

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #405 - Sides A/B/C

Subject: Drex Williams & Rotha French

Date: June 15, 1989

Place: Drewsey, Oregon

Interviewer: Anne Clark

(NOTE: Sound quality on tape is poor. Unable to pick up all of the conversations.)

DREX WILLIAMS: ... the early incidents in the history of my father and his family as I recall. Grandfather Williams, who would be Ves's father, and Mary Ann Williams who would be his mother, came across the plains from Nauvoo, Illinois, or Missouri, I'm not sure which, when the Mormons made their first migration in 1848 into the Salt Lake area. Father's parents were only 5 years old at that time. They grew up and married in Salt Lake, and were sent down into the Teasdale, Escalante country by Brigham Young. Father was born in Teasdale in 1872, February the 3rd.

He grew up in that area, and at the age of 14 --- his father, having had mail line contracts throughout Arizona and Utah gained the contract of carrying mail from Flagstaff down through the Indian Reservation at Camp Verdi, terminating at Lobe. Father at a very young age, either 14 or 15, was given the job of carrying the mail across the desert area near the Camp Verdi Indian Reservation.

I can recall a humorous incident he tells at being a very hot climate, and he traveled across the desert carrying the mail of a night. And during the daytime found shade, tied his horses up, and slept and rested. During one of these rest periods when he was asleep the Indians stole his horses. When he woke up and discovered them gone

he tracked them into the Indian Camp, scared to death naturally. And he said after awhile the old Indian chief had him fed, and he always suspected that was dog meat. He said he had never eaten anything before or since like it. And after he was fed they gave him back his horses.

Then the next mail line he was on, these contracts were for four years periods. The next mail line he was on was from Salmon City, Idaho to a small town across the river, I presume it's Salmon River, I'm not sure, that terminated in Montana, and that was a four-year contract.

And he tells another, two interesting stories of that area. A small Montana town with a certain mining, rough neck type of town, and he said the merchants got tired of fooling with all the small change. So they got together and gathered all the small change under fifty cents, took it down and threw it in the river. Another story he told, was on the Montana side, and spotted fever, Rocky Mountain Fever was very prevalent, many cases, deaths. And on the Idaho side of the river there was absolutely no cases of spotted fever.

Then he tells another incident of one of their drivers who liked to gamble. They were paid off in gold coins in those days. He was slated to take the mail out, shortly after he was paid, and he walked through the gambling joint, saloon I guess you would call it, and threw the \$20.00 gold piece down on the table, and says here it is, I don't have time to play for it.

Then from that contract they came into the Burns/Ontario area. Father told me that he made a specialty of bidding in lines that the previous contractor had gone broke on. Everyone was afraid of it, and the price would go up. And they were the second contractors on the line from Ontario to Burns, which was roughly 145 miles. And at that time, that was 1894, at that time Father was only 22 years old. And then unfortunately

that fall his father passed away ---

... (Pause in tape)

--- the mail line fell on Dad's shoulders. Of course having grown up operating mail lines, working on them, it wasn't anything new to him. So he continued it, had it through two contracts of four years each, and then sub-contracted it, I believe, from Kellogg for two years. I'm not sure about Kellogg. But I remember him telling me in 24 hours there were 48 horses used in the harness. There was, I believe, two stages going each way. It started out, 48 hours from Ontario to Burns. Then the second bid, second contract why they upped that to 36 hours. Father said they thought they were just flying then.

And I recall Leo Smith, who operated the early day Vale Trading Company Store in Vale, called me in and showed me an advertisement, an early day paper, Hiram Williams, that was Dad's father, mail line, passengers hauled if you can find a place to ride. And some of the stage stops, they varied, some of the stage stops were O'Neal Hot Springs, up from Vale. And then Fopians, up Cottonwood, above Westfall. Then at various times at the Arnold place in Agency Valley, Linus Thompson's place in Agency Valley, and then on over into Otis Valley at the place my trailer house is setting now. And latter on the Getting's place, what we call the lower ranch where Lee and Gladys lived. Then the foot of Stinkingwater where Carpenters live, and that's where Lee was born, my older, my brother. Then George McKinnons on top of Stinkingwater, then Harney City, and then into Burns and back to Harney City. Father liked the country, and after --- well I guess shortly after the initial contract, '95, bought the place where Lee lived, what we called the Duncan Ranch. ... Grandfather bought it, I guess his grandfather. And then Dad started adding to the holdings until he has the places now that we know as the Gearhart place, and then the upper and lower ranch, various range lands. That's where he spent the rest of his life.

Of the union of father and mother my brother Lee was the oldest. He was born, let's see he is 9 years older than I, he was born in January in 1903, I guess. Then Frances, we knew her as Midgie, was born in 1904. Then George, a brother that drowned at the age of a little over 2 years, was the next child born. I believe he was two and a half years older than I. Would make him around, born about 1908, or along in there. And I was born in 1911, and my sister Ruth, the baby of the family was born in 1913. Ruth and I, the two youngest, are the only two living.

There are a number of descendants of fathers and mothers in the area. Alan who married the nice lady we know as Sissy, with their two children, and one child from their son. Terry who is married, Marcus Haines' daughter, they had two children, a boy and a girl. And Terry and Alan was Lee and Gladys' two sons. Then Irene and I had two sons, Bill of Juntura who had five children. And he has three grandchildren. He married Carlee Freeman. And Gary, who married June Lafloure, had two sons and a daughter. The two sons married sisters, daughters of ... Scott is the oldest, he has a daughter. Brad has two sons. And then Rotha, Mrs. French, she had one daughter. So quite a few descendants of father and mother's in the country.

Father passed away in February, his birthday was the 3rd of February, and he passed away shortly after his birthday with pneumonia at the age of 65. And incidentally in thinking back, Father had told me that he spent one winter as a young fellow, just a boy --- Grandfather also run cattle in that country. And he sent Dad down into Bryce Canyon with Mr. Bryce, who the canyon was named after, and he spent one winter down there wintering cattle.

And he also tells about swimming in the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry and the sediment being so heavy in that river, that if you swam in overalls or anything like that, some sort of a swimming type suit, well the sediment would collect to where it made it

difficult to swim. He played with Indian boys a lot, and he said naturally they never bothered about swimming suits.

And then at one time, and I don't know the exact period, he worked for one of the Slaughters, they were a real illustrious cattle outfit in those days in Texas, Arizona, and California. And his first job was working for; I believe it was Will Slaughter, in Northern Arizona for fifty cents a day. And I believe when Father passed away he had the first fifty cents he carried with him that he had ever earned from Slaughter.

This is about all that I can give you in the background. My sister Rotha will fill you in on more detail, and she can give you a better rundown on Mother's side of the family, the Holladay's, than I can. This will probably be about all that I can tell you.

Something more about Father's family, he had two older sisters and an older brother. Dale was the oldest of the family, then Aunt Grace, and then Dad's brother Hiram, who was named after his father, then my father, and then a girl, Cora, who passed away at the age of 15. And there were numerous descendants from that branch of the family also.

... (Pause in tape)

All this ditch built on down to irrigate all this country, from the tunnel down, and Milt Davis participated in that. My dad was president of the ...

ANNE CLARK: ...

DREX: Yeah, you know where the tunnel is up this side of Howard's?

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: Well from above that tunnel on down, he was instrumental in getting this ditch extended on ---

ANNE: Oh, extended on down this way?

DREX: Yes, he bought up this property from various people.

ANNE: Oh.

ROTHA WILLIAMS FRENCH: I came across this, and then don't forget the telephone line too. That's what, the first amount of money he paid into the ditch, two thousand and something.

ANNE: Oh really.

DREX: Yes, there were a number of them. They put the first telephone line in, along with W. D. Baker; I think that little book that his daughter put out tells you about that telephone.

ANNE: Yeah.

ROTHA: Have you seen that Anne?

ANNE: No I haven't.

ROTHA: You'll be interested in that. Somewhere I've got it, a book here if I can find it.

