

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #393 - Side B

Subject: Clara Springer Tucke

Date: July 7, 1994

Place: Burns, Oregon

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: ... Alright, this is Edward Gray with Clara Springer Tucke in Burns, Oregon, in the Harney County Library, on July 7th, 1994. Also with Anna Belle and Perk. Are you two married?

PERK PERKINS: Perkins.

EDWARD: Perkins. Perk Perkins, yeah. And we're here to just briefly discuss about the Springer family involvement in south shore of Malheur Lake, and maybe Pete French. We pretty well got it figured out, I think Clara, all this histories of births and deaths and all of that. I think we got that kind of straightened out. And then when they came, when the Springer's came. ... I can get that photo copied. Whoops, that's something; okay I'll take a look at that. The Springer's came to settle on the south shore of Malheur Lake in 1888.

CLARA SPRINGER TUCKE: I guess. ...

EDWARD: Okay. Now you had, great-grandpa was, your great-grandpa was Lewis Bloomfield Springer.

CLARA: Yes.

EDWARD: How many kids did he have, do you know?

CLARA: Two.

EDWARD: Oh, that's all?

CLARA: Wait a minute.

EDWARD: Or is it in there?

CLARA: Lewis Bloomfield.

EDWARD: Yeah.

CLARA: Lewis Bloomfield had Alvie, Viola and Luella.

ANNA BELLE PERKINS: Three, three.

EDWARD: Oh, just three. Oh, okay. Alva had ---

CLARA: Two.

EDWARD: Two. That's small, that was small in those days. That surprises me. And then Eddie Springer had ---

CLARA: Alvie Springer comes next, that's ---

EDWARD: Yeah, we got Alvie. And then Eddie had ---

CLARA: Three.

EDWARD: Three. And you're the only living Eddie Springer child.

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Okay. What did --- did your --- Let's start out with; let's get great-grandpa out of the way, old Lewis. Where did he settle, Clara?

CLARA: He went, he went to Ontario, Oregon. Lived in Ontario after that.

EDWARD: After his ---

CLARA: I don't know whether he moved to Burns for a year or two, and then moved to Malheur County, Ontario, or not. They moved down there and I don't know whether that was a homestead or not, but he had around 160 acres of land down there next to the river.

EDWARD: Now this is Lewis B. Springer?

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: How did he, when did he do that?

CLARA: When he sold the place with Grandpa, I think.

EDWARD: And then, okay, did he, did Lewis B. Springer --- where did he die, I forgot?

CLARA: Oh, Anna Belle, I never can remember dates.

EDWARD: Yeah, we got that.

ANNA BELLE: 1935.

EDWARD: Okay. Was Lewis B. Springer noted for being a pretty tough guy?

CLARA: Well I wouldn't of wanted to crowded him too much.

EDWARD: What does that mean?

CLARA: Just what I said, I wouldn't crowd him too much.

EDWARD: In other words, if somebody came up to him and called him a liar, what would

CLARA: You wanted to watch out.

EDWARD: If somebody came up and stole a hog off his farm over there, down there in Sod House ---

CLARA: If he could have found him he would have shot him.

EDWARD: If somebody made a bad insult to his wife?

CLARA: Well now just what would you have done if somebody had done that to your wife?

EDWARD: Depends on what kind of wife. (Laughter) I don't know. In other words, Lewis B. Springer, people respected him because of ---

CLARA: I think he was a quiet man. I don't know, he might have done a lot of things, I don't know, you tell me he did. But I don't think he would agitate you, try to do anything ---
I think he --- Huh?

ANNA BELLE: Wasn't going to take anything off of you.

CLARA: Yeah, I think ---

ANNA BELLE: He wasn't ...

PERK: Wasn't looking for trouble.

CLARA: He wasn't mean or things like that. But not unless you did something to him, or crowded him.

ANNA BELLE: Had to be pretty tough to be a wagon master to come across the plains.

EDWARD: He was a wagon master?

CLARA: Yeah, he come across the plain five different times, and walked most of the way, and took a wagon master.

EDWARD: When was the first time he came to ---

CLARA: He was a GAR.

EDWARD: Oh, that's right. Yeah, it is in some of that material.

CLARA: He went through what all my great-granddad went through. You might have been tough too if somebody said something to you.

PERK: Didn't I read once he come through there in '86?

ANNA BELLE: Well that's when they came out here.

EDWARD: '85, '85.

PERK: Yeah, Custer's last fight was in '86.

EDWARD: '76.

PERK: Or '76, yeah.

CLARA: I don't think that ---

EDWARD: Yeah, he came out in '85.

ANNA BELLE: Came out the last time in '85.

CLARA: I don't think he was abusive or anything like that. I think as long as you treated him with some respect, I think he was okay. But I don't think he would have took anything from you.

