Christian.

EDWARD: Christian Petersen, who married Ida Simmons Oliver on ---

SHELBY: Ida P. Oliver.

EDWARD: Yeah.

SHELBY: Parilee, her name was, her middle name was Parilee.

EDWARD: Parilee. Ida Parilee Simmons Oliver Petersen.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And they were married in Burns on December 4th, 1900.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Okay, here we go, Shelby. Oh, by the way, Shelby helped me a lot on the Bill Brown book on Ray Jackson and Wagontire Mountain. (Laughter) Okay. You need me to talk fairly loud, Shelby?

SHELBY: All right.

EDWARD: All right. Let's start out with; let's start out with your mother. Your mother

was?

SHELBY: Simmons to start with.

EDWARD: Ida Simmons.

SHELBY: Ida P. Simmons, Parilee.

EDWARD: Ida Parilee Simmons Oliver Petersen.

SHELBY: Yeah. Parilee, P A R E ---

EDWARD: Parilee, okay. When were you born Shelby?

SHELBY: 1902, July the 18th.

EDWARD: Were you the first child of Peter?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And Ida.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And Ida already had four children.

SHELBY: Four, yeah.

EDWARD: When was your dad born, do you remember, Shelby?

SHELBY: Well in '63, I believe.

EDWARD: 1863.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And your father passed away ---

SHELBY: He was 96 years old in '59. He wasn't quite to the age yet, but it was his 96th year.

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

SHELBY: I'm in my, I'll be 92 pretty quick, you know.

EDWARD: You know what you told me in that last interview?

SHELBY: No.

EDWARD: You said you wouldn't be here the next time I come back.

SHELBY: (Laughter)

EDWARD: That was two years ago.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Now, was your father married before he married Ida Oliver?

SHELBY: No.

EDWARD: So Ida, he was 40 --- about 47 years old when he married Ida?

SHELBY: Yeah, something like that.

EDWARD: Now ---

SHELBY: I think he was a year older than she was.

EDWARD: Okay.

SHELBY: I think he was born in '43 --- or ---

EDWARD: '63.

SHELBY: Wait a minute, I'm all twisted. It is '63.

EDWARD: 1863 your father was born.

SHELBY: And mother in '64.

EDWARD: Okay. Now --- and Ida had four children when she married.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did Peter have any other children besides you?

SHELBY: No.

EDWARD: You were the last one?

SHELBY: Oh, he had one, I've got a sister, she's four years younger than me. Of course she's been dead ever since 1930.

EDWARD: You have a sister.

SHELBY: I raised her boy, nephew.

EDWARD: Was the sister; was the sister, whose mother was your sister's? Who was the mother?

SHELBY: My mother, she'd be a full sister.

EDWARD: Oh, Ida. Oh, okay.

SHELBY: Ida, yeah.

EDWARD: Now, where did your dad meet Ida Oliver?

SHELBY: At Jenkins' shearing corral over there.

EDWARD: The what corral?

SHELBY: Jenkins.

EDWARD: Jenkins?

SHELBY: You have heard of the Jenkins boys, haven't you?

EDWARD: Yeah.

SHELBY: They run lots of sheep, and my dad had three bands of sheep. And Jim Paul was a courting my mother and he had one band of sheep, and my dad come along with three bands of sheep, and he beat his time. They never liked one another, oh they hated one another. (Laughter)

EDWARD: So Ida chose your dad who had three bands of sheep?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Where did he run his sheep at?

SHELBY: Steens Mountain. He summered them up there.

EDWARD: Oh, by the way ---

SHELBY: Then around Jack Mountain out there, Jackass they called it then. They lambded out in that country. Then he, at one time he never owned a foot of land, then he come over and bought that ranch in there that was sold to Bill Hanley.

EDWARD: Now your dad met your mother at Jenkins' corral?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Down in, by the Steens Mountains?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: What the heck was she doing there?

SHELBY: My dad?

EDWARD: No, Ida.

SHELBY: She was a cooking for the, I believe the shearing crew.