DREX: And that's about all the background I can give you. I think Rotha can take it from there on.

ANNE: Okay.

ROTHA: You mean if I say something faulty you tell me.

DREX: No, not until it is all over with.

ANNE: Okay, we need to pick up on some on your mother's side of the family to start with. What was your mother's maiden name?

ROTHA: Well Effie Lee Holladay.

ANNE: Okay. And how do you spell the Holladay?

ROTHA: H O L L A D A Y.

ANNE: A D Y ?

ROTHA: Yeah, A D A Y.

ANNE: A D A Y, okay.

ROTHA: That's right here.

ANNE: Okay. And how did her and your dad happen to meet?

ROTHA: Her brother Frank Holladay was married to my dad's sister, Aunt Grace, and they had the stage stop out at the foot of Stinkingwater. And my mother came out, she was only 17, and she came out to visit Uncle Frank at the stage stop. And that's how she happened to meet my dad. I wish I could remember how many days she was on that train coming out from Missouri to Ontario.

ANNE: Oh, she took the train from ---

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. I wish I remembered, but she was at least four or five days coming across on the train. And she rode the stage up from Ontario to the stage stop. And I don't remember whether, I don't believe Dad was the driver when she came up on the stage, I don't remember what she said. But that's how she happened to meet my dad.

ANNE: What was the name of the stage stop there that they had? Was that the one by Carpenters?

ROTHA: That's where Carpenters are, and that's where Lee was born too. And something else my mother also told me that she did teach some school, but I don't know which one, I don't remember.

ANNE: Okay. So what year did they get married, do you remember?

ROTHA: 1900 I believe.

ANNE: Well that's good, isn't it? I ought to borrow this from you and copy it.

ROTHA: That's right.

ANNE: Okay, born in, or married in 1900, okay. September 17th.

ROTHA: Well that was my, my birthday is the 15th. And they were married, Drex do you remember which building they were married in over there at Burns?

... (Pause in tape)

ANNE: Okay, and where did they first live after they were married?

ROTHA: Down at the lower ranch, above the ditch there in a homestead cabin.

ANNE: Okay. They had homestead ... So they homesteaded there at the lower place in 1903, that's when they proved up on it?

ROTHA: Right.

ANNE: Okay, that's what the deed says. Okay.

ROTHA: Leave it off a minute.

ANNE: Okay.

... (Pause in tape)

ANNE: Yeah, he's ready to leave. Okay.

ROTHA: Yeah, go ahead and ask Drex, but a lot of this stuff Drex knows, and I don't.

ANNE: Okay. Let's go into --- I want you to look at this, these single ... Maybe I better do this other thing first. I'll hit this other deal first, that I wanted to do first on the deal. Okay, we start out at, we're going to start at Drewsey and go to Vale direction, okay. From Drewsey the freight trail evidently went right through here by Rotha's barn. Okay. And then on up toward Kenny and Barbara's place now, is that right?

DREX: It went to the, go around to this field, and then swung to the left around the point of the hill, what is known as the Getting's place.

ANNE: Getting's place. That's where the Getting's place was.

DREX: That's where the Getting's place is.

ANNE: Okay. And ---

DREX: And then it went on up to where the old Otis Bridge was.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: You probably remember where the old road was.

ANNE: Uh huh, okay.

DREX: It crossed right there, and then it went on up by the pine trees on the east side of



Otis Creek by Altnow's.

ANNE: Okay, let's back up just a second here. I've got a few odds and ends places in between here. Lee had down Cook Springs, is that up above Kenny and Barb's place a ways?

DREX: That's right at the lower end of Sand Creek.

ANNE: Lower end of Sand Creek. Okay and then Sand Creek, and the Getting's place. Now how in the world did they spell their name, have you any idea?

DREX: G E T T I N G S.

ANNE: Okay. And his name was Al? No idea?

DREX: I don't know, put a question mark there and it can be dug up later.

ANNE: Okay, we can pick it up later. Okay. This Patterson stage stop, evidently it was this one here, this Granny Patterson lived on the Getting's place it said.

DREX: Un huh.

ANNE: In this deal it said there was a stage stop there where they had a horse change place. Now is that the same place that the Getting's place now? Okay. And the Stewart place, this evidently was Raleigh and Charlie Stewart.

DREX: They were related to the Getting's, and their holdings was north, joined the Getting's holdings, and was on up north and ran up to where the bridge crossed up there.

ANNE: Oh, oh, okay. Now this is all owned by Terry now?

DREX: Uh huh.

ANNE: Okay. Probably your dad bought it?

DREX: Yes.

ANNE: Okay. And then the Duncan place is where Lee's place is now?

DREX: Yes.

ANNE: Now was that Ned Duncan, do you have ---

DREX: Ed.

ANNE: Ed, okay. Ed Duncan. Okay and when did your dad buy that? If that's the one that your ---

DREX: Grandfather bought it. And I think it was either '84 or '85. You can put a question mark there and fill it in later.

ANNE: Okay, okay. The Miles Ranch I have down next.

DREX: That was immediately on up the stream from the Stewart place.

ANNE: Stewart place. And what was their first name, you have any idea?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Okay, just Miles. Okay, and this was also bought by your dad. Okay. And then Otis Creek, evidently they crossed the bridge there at Otis Creek.

DREX: Yes.

ANNE: The bridge isn't there anymore though, is it?

DREX: It burnt up. Right up in the Stewart place is where the bridge was. Between that and the Miles field.

ANNE: Between that and the Miles field. Okay. Then there is an elevation tag put up in 1903 up there ---

DREX: Right at the bridge.

ANNE: Right at the bridge, okay. And then Len Stallard place.

DREX: Len Stallard, yes, that was above the Miles field.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: And that had been a freight stop and a stage stop. But I don't believe my father ever used that. But it was, of course you can get that from the Stallards.

ANNE: Okay. Well I haven't gotten too much from them. I've written to them all, but they haven't sent anything. So anything you tell me is useful. So the Stallard place, is any of it

part of your place that you own now?

DREX: Yes, yes everything that we own above there was a part of the Stallard place.

ANNE: Originally, okay.

DREX: Len Stallard, that's one of the hundred year places. He originally took that up. And then right above it Gladys ... father took a field up. And a man by the, Delaney took a field up.

ANNE: Delaney, okay.

DREX: And Len Stallard bought all those places.

ANNE: Oh, he bought them all, okay.

DREX: Yes.

ANNE: Okay then what's your place that you have now, is just part of it?

DREX: It's part of this.

ANNE: They sold it at some later date?

DREX: Well it was a settlement of an estate is the way it was disposed of.

ANNE: Some of the kids sold it off evidently.

DREX: Yes. Len Stallards young son, Chet.

ANNE: Okay. And he still owns the place that Jim Sitz leases. DREX: A descendent of Ed Stallards, Chet's brother --- his grandchildren own that place.

ANNE: Oh, okay.

DREX: Ed Stallards grandchildren.

ANNE: Okay. So this Delaney place was right there by Stallards also, you say.

DREX: On north. They, the place that Bill South patented lies between the, is the next place up from where the Stallard place is now, that the family still holds, has a deed to. And then the South place which we have, and then above that the Delaney place which we have.

ANNE: Well good. That makes a lot more plain. Okay this Jack field.

DREX: Part of the Pacific Livestock operations.

ANNE: Okay, why did they call it the Jack field, have any idea?

DREX: Oh they were great, Pacific Livestock Company, the Lamb Ranch was their horse breeding station, and they raised mules too, and I presume the name would indicate that they kept that pasture for the Jacks.

ANNE: Okay, so that was part of, actually the Otis Creek.

DREX: Yes, that's part of the property that Dick Edmunson has there. That's all Pacific Livestock.

ANNE: Okay. And Glenn Sitz's place, they called it the Howe place, is that it?

DREX: Yes, and that was Pacific Livestock.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: But the Fredericks place was a ---

ANNE: Was separate from there.

