

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #404 - Side A

Subject: Lola Oliver Bailey

Date: July 14, 1995

Place: Burns, Oregon

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: This is Ed Gray with Bob and Lola Oliver Bailey, on 7-14-95 in Burns, Oregon, at their home, in reference to Ed Oliver and a few other things. Okay, I heard a story Wednesday from Allan Otley --- I kind of talked to you about this --- about this lady that came to Burns stating she was Ed Oliver's daughter?

LOLA OLIVER BAILEY: Granddaughter.

EDWARD: Granddaughter. Okay, Lola, when did this occur, do you remember what year approximately?

LOLA: Oh dear, that must have been in about 1981 or '82, somewhere in there.

EDWARD: Ten years ago.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And she talked to you at the hospital?

LOLA: Right. I worked in surgery, and I was on my lunch break. And they called me and said there was a girl that wanted to talk to me, and I went down and met her. And she said she came into town and stopped at the Burns Garage and asked if there was anyone that they knew of that was related to Ed Oliver, and they referred her to me at the hospital. I talked briefly with her.

EDWARD: Briefly, like 5 minutes, 10?

LOLA: Like just 10 minutes, probably, because I was eating my lunch and I had to get

back to surgery, because we had another case. And, anyway she asked me about different members of the Oliver family, and questions like how many were in my dad's family, and their names. And what was my dad's name, and his brothers and sisters. And then she told me that her mother was a Brown. And I can't remember, I can't remember how she could have been his granddaughter. This has had me puzzled. But anyway we talked back and forth, and she said, "My mother lives in Klamath Falls, I'm going to go get her and come back and talk to you." And they never did ever come back.

EDWARD: Her mother?

LOLA: Uh huh. She said my mom lives in Klamath Falls. And she said, "I'm going to go get her and come back and talk to you."

EDWARD: Her mother would be the daughter of Edward Oliver?

LOLA: Evidently, yes, uh huh. I don't know.

EDWARD: Did she, did she mention --- everything she talked about, did she know what she was talking about?

LOLA: I don't think she did, because she wasn't very clear on a lot of things. And I couldn't tell her, because I didn't know. So, but she got mainly the names of my dad's brothers and sisters.

EDWARD: You dad is Roy?

LOLA: Roy, uh huh.

EDWARD: Oliver, which is --- oh we got it in there, second son, yeah.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Did she mention, this lady --- how old was this lady, do you think?

LOLA: Probably at that time she must have been in her 30's.

EDWARD: That was 1981.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Did she say where she was from?

LOLA: If she did, I've forgotten.

EDWARD: Montana?

LOLA: I don't know, I can't remember what she said.

EDWARD: Did she look like an Oliver, if there is such a thing?

LOLA: No --- well I don't know. She was taller than I was.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOLA: And she had kind of sandy blonde hair.

EDWARD: Do you think she was telling the truth, Lola?

LOLA: I don't know, I don't know. Because see she didn't know, she didn't know any of the names of my dad's family.

EDWARD: Of Roy, of Roy.

LOLA: But she knew Grandma was a Simmons, uh huh. She's gotten just bits and pieces.

EDWARD: Bits and pieces.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Those bits and pieces could have been picked up in Giles French's book.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: On Pete French.

LOLA: Then there is a lady at Chiloquin that claims that Ed Oliver hid out in her barn, and I was going to call her this morning, and I hadn't got around to it yet.

EDWARD: Huh?

LOLA: I have her phone number.

EDWARD: I know of, a dear friend of mine lives in Chiloquin, Wendel Thompson.

LOLA: Well this is Missy --- just a minute.

EDWARD: Now when did she say this?

LOLA: Now she told a friend of mine this --- this Wanda Carlon and her are friends.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOLA: And I think she is half Indian.

EDWARD: I know Austa, Austa Carlon real well.

LOLA: Yeah. This is Wanda that told me this. That her grandmother had told her that --- and her grandmother, this Missy Hess in Chiloquin, her grandmother was a Ward. So that might --- EDWARD: Can I use that?