EDWARD: What, you remember Lewis Bloomfield Springer, don't you?

CLARA: Yes, you bet I do.

EDWARD: What do you remember about him? You were born in 1907.

CLARA: Uh huh. I remember him as a kind, nice old gentleman. He was my great-granddad and I thought a lot of him. Because I was just a kid, and I didn't know all, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah, you knew him 28 years.

CLARA: Yeah, about that.

EDWARD: Did he ever, did he ever, did you ever sit on his lap, you know, when you were young? Well as you got a little older, I suppose. Did he ever tell you about Pete French?

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: What did he say about Pete French that you recall?

CLARA: Well the way I got the story, Pete French was kind of ornery at all those settlers. And I can't remember all he told me, but he told me one time, I can remember this part of it, because I thought it was kind of cruel. He told us that the Company had all these hay stacks from the Narrows clear to, where was it, the Double O, or somewhere up in there.

EDWARD: P Ranch?

CLARA: P Ranch.

EDWARD: And Diamond.

CLARA: And Diamond, and all those places. And somebody over there, a whole bunch of people went in and fixed a can and candles, you know, and then those haystacks went up in fire, all about the same time. And then Pete French had that land all fenced in with, so far, and two stays in between. And one night that whole line was cut clear through. So it wasn't one man, one man couldn't have done it. But he told us about that, what happened about that.

PERK: Must have had some vigilantes then.

ANNA BELLE: In the diary it says that they formed this society and they called it, I think, 101 Vigilante, and ---

CLARA: I can't remember how many, its been four years since ---

ANNA BELLE: Because of ... homesteaders ...

CLARA: It has been four years since I read that, and I read that in a hurry.

PERK: Probably your granddad was probably about the head of that then, wasn't he?

EDWARD: Yeah, what did he, that's what I was getting to. Was old Lewis Bloomfield Springer a leader, do you think? Or did he ever mention that he was the one that maybe -
--

CLARA: I wouldn't put it a past him.

EDWARD: Formed the group of people.

CLARA: I wouldn't have put it a past Grandpa. But I can't just exactly tell you that he did that. But I wouldn't put it a past him a little bit. Because see he was in the war, and that had toughened him up a little bit. And he led those trains clear through; he had to be some kind of a leader.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's what I was getting at.

PERK: Well he is the one that took, went ahead in the lawsuit; he is the one that fought it for the other people.

CLARA: No.

EDWARD: That was Alvie.

ANNA BELLE: That was Alvie.

PERK: Oh that was, okay, I'm getting the two mixed up.

CLARA: That was Grandpa, that was Grandpa.

EDWARD: Yeah. So Lewis, great-grandpa, did he ever tell you any-thing about Ed

Oliver that you recall?

CLARA: Not Great-grandpa. Lewis never told me anything about Great-grandpa. Now he might of Wilbur, and he might have told me. But those things didn't interest me, because I grew up with them.

EDWARD: Sure.

CLARA: And I, it didn't interest me, that was all. And if Grandpa told me anything, I've forgotten it.

EDWARD: What about, did either --- oh by the way, what did Great-grandpa die from, just old age? He was 94, yeah.

PERK: ...

EDWARD: Yeah.

CLARA: Well, I hate to tell you this, but Great-grandpa never would take a bath.

EDWARD: Oh.

CLARA: And my grandmother, she was a pretty clean lady, and she wouldn't let him set in the house very much, because he wouldn't take that bath. And he finally caught a little pneumonia and that's what killed him I think, and old age together.

EDWARD: Yeah.

CLARA: The whole things together.

EDWARD: Like Bill Brown.

CLARA: Now did you know that?

EDWARD: Huh uh.

CLARA: I shouldn't have told you.

EDWARD: Oh, I don't put stuff like that in. When you read that book, you'll --- I've got five murders in that book, Clara, that I had to write --- and some of the families are still alive and I sent all the information to them, to let them read it, make sure it was okay. And

I didn't lie, and it worked out fine. It is not easy writing about that kind of stuff.

PERK: No, I bet it isn't.

CLARA: Well now that's --- I don't know how else to explain it to you.

EDWARD: Yeah. Did Lewis; did he ever work for Pete French that you know of?

CLARA: No. Did he?

EDWARD: I don't think Lewis did, but Alvie did. Yeah, when they first came here, Alvie worked for Pete French for a while. But everybody worked for Pete French, everybody. It was like Bill Brown, everybody worked for Bill Brown. Did your grandmother, Martha Springer, did she die before Lewis?

CLARA: No, ... before Lewis. No, he died and then Martha ... but he died, and a month later, almost to the day, Alvie Springer died.

EDWARD: Right.