DREX: Separate.

ANNE: Okay, well which part of it was it then, the lower, down toward Otis more?

DREX: The Fredericks place?

ANNE: No, I know where the Fredericks place, that's where the Howe's is now, the Howe field.

DREX: At the Howe field. No, it was south, it was over toward this big mountain. That would be south and west.

ANNE: South and west.

DREX: And then some of it west.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: The Fredericks place lays on the north and east side of it.

ANNE: Okay. And then after they went through on ---

DREX: The stage station didn't go up that way.

ANNE: Didn't go up that way, okay. No, I know they didn't go up there. That's just kind of a by sight. Okay, but they did go through the Jack field, along the stage line?

DREX: No, part of the Jack field, deeded land, it extend up on the mountain, but they stayed along just the edge of the valley.

ANNE: Edge of the valley, okay.

DREX: Where the road is now.

ANNE: Okay. And then they went to Altnow's.

DREX: Uh huh.

ANNE: And did they have a horse changing station there or any-thing.

DREX: Not that I know of.

ANNE: Not that you know of, okay. And then they went on to Mill Creek from there?

DREX: Yes, you know where the road divides and one goes over to the Agency, and another one goes to Juntura.

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: Well that road to the Agency is an identical stage road.

ANNE: Oh it is, I never knew that. Okay then this Tub Springs ---

DREX: That was ---

ANNE: Is it right along in there somewhere?

DREX: Right by it.

ANNE: Right by it. And it said the Smith Wilson ranch was not too far from there.

DREX: That's Tub Springs.

ANNE: That is Tub Springs, okay. He owned it in other words. Okay this Murray Ranch, owned by Adam, Bill and Janet Murray at the time.

DREX: Yes, but it was no ways near the stage line.

ANNE: Wasn't anywhere near it.

DREX: No, it was on the mail line, the road from Beulah to Juntura.

ANNE: Oh, okay.

DREX: This freight line, the stage line never touched it.

ANNE: Never touched it, okay, it was further down. Okay now the, after they left Tub Springs then they went over Agency Mountain.

DREX: Yes, two Agencies there.

ANNE: Two Agencies.

DREX: Two Agency Mountains.

ANNE: Oh, okay.

DREX: Then dropped down into Agency Valley.

ANNE: Okay, did they go by Warm Springs Creek in there too?

DREX: Haven't got there yet.

ANNE: Okay, we're too far along. Okay, after they got into Agency Valley, was this where the, there was a stage stop in there?

DREX: There was a store and a post office, Beulah, that was Beulah's.

ANNE: Yeah, and that was run by ...

DREX: I imagine Barney Tillison kept travelers.

ANNE: Okay

DREX: In fact I stayed there once.

ANNE: Oh did you?

DREX: But Barney didn't have it at that time, Johnny Robinson did. And then it turned and went up the valley. The road is under water now, where the old road is. But that was the lower end of the Pacific Livestock Ranch, right immediately above that. Then Lige

Thompson's place was next. At one time Dad used that as a stage stop.

ANNE: Oh, okay.

DREX: Just briefly.

ANNE: Just briefly, okay.

DREX: Very fine old man, great friend of Father's.

ANNE: Okay how about this place that these Gilkeys --- ever heard of them? Gilkeys, or Frank Lyles, it has, is it Lidles it's supposed to be instead? Or is it Lyles?

DREX: I guess it would be Lyles.

ANNE: Lyles, okay.

DREX: Now this Everett, if he hadn't passed away, he came here in 1912, he knew every one of those.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: But above Lige Thompson's --- was a Cooley place.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: And John McKenzie had a place there, but he was a ... man before it drowned out. He had that place. I can't tell you. But you know that's in Malheur County, a search of the --- should tell all that too.

ANNE: Yeah, that's true. Okay. We just kind of want to sketch it out to get over the hill a little bit to Kate Fopians and then up ---

DREX: Yeah, and it went on up, you see, and then crossed the valley at the, crossed the valley between the lower end of the Murphy Bench. Up the ... Then went up by the Dick ... place, and Murphy's house. Then up to the Arnold place, which at one time had also been a stage stop. Then over Arnold hill up by the Hunter Ranch. And just above the Hunter Ranch is where those big deep ruts are wore in the sandstone. You've seen pictures of those.

ANNE: Oh yeah, uh huh, yeah.

DREX: And the freight teams, and my father's stage coaches up ... principally freight teams with heavy loads. And then it went from there on over into Bendire Creek, and then early days, had a house ... then it come Bendire Grade, and went over the top and down into Cottonwood, and that's where Fopians stage station was, and I've heard Father tell about the older women in those days chewed what they called a snuff stick. It was a piece of poplar or willow all fuzzed out, and they'd dip it in the snuff and put it in their mouth and chew it. He said he never would eat Mrs. Fopians biscuits, because he'd seen her mixing biscuits of a morning and the slobber running down and dripping off of that stick into the biscuits.

ANNE: Oh no.

DREX: God, don't put that in.

ANNE: (Laughter) That's a cute one though.

DREX: Well there is no relatives left, it's all right. I don't know, you edit ---

ANNE: Use your own judgment.

DREX: He said he never would eat her biscuits.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: And then they were an Italian family, I'm sure, Fopians. Couldn't be Portuguese, I'm sure it's Italian. Then later on Fopian Creek up above on the north fork up in forest. There is a Fopian ... up there. ...

ANNE: Part of the family. There was a Bill Bartoni, was that some relation to her?

DREX: I don't know.

ANNE: I've heard that in connection, and I can't remember now. Okay, well that got us that far. Now going back from Drewsey to the other direction towards Burns, you were talking about that place there. You said that it was ---



DREX: You want me to run the, made up the old road there?

ANNE: Uh huh, if you went from Drewsey over.

DREX: Alright, it went right over the hill just like the road goes now, and then it turned and went up by Pat O'Tooles, and up that canyon, and then right on up that valley into where Carpenters live now, and that was a stage stop. And that's where Mother met Father, she told you.

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: Then it "clumb" the mountain right there, it didn't follow the highway, it went right straight up the mountain and out on top. They call that Yarber Flat or something, I don't know. And then it followed the, turned to the left and followed the crest of Stinkingwater down. Where the road goes right over the top of Stinkingwater, you can see the old road where it comes in right there. And that was called Dead Man's Hill, there was a man froze to death on that. Then it went to the foot and turned left, and that valley, and that was called Nigger Flat, a very rude name now.

ANNE: Have you ever heard why it was called that? My kids asked me that the other day.

DREX: It's, I think self-explanatory. Then it went to the upper end of that, and turned to the right, and that's where a two-story house of George Buchanan's was. That was Joe Buchanan's brother. And at one time that was a horse change deal. And then you know where they are tearing all that road up and rebuilding?

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: As you come up the canyon, before you get to that sharp turn where there has been several people killed, you notice as the draw turns to the right, well the road went right straight up that mountain, right up to the bottom of it, and over to the George Buchanan place. And then it followed, pretty much followed the road down a ways, and

then it swung to the right up on the hill where the rest stop is now, the road was up the hill about a half a mile.

ANNE: A half mile up, okay.

DREX: And then it come back around and come back down in front of what we know as the Buchanan place. You know the Crane road ---

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: And follow it down that, to the Loggan Lane where that old house sits, and turn right and come back across and followed the foothills around then by Rock Creek, and then to the Poujade place. Just followed those foot --- into Harney City, just followed those foothills around. And when it left Harney City, the old Howser place, I don't know if you know where that is, that old log cabin with a poplar tree up there on Soldier Creek.

ANNE: Oh, okay, I think I know.

DREX: And it followed that around, and then it came back and where Turen Dunten's daughter was killed, just before that, dipped around to the left and went around that hill. And then it went pretty much the way it is now, down to where the Orbit Inn, or whatever that eating place is, and there is a lane turns to the right. Well the road then went over what they called the Sand Hills. That's over where Egglestons live now. The road went across that, across the Silvies there and then into Burns.