LOLA: That might be a bingo. Sure.

EDWARD: I'll explain this Ward stuff.

LOLA: Okay. But I was going to call her and find out ---

EDWARD: Missy. There was a Missy down at Frenchglen that owns that store now.

LOLA: Uh huh, Missy Hess. You might go ---

EDWARD: When was this --- this must be just lately.

LOLA: This, she just told me. See Wanda, Austa's daughter-in-law lived over there, where were they working ---

BOB BAILEY: They were there at Beatty.

LOLA: Yeah, and that's where she got acquainted with her. And she told her this ---

BOB: Bly, or someplace like that.

LOLA: She told her this quite a long time ago, but Wanda just told me about it when we were talking.

EDWARD: That's interesting. Because here this lady is saying something about Klamath Falls.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: This is Klamath County.

LOLA: Yeah, this is why I thought it might be of an interest to you.

EDWARD: Oh no. Wow, this should be interesting.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Oh, that's a circle job. That means it is a big one.

LOLA: (Laughter) That's a goody, huh?

EDWARD: That's a goody.

LOLA: So that might have something ---

EDWARD: Make sure I don't mess this up. Okay.

LOLA: And so that all ties in with the Klamath County.

EDWARD: Wait a minute. What's this S Ranch branding iron?

LOLA: Wanda Carlon has one of these. She wanted me to ask you if you might be interested in it.

EDWARD: Yes, yes, yes. Oh, I love Wanda, who in the hell is Wanda?

LOLA: That's Austa's daughter-in-law.

EDWARD: Yeah. Is that the one I wanted to marry?

LOLA: I don't know --- I don't think so when you see her. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Oh. She has a granddaughter that is a fox.

LOLA: Oh, Mary Lee?

EDWARD: Probably.

LOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh maybe, oh god help me. I'm single, I can mess around.

LOLA: Yeah, you can do all you want to, can't you?

EDWARD: I don't mess around much, and I haven't been. I haven't had a beer in seven months, it's sick.

LOLA: Yeah, Mary Lee she is ---

BOB: Can you have a cup of coffee?

EDWARD: Just a glass of water. I would really --- I have to have water, and I forgot my jug. Now, oh man ---

LOLA: Anyway, she has got this branding iron and ---

EDWARD: Wanda?

LOLA: Uh huh, Carlon. Do you want to talk to her, I'll dial her.

EDWARD: Yeah, I'd love that. Because I've got to be in John Day today. Oh, I have been all --- I've been here since Monday and I've been maxed out. Red Otley gave me a beautiful branding iron Wednesday. He did the ---

LOLA: Well she knew you would be interested. I don't know how she knew.

EDWARD: Thanks Bob.

LOLA: She might be gone today too.

EDWARD: Oh no.

LOLA: Because her sister --- Hi Wanda.

... (Telephone conversation omitted.)

EDWARD: Dam, I've traveled 700 miles already from Eugene, starting Saturday here I haven't gotten out of Burns.

LOLA: Oh.

EDWARD: Well yeah, I did. Boy this is wonderful. All right, anyway, so this lady, about

30 years old, shows up in Burns.

LOLA: Uh huh, she is in her early 30's.

EDWARD: Early 30's.

LOLA: Probably, or middle. I don't, I can't remember.

EDWARD: And she mentioned something again now, Lola, about Klamath Falls.

LOLA: Uh huh. She said her Mother lived in Klamath Falls. And she said, "I'm going that way, I'm going over there," and she said, "I'll bring her back this summer and talk with you." But I don't remember where she said she was from.

EDWARD: Okay, I've heard this at least two times before from other people on this side conversations, you know, like in the coffee house or something like that, you know.

LOLA: Yes, uh huh.

EDWARD: That --- this lady came.

LOLA: But I was so busy that day, and I don't really remember.