CLARA: And then about, I imagine a couple years later Grandma died, Martha died.

EDWARD: What happened to the Lewis Springer house and property? Where did that go after they died, do you ---

CLARA: After Alvie Springer died?

EDWARD: No, Lewis? Great-grandfather.

CLARA: No, Great-grandpa never had anything. Grandpa went down to Ontario and they sold that place and moved Grandpa, Great-grandpa Lewis back to the Narrows, and he lived at the Narrows until he died.

EDWARD: Right, right.

CLARA: But the place, the way I had it, Grandpa, or Lewis and Alvie sold it, whenever he was there, am I wrong?

EDWARD: I don't know. I don't know who bought it, and I don't know what happened to the house. The flood got it?

CLARA: You mean the, you mean when Lewis was at the Narrows?

EDWARD: Yeah.

CLARA: Oh well I don't know about that. I think, I think Grandpa tore that house down and built his house, the one I showed you there ... I have.

EDWARD: Oh, that's what I was wondering.

CLARA: Because Grandpa's house was built ever since I can remember it. And my dad built this house that ours is, when I was about 5 years old, or 6 years old. So I know Grandpa, or Alvie built that house before that.

EDWARD: Okay.

CLARA: Because that house stood there when they --- that was done before ours was.

EDWARD: Did, did Lewis ever mention anything about Sod House Springs, like the history of Sod House Springs that you remember? Supposedly ---

CLARA: Well here was the spring ---

EDWARD: There is a big pond there now. That's where the big pond is at the game refuge.

CLARA: Well it's the same pond that was there when I was a tot.

EDWARD: Oh there was, oh that was what I was getting to. That pond was there when you were a child?

CLARA: Well I haven't been in there for the last 6, 7 years.

EDWARD: That same, yeah, it is still the same thing.

CLARA: Yeah, it is.

EDWARD: But that pond was there?

CLARA: Yeah, that spring branch, you mean that come up in this curve.

EDWARD: Yeah, that spring branch has been there ever since I can remember. I played in that branch all my life, until I left there. Now am I lying to you?

EDWARD: No, no I didn't know it was there that long ago.

CLARA: Yeah, that thing was there when I ... How else could it have got there? You see when you come around here, and this is the spring, this is all springs up here, and that water is so cold you can't stay in it.

EDWARD: I'll be darned. But that pond was there when you were little?

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I'll be darned. Lewis must have put that in, huh?

CLARA: It was natural.

EDWARD: Oh it was, the pond?

ANNA BELLE: You talking about two different ponds. There must have been a pond, and maybe it has been enhanced or something.

EDWARD: You know where that, Clara, have you been at the Malheur Game Refuge Headquarters? There is a parking lot where you park your car, and there is a pond right out in front of it, big pond, a block big.

CLARA: How long has it been there?

EDWARD: That's what I don't know. I wondered ---

ANNA BELLE: ... two different ponds.

EDWARD: Oh, I don't know what pond. Because, is it --- well let's --- we got to get something straight here. I know where Alva Springer's house was, okay.

CLARA: Uh huh, have five, or six, or seven, or eight, I can't remember, big poplars out there in front. And I helped carry water when I was just a little tiny girl out to them trees.

EDWARD: I don't know whether they are there anymore.

CLARA: No, they, when I was there the last time they were all black, the water had killed them.

EDWARD: I think they're gone.

CLARA: And I think the house is gone.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, the house is gone.

CLARA: I think they moved that house, I'm not sure about that, but didn't they move that house, or did the water take it?

EDWARD: I think the water took it.

CLARA: The ice jams.

EDWARD: Yeah. Okay, so I know where Alvie's place was. Now we're talking Lewis Springer's place was where the Malheur Game Refuge Headquarters are. Correct? All right. And then you park in the parking lot and you walk down to the game, all the little buildings there, there is that pond right out in front by the parking lot. You guys will see it today. I don't know how long that pond has been there. It is pretty good size.

CLARA: Three or four years now. Because, how am I going to do this?

EDWARD: I was just wondering if Lewis built that.

CLARA: Here, no, here is the, the water comes down here. And it comes down and, up here is the spring branch comes down this way and goes out here, and goes out in the lake. And I fished in here a lot of times, caught 12, or 6 and 8 pound salmon in there. And over here is Grandma's house. And then here is the spring branch here, and there is nothing else in here but that spring branch.

EDWARD: Huh, maybe you'll see that today.

CLARA: And above the house here is just sagebrush and hill on up, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah, right, a hill.

CLARA: But there is no pond there, it is a spring branch in there. EDWARD: Huh.

CLARA: Now if that, if there is a pond there it has happened since.