ANNE: Into Burns then, oh.

DREX: I've heard Father tell about an excessive run off in the spring when he had the mail line. He had Merle McMullen build a boat; it was so high they couldn't cross here. Boat the mail across here, then they had a boat from the sand hill there at Eggleston's into Burns.

ANNE: Man that would be something, I never thought of that before. You kind of take a lot of things for granted in this day and age.

DREX: Then you get over to Fopians, that --- if you want to take that line on from there.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: It goes on down Cottonwood to Indian Creek, the Bakers own property in there, and then on into Westfall. Then it went from Westfall, it didn't come to Harper, it went on down Bully Creek, to the Cane Field which was a field ... and on down to the hot springs. O'Neal's were on the hot springs; they operated a stage stop there. And I think some of the Jordan's own that place, or did own it. I think it has been through ... maybe some of Dick's family owns it. Then it went from there on down and followed pretty well on down and into Vale. I don't know how it went from there.

ANNE: To Ontario? That's pretty good. How many years did they run that stage line?

DREX: Ten years.

ANNE: Ten years.

DREX: Two four year contracts, and subbed it two years. Now I don't know just where the two-year sub came in. I did hear Father say that --- it doesn't sound like much now, but he did say in the ten years that he made a living for the family and saved \$20,000. Well that was a lot of money.

ANNE: That's a lot of money then, yeah.

DREX: He said he could watch his stages make him \$50 a day in the summer, and lose him \$50 a day in the winter.

ANNE: Where did they get their horses for it?

DREX: Well everybody raised horses.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: Everybody raised horses. All these ranches ...

ANNE: Did he break his own, or someone broke them for him?

DREX: Oh, I suppose they work them ... stage team. Originally that's about all you could

do. I recall him telling one time --- he didn't drive stage, only as a fill in if some driver got sick or something. He spent his time up and down the line, keeping things going in the buggy. And he laughed one time, he met another fellow and he was riding a balky horse along with his. They stopped and talked awhile, and he was always trading horses. And he said they traded horses and neither one of them could get started.

ANNE: Oh no. (Laughter) You say you have a list of the drivers that you have written down for me.

DREX: Oh as I remember. I used to run onto those fellows as a kid going back and forth to school. And I guess I looked them up after father ... Oh I really ---

ANNE: Well I can take that and use it for sure.

DREX: Ira Ruble was one. He came down from Salmon City on the main line when he came down here.

ANNE: Oh, yeah.

DREX: And an old fellow buried here by Uncle Frank and Uncle Les, I had a stone put in memory of him, a stagehand.

ROTHA: Andy.

DREX: What was his --- Andy ---

ROTHA: Upcrest ...

ANNE: Andy something.

DREX: Oh it's there, I'll ... he was a stage driver. And then he had been with them all over the west, and he died in 1902. And then Taylor Johnson, and a man by the name of Renwick, they used to have the store over here to the Folly Farm ... they had a post office there in the store. I stopped there one day and visited with him, he was a stage driver. He was telling me, he had the post office in the same store, building, the store, and he was selling beer. Of course that's illegal, so the postal inspectors raised cane. He said

take your so and so post office out of here, but they left it. (Laughter)

And then Charles Bush of Westfall was a young fellow and he drove one summer. Some of his quotations about working on this stage line is in a book that was published of the Westfall country, just a line or two. And my brother he used to see him occasionally, but he has passed away. And that's about all I can tell you. But they had to be there, in Father's ten-year hitch on this line, assuming there was two stages each way, in 36 hours, that would mean, well you can figure it out. I suppose ---

ROTHA: That's where Lee gets that 72 hours, it's a round-trip, wasn't it?

DREX: I suppose that there would have been, it could have well of been 25, 30, 35, 40 drivers in that length of time.

ANNE: Oh wow, man.

DREX: But I'm just assuming that. There wasn't a turnover in men like then, like there is - -- they took a job they stayed.

ANNE: They stuck with it.

ROTHA: They went day and night too, didn't they Drex?

DREX: Well not the same driver.

ROTHA: No, what I meant was that was continuous.

DREX: Well the stages never stopped, they went day and night.

ROTHA: Yeah, they met their contracts, their time. It's different than now.

DREX: They never, they never, see to make it in 36 hours they just changed horses and changed drivers.

ANNE: Oh they changed, how often did they change horses and drivers?

DREX: Oh, I was trying to figure that out from the gaps between the stage stops. I imagine they, let me see, those horses probably ... now that's speculation, because to make that in 36 hours they didn't walk those horses.

ANNE: Yeah, I bet not. Well they changed drivers every time they changed horses?

DREX: Unless a driver was sick. In some instances if the other driver was sick or didn't show up, one driver would take the next hitch. But I'm not sure about that; you see that was 145 miles. And assume the horse --- it takes an awful good horse to walk 4 miles an hour. And multiply 4 by 136, and you'd come up with about 140 miles.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: But then they had to stop for the, if there was passengers they had to stop for the passengers to eat, and to stop and change horses like that. So I would judge, I would judge, I think you would be safe in saying they changed anywhere from 8 to 10 to 12 hours. I have ---

ANNE: Yeah. Somewhere in that vicinity. Well when they changed, when they changed horses and stuff, were they all harnessed and ready to go when they got there, and they just hooked them up? They surely didn't have to harness them ---

DREX: That's what the people that handled the stage stations was there for was to take care of the horses, feed the crew. If the drivers were staying with them --- some places they just changed horses. At other places where drivers stayed ---

ANNE: Oh so the drivers just lived there did they, wherever?

DREX: Well the one that takes stage going this way, one hitch to the next stop. Then he'd catch his night sleep, and maybe he would meet a stage coming and he'd take it back. Yes, they lived on the job.

ANNE: Yeah. Boy that would take a lot of harness to keep an outfit like that going.

DREX: 48 horses being used every 24 hours, assuming 4 horses to the hitch.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: So that would be four teams a running, that's 16 sets of harness. Well that's not too many. We had, at haying there at Juntura, I had that much.

ANNE: Did you?

DREX: Took about 50 head of haying horses.

ROTHA: How many did we have down at the lower ranch, do you remember?

DREX: Oh I wouldn't remember, Rotha, no.

ANNE: That's something. Who kept up all the harnesses, was there someone in town that was a harness maker?

DREX: Oh yes, there was harness makers even in our time. Sandy over here at Burns, I've had more than one set of harness made by Sandy. Then the stage, the station operators they would repair and oil, and one thing and another.

ANNE: Well who in Drewsey was a harness maker, anyone that you can remember being talked about?

DREX: No. There were, was blacksmiths here.

ANNE: Blacksmiths. I never had heard anything about that.

DREX: Shoe the horses. Got to take, had to keep those ---

ANNE: Maybe everyone took care of their own pretty much.

DREX: And Max Taggart's father ran a hardware store in Ontario. Max has been my attorney for 40 years, and he ran an early day hardware store. And Max said he really, talked a lot of times about Father bought horseshoes by the keg, a wooden keg.

ANNE: Yeah, never thought of that. Who would shoe all the horses?

DREX: Blacksmiths in town. They made a profession of it. They'd take these horses into the shop, big solid wall, and a ring up there, and they'd tie their heads up high. They were big powerful men, those blacksmiths.

ANNE: Well did they have at the stage stops, the people that run them would have to know how to shoe horses in case somebody threw one, wouldn't they?

DREX: I would just, that would just be elementary I guess. Or change a horse, one of the

two.

ANNE: Okay. Well that would be quite a deal then. How about the feed, getting it to those stage stops and stuff?

DREX: It was, tried to locate it in areas where the feed was available, but I've heard Dad say in short hay years that --- they could transport grain in their stage, but hay was something else. And I heard him say a time a two they was short of hay, and they'd just feed a horse what they could squeeze together in their hand. Feed them plenty of grain. He said those horses would beg for hay, just like an ordinary horse would beg for grain.