EDWARD: That's like Pete French fathered a child in Burns, you know, those kind of stories, but you can't document it. But this is interesting here.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Okay, on your theory, and your thoughts and things you heard, you can say anything you want, it doesn't make any difference. Cuss if you want to, I don't care. Bob cusses all the time, you know.

LOLA: Yeah, I know he does. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Say anything you want. Since you are an Oliver, in a way, well you are an Oliver.

LOLA: I am an Oliver.

EDWARD: You are an Oliver. Did you hear any philosophies, theories, on what

happened to Ed Oliver, through the Oliver side?

LOLA: No, I never --- except they think that Pete French men might have got him on the way back home. And I didn't even know for years that he'd left with another woman. Myrtle Caldwell told me, she was a patient.

BOB: That's Marcus Haines' mother.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOLA: That's Marcus Haines mother. She was a patient of mine.

EDWARD: Married three times.

LOLA: And she was there at the house the day that he went over there. And she told me more than my folks ever did tell me.

EDWARD: What else did Myrtle, Myrtle Curtis Haines Caldwell say? I forgot her maiden name.

LOLA: Uh huh. Well she just told me that she was there the day that he left and went over to ---

EDWARD: Yeah, that Ed Oliver left?

LOLA: Yes, left his home and rode over. He was going to go get the cattle that was over that way. That Pete French had saw him in town and told him, this Hannah, that there were cattle over there, and he better come and get them. And so he left, and I think it was Christmas Eve, I can't remember.

EDWARD: Day after Christmas.

LOLA: Day after Christmas. And he went over to get him, and then the fight happened, and he came back.

EDWARD: Back.

LOLA: And he got the gun, and then went back. And then I guess that's when the killing

took place.

EDWARD: Did he come back to the Simmons' house? Does that ring a bell?

LOLA: To get the gun you mean?

EDWARD: Uh huh, yeah.

LOLA: As far as I know.

EDWARD: Yeah. The Simmons' house was very close to the --- Myrtle Curtis at that time.

LOLA: Uh huh. Because she was there with my grandmother that morning. They were good friends.

EDWARD: And your grandmother would be Nancy Simmons?

LOLA: No, Ida.

EDWARD: Ida. Oh god, I'm a generation behind, or ahead.

LOLA: Ida Simmons.

EDWARD: Yes. Ida was at the Simmons' house.

LOLA: Home, uh huh.

EDWARD: Her step-mom's house.

LOLA: Uh huh, yes.

EDWARD: I think Shelby Simmons died after --- he died in 1898, I think. That would be her dad.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Real dad. I forgot, yeah, 1898, yeah. November 26, Pete French was killed December 26. Oh by the way, I never call it murder. I'm not going to --- I don't think it was a murder.

LOLA: I don't either. Because Myrtle told me that French rode over and started whipping

him with a willow stick.

EDWARD: That is probably accurate.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

LOLA: And my granddad was kind of --- I guess he was running, his horse was running and French was chasing him, and a beating him with this stick. And then he turned and shot.

EDWARD: Chris Palmer and I found the death site last summer.

LOLA: You found what?

EDWARD: The death ---

LOLA: Oh did you?

EDWARD: Yeah finally, after tons of documentation, and aerial photographs, and metal detectors, and surveying, and ---

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Yeah, oh that was exciting, that was cool.

LOLA: I bet it was, yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. There are so many theories on where that happened, but we got it nailed.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: This Myrtle Curtis Haines Caldwell, she knew what was going on down there.

LOLA: Yeah, she did.

EDWARD: They came there in 1895.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Now I don't know whether you realize it, but Myrtle's first husband was shot

and killed too.

LOLA: Oh, I didn't know that.

EDWARD: He was shot-gunned in 1903.

LOLA: Oh, huh. Well ---

EDWARD: By George Miller.

LOLA: Uh huh.

BOB: Oh is that right?

EDWARD: Yeah.