EDWARD: Okay. I'm going to draw, see, I'll remember. All right, so much for that. Now Alva, Alva was born in 1860--- well we know, I think it was '65, I think, back in Missouri.

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: '65, or 1861, but that is not that important. He came out with Great-granddad Lewis in 18---

CLARA: Now wait a minute.

EDWARD: In 1885.

CLARA: You're talking about Alva?

EDWARD: I'm talking about Alva now.

CLARA: Alvie.

EDWARD: Alvie.

CLARA: Alvie, oh, okay.

EDWARD: Talking about Alvie now. Alvie came out with his dad.

CLARA: Yeah, the last train.

EDWARD: The last train, yeah, 1885. And he married ---

CLARA: Alvie married Martha Walker.

EDWARD: Martha Walker.

CLARA: Uh huh, in Missouri. I got that all in that stuff.

EDWARD: Yeah, I got a photocopy of that. All right, what did Alvie say about Pete French that you remember?

CLARA: I can't really remember Grandpa saying too much. You know we were girls, sis and I, and Wilbur --- they talked to Wilbur about everything. We girls never knew about any of this stuff. And when the dams was blew up, or anything, we girls didn't know it. We just thought Dora and Charlie was going over to, over to Grandma and Grandpa's to spend the night and play cards. But then my dad disappeared, he disappeared around through the back of the field, and they blew out this dam. This was Billy Dunn's dam. And Billy Dunn had put this man in here to watch the house. And boy he shot all around

the house and sprinkled the house, and Mama put us girls on the floor. Well that was about the first that we kids knew, us two girls knew anything about that.

EDWARD: Now Charlie Chapman ---

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: --- and Eddie Springer went over and blew out Billy Dunn's dam.

CLARA: Uh huh. You see Billy Dunn's dam and the ... you're talking; I begin to believe that Grandpa was the instigator of it all right, Alvie. But he was still a mild man. Now you can never make me believe anything else. But they crawled up there, and this guy was sitting on a rock up there, and they shot above him and scared him to death, and he run. And they got in there and blew that dam out, and took out.

EDWARD: How big was Alvie Springer, 6 foot, 5 foot 10?

CLARA: Oh, he was over a 6-foot man, he was a big man.

EDWARD: That's what I heard.

CLARA: So was my great-granddad.

EDWARD: Yes.

CLARA: He was a big, big man.

EDWARD: I heard he was 6 foot 2, 250 pounds.

CLARA: I wouldn't doubt it.

EDWARD: No wonder they didn't fool with him.

CLARA: My dad, my granddad was a good 200-pound man too. He wasn't fat, he was a well-boned man.

EDWARD: Right.

CLARA: My granddad, my great-granddad, I think, was --- I don't think that was fat, I think that was just a big man.

EDWARD: Yeah.

PERK: That's where ... get their size from too.

CLARA: Who? Yeah. Well no, Wilbur wasn't as, no way as big as Fay. But he ---

PERK: Well John is a big man.

CLARA: Huh?

PERK: John is a big man too.

CLARA: John, yeah, but John has got that on both sides of the house.

PERK: Yeah.

EDWARD: But these guys were ---

CLARA: Yeah.

PERK: Should have been a football player.

CLARA: And the kids, the Springer kids ---

EDWARD: The Narrows football team. (Laughter)

CLARA: --- has got a picture that I'd love to have, and its got to be, well I know it's my great, it's Lewis, and I think it's his three brothers. And they're bigger, and I've never seen so many big men. They were all big men.

EDWARD: Did --- you told me on the telephone about Alvie Springer sitting on a hill with Ed Oliver and Reineman. Can you kind of repeat that story? Oh, it's written down, it's too late now.

CLARA: Well they rode for cattle all day.

EDWARD: Okay.

CLARA: And they come in that afternoon, or sometime, from this drive, and they were on top of that hill.

EDWARD: Now this hill, is this the hill over Lewis Springer's house?

CLARA: Well I think that's what you cross, it's the next, it's the hill right on out from them, uh huh.

EDWARD: Right.

CLARA: And Grandma and Grandpa's house was here, and this hill is right along here, and it comes to a point here. And they were right up here on this hill. And right down in here is where that corner of that fence is, and his cattle is walled in. I used to could have took you to that gate. I might yet, I don't know if I could or not.

EDWARD: There is not a gatepost, fence post, standing.

CLARA: I know that, you see Marcus got that corner, and Marcus got that corner, and he thinks that the way he wants. So there wouldn't be any fence post there. But I think it's in the ---

PERK: You just got to guess ...

CLARA: It is in the general direction.

EDWARD: But who was with Alvie Springer when they were on this hill?

CLARA: Mr. Reineman.

EDWARD: Albert, I think.

CLARA: And, Albert yes, and --- now he had a son named Albert too.