EDWARD: Oh, I see. So that's how she ended --- she was cooking, and she still had those four kids with her, do you know?

SHELBY: Yeah. My dad raised them. I got a picture of the, a couple of them. One of them went through college even.

EDWARD: Oh. Good, because I'd like to use those photos if I can.

SHELBY: All right.

EDWARD: Okay, Shelby. Now you come along. Where were you born?

SHELBY: Born right here in this town.

EDWARD: Oh.

SHELBY: In the house I was borned in, why I took some of my relation down to show them. They got out and took pictures of it, and five days afterwards it burnt down. Wasn't insured, but the woman that owned it had lots of antique furniture, everything burnt up.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

SHELBY: They think somebody burned it up on her.

EDWARD: Now did you, did Ida, your mom, --- well first of all did your dad ever tell you why he wanted to marry Ida? Did they just fall in love?

SHELBY: Well, I used to hear my dad say the trouble with this country here; there ain't enough women to go around. They were pretty short, you know, when --- When people

come in here they didn't bring too many women with them.

EDWARD: (Laughter) And so he saw Ida and goes ---

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- down at Jenkins' corral.

SHELBY: That's where they met.

EDWARD: Did he ever say anything to you about Ida's past? About Ida being married to Edward Lee Oliver? Did he ever say anything?

--- what did he say about that?

SHELBY: Oh, he never said too much about anybody as a rule. But he showed me from a little ways off where Oliver killed French. The big --- where my mother showed him where Oliver killed French. And the fences have all been changed now.

EDWARD: Yeah.

SHELBY: So it would be --- I couldn't show anybody anything now, unless they showed me where that gate was.

EDWARD: Where this gate was.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did --- in other words, your dad, Peter Christian Petersen ---

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- didn't tell you much about Ida and Ed Oliver?

SHELBY: No, he never said much about Oliver. I think a lot of them knew where Oliver was, but they never would talk too much. I know Burt Oliver come in from, after he finished school, come in and he was working up on Steens Mountain, he had a homestead up there. The Otleys own it now, I think. And he slept with me up-stairs there, and he was a going to Pendleton. And so after Burt left and went to Pendleton my dad got a hold of me and he started a pumping me. He asked me where Burt was a going,

and he says, "Did he say anything about his father, if he was a going up there to see if he could find him?" I said, "No," which he hadn't. Never mentioned his father. And he questioned me there quite awhile. Finally he says, "If he is a going up there to see if he could find his father, I can tell him he won't find him up there," and walked off. I never thought much about it, but years after-wards, and then putting two and two together, you know, he knew he wasn't up there. He is right around here someplace, buried, with his throat cut, you know.

EDWARD: You think so?

SHELBY: Yeah. Well this, all of her older brothers and sisters handed it down that way.

EDWARD: Oh, Ida's brothers and sisters?

SHELBY: Yeah. There was old Aunt Sadie and there was Uncle Jim, as we called him.

EDWARD: What was his last name, Petersen?

SHELBY: No, Simmons.

EDWARD: Jim Simmons.

SHELBY: Yeah. And then Sadie, her married name was Johnson, but it was Sadie Simmons to start with.

EDWARD: While we're talking about the Simmons --- well first of all what year was that that you were with Burt in ---

SHELBY: When we talked about that?

EDWARD: Yeah.

SHELBY: Well I've been trying to figure that out, I can't say just exactly when. But it was after he finished high school some time. Oh, I have an idea it would be in the, around the '20's, or in the '20's there someplace.

EDWARD: '20's.

SHELBY: There some place early.

EDWARD: Now let's get back to Simmons. Do you know what Ida Simmons father's name was? Ida Simmons Oliver Petersen's father's name was?

SHELBY: Yeah, Shelby, that's where I got the name.

EDWARD: Oh, his name was Shelby Simmons?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, I didn't know that.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Shelby. Is that the name he went by?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And that's where you got ---

SHELBY: Huh?

EDWARD: That's where you got your name.