BOB: By George Miller.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOLA: Well ---

EDWARD: Down there on the Curtis homestead. I call it the south side of Malheur Lake.

LOLA: Huh.

EDWARD: Oh yeah he was --- I've got a picture of him then with shotgun pellets in him.

LOLA: Well.

BOB: That George Miller was a mean son-of-a-gun.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, yes. He was a hired hand I think for Pete French.

LOLA: He probably was. He's probably killed Grandpa too.

EDWARD: Could have.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Who knows, yeah? Now ---

LOLA: Well I know my dad's oldest brother went to see if he, you know, he went looking everywhere to try to find him.

EDWARD: Burt.

LOLA: Burt did, uh huh.

EDWARD: Yeah, in Pendleton.

LOLA: There has never been a trace. We don't know where he was buried, or if he was buried, or anything.

EDWARD: Well that's the biggest disappointment about this book. I've not been able to find ---

LOLA: Any records.

EDWARD: A grave marker.

LOLA: Death record or anything.

EDWARD: I have sent to every county clerk's office, except Multnomah County, which is Portland, in Oregon, asking for a death certificate.

LOLA: Huh. Well I just wonder if maybe they didn't kill him may-be, and bury him out there in the dessert.

EDWARD: I sent to Idaho, I sent to Washington, Humbolt County in Nevada, Modoc County California. Nothing!

LOLA: Well ---

EDWARD: Okay. I'll explain a little bit of this. The trial was May 1898. Now you just butt in here if something rings a bell.

LOLA: Okay.

EDWARD: He was acquitted on manslaughter. They changed the charge from murder to manslaughter. Now this is all documented stuff. We just found the coroner's inquest too on Pete French, and a bunch of other stuff. After I --- two years and Dee had it hidden, she for-got where she put it.

LOLA: Oh no.

EDWARD: But anyway --- so he has a homestead cabin south of the Simmons' place beyond Rockford Lane. I don't know, but ---

LOLA: Bob knows ---

EDWARD: 8 miles south of where the murder took place.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: 7 or 8 miles south, south of Coyote Buttes. Okay, so he has this little shack, but the kids are staying at the Simmons' place, Ida's step-mom and dad.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: But Shelby died ---

LOLA: Well she was a widow, I think.

EDWARD: Yeah, okay. He died November 26, 1898 down there at the Simmons' house. So all of a sudden Ed Oliver, after September 29th, 1898, is in Burns shacking up with Annie Ward. Now where did I get that? That is documented, because she filed for divorce, and that was hard to get, so she had to go to the judge. The judge was the only one who would grant a divorce. There was three witnesses in those divorce papers stating that Ed Oliver, and they knew Ed Oliver, was living with Annie Ward. They asked such questions, "Did you see Ed Oliver early in the mornings?" "Yes." "How many beds were in the house?" It's funny, it's funny.

LOLA: Was a tiny little house, wasn't it?

EDWARD: I --- evidently. I wish, I know who --- it was across from --- but there is no city map back then, so I can't find out which house --- the damn house is probably still there. So anyway --- He is shacking up with her. Why, good-looking I guess, I don't know. Maybe he is a hero, you know.

LOLA: Could have been.

EDWARD: Spending time in taverns and saying, "Hey, I killed Pete French."

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: So anyway, he takes off with this Annie Ward in a wagon, with two, a team and a wagon, two horses, and dragging Frisk, this horse, this racehorse type horse, behind them. He left Burns owing some money to a store. They filed suit. The deputy sheriff went after him. The deputy sheriff found them over by Izee in this wagon with a team of horses, and this Frisk, pulling Frisk behind, and Annie Ward. Served them a summons, get your butt back to Burns and pay this bill. He came back to Burns, paid his bill, September 29th, 1898, paid his bill, and that's the last they ever heard of him.

LOLA: Huh.