EDWARD: Oh, great.

CLARA: This is the older gentleman. This would be in Grandpa's age limit, and his son would be in my dad's age limit. I knew both of those --- well I knew Mr. Reineman. In fact he was my music teacher. And it was those two guys that was on this hill with Ed Oliver, and they wanted Ed Oliver to go around. And I think that it was six miles that he had to ride around, to get around there, and he said he wasn't going to do it. And he went down in that, there, and went through that gate. And Pete French met him with this black snake, and when he pulled that black snake off, why Oliver shot him.

EDWARD: What, did Alvie ever say anything about Ed Oliver when they were on this hill? When they were on this hill they were overlooking French's cattle?

CLARA: I think they was riding for their own.

EDWARD: Riding for their own? Did Alvie ever say that Ed Oliver was going to go kill Pete French?

CLARA: No.

EDWARD: No.

CLARA: No.

EDWARD: Did he mention, I think you said on the phone that Alvie told them not to ride down in that ---

CLARA: In that corner.

EDWARD: In that corner.

CLARA: Where Pete French was. He tried his best to get Oliver to go around. And Oliver said no, he's backed up for the last time he was going to. And he never did. But you'll never hear one of them settlers say a good word for Pete French.

EDWARD: Why is that?

CLARA: Well I guess just because he was mean to them, and tried to take their places away from them. That's the way I always figured it anyhow.

EDWARD: Did Alvie ever mention anything about that, about Pete French?

CLARA: Not to me. Because you see he never talked to we girls. He talked to Wilbur, but us girls was never around any of that.

EDWARD: Well quite a bit of information is on that Wilbur transcript.

CLARA: Well I imagine, I imagine if he ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

CLARA: And he could have just of been nasty and well get out, and not told you a darn thing. But if you got him to talk, and to tell ---

EDWARD: Well it just seemed like that this famous guy is murdered, you know, people

would talk a lot about it.

CLARA: Probably they did. But you know you kind of got to understand how we girls was raised. We wouldn't --- I wasn't even allowed to only just run a comb through my hair. No way, and I was 16, 17 years old, no way could I have put my hair up like the other girls did, anything like that. I was primping, and I was looking for boyfriends, and things like that. And no way were we allowed to do anything like that. So you got to understand how we girls grew up.

EDWARD: Did your grandparents; they were pretty strict on you?

CLARA: My grandmother ---

EDWARD: I mean pretty strict, you know.

CLARA: Well I suppose if us girls had got out of line Grandma would have said something to us. But she used to sneak us out once in awhile when we'd go to a dance when we, when my dad wasn't, you know, when we was ---

My dad, they took us to Ontario to school when we started going to high school. And we girls would go back up with Grandma and Grandpa, and I went back up there for school one year. My grandma, she would help us put on our powder and stuff, and comb our hair, and things like that, you know. But ---

ANNA BELLE: Your parents ...

CLARA: Huh?

ANNA BELLE: Your own mother and dad that was so strict with you, not your grandparents.

CLARA: Well that was ... strict on us. It was my dad mostly. My dad drank, and things like that, but when it comes to us kids he was stricter than all get-out. And we had our little; we had our little dances there at the Narrows, at home. If any liquor would have come in that yard or anything, he would have run them off. So you know he was pretty

strict with us kids.

EDWARD: Did Alvie Springer ever say anything to you about Ed Oliver's character?

CLARA: Yes. He told us that he helped get Oliver off of, you know, off of the --- what do I want to say. He helped him out in the trial, did everything he could for him. But six weeks later he went off with another lady, and left his wife, and I believe there was five children, I believe that's what he left.

EDWARD: Four.

CLARA: Four. And ... And he said if he'd of done that before the trial, he was doing everything he could of to hung him.

EDWARD: Just a second.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Okay. Alvie Springer's testimony in the trial, and by the way the trial --- this is, it cannot be testimony word for word.

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Because if you have ever seen trial transcripts, oh my god, you know. So somebody, we have no idea who, kind of put it together in a short form some how or another. Alvie Springer: "Live on Blitzen River." Now this is 1898. "Live on Blitzen River. Know Oliver 7 or 8 years. Knew Mr. French since 1888. Was present when Mr. Neal surveyed meander line in April 1887. Heard talk between Oliver and French at that time. French said in Oliver's presence, here sits a little man who has nothing to say. You were in my field the other day. Whenever the time comes right, I catch you there, I will fix you." This is Pete ---

CLARA: Now wait a minute, he said this to Oliver, or to Grandpa?

EDWARD: No, Pete French said this to Oliver.

CLARA: Yeah, uh huh.

EDWARD: "Mr. French appeared very angry. Several present. Comings hard to see, L. B. Springer, ... maybe others." And that's all Alvie said in that trial. Evidently he was, he was a witness for Oliver.