ANNE: Oh really.

DREX: Needed that roughage.

ANNE: That would be hard. How long would a horse last in that kind of a condition do you think?

DREX: Oh they'd take good care of them, they'd last as long as, I'd assume on the ranches. We worked horses up to 12, 14 years old.

ANNE: Yeah. Well that's something. Okay, well that interests me because it's something that's lost now, you know, that's completely gone.

DREX: Oh it's --- so many things. Back when we were running lots of horses, cutting these four and five year old stallions --- now I thought I'd go in haying with horses. I thought that would go on forever, and never had sense enough to take any pictures. They'd be priceless.

ANNE: Yeah, they would.

DREX: Milers used to have some early day pictures I know of; Charlie and Hattie showed me some.

ANNE: They're priceless; those haying pictures like that and stuff too. Okay ---

ROTHA: There is one of Lee with a team.



ANNE: Yeah, well that's a good one. Okay there is a few more questions I need to ask you right away. When you're, of course your parents were older when they came here, so they didn't go to school, okay. But when you guys went to school, where did you go to school, Drex, here at Drewsey?

DREX: Drewsey. I was a smart child, and Delmas Drinkwater, we were both --- well he wasn't, he was born December the 14th in 1910. And I was born the 29th of January in 1911. I was in high school when I was 12 years old.

ANNE: Oh wow, man.

DREX: You see the teachers at a small school, Delmas and I were together, and they would push us ahead, to keep lightening the load. I was in high school when I was 12 years old.

ANNE: Did you go to high school here then?

DREX: Seattle the first year.

ANNE: In Seattle.

DREX: I failed every subject but one, and oh I had a good time up there. (Laughter) So they sent me down to Eugene with my older sister, and she held the purse strings, she got me through high school. It took five years, but I still got out at 17.

ANNE: Oh man.

DREX: And that was the extent of my education.

ANNE: Yeah, okay. Well that sounds pretty good.

ROTHA: Well Drex always thought it was terrible, Mom would send money to Midge, you know, for Drex and his, I mean for his, oh you know, just money to spend.

DREX: Spending money.

ROTHA: Spending money, and Midge wouldn't give it to him. So Drex always thought he was very badly abused. He didn't know the folks sent him money. But that was the only

way they could make him study.

ANNE: ... bribe him. How about you Rotha, did you go to school here at Drewsey also?

ROTHA: Well I went to the eighth grade in Salem.

ANNE: Did you?

ROTHA: Parrish Junior High. And then as usual, when I went to school, Dad was always haying, so I was always two weeks late. Well they weren't right certain where I was going to high school. They got down to Ontario; they were debating whether to take me over to St. Teresas, that's where my sister went. We got to Ontario and he got to talking to a lot of the business people there, and so they decided they would leave me there in Ontario. So I went four years in Ontario.

ANNE: Who did you stay with?

ROTHA: Well the last three years I stayed with Judge Biggs' family up on the hill. You know the --- it wasn't Allen, it was the other, Dalton's family. I was there at the house when Dalton died.

ANNE: Oh, that's something. Okay. Okay, Drex, I don't think you mentioned what year you and Irene got married, and what Irene's maiden name was.

DREX: Irene Goodman, she was raised at Juntura. And we was married the 1st of June 1937.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: We have been married 52 years.

ANNE: Well that's something, isn't it? Where were you married at?

DREX: In Vale.

ANNE: In Vale, okay. Okay, now where are your parents both buried at?

DREX: Over here at Drewsey. Mine, Irene's parents are buried in Ontario.

ANNE: Okay. Okay, do you remember anything about the Indians around this country

when you were younger?

DREX: Yes, they camped up in sagebrush above the old Catholic Church, and just had us kids scared to death. Those old bucks would catch us around the edge of town, and then they'd get between us kids and town, you know, and kind of herd us out. Oh! And then Rotha could tell you about this. Billy Washington's mother and his sister used to come over here and do the washing for us.

ANNE: Oh really.

DREX: And they, I remember when they came over. Do you remember any ---

ROTHA: Well no I don't, Drex, but they used to have tepees up here at the forks of the road. I can remember that. I couldn't have been too old, but I remember. And Drex, when I was in high school out here one summer, some of the descendants came back.

DREX: Uh huh, they're in Burns now.

ROTHA: Come to see my mother.

DREX: Yeah, the older Washington, Billy's sister just passed away in the hospital up here

---

ROTHA: Martha wasn't it?

DREX: --- Bertha and Martha.

ROTHA: Yeah.

DREX: Just passed away in the hospital in Burns.

ROTHA: Tell her about the Indian that died down there at the lower ranch.

DREX: Well that was in early days. They went through the lane there drunk, and one of them fell off in the ditch and drowned.

ANNE: Oh really.

DREX: They always stayed away from there; they said that man Williams bad man. And Dad didn't have nothing to do with it.

ANNE: Have anything to do with it, he was just drunk and fell in.

ROTHA: And Mom and Aunt Georgia was scared to death, I mean Dad was gone a lot.

DREX: Have you any more?

ANNE: Yeah, I still have more.

ROTHA: Do you want me to fix, I've got a pizza out here, Drex, or I can make you something to eat.

DREX: Put a pizza in.

ROTHA: Okay, will do. Because I imagine you need some food.

ANNE: Okay. Now the hot spring out there, the Holladay hot springs, did you ever go out there any at all when you were younger, and swim or anything?

DREX: Oh yes, that wasn't the Holladay hot springs, that was Uncle Lou built that, Lou Sitz. Yes, oh you bet, that was "the" source of entertainment in the summertime here. And then he raised watermelons, and that was one of the finest men that ever lived.

ANNE: Did you stay out there any at all with him?

DREX: Grandmother Holladay lived out there. Yes, we've stayed out there a little.

ROTHA: Grandmother homesteaded it.

ANNE: Yeah, Grandmother Holladay owns that. That would be a lot of fun. How much did they charge to go swimming, do you remember?

DREX: Oh no, relatives, you know ---

ANNE: Yeah, you didn't have to pay probably.

DREX: And Uncle Lou was so good hearted, if you had money you paid, and if you didn't why you went swimming. Had a table in the bathhouse, and these old stiff bathing suits, just a big pile, and you went in there and plowed through them until you got one you thought would fit.

ANNE: (Laughter) Then went swimming. I bet the bathing suits looked a little different

then than they do now.

DREX: Oh yeah, they were a modest affair.

ANNE: Little pieces.

ROTHA: Got a preference? I got pepperoni or Canadian bacon.

DREX: The one you like best Rotha.

ROTHA: Well I don't care. What about you Anne?

ANNE: Doesn't matter.

DREX: Canadian bacon, we'll eat the best.

ANNE: Well let's see, on the, some of the, at Clark's hot springs up there, have you ever been up there when you were younger? Did they have a bathhouse?

DREX: Oh yes, the dance used to be at the grange.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: Yeah, been over there. Used to fill their cars up, nobody had anti-freeze in them, and I never could understand why somebody didn't --- out there in that sloping place, getting hot water to fill their cars, how come somebody never fell in there and drowned, I'll never know, or burnt to death.

ANNE: That's something, isn't it? Did you go to very many dances when you were younger?

DREX: Yes, starting at about 18, I went.

ANNE: Yeah, they had dances about every week or so?

DREX: Every two weeks.

ANNE: Every two weeks.

DREX: Yeah, I would judge every two weeks.

ANNE: Huh, did they take turns between the grange and the IOO-F Hall?

DREX: Well when I first starting going, Drewsey was it. And of course they had them in

Juntura and around, I never went there. And then they started the grange in competition with Drewsey, and in fact their dream was to eliminate Drewsey.

ANNE: Didn't quite work though did it? Okay, did you or any of your family ever work for the PLS Company?

DREX: I worked 30 days. Only paycheck I ever drew in my life. I rode; snap a good horses for 30 days for the PLS Company.