EDWARD: Now what's the deal here? Well I kind of burned it out trying to find Ed Oliver through death records.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I mean you could do this the rest of your life and send to Illinois and everywhere else ---

LOLA: Uh huh. I even tried the Mormon genealogy and ---

EDWARD: Yeah. I had a --- I thought maybe he was in Pendleton, I thought I had it, I thought I had it. Wrong one!

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I had a lady look all this stuff up. But anyway ---

LOLA: Did you go to Baker City?

EDWARD: This lady did all of this.

LOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Cost me \$36.00, I think. She spent some time doing this, and some of her

own free time too. Wrong Ed Oliver. Anyway, wrong age and everything. So the other alternative is to look up this Ward family. Well there were a bunch of Wards here. Unfortunately the 1890 census burnt up, so that's of no use. Women didn't have any rights then, so their names are nowhere.

LOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Everything was under a man. Yeah ---

LOLA: Oh, listen to you.

EDWARD: Yeah, the women had no, nothing. So I'm going through the papers and I find, I think its Annie L. Ward, took a homestead claim down by Crane in 1889. And there was a bunch of Wards that sold to Pete French, and worked for Pete French. One was Charlie Ward; one was John Ward, but no documents of 1890. They weren't here in 1880, so anyway --- In 1901 this Annie Ward sold that 160 acres, I was just there yesterday and took pictures of it, to John Heinz. Well Heinz is a big name down there, down by Crane, in 1901. In it she says, this is what gets me. "I'm a resident of Umatilla County," that's Pendleton, "and I'm widowed." Well now that's interesting. If I could prove that she married Ed Oliver

--- he's dead.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: She ain't going to write I'm widowed, you know, just for the fun of it.

LOLA: Huh uh.

EDWARD: But I can't prove that Ed Oliver married Annie Ward. I've asked all ... all the marriage --- I thought they might have got married in Crook County. I went through that book and it's --- they kept good records in 1898 and '99, 1900, real good records.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Zip, zip.

LOLA: There is nothing on him is there?

EDWARD: Nothing at Umatilla, nothing anywhere.

LOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Now Klamath Falls --- is that next to Modoc County? I didn't ask Modoc County. Maybe I didn't ask Klamath County.

LOLA: Well he is supposed to have hid out in this Missy's grandmother's barn.

EDWARD: Boy I'm going to have to find out about that.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I'll drive down there.

LOLA: Yeah, that would be a good deal to talk to her. I was going to call her and see what I could find out this morning, and I didn't ---

EDWARD: This was like yesterday or something?

LOLA: Well I called Wanda last night after I had talked to you, to get her --- I'd forgotten her name.

EDWARD: Oh, I see.

LOLA: And, no Wanda had talked to her quite a long time. And we were going to go over and talk to her this summer. Wanda says, "I'll take you over and you can talk to Missy." Because I'm inquisitive about all this too. I'm ---

EDWARD: Yeah, interesting.

LOLA: She said that this lady's grandmother told her a story, and Ed Oliver had hid out in her barn. He had ---

EDWARD: Why?

LOLA: I don't know.

EDWARD: I don't know whether --- Shelby Petersen, everything he has ever told me, which has been quite a bit, has been totally accurate, documented. I mean documented. And he flatly, firmly believes that your granddad was murdered here.

LOLA: Uh huh. He does, and my dad did too.

EDWARD: Roy?

LOLA: Uh huh. And that very well could be.

EDWARD: Shelby told me a man's name that knew. Of course they are all dead.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: That was Mart Brenton. Yeah.

BOB: ... Mart Brenton ...

EDWARD: Worked for Pete French for, since 1882, or something like that.

LOLA: Wow. He would know.

EDWARD: Yeah. Gone. Took it to him, within the grave.

LOLA: Yeah, it's sure a mystery about what happened to him.

EDWARD: Let's see. Well ---

LOLA: Well I remember my dad saying there was another family.

EDWARD: Really?

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: You mean Edward Oliver had another family?

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: That means he was alive.

LOLA: So I don't know where he heard it even.