SHELBY: Yeah. I should have some of that stuff around here if I

---

EDWARD: Shelby Simmons, what was Shelby Simmons' wife's name, Ida's mom?

SHELBY: Well he was married twice. Second wife's name was Nancy. She died about, a couple months after my mother died.

EDWARD: Oh.

SHELBY: My mother died on April the 22nd, 1907.

EDWARD: Wow. What did she die from?

SHELBY: They called it Bright's disease then, it would be a kidney trouble, you know.

EDWARD: So she died April 2nd ---

SHELBY: April the 22nd.

EDWARD: 22nd, 1907.

SHELBY: Yeah. And my dad died 52 years afterwards on the same day. Isn't that



something?

EDWARD: Yeah. Yeah, that is something. Is your mom buried in the Burns Cemetery?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay. Now her father was Shelby Simmons. Do you know where Shelby Simmons lived when Pete French was killed?

SHELBY: They lived around the lake down there. They had squatter's rights, and one thing and another.

EDWARD: Yeah. And that, it was their cattle that Ed Oliver was looking for?

SHELBY: Yeah. In that big field there, as they call it, you know.

EDWARD: Was, how many kids did Shelby Simmons have, do you have any idea?

SHELBY: They was ---

EDWARD: Ida ---

SHELBY: About ten.

EDWARD: Oh.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Wow, a lot. That's a lot of kids isn't it?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did you ever talk to Shelby Simmons?

SHELBY: Me? No, he died before me.

EDWARD: Oh, oh, okay.

SHELBY: Let's see, he died in about '98. His tombstone up there, I think it was in '98 when he died, and I wasn't born until 1907, you see.

EDWARD: You were born when, 1902.

SHELBY: Or yeah, 1902.

EDWARD: Now I'm going to ask some pretty tough questions, Shelby, and you know you

can be honest, you can say anything you want.

SHELBY: Now what?

EDWARD: I'm going to ask you some pretty tough questions, but you can say anything you want, you know that, anything.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Why do you think Ed Lee Oliver shot Pete French and killed him?

SHELBY: Well Ed Oliver and my mother went in and homestead what they call the Oliver Springs, right in the middle of Pete French's field. It was government land, and the Constitution of the United States said you can get a road into your property.

EDWARD: Right.

SHELBY: And he told Oliver not to cross his land. Well Oliver crossed it anyway, and then when they'd work cattle, why he was afraid French would steal his cattle and trail them out, you know. He done that, them big outfit, Bill Hanley was another one.

EDWARD: He's another, yeah.

SHELBY: Yeah. And they could say the boys must have done that, or something. And so it was just one word led to the other, and he told Oliver never to come on his property. So he went up there and took his gun along and went up there to ride. What they was doing they was slipping their cattle into Pete French's field, a lot of them people. And so he just went up there to cut his out, so he wouldn't drive them off. And he went out there with a stay, and I guess got to beating old Oliver over the head, and Oliver come off his horse and down under his horse's neck and shot up and got him right in the temple there. Yeah. And that horse, us kids had that horse until about 19--- oh I don't know, '13, along there, we had that old horse around the ranch.

EDWARD: You mean Ed Oliver's horse he was riding?

SHELBY: Yeah, the horse he was a riding.

EDWARD: What was the name of it?

SHELBY: Frisk.

EDWARD: Frisk.

SHELBY: Frisk.

EDWARD: Do you have a photo of that horse?

SHELBY: No.

EDWARD: Oh, wouldn't that be nice.

SHELBY: Nobody took too many pictures then, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah. Do you happen to have a photo of the Oliver homestead cabin?

SHELBY: No, I haven't got anything of that. We didn't even, never could find a picture of Ed Oliver. I thought Aunt Sadie had one, and she died, and I thought her son got it. And then I thought her sister got it, but I had them Scott boys to look her sister up, she's down there in a nursing home, and lived in Portland awhile. But she said she didn't have any. But they all claimed he resembled Burt Oliver quite a bit. Burt resembled him.

EDWARD: Do you have a picture of Burt Oliver?