ANNE: Yeah, oh wow.

DREX: It was the only paycheck I ever drew in my life.

ANNE: Here in Drewsey somewhere?

DREX: Over, it was this outfit that was stationed on this side, would have been called the Drewsey unit. And they were dipping cattle then, and I was over on the Island Ranch, but I just worked 30 days.

ANNE: 30 days. That's something, isn't it? Okay. Do you think that the PLS Company had any influence on this area at all?

DREX: Absolutely, it was an outfit that any man could get a job with. It had a lot to do with the economy of the country. And then I'll tell you there was a lot of people and kids raised on Company beef.

ANNE: Do you think they got some of their starts of cattle from the beef too, probably?

DREX: Well yes, that's true of any cattle country. There is always a certain amount of thievery going on.

ANNE: Okay. Okay, did you ever remember hearing anything about a fair at Drewsey, or attend one?

DREX: Oh yes, Fourth of July celebration was quite an affair. People would come from Westfall, Juntura, from up the river. And there was usually, there would be ball games, inter-town rivalry, and it would generally last about three days, and dances. And where

the power station is now, down through that flat was a racetrack. And there was a grandstand there on this end. They had horse races, ball games, foot races.

ANNE: All during the time ---

DREX: All during that time. Glenn could tell you a lot about that. Glenn was one of the winners.

ANNE: Yeah, he said something about that all right. That would be something. Well who organized all these activities?

DREX: Well I think they just naturally fell in place probably in the early days. The community would get it together, and Drewsey was an incorporated town at one time, had a mayor, had a jail, marshal.

ANNE: Huh.

#### SIDE B

ANNE: Remember when they first, how they managed that? They surely, they sent them clear to Bend.

DREX: Yes, I've been to a funeral or two. But I'm sure in my time they came, had to come out of Burns or someplace. Now I know the man that became an undertaker after he left ... Cass Drinkwater's father, Ace Johnson.

ANNE: Oh really.

DREX: He went over into John Day, Prairie City, and became an undertaker.

ANNE: Who laid them out here, I wonder, just whoever?

DREX: I suppose in early days it would be like any community, just the communities themselves. Now there was a doctor in Drewsey in the early days, Dr. Harrison.

ANNE: I probably did some of it. Okay. I'm going to go through this with you Drex, this ranch deal. It's something that I have been trying to get together. I'm not doing it by

research; I'm just doing it by gosh and be gone here. I'm going to start back-wards and go forwards, because this is the area I want to gather up. Okay. Bob Carpenter's place out there, it was owned originally by people by the name of Gates.

DREX: Gates had a place ---

ANNE: That's part of it?

DREX: Gates and --- Glenn can tell you that. Gates lived there, and then I'm not sure, but there were two, two-story houses there, one on each side of the road. And I'm not sure whether the other one was a relative, or just who that second house was. But there was two different families there. One was across, where the reservoir, where the water is, on that side of the county road. And another one that I recall, one was by the Gates ...

ANNE: Oh. How about your grandparents then, Holladay's, and your mother, whatever.

DREX: Oh I don't think they ever owned that, I'm not sure.

ANNE: Oh, they just stayed there, is that the deal?

DREX: Yeah, they might have, they might have just, Gates, or whoever had that property it would have been deeded.

ANNE: Would have been deeded, okay. Up here at the Lamb Ranch, was Joe Lamb the first person, people that owned that basically?

DREX: As far as I know.

ANNE: As far as you know, okay. And then the PLS Company, and Mike O'Toole, and then somebody by the name of Godding.

DREX: He was a, yes; Charlie Miler had it before O'Tooles.

ANNE: Okay. This Godding guy, do you have any idea what his first name is?

DREX: Jack.

ANNE: Jack. And then John Stringer owned it after him?

DREX: Yes.



ANNE: And then Shelley's and then ...

DREX: Oh yeah ...

ANNE: Okay. And then the Wilber brother's place, it was PLS Ranch before they ever, it was first the PLS Ranch?

DREX: This one down here?

ANNE: Uh huh, the Drewsey field.

DREX: Yes, the Drewsey field was a Company Ranch.

ANNE: Okay. And as far as you know they were the first people that ever lived there, or owned it.

DREX: The Company.

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: Bill Miller, a fine old man, I bached with him as a kid on that lower ranch where he lived. He said they lived in a dugout over the hill between what's known as the 40, that's PLS and the big field.

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: And he went to school over the hill in one of those old log shacks over there ... So I would suspect that the Company acquired that land through the previous homesteaders.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: In fact all of the PLS Company was acquired that way with the exception of the Agency Ranch, and when that --- you know the ...

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: These others was all ---

ANNE: Acquired through homesteaders.

DREX: --- acquired through homesteaders that settled on it originally. Now Henry Miller,

he could have had people homestead for him.

ANNE: Yeah, probably.

DREX: Then all the water holes the Company owned, that was through script.

ANNE: Oh.

DREX: Do you know what script was?

ANNE: Huh uh.

DREX: The Civil War veterans in lieu of pay, as a bonus, they were given title to, the privilege of, so many acres of land and they could place that script any place in the area they wanted.

ANNE: Oh.

DREX: So Henry Miller got a hold of it, and surveyed, and had that script placed on all the water holes, the strategic water holes.

ANNE: Oh for Pete's sakes. Well that's something. Well after the PLS got rid of it they sold it to Otley Brothers, and then ---

DREX: Uh huh.

ANNE: And then of course Wilber's got it from them. Okay ---

DREX: And I bought the last PLS Company land that was sold in this country.

ANNE: Oh you did?

DREX: And that was down the river below the Drewsey field.

ANNE: Oh.

DREX: I gave a \$1,000.00 for 1180 acres on a ten-year contract with 6% interest.

ANNE: That's a good deal, wasn't it? Man, don't you wish you could make some like that now? Okay, Terry's place where he lives now, what was it originally, what place?

DREX: Duncan Ranch.

ANNE: The Duncan Ranch. And this --- okay.

DREX: The Duncan Ranch extended from the house, the old house, down toward the Drinkwater, what we call the Drinkwater place. And then right below it was the Elliott field, which was the former PLS land, and Dad bought it.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: And above the house why he got into Hiram Williams' homestead, the Getting homestead, the Stewart field, and the Miles field.

ANNE: Okay. And that --- how about this, it's called Libery, or Libery, L I B E R Y. Never heard of them? Okay, it said it was a brother to Mrs. Murphy. Mother of Bill, John, and Jim.

DREX: Oh, Lavery.

ANNE: Lavery, okay.

DREX: This is the Lavery homestead right here.

ANNE: Right here. How would you spell that?

DREX: L A V E R Y.

ANNE: Okay. And this is Rotha's place then.

DREX: Uh huh. And Dad bought that from him. He was declared insane and put in an asylum in Baker. I heard my mother say that Mrs. Murphy came over here and closed the deal. And the house, the foundation is right down here towards the river. Winney Scott, Dick Scott said afterwards, he said that man wasn't crazy, they just had him committed.

ANNE: (Laughter) Could well be. Well what about some of the rest of the places that, around here, was it all, have we covered it all right now?

DREX: There was another 160 acres below here that Dad bought, down where the buttes are, and Rotha will show you the deed, she can come up with the names.

ANNE: Come up with the names, okay. Sounds good, I'll get it from her then. Okay now this place that Jim Freeman lives on right now, was Ed Beede the first that you can think

of that ever owned it?

DREX: That was the first I remember living there was Ed Beede.

ANNE: Okay. And then Frank Upton?

DREX: Yes.

ANNE: And then Roberts?

DREX: Well from there on, yeah. That was an early day gristmill right there.

ANNE: That was where the gristmill was.

DREX: You've heard about it?

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: And that was known as an Indian crossing there.

ANNE: Oh it was?