EDWARD: I know that Burt went up to Pendleton once.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And, because he heard that his dad, somebody told him his dad --- they saw his, Ed Oliver, on the train station platform in Pendleton. And he went up there to check things out. Nothing! And I know the family, immediate family, never heard, never received anything, letters, telegrams, whatever.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Any communication whatsoever.

LOLA: No. No, we never heard anything.

EDWARD: And he was at ---

LOLA: We don't even have a picture of him.

EDWARD: See that's --- when I went through that, I have four pictures of Ida, and pictures of all the kids.

LOLA: Yeah, I've got pictures of her.

EDWARD: You've got them too, yeah. So I go up to that Rufus Heck collection, I know the guy that owns it. Rufus Heck had 10,000 negatives of Burns. And if I could only find a picture of Ida and some guy that looks like Burt Oliver.

LOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Because I guess Burt looked a lot like his dad.

LOLA: I guess so, uh huh.

EDWARD: And they are standing together, we got it, right. There is Ida and Ed Oliver.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: All I find is Ida.

LOLA: Uh huh. That's the way our family was too, that's all we had.

EDWARD: But she is with her kids or something, but no Ed Oliver.

LOLA: No Ed.

EDWARD: No. And of course the Pete Petersen, Ida Oliver wedding picture, you got that.

LOLA: Yeah, got that, uh huh.

EDWARD: I do have a picture of Letha. And what was the other, got the other one.

LOLA: Ada.

EDWARD: Ada, yeah.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Not too good, but --- Is there anything else, Lola? Hey, by the way Lola, look at this. First wife of Shelby Petersen --- of Shelby Petersen --- Shelby Simmons, Lola. Did you know that?

LOLA: Now where is that, on the back?

EDWARD: First page.

LOLA: First page.

EDWARD: I was going to bring that out. Just now remembered it.

LOLA: Well I saw that a while ago and I ---

EDWARD: Yeah, right up here someplace.

LOLA: Where did I see that?

EDWARD: No, that's not the page.

LOLA: First page.

EDWARD: Oh, my throat. Oh, right there. First wife, Lola Daugherty. Do you know --- maybe your name, see?

LOLA: ...

EDWARD: That's not a common name, really.

LOLA: No. Now see I was named after Lola, Shelby's sister.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's what I was looking for. There we go, there she is, Lola Dorothea.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Born 1906. And I would guess that; see Ida's mom was Lola Daugherty. So that's where that came from.

LOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay.

BOB: What year did Pete get killed?

EDWARD: December 26th, 1897.

LOLA: ... and Lola Daugherty Simmons. Huh.

EDWARD: So you're going back to whenever Lola Daugherty was born, which we don't know. Probably born in Arkansas, that's all I could ever find.

LOLA: She was an "Arkie".

EDWARD: Yeah. Does that click, Bob? Is she kind of Arkansasish?

BOB: ...

LOLA: I don't wear shoes very often, I know that.

EDWARD: Uh huh, there we go. We found her heritage now, man.

LOLA: Well now I could tell you some more stuff that's probably a no, no.

EDWARD: Go for it. I love that kind of stuff.

LOLA: Can I tell him about Nellie?

EDWARD: Who is that?

BOB: ...

LOLA: Now Nellie Miller ---

EDWARD: Who is Nellie Miller?

LOLA: --- is an aunt of Bob's.

BOB: She was George Miller's ---

EDWARD: Oh god.

BOB: And Taft ---

LOLA: Of course she is dead too.

EDWARD: Yeah.

BOB: --- Georgia's kids.

EDWARD: Oh they were ---

BOB: She was married to Taft.

LOLA: She is supposed to be Pete French's illegitimate daughter.

EDWARD: Oh.

BOB: And she was ... my mother's ---

LOLA: Half sister.

BOB: Half sister.

EDWARD: I've, yeah I've heard that. Any proof on that Bob?

BOB: No.

EDWARD: No.

BOB: I don't think so.