SHELBY: Huh?

EDWARD: Do you have a photograph?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Can I use that, Shelby?

SHELBY: Yeah, I've got ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Peter Christian Petersen was born December 25th, 1863, died April 22nd, 1959 in Burns, Oregon.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Now we got to get, I've got to get something straight, Shelby. Tell me again

who in the world is this Burt Simmons? Was that a relative of your mom?

SHELBY: Be my mother's brother, and this is him right here.

EDWARD: Your mother's ---

SHELBY: That's Maud, Maud Simmons a sister.

EDWARD: Oh, oh. Her, Ida's sister.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: So Maud Simmons, Ida Oliver, excuse me ---

SHELBY: Yeah, Parilee.

EDWARD: Yeah.

SHELBY: I can't even pronounce that.

EDWARD: Me either. Okay, Ida Petersen's sister, Ida Petersen's brother.

SHELBY: Yeah, Burt Simmons.

EDWARD: Is this ranch ---

SHELBY: That's him again. Yeah, that's their ranch then, same one.

EDWARD: Where was this ranch at?

SHELBY: Oh it's right out here in Sage Hen.

EDWARD: It is?

SHELBY: One of the Peilas live on it now.

EDWARD: Oh, is that house still there?

SHELBY: Yeah, but they don't live in it now. They built another one just off here some place right in there, a new house. This was a nice house. He always had ice cream when we'd go there. Here is Eldred Simmons and Aunt Sadie, that would be my mother's sister, you see. That's Eldred, be --- Aunt Sadie would be an aunt to him. He is Burt Simmons' boy.

EDWARD: And this says Simmons Ranch.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Was that still Burt Simmons?

SHELBY: Yeah, that was Burt Simmons then.

EDWARD: He was a wealthy man, wasn't he?

SHELBY: He was what?

EDWARD: Wealthy, had a lot of money, Burt Simmons?

SHELBY: He done pretty good in early days, but he finally went broke when the war ended. And the barn burnt down. Here is my mother and Leathie Oliver.

EDWARD: Oh, really?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: That's when she was married to Ed Oliver.

SHELBY: I don't know just when that was taken.

EDWARD: Now who are all these guys?

SHELBY: That's Leathie Oliver, that's Lola Petersen my sister, and that's me.

EDWARD: (Laughter)

SHELBY: Old Grandma Winters, in 1909 and '10 my dad went back to Europe and got him a bride, meanest damned old thing that I ever saw in my life.

EDWARD: (Laughter) You didn't like that new mom, huh?

SHELBY: Oh, she was a mean old thing. Claimed to have royal blood, well royal blood is in breeding.

EDWARD: That's great. I'll look at that later.

SHELBY: That should come out.

EDWARD: Yeah.

SHELBY: That is some of my haying outfit, and my four-horse rudder bucks. I had two of them big four-horse rudder bucks. Four-horses on them. Move a mountain of hay.

EDWARD: Now ---

SHELBY: Here is my mother's, another sister.

EDWARD: Who were these old timers?

SHELBY: Oh, he was an old desert rat and that was his family.

EDWARD: Oh, oh.

SHELBY: Here is Aunt Sadie again.

EDWARD: Sadie is a Simmons?

SHELBY: Yeah. That was me.

EDWARD: (Laughter)

SHELBY: The woman that wrote that would be Aunt Sadie's daughter. Sent it to somebody, and I don't know how I got it. I got one just like it in that book there, I think.

EDWARD: (Laughter) Oh, Shelby. Okay, let's see. Parker ---

SHELBY: That's Lola again, my sister, full sister. Here is some of my teams up there at the ranch.

EDWARD: Big, big horses.

SHELBY: Yeah. Now maybe you've seen this down below at Portland?

EDWARD: That's in Portland, by McMinnville.

SHELBY: Do you know the man that owns it?

EDWARD: Huh uh.

SHELBY: Oh. Well my nephew, one of the Scott boys, no he'd be a cousin. My cousin's boys, married his daughter, and she is right here in the front. I think it is that one there.