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Okay.

CLARA: He was ...

EDWARD: Yeah, I know that.

CLARA: He was the number one witness the way I understood this.

EDWARD: Oh, that's all in that box over there. I've got all that stuff. Lewis said in the trial: "Live at old Sod House. Present in April when survey meander line." That was a big thing, this meander line.

CLARA: Yeah.

EDWARD: "Heard talk between French and Oliver. French said little man whittling, I told you in Burns not to come in my field. If I ever catch you right, damn you, I'll fix you." So that was

PERK: French made threats before then.

EDWARD: Evidently. French had made threats probably to Springer's, I don't know.

CLARA: I don't either.

EDWARD: Oh you don't, okay.

CLARA: No, I don't know. I don't know anything about it. Like I tell you, that's all. Wilbur could have told you, my brother could have told you, and maybe he did.

EDWARD: I think he, Wilbur and this oral history, you have a copy now? Okay. I think, I just read this, just an hour ago. No, I read it this morning when I was eating breakfast. I have so many things to do.

CLARA: Like me, I leave this stuff all over, and Kirk come in yesterday and I handed it to him. And he was reading this stuff over, and wanted to know who this Warren Curtis is. I don't remember here a reading it.

EDWARD: It is all documented. I didn't get it out, because it doesn't play a very important role in the death of Pete French. But here is what I'd like you to do, if you get time, Clara. When you read this, kind of take down some notes, and it might jog some of your old memories, you know. Because I know that Wilbur says quite a few things, and Marcus Haines is the one interviewing him. Now this was done 24 years ago.

CLARA: Oh no.

EDWARD: Yeah, in Vale.

CLARA: Has it been that long?

EDWARD: 24 years ago this was interviewed.

CLARA: Well now here just a, just a ---

EDWARD: Oh there is another interview too.

CLARA: Oh, okay, that explains what I'm trying to say now.

EDWARD: Oh all right, there is another interview, Clara.

CLARA: You see Marcus and us kids grew up together. And Wilbur and Marcus was like brothers, just like brothers. And ---

EDWARD: I didn't know that.

CLARA: Yes, we kids all grew up together.

EDWARD: Where did the Haines live?

CLARA: At the end of the lane. She was Myrtle Caldwell.

EDWARD: Oh, oh, her --- that's her house that is kind of falling down.

CLARA: Probably is.

EDWARD: Yeah, it's the only one left.

CLARA: She used to live, when she was with Warren, she lived over here. And then she, when their --- I don't know, she bought this corner here from, I suppose the Company. And she put her house out here on the main road.

EDWARD: Myrtle Caldwell was Warren ---

CLARA: Curtis'.

EDWARD: --- wife. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. She married Pete Caldwell.

CLARA: Uh huh.

ANNA BELLE: Wasn't she a sister to Martha?

CLARA: Huh?

ANNA BELLE: Who was Myrtle Caldwell?

CLARA: Myrtle Caldwell was Marcus' mother.

ANNA BELLE: Yeah.

CLARA: And Dora and Mildred's mother.

ANNA BELLE: Yeah.

EDWARD: What was her maiden name?

ANNA BELLE: What was Myrtle's maiden name?

CLARA: Warren, Warren, or Walker?

ANNA BELLE: Walker?

CLARA: Huh?

EDWARD: Walker.

CLARA: ...

EDWARD: Walker?

CLARA: No. Grandma's name was Walker.

EDWARD: I don't have any idea.

CLARA: It is in your book there. No ---

ANNA BELLE: How was Myrtle Caldwell and us --- how were we related?

CLARA: Warren Curtis married Myrtle Caldwell.

ANNA BELLE: Yeah.

CLARA: And they had Dora. Dora ---

ANNA BELLE: Where did Myrtle come from?

CLARA: Myrtle?

ANNA BELLE: Uh huh.

CLARA: She come from Idaho, that's some Idaho stock.

PERK: Must have been a hell of a lady.

ANNA BELLE: But she was no relation to anybody.

CLARA: She was a hell of a lady, if you want to put it --- you know that, if you have interviewed very many people.

ANNA BELLE: Myrtle was no relation to anybody there? Okay.

CLARA: But she was the sweetest, kindest old lady you ever seen.

EDWARD: Oh, yeah.

ANNA BELLE: ... I understand. But I had thought that there was some relationship there somehow, but it was through Warren.

EDWARD: Through Curtis then.

CLARA: Huh?

EDWARD: They were related through Curtis. Oh, it is a mess. It is a mess, they can't figure out all this relations.

CLARA: And I will hold up, I'll hold up for Myrtle, she was a character, but she would do anything for anybody in the country. She would put herself out to be a friend.