EDWARD: Let's do that over. Because those kinds of things I would put in there, but no proof, no documentation, no, hearsay, you know, type of thing.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Now what ---

BOB: First thing is I don't even know if, that's why I asked you when Pete was, I don't know how much older she was than my mother. I don't know ...

EDWARD: Now Bob, who was your mom?

BOB: She was a Kerns. She was Bob Kerns' daughter.

EDWARD: Now where does this, this Pete French's maybe daughter come in? I'm lost.

BOB: She was a ---

LOLA: She was a Sitz.

BOB: She was a Sitz. But she was a schoolteacher, my grandmother was a schoolteacher at the Narrows, Sod House and ... Lawen. They had a ranch at Lawen. They had a ranch there --- you know where that dead tree is there at the Narrows?

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

BOB: That was ... their house was right underneath that tree.

EDWARD: Right along Sod House Lane?

BOB: No, no, no.

EDWARD: No.

BOB: You know where the Narrows is?

EDWARD: Yeah. Oh, Narrows --- oh that's George Cawlfild's house.

BOB: Yes. But you know where the Narrows is?

EDWARD: Yeah.

BOB: Well just across the highway ---

LOLA: There is a dead tree.

BOB: An old tree ---

EDWARD: Oh yeah, yeah.

BOB: --- it's dead now.

EDWARD: Yeah.

BOB: On account of the water.

EDWARD: Right.

BOB: But that's where my mother was raised, right there.

EDWARD: I got you.

BOB: Nellie was a sister of hers. And I think Nellie was quite a little bit older than my mother, I don't know.

EDWARD: I was with Pat Church Wednesday ---

... (Unrelated)

BOB: ...

EDWARD: Damn there was a murder a week back in those days. They think it is bad now ---

LOLA: Uh huh. Harney County was pretty rough.

EDWARD: When is the last murder they've had here, 30 years ago or something?

LOLA: Gee I don't remember; do you, of any murders around here?

EDWARD: Oh I swear there was a murder a week.

BOB: Yeah, there was a lot of them back then.

LOLA: Uh huh, yeah because all that Wagontire country.

EDWARD: Oh Wagon --- oh Jesus, oh god, I've proved that. But there is still some that I didn't prove, that I didn't say anything about. Well let's back up, Mom, I got to get this in my head. Nellie who?

BOB: She would have been a Sitz.

EDWARD: Oh Peggy. Okay. Nellie Sitz is supposedly, maybe, hearsay, the daughter, illegitimate daughter of Pete French.

BOB: Of Pete French.

EDWARD: And who would the mother be of Nellie Sitz?

BOB: Rose Kerns, Rose ---

EDWARD: Rose ---

BOB: Sitz Henderson Kerns.

EDWARD: Okay, that's how we do it. ... Rose Sitz Henderson Kerns.

BOB: Or Kerns Henderson.

EDWARD: Oops. Rose, this is the proper way, Rose Sitz ---

BOB: Rose Sitz Kerns Henderson.

EDWARD: Kerns Henderson. Rose Sitz Kerns Henderson is probably the --- no, not probably, could be.

BOB: But I don't know just ---

EDWARD: No, I'll --- you know how I do that in the book. Old timers in Burns say ---

LOLA: Uh huh. You don't mention names.

EDWARD: That's what I did with Bill Brown, you know, like Link Hutton was the devil's brother. An old timer said ---

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I ain't going to put their name in. Cause a feud around here with Foster, you know.

LOLA: There would be a murder probably.

EDWARD: Yeah. Okay, I will check into Missy Hess when I get back to Eugene, which will be early next week, maybe Sunday, and check that out thoroughly.

LOLA: Okay.

EDWARD: That's a coincidence.

LOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Unless the girl that came here was Missy Hess.

LOLA: I can't remember her name.

EDWARD: You know. Hid out in a barn.

LOLA: Why would he be hid out?

EDWARD: I don't know, I don't know.

LOLA: You know, because they acquitted him.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOLA: That's why I can't figure out why.