DREX: I don't know if you want to record all this. But when I was going to school in Salem in 1928 there was a big old tall man by the name of McQuarter lived right across, next door, and down in the basement. He was a bachelor, and his brother and his wife lived upstairs. And I liked the old fellow. He was 86 years old then, and just as straight as a string. And during the last Indian uprising in this country there was two civilian scouts, and he had been raised over at old ... that's where ... is now. And he was one of the Indian scouts in that. He said they always called this the crossing. He said there was no Drewsey here then. He was a civilian scout during that last Indian uprising.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: And incidentally he asked me, did you know Jane Shearer? She had a little girl, said she left ... and he said I understood she went to Drewsey. And I got to thinking that was Jane Drewitt and Mabel Moffet.

ANNE: Oh.

DREX: Came over here and married ...

ANNE: Oh for Pete's sake.

DREX: That's ...

ANNE: Oh yeah. It's interesting. That's what's interesting about this whole thing is getting these stories from it. Okay. Glenn Sitz's place consists of William Fredericks place and a Howe, and leased by Highsmith at one point. Do you remember what the High-smith's first name was?

DREX: Albert.

ANNE: Alvin. Okay.

DREX: Went to school with ...

ANNE: Oh did you?

DREX: Irene, yeah ...

ANNE: Okay. And then ---

DREX: ...

ANNE: Okay. There is probably another one or two that I want to go over here with you. Some of this ---

DREX: He was alive not too many years ago. He lived to be an old, old man back in the Midwest.

ANNE: Yeah, well that's something. This --- you've gone over the Stallard place. Let's see, Conly Marshall's place, I haven't been able to get a thing out of Conly and JoAnne about it. I'm going to some day.

DREX: All right, this is Milt Davis' property here.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: And that place down there on the river is known as the Muldridge place.

ANNE: Muldridge. Do you remember what their first name was?

DREX: No, I don't.

ANNE: Okay. Okay, and then how did Conly come and buy it? He bought it from Milt?

DREX: He bought it from Percy. Let's see Conly bought his place, the Young field, from Percy Davis. And where he lives and down there belongs to Harvey Hatt now.

ANNE: Okay. Young field, why was it called that?

DREX: A man by the name of Young ...

ANNE: Oh, I never did hear of him before.

DREX: That's the one above Drewsey where that string of trees there along the road up there, that's the Young field.

ANNE: Yeah, Young field up there. Okay. I think that's probably that --- end of those. Okay, I'll turn this off.

... (Pause in tape)

ANNE: Okay, Compton was Ben's son?

DREX: Jim.

ANNE: Jim's son, okay. This Ben, do you ---

DREX: Oh Ben Aitchison, yes he worked for Uncle Lou, and he was killed in a car accident and died in a hotel here in Drewsey.

ANNE: Oh really?

DREX: Bought Glenn Sitz his first bicycle.

ANNE: Oh for Pete's sake. Well were they all related though? ... But Jim and Compton were ...

DREX: ...

ANNE: How about this John Armour, A R M O U R, have you ever heard of him? Okay Oscar and Tom Arnold?

DREX: Yes.

ANNE: Which one did they call Buck Arnold, was that Charlie?

DREX: There was, that was Charlie.

ANNE: Charlie.

DREX: Charlie, yeah he was a corn doctor.

ANNE: Okay. And then Hoyt Arnold, did they have a nickname for him too?

DREX: No. Did you have Oscar down there?

ANNE: Yeah, uh huh.

DREX: There is four of those Arnold brothers.

ANNE: What did they call Oscar, just Os wasn't it? Okay. William Bare ---

DREX: Old Bill Bare, yes he was killed up on Duck Creek.

ANNE: Okay. Was their name B A R E, have you ever heard?

DREX: I think it was. People will know regardless as how you spell it. Because I recall that was the way it was spelled.

ANNE: Okay. How was old William killed up on Duck Creek?

DREX: ...

ANNE: Oh no.

DREX: In the barn.

ANNE: Each other, they killed each other huh?

DREX: No. That's the way ...

ANNE: Oh it was? That's too bad. Well Jack Bare, was that William's son or ---

DREX: That was his son.

ANNE: His son. This Henry Bain, who was he?

DREX: He had a homestead up above what was known as Milldale, and he clerked in the store early days over here at the Jerry Drink-water, Porter-Sitz Store.

ANNE: Yeah, huh. Did he live around here for quite a few years then?

DREX: He was here several years. But I don't know where he died. He moved out ...

ANNE: Moved out, okay. George Baker?

DREX: Yes, he had the garage, shop-garage that was here ... up right across from where the Hamilton Hotel was. You know that old stone building there ... George Baker. It was there in the early days. And he worked for the PLS Company at times.

ANNE: Was he related to that W. D. Baker?

DREX: No relation.

ANNE: No relation. Okay.

DREX: Then George Baker moved to Juntura and had a garage and gas station and a shop down there.

ROTHA: And Shirley and Dee were his offspring.

DREX: And ...

ANNE: They're all around ---

DREX: They're all ... Shirley is the only one left.

ANNE: Okay, this W. D. Baker then.

DREX: Yes, he and Jess Baker came up here; Rotha has the book on that. He built the Odd Fellow Hall over there. Then Jess went back, and then W. D. Baker was a carpenter. Then he worked with father and other community people in putting the first telephone lines in this country, Riverside, Vale and everywhere. But they could never keep them in operation. Freighters was a running, and every time they broke down and needed some wire, why they'd cut the darn telephone wire and use it. So they finally had to quit and give up on it.

ANNE: And what, did he die here, old W. D. Baker?

DREX: No. ...

ROTHA: I've got a book here someplace ...

DREX: They left.



ANNE: This Jack Bales, have you ever heard of him?

DREX: Bales?

ANNE: Uh huh. John Barkley?

DREX: Oh yes, Johnny Barkley was a PLS Company buckaroo, and then later on he moved to Vale and he worked for Dean Goodman some. And he moved to Vale and Barkley Park, you'll see a sign as you come in, that's named after Johnny. Worked for the City of Vale up until he retired and died.

ANNE: Oh heavens, that's something, I've never heard of him before. Okay, and I've got quite a bit on the Bartlett's. And this Bill Bartoni, you've never heard of him. John Beede?

DREX: Vaguely. No, I can't say, he was part of the Beede group ... can't give you anything on him.

ANNE: I've got quite a bit on the rest of the Beede's here. Fred Bliss, ever heard of him? Lou Bradfield?

DREX: Oh yes. Laddie Clark can give you a big run down on Lou Bradfield. You probably have it.

ANNE: Quite a bit.

DREX: Yes, I remember ...

ANNE: Quite a character.

DREX: I remember Lou real well.

ANNE: Do you.

DREX: His homestead was at Stinkingwater. He was a racehorse man.

ANNE: This Walton Brown?

DREX: Yes, he had the store at, the lower floor of the Odd Fellow Hall; he had a store there. And he, I don't know if he built the house, I think he did, but he lived in the house that young Marshall, the road boss, lives in now.

ANNE: Well does this; were they any relation to the Browns that were in Burns? Don't know?

DREX: ...

ANNE: Bill Brunner, B R U N N E R.

DREX: Brunner. All I know of him is what I've heard ... All I know he was in the country up above Drewsey.

ANNE: Which one of them did they call ...

DREX: I think it was Oscar.

ANNE: Oscar, okay. Get all those mixed up. Joseph Bryley?

DREX: Yes. He was Velfa, Velfa Richardson's brother.

ANNE: Brother, okay. Was he the one that, kind of off in the head was it?

DREX: Yes. They kept him in a stockade out here. I remember as a little boy my dad took me down there to look at him. They had his hands strapped down. He was just going around and around like a caged lion. Every time he would get loose why the telephones would ring and the women would gather the kids up, and be scared to death.

ANNE: Poor guy. How was this Martin Bryley, was he a relation to them?

DREX: I don't know.

ANNE: Don't know, okay. William C. Calhoun or --- that isn't how you pronounce it.

DREX: Yeah, Bill ... He lived with the Hamilton's here in Drewsey.