EDWARD: Did Alvie or Lewis, or Martha, or --- who was Alvie's wife?

CLARA: Martha.

EDWARD: Who was Lewis' wife?

CLARA: Lewis' wife?

ANNA BELLE: Sarah.

CLARA: Huh?

EDWARD: Sarah.

CLARA: Who?

ANNA BELLE: Sarah.

CLARA: Sarah, yeah.

EDWARD: Wow, that just reminds me. I have to get back --- Did they ever leave, any of those four leave a diary that you know of? Boy, just ... wouldn't that be something.

CLARA: No.

EDWARD: No.

CLARA: In that book there that Anna Belle has got, is the nearest to a diary, and that was

EDWARD: Viola.

CLARA: Viola.

EDWARD: She married George Marshall.

CLARA: Yeah.

ANNA BELL: Alva's sister.

EDWARD: Yeah. George Marshall was out there too. And he got into it with ---

PERK: Over the post office, wasn't it?

CLARA: George Marshall, George Marshall was one of the guys that went to kill Uncle Warren.

EDWARD: I don't think so. If I look at that again, I can't remember.

CLARA: I can't really remember. If you had asked me these things a couple years ago, I

might have been able to then.

EDWARD: Yeah. I understand, don't worry about it.

CLARA: But I think that, I think George --- seemed to me like George Marshall was in on that deal.

EDWARD: I will tell you something strange. Back to Sarah Springer, Lewis' wife. I was over in Madras, so I decided --- I don't go the highways, I try to go the back roads all the time, that's why my truck looks like a piece of junk right now. And I came in on this hill. On top of this hill is this cemetery, out in the middle of nowhere. Three Sisters Mountains are in the background, just beautiful. I'd love to be buried there, you know. It's called Gray's Butte Cemetery, of all names. But I was going through there and there was a Sarah Springer buried there, 1906. But that wouldn't be Lewis' wife.

CLARA: She is right up ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

CLARA: --- she is right up here on the hill.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, okay. Now that's just ---

CLARA: Supposed to be in there.

EDWARD: That just surprised me. Sarah Springer.

CLARA: And if she wasn't, I would have --- my granddad wouldn't have allowed that. He might have been the instigator of all this stuff, but you can't tell me my granddad would have allowed that.

EDWARD: But Sarah died after Lewis, right?

CLARA: No, Sarah died before. I never knew her.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Another thing. What, did the government buy out Alvie and Eddie's place, and Lewis' place, is that what happened to it?

CLARA: They traded --- Grandpa wouldn't sell.

EDWARD: Lewis, or no, Alvie wouldn't sell.

CLARA: Yeah, Alvie wouldn't sell. So ---

EDWARD: That's all private property still.

CLARA: When Wilbur come, when Grandpa died and Wilbur took over the place, they come at Wilbur and, the government come at Wilbur.

EDWARD: That's right, that's right.

CLARA: And they traded, oh that place at Crane, what is that place at Crane.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

ANNA BELLE: Stewart.

CLARA: Huh?

ANNA BELLE: Stewart wasn't it?

CLARA: Stewart, the Stewart place, I think.

EDWARD: Okay, because Alvie Springer told me this. Yeah, I remember now.

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: That's right.

CLARA: And then Marcus bought the barn.

PERK: Well didn't Wilbur fight them a long time in court over that?

EDWARD: Yeah.

CLARA: ... was into that for quite awhile...

ANNA BELLE: ...

EDWARD: Oh yeah. Oh that was, it was a mess, it was a mess.

CLARA: It was a mess, yeah.

EDWARD: But most of that land north of the Sod House Lane, or Sod House Road, is still private land.

CLARA: Oh it is?

EDWARD: Yeah.

CLARA: Well now ---

PERK: Who does it belong to?

CLARA: Who ---

EDWARD: Oh, Dunbar' s own it, Dunbar Ranch, yeah.

CLARA: That's the old Dunn place. The Dunbar Ranch is the old Dunn place.

EDWARD: I'm seeing Andy Dunbar tomorrow.

CLARA: Huh?

EDWARD: The old school, not the old school, that one school of yours is right in here someplace.

CLARA: Uh huh. You come right up the lane right here, right onto the Sod House ---

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, right. Exactly, Sod House is right about there.

CLARA: And ... took, they have taken that out now, and they moved it up in here on that hill.

EDWARD: Huh. I don't think it's there.

CLARA: It may not be.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: ... I forgot, one more question. You guys --- what time is it, two, three?

CLARA: Three.

EDWARD: Oh geeze.

PERK: 2 o'clock here.

ANNA BELLE: It is 2 o'clock here. We're ---

EDWARD: 2 o'clock here, okay. How did you know, how did you know where Pete French was killed? Somebody show it to you?