BOB: Unless some Mexicans or somebody was after him.

LOLA: Could have been.

EDWARD: I know that the Mexicans were very loyal.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Very, very in quotes, loyal to Peter French. But the deal is here; there wasn't a heck of a lot of Mexicans working for Peter French in 1897, maybe four that I could prove.

LOLA: But anyway Missy's grandmother was a Ward, so they may know something.

EDWARD: Yeah. And there are a bunch of Wards in Klamath Falls.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: See I've gone, I got telephone books, and I'll go ---

LOLA: And they might have decided to go that way.

EDWARD: Sure. You know that's towards Shasta County.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I thought we had it. Ed Oliver took out a homestead claim in Shasta County in 1880 something. It's all --- this is the file on Ida Oliver.

LOLA: Wow!

EDWARD: The Simmons family.

LOLA: Yeah, we know about her.

EDWARD: Simmons family right here.

LOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Ed Oliver's file is ---

LOLA: Nothing.

EDWARD: --- basically nothing. But he did take out a homestead claim. And I said, "Oh." And he sold it. And I said, "God, if it's after 1898, yeah!"

LOLA: Uh huh. But it wasn't?

EDWARD: No. Sold in 1891.

LOLA: Oh no.

EDWARD: Bummer. That hurt.

LOLA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Is there any other information, Lola, that you can think of?

LOLA: Not that you don't already know.

EDWARD: Except this Ward.

LOLA: Uh huh, except this.

EDWARD: Except that. God, I got to get into that right away. I

LOLA: You might mention Wanda's name to her, because they are friends.

EDWARD: Oh, Wanda is a friend of Missy?

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Oh, that's kind of --- wondering how that ---

LOLA: And that's how I got, found this out. Because Wanda wanted me to go with her over and talk to Missy this summer, and we had planned to.

EDWARD: A friend. I see, I see, we got it now.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: So, evidently she'll talk. She won't --- I wonder if her grandmother is still alive.

Doesn't sound like it.

LOLA: I don't, I don't know.

EDWARD: God I hope so.

LOLA: Yeah, because she would be the one to ---

EDWARD: Oh yeah. You never know. I tell you, I've written three books and I don't know how many articles you don't know, it's weird.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Don't know. Okay.

LOLA: You sure don't. Let's see ---

EDWARD: Anything else?

LOLA: No, I guess not. And then I just wrote down what Mom told me last night, where she had heard the gun ---

EDWARD: How is Viola doing?

LOLA: She is doing pretty good. She is down in Redding with my sister right now, or Red Bluff.

EDWARD: That's where the --- oh for gosh sakes. See that's where Pete French is buried.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And his family is from.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And Redding is where the Simmons are from.

LOLA: Red Bluff, uh huh. Yeah.

EDWARD: Jesus criminy. A hundred years late. Hundred, no more than that. Because the Simmons left Jackson County in 1888.

LOLA: Well I knew we went out to Mill City, my sister and I.

EDWARD: Oh, Hattie?

LOLA: Yeah, we went out there.

EDWARD: Millville.

LOLA: Millville.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOLA: And looked through the cemetery to see if we could find anything. Come up zilch.

EDWARD: I'll be there in about three weeks.

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Shelby had a homestead, and I know exactly where it is.

LOLA: Oh do you? Uh huh.

EDWARD: And believe it or not, you ever hear of Kidwell from here?

LOLA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Oh, this is mind-boggling. Kerry Kidwell, their cabin is still standing down there, I guess.

BOB: Where is that?

EDWARD: Malheur Lake, south side of Malheur Lake. Around the Narrows, around the rock outcropping.

BOB: Is this still standing?

EDWARD: Yeah.

BOB: After that flood?

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOLA: Well, it must have ---

BOB: I thought it was washed away.

EDWARD: I got ---

LOLA: Well built.

EDWARD: I've got to get a picture of that baby.

(END OF TAPE)

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