EDWARD: Huh, I remember that. I think it's gone.

SHELBY: Here is my dad, that's the last thing that is left on my dad's ranch is that old stone cellar. He run a store in it. He didn't care whether he sold anything or not, but he got his groceries at wholesale by running a store. That was my wife there.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, right here.

SHELBY: That's her again.

EDWARD: Look at this bow-legged critter.

SHELBY: Yeah, ... Here is the Scott boys, and my wife, and that's me in there.

EDWARD: Uh huh.

SHELBY: You might know them Scott boys.

EDWARD: I don't think so.

SHELBY: One of them is a dentist there in Milwaukie.

EDWARD: I don't think so. Now --- so Ida had a lot of brothers and sisters.

SHELBY: Yeah, ten of them, anyway.

EDWARD: And Burt Simmons who had that, that pictures of the ranch was one of them.

Now, okay, I've got to back up, Shelby.

SHELBY: Yeah, I knew the names of all of them.

EDWARD: Your, did your dad --- now I don't know what Ida told your dad, because she died in 1907, so I don't know what she told him. I know that Ida Simmons married Ed Oliver in Millville, Shasta County, California in 1885.

SHELBY: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: They had four children.

SHELBY: I have that stuff, it's in the Bible up there, maybe you saw the Bible up in the Museum. There is going to be a Petersen row over that Bible, so I told them to lock it up for 50 years, and they got it back there in some --- you'd have to move furniture a little bit to get into it. And the names and everything is in that.

EDWARD: Huh. Does it say anything about Ed Oliver in there?

SHELBY: Well about when he married my mother, and that's about all.

EDWARD: Okay. Were you ever at Ed Oliver --- Ed and Ida Oliver's homestead?

SHELBY: No.

EDWARD: You never went there?

SHELBY: No. Johnny Crow, you know him?

EDWARD: Yeah.

SHELBY: He ought to know where it is at.

EDWARD: I know where it's at on the maps, I just wonder how big of a place it was. Did your dad ever say anything about the road that Ed Oliver tried to get into that place?

SHELBY: No. Dad never said much about him.

EDWARD: Okay, let's get --- Alright, what do you think happened

--- now let me put it this way, Shelby. Did you ever hear of an Annie Ward? Annie Ward.

SHELBY: There used to be some Wards around Drewsey, but I can't think of Annie Ward.

EDWARD: No, okay. In 1898 your mom went to the court, and in the courthouse it's all, I've got it, she went to the courthouse in 1898, in October, and said that Ed Oliver had committed adultery with Annie Ward, and had left town, Ed Oliver left town with Annie Ward. She put out; your mother put out a subpoena to get that horse back, Frisk.

SHELBY: Uh huh. Was that the name of him?

EDWARD: Yeah.

SHELBY: That's the horse we had.

EDWARD: That's right. She put out a subpoena, and old Sheriff McKinnon sent a deputy out and he found Ed Oliver going to Prineville in a wagon.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: With this lady's feet hanging out.

SHELBY: Huh.

EDWARD: And your mom stated that Ed Oliver was committing adultery with Annie



Ward, that he had left Ida and the four kids, Roy, Leathie, forgot the other two.

SHELBY: Burt and Roy, Ada.

EDWARD: At home, with Ida, having to take care of them. She got a divorce, the judge granted her everything.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: That was 1898. That was right after the trial. You know Ed Oliver, for the murder of Pete French.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: So --- and then in 1899 their place, the Ed Oliver place, Ida's, was sold. So here is your mom working out there as a cook, and your dad meets her, and they get married. Well, you know, that's fine. But do you know what happened to Ed Oliver?

SHELBY: I don't think he went too far. I think they come back after that. And just like I say, he disappeared up here, his older brothers and sisters figured they'd just cut his throat.

EDWARD: His older brothers and sisters, or Ida's brothers and sisters? Who said that they cut his throat and buried him some-place?

SHELBY: Well that would be Burt Simmons, and Jim Simmons, and Aunt Sadie.