CLARA: Yes. My granddad told us about where it was at. And when I got married, him and I went up there in the, it was called the bull field. And you know there is sagebrush that big around at the butt, and tapers down. Yeah, and it was six foot tall.

EDWARD: Yeah.

CLARA: And they used to, the people used to take contracts to, for wood for the schools, and ... you know, and things like that, and the like. And I think my husband went in there and got some wood for the ... store, Alfred Marshall, I think that --- And of course I followed, I was right in the middle of all that. That was the first time I ever ate sagehen cooked in a Dutch oven, and oh boy was it good. And ---

EDWARD: God, that does sound good, doesn't it?

CLARA: And he pointed it out to me, where it was.

EDWARD: Was there a gate there then?

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: When did you get married?

CLARA: '25.

EDWARD: 1925.

CLARA: Uh huh. And there was some ... and things down the road, a ways.

ANNA BELLE: ...

CLARA: Well she is twenty years older than I am, and she has, she got --- she was born in '27.

EDWARD: She is only 20? Remarkable.

PERK: Remarkable.

ANNA BELLE: There is nothing to it.

EDWARD: So you got married in '25. And what did your husband do?

CLARA: He was a rancher. At the time we just was working wages, we hadn't ...

EDWARD: Yeah. And you were living where, at your dad's place?

CLARA: Yeah. We, Mama, see Grandma was going to Burns with the kids a going to school.

EDWARD: Alvie's Martha, Martha.

CLARA: Martha, Martha was going. And when we got married why we stayed and took care of the stock, and lived there at Mama's that winter. And Mama stayed with the kids and went to school, my brother and sister. See I quit school, my dad was, you know, got drunk and was going to kill Mama and all this, that, and the other. That's when the folks split up.

EDWARD: Yeah, what happened to your Mom?

CLARA: My mother moved to Ontario.

EDWARD: Oh, well seems like everybody moved to Ontario.

CLARA: And --- yeah, Ontario seemed like headquarters for the whole doggone bunch of us.

EDWARD: Yeah. Curtis' went there.

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Springer' s, I guess, went there.

CLARA: Seawards was all there.

EDWARD: Oh, Seawards, oh --- I got to write that down. There was a gate there when you got married. Well what was your husband's first name?

CLARA: Bill.

EDWARD: Bill Tucke.

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: There was a gate there in 1925 where Bill --- Bill Brown, oh boy. Gee, I'm losing it. Where Pete French was killed?

CLARA: That's what I was told.

EDWARD: How close was it to the Blitzen River, do you remember? These are tough questions, I know.

CLARA: Oh, I don't remember. But down there about where Marcus has some kind of a big building.

EDWARD: Okay.

CLARA: Now I don't know what, now I don't believe that is there anymore either.

EDWARD: No. Anything is left. Well who was this Alonzo and Harrison Seaward?

CLARA: Seaward.

PERK: Seaward.

EDWARD: Seaward.

CLARA: They were, they married a sister of Lois. They married a sister; I think that is the way it was. ...

EDWARD: They also were in testimony. Do you know if there is any --- How do you pronounce that?

CLARA: Seaward.

EDWARD: Seaward.

CLARA: Seaward.

EDWARD: Seawards around?

CLARA: Yes.

EDWARD: There is?

CLARA: A lot of them around.

EDWARD: Where at, Ontario? Need pictures of them.

CLARA: Huh?

EDWARD: I need pictures of them. I don't know if there is any --- Alonzo and Harrison

Seaward, Seaward.

CLARA: I can't tell you, I can't tell you too much because ---

PERK: ... he has that, he should be a nephew ...

CLARA: You know Dr. Scott?

EDWARD: No.

CLARA: Well he is a retired man now, and I don't know --- I hope he isn't dead.

EDWARD: I hear that all the time.

CLARA: ... years.

EDWARD: He is dead.

CLARA: Four years ago, I think, we went and talked to his mother, and she lives at Kuna.

EDWARD: Huh? Oh, that's in Idaho.

CLARA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Oh, as you say "Edeho".

CLARA: "Idyho".

EDWARD: "Idyho". (Laughter)

CLARA: And we went and talked to her, and she took --- oh if she was alive she could tell you all of this stuff. Now I ---

EDWARD: She is dead.

CLARA: Is she dead?

EDWARD: I don't know, but probably.

CLARA: Well she was an old lady. I don't know how old she was at the time that we went over and talked to her.

EDWARD: Is that a Seaward?

CLARA: Yeah, she was ---

ANNA BELLE: Seaward.

PERK: Seaward.

CLARA: S E A W A R D.

EDWARD: Yeah.

(END OF TAPE)

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