EDWARD: The Simmons family.

SHELBY: Yeah, the ones that was older than her, the Simmons family. And then some of their kids. Now Eldred Simmons used to talk to me a lot about it. I showed you his picture.

EDWARD: Yeah.

SHELBY: But I think Oliver come back here awhile, because he run around here awhile and bragged about it, you know.

EDWARD: Bragged about shooting ---

SHELBY: Yeah. The jury was out, what was it, three hours or four hours? I forget the date now, I did know.

EDWARD: May ---

SHELBY: May the 24th.

EDWARD: Yeah, 1898.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: I got all the ---

SHELBY: Would it be '98 or '97?

EDWARD: '98.

SHELBY: Uh huh. The shooting took place the day after Christmas in '96, wasn't it?

EDWARD: '97.

SHELBY: '97. Well it was the next year then.

EDWARD: Right.

SHELBY: Yeah. Yeah, that's it.

EDWARD: Yeah. And did any other people, since your mom was Ida Oliver, and she --- did any other people say anything about what happened to Ed Oliver besides the Simmons?

SHELBY: Oh, some of them will try to say that he run off with another woman, a saloon woman, but I don't know. They called them saloon women then, now they call them prostitutes and everything else, you know.

EDWARD: Saloon women, I like that.

SHELBY: Huh?

EDWARD: I like that, saloon women.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: They still have them. They still have them, Shelby.

SHELBY: They what?

EDWARD: They still have saloon women.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: What the heck was I going to say?

SHELBY: Then this here --- went to work for Bill Hanley.

EDWARD: You did?

SHELBY: I'm trying to think of his name. Lou Willard. He come down from Pendleton. Well Bill Hanley was an enemy to Pete French. Then after Pete French got killed why they put Bill Hanley in as general manager over the P Ranch. He is the one that sold it out to Swift, Swift and Company. Alright, then he had to speak good of Pete French, you see, so they got Lou Willard to say that he saw, and he knew Oliver well up at Pendleton, knew him well up there. But hell, he never saw him up there. Another saw him around Prineville. And then the John Scharff story is that different ones knew him around Bend. There was no Bend there until 1910 or '11.

EDWARD: That's right.

SHELBY: That Jim Hill built the railroad in then, and they named the town Bend.

EDWARD: That was 1911 when that railroad came in. What's your opinion, what do you think happened to Ed Lee Oliver?

SHELBY: What happened to him?

EDWARD: What do you think happened to him?

SHELBY: I think they cut his throat right around here.

EDWARD: Who would they be, Shelby?

SHELBY: Huh?

EDWARD: Who would they be? Who are those people that would kill him, Ed Oliver?

SHELBY: Well Marcus Haines' mother, she'd tell him about it. But he had it in his head it

was Mexicans, but it was whites. Now you take old Mart Brenton, he took everything to the grave with him, he wouldn't talk. Now I always figured my dad had a pretty good idea too where he was, but he'd never would say much. Couldn't get much out of him. Just like what he said, if Burt Oliver is going up to Pendleton to look his father up, I could tell him he won't find him up there. He knew he wasn't up there.

EDWARD: Mart Brenton?

SHELBY: He worked for Pete French. And then he got to be quite a saloon man around here. He run a livery stable awhile, then he got into the saloon business. Old Mart Brenton he was a real all-rounder, you know.

EDWARD: Was he ever married?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Well his family wouldn't --- well I don't know, did he have a family?

SHELBY: I think he had a daughter, but I think she is dead now. Been dead quite a while. She is quite a little older than I am. I know where the house is they lived in.

EDWARD: They're all dying, Shelby.

SHELBY: Yeah, pretty near everybody is dead, but just two or three of us.

EDWARD: Of course that was nearly a 100 years ago.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Who ---

SHELBY: Now Johnny Crow's dad worked for Pete French. He was the one that carried the news.

EDWARD: Yeah, to Winnemucca.

SHELBY: Uh huh. Alright, before the Petersen outfit divided up, my dad, well Dave Crow was up to the ... and old Bill ... we was going up in the big field back of the ranch to get some bulls to take them over to Harney country, and different places. Send some to the

upper valley, and scatter them, you see. So my dad brought Burt Oliver up there when we got done eating breakfast, he brought him up. And I and Burt and Dave Crow sat there at the table darn near to noon and talked. And Dave told Burt Oliver, he said, "I did not see that shooting." He said, "It was cold on that day and I had my ears covered up, and I was off in the big field about a mile." But he said, "I think my horse jumped and turned plumb around when that shot went off," but he said, "I didn't hear it." But he said, "I think my horse did."

Then when Rankin Crow wrote the book he put in there that his father saw the killing and told him all about it. Well Dave told it right up there, and my wife heard it, and Harry Parker was there, and he heard that, he is dead though now, and my wife is dead.

EDWARD: So that's probably very true.

SHELBY: Huh?

EDWARD: That's probably very true, Shelby.

SHELBY: Yeah. And old Dave wasn't much for telling a bunch of lies.

EDWARD: Dave Crow.

SHELBY: Dave Crow, that's Johnny's dad. Nice old feller. But I suppose if there was some important reason that he didn't want to see him, why pretty near anybody will tell a lie, you know, to keep out of a mess.

EDWARD: Did you ever talk to anybody that was there when Ed Oliver shot Pete French?

SHELBY: No, never have. Old Dave was the closest.

EDWARD: There were quite a few men up there at that scene at that time, you know that, Shelby?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Quite a few.

SHELBY: Some of them buckaroos.

EDWARD: Right, right. And I think there were 10 or 12 within the area.

SHELBY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Do you know where they held the autopsy on Pete French?

SHELBY: The what?

EDWARD: The autopsy. Do you know where they did that on Pete French?

SHELBY: Huh uh.

EDWARD: Do you know where they did the coroner's inquest on Pete French? No? Okay. There were, you had four half stepbrothers and stepsisters.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Burt Oliver.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: What happened to Burt Oliver?

SHELBY: They're all dead now.

EDWARD: Do you know where Burt Oliver died?

SHELBY: Over at Bend.

EDWARD: In Bend?

SHELBY: Then they took him to Portland and buried him up there along side of his wife. He'd been married twice.

EDWARD: Did, did Burt Oliver, you know approximately when he died, Shelby?

SHELBY: Well I've got some of that stuff here.

EDWARD: What about Leathie?

SHELBY: Everything is in that Bible someplace.

EDWARD: Okay. What about Leathie, what happened to her, Leathie Oliver?

SHELBY: Well Leathie and ... they quit, they lived at Paisley awhile. Then she went

down to a, be a niece, to live with her at Carson City. And when she died why they had a, she wanted to be scattered up there, you know where that old mining town is?

EDWARD: Baker City?

SHELBY: Wanted to be cremated and scattered up there.

EDWARD: When did she die, do you know?

SHELBY: Huh. I think that's in the Bible.

EDWARD: In the Bible.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay.

SHELBY: They'll probably let you look at that Bible.

EDWARD: Yeah. I need to look at that Bible when I come back in June. And then there was Roy, I know about Roy Oliver.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: We're missing somebody. Burt, Leathie, Roy, ---

SHELBY: And Ada.

EDWARD: Ada.

SHELBY: Yeah, Ada was the oldest one, then Burt, and then Roy, and then Leathie.

EDWARD: What happened to Ada?

SHELBY: She finally died. Died of emphysema and never smoked a cigarette in her life. Around that smoke down there in Santa Rosa.

EDWARD: Oh, she died in California?

SHELBY: Yeah. Burt and Roy they smoked one cigarette after another, and they both died of emphysema.

EDWARD: Boy. Ida is buried here; your dad is buried here.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: What kind of mother was Ida Petersen? Of course you were young.

SHELBY: Well I guess she was a good mother to all of us, as far as --- I never heard anybody say anything against her, only my stepmother. (Laughter)

EDWARD: That one with the royal blood?

SHELBY: Yeah, the one with the royal blood.

EDWARD: Shelby I'm in the same boat, I had three mothers.

SHELBY: You what?

EDWARD: I had three mothers.

SHELBY: You did.

EDWARD: Yeah, because two died, you know, real young. And my third mother was the same kind. I didn't like her at all. Any other things you can relate about Ed Oliver, Pete French, your mom?

SHELBY: Well, I can't think of anything.

EDWARD: I think we got everything kind of covered. Okay. Now, your dad's marriage license. In the presence of Mrs. Maud Wilson and Walter Calkins --- George W. Black, Baptist minister.

SHELBY: Uh huh. Seemed like I can kind of remember that name. And that Calkins, I remember the Calkins outfit.

EDWARD: They got married; your dad and Ida Oliver got married at the Calkins Hotel.

SHELBY: Oh, that was the Calkins then, I know him. That would be, they turned it into the old Oregon Hotel after that.

EDWARD: Oh.

SHELBY: They called it the Calkins, the old lady Calkins. She was an old ripsnorter, I guess.

EDWARD: (Laughter) I bet you there was a lot of rip snorters around here. You're



probably one of them, Shelby.

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Let's see, what else on here. That's about it.

SHELBY: Some of these other Petersen's they got all kinds of names for me. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Too bad. Oh well. Where are we here? This tape is about gone, Shelby.

... (Pause in tape)

SHELBY: ... now too.

EDWARD: Now who is this? This guy said that Oliver said that Oliver never got out of Harney County alive.

SHELBY: This is Aunt Sadie there, my aunt, my mother's sister.

EDWARD: Mother's sister.

SHELBY: Well his father would be a brother to her. So it was handed down to him too.

EDWARD: What was he ---

SHELBY: He is five years older than me. He is dead now.

EDWARD: What was his name?

SHELBY: Eldred.

EDWARD: Eldridge?

SHELBY: E L D R E D.

EDWARD: And his last name?

SHELBY: Simmons.

EDWARD: Simmons. Said that Eldred Simmons said that Ed Oliver never got out of Harney County alive.

SHELBY: Yeah. He said his dad and them all told him that. And Aunt Sadie told me the same thing.

EDWARD: Well what the heck happened to the picture of your mom and dad? Where

did I see that at? Was that in this one? I don't remember whether it was in this one or not, Shelby. I thought it was in this one. That one is this. Oh, --- Do you have another picture of this, Shelby?

SHELBY: No, only a copy off of that.

EDWARD: You got the copy?

SHELBY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh I'd rather use that, leave this here.

SHELBY: I could give you a copy of that, let you take it too.

... (Pause in tape)

SHELBY: No, Ada was the oldest.

EDWARD: Ada. Burt Oliver died December 13th, 1973 in Portland, Oregon. Now Mr. Oliver married Nina McKenzie May 31st, 1950, in Portland.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Roy Oliver was born June 16th, 1895 in Burns, and moved to Paisley in 1910. He married Viola Ruby Windom W I N D O M, at Lakeview, August 28th, 1926. He died December 10th, 1968. Roy Earl Oliver.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Ida Simmons Oliver Petersen was born in Shasta County, California September 2nd, 1865.

SHELBY: Well by gosh.

EDWARD: She came to Harney County in 1888, married P. C. Petersen, or Peter Christian Petersen. She leaves six children. She died April 22, 1907, age 41 years. Besides her children and a husband are James Simmons, Mrs. C. S. Johnson, H. B. Simmons.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Was Ed Oliver's family in Harney County, do you know?

SHELBY: No, they all come up from down there in Northern California. What was the name of that Ville?

EDWARD: Millville.

SHELBY: Millville.

EDWARD: Ed Oliver never had any family members here in Harney County?

SHELBY: No.

EDWARD: I wonder if there is some down in California?

SHELBY: I don't know. They didn't seem to know too much about him.

EDWARD: You know that's a possibility.

(END OF TAPE)

bl