ANNE: Oh.

DREX: He was a janitor to the school. He was a stonemason.

ANNE: Oh he was? Did he build anything around here then?

DREX: Oh I think, I think a lot of these homes ...

ANNE: What was he an old bachelor or something?

DREX: Yes.

ANNE: Was Arthur Campbell?

DREX: Yeah, that was Ed Campbell's brother.

ANNE: Oh it was.

DREX: He married Margaret ...

ANNE: Oh he did? Was he any relation to Jeff ...

DREX: No, ... Margaret ...

ROTHA: I heard you mention about the stone quarries, was that the one that built, I mean where we got our stones for the cellar?

DREX: I don't know. It must have been though.

ANNE: Did they get a lot of stones for various places around here?

DREX: ...

ANNE: Who opened that, have you ever heard?

DREX: Oh these stone masons.

ANNE: Just the stone masons here.

DREX: The ... was built out of it. And any place that you see stonework it came from ...

ANNE: For Pete's sake. I've got stuff on Ed. Let's see, William ... have you ever heard of him? Quite an old guy. Sam Canyon?

DREX: Cannon.

ANNE: Cannon.

DREX: He took up the place down here where Rex Robertson lives. That was the Cannon place.

ANNE: Oh. That's like cannon, like it sounds? Okay. Rex Robertson lives on it now, and he started that. I thought it was always a Drinkwater place. I forgot to ask you that.

DREX: Jerry kind of looked after him, and one thing and another, and when he passed away he deeded it to Jerry.

ANNE: Oh for Pete's sakes. Nice to know anyway. This Wallace Capps and Walter, they were brothers?

DREX: Wallace and --- well yes, they were twins.

ANNE: Okay. Did you know them very well?

DREX: Oh yes. They ran the Bartlett Hotel over here for years. I knew them real well.

ANNE: What ever happened to them, did they die here in Drewsey?

DREX: Yes, the hotel burned up, Walt --- I forget which one was the father of all the children. Floyd was the other ... One died and then the hotel burned up, and burnt the other one ... he committed suicide.

ANNE: Oh really? ... This Fred, William, and George Carey, were they all brothers by any chance? You ever heard of them?

DREX: Yes. ... Can't answer if they was all brothers.

ANNE: Where was the Carey place at?

DREX: It was down the river.

ANNE: Down the river.

DREX: Towards ... it was just an old dried out homestead.

ANNE: Yeah. Supposedly they had something to do with building the Drewsey School, or tearing it down or something.

DREX: They tore it down. One Carey was a barber in Vale, and he was the one that bought the building and had it torn down.

ANNE: Huh. Well that's something. George Carroll and John Carroll and Pat Carroll?

DREX: Yes. I didn't know Pat, but I knew George and John. John was the one that, Pete Jones shot and killed ... And George and John were brothers. And they were related to Belle Altnow. They homesteaded there, yeah, out there by the Altnow place ...

ANNE: Oh they did? Huh.

DREX: And George Carroll had the garage over here, I think, after George Baker ...  
Either before or after, it would have to be after.

ANNE: Jeff Cawfield?

DREX: Yes, Jeff was right above Rotha's place ...

ANNE: Who are his family? Can you remember any of them?

DREX: Oh, ... they had the homestead right over the hill, and he lives in Burns.

ROTHA: Well they, if the barber is still alive, he is out of the Cawfield family. There was a barber in Burns there that was a Cawfield, and he could probably tell you all of this. But I don't remember ...

DREX: Squawky ... I'm sure he can.

ROTHA: Now Eunice (Jordan) knew about the Cawfields.

DREX: Yeah, Eunice is your historian for up there.

ROTHA: ... up in that country.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: But Dale, Dale was the boy, one boy, he hayed up there sometimes ... Then there was another son, and then there was a daughter. Now Eunice can -- I'll tell you, have you talked to Eunice?

ANNE: Uh huh, yeah numerous times.

DREX: She is a good historian.

ANNE: She really is, she has given me a lot of stuff. Let's see, Pat Conley?

DREX: Yes, he was married to Bill Miller's mother.

ANNE: Oh, he was?

DREX: Now wait a minute, he was married to Bill Miller's sister. Merle McMullen had been married to her first, they had two children Roy and ... Then she divorced him and she married Pat Conley.

ANNE: Oh.

DREX: And he was a big sheep operator, and he took bankruptcy then, and that was a disgrace in those days ... So they left this country and moved over into Idaho and built up and real successful ...

ANNE: Well where was his place at?

DREX: Pat O'Toole's.

ANNE: Pat O'Toole's, okay. Robert Currier, heard of him? John Dailey?

DREX: John Dailey started the first store, or Perrington and Robbins had the first store, and then Dailey came in. He married a sister of Bill Robertson's.

ANNE: Oh he did?

DREX: Then moved to Boise.

ANNE: Huh, I didn't know about that.

ROTHA: What was her name, Drex, I should remember, but I don't.

ANNE: O. J. Darst, heard of him? Neal Dawson?

DREX: Yes, Neal he was more or less a ... He married; Neal married a daughter of W. D. Baker.

ANNE: Oh he did.

DREX: They had one son, Lyle Dawson, he lives in Portland.

ANNE: Well this Tom Dawson, was he related to them?

DREX: No, he was an old buckaroo cook.

ANNE: Oh he was.

DREX: He cooked in the wagons, buckaroos ...

ANNE: For the PLS Company.

DREX: ... among other things.

ANNE: Among other things, okay. Phil Deitrick?

DREX: Yes, he was in the upper country, he had a --- there is a homestead up near the ... You know where the Francis Miller organization has that, or who, but he had a homestead up there.

ANNE: Okay. See Arch Drewitt, and Elmer Drewitt and Jack Drewitt.

DREX: All brothers.

ANNE: All brothers. Where did, all did they homestead, do you know?

DREX: The only homestead I know of over here is Jack Drewitts ...

ANNE: How about that one over the hill they call the ...

DREX: Drewitt place, that was ...

ANNE: ... Okay. Joe Dripps?

DREX: Yes, he was one of the younger Dripps. He was Cassie's sister's ...

ANNE: Oh, well I didn't know that. Well this Moses Dripps ...

DREX: Must have been his father. I don't know anything about him.

ANNE: Okay. William Dunlap?

DREX: Yes, he had the place over here where Woodruffs lived. That's this side of Pat O'Toole's down next to the market road.

ANNE: Oh.

DREX: I don't know if that old house is still standing there, just before you cross the bridge or not. Market road went through the Dunlap place.

ANNE: Oh it did, goes right down the road. Okay, this Lou Dyer, D Y E R?

DREX: Yes. He was a town marshal when I was a little boy over here in Drewsey. He had a little girl, the prettiest little thing. Of course I was small, but her name was Hazel. And they left here and went over on Indian Creek and went to work for Beckers and she died with diphtheria.

ANNE: Oh, that's too bad. What did he do here?

DREX: He was just; well he was marshal here in town. He went over there and went to work on the ranch. He just worked wherever he could.

ANNE: This Elliott brothers, you mentioned something about Elliott brothers?

DREX: Yes, that's, Terry has that now. That would be part of the PLS Company.

ANNE: You don't know anything more about these guys?

DREX: I know nothing more.

ANNE: Okay, Farber, Preston Farber?

DREX: Oh yes, I knew Pres well. He in the early days lived down the, just above Harper. And then he fathered three sons and a daughter. Never knew the daughter, but George and Jack are both dead. And Mike is still living, and I think the daughter is still living. And then he in turn married Nan Stallard, of the Stallard place out here, and lived out here.

ANNE: Oh he did?

DREX: Clear up, pretty well to his death.

ANNE: For Pete's sake. I'd never heard of him before. Farley, John Farley?

DREX: Farley.

ANNE: ... There is an Earl and John Farnes.

DREX: Yes.

ANNE: Were they brothers?

DREX: I can't answer that, but the Farnes Ranch was always further out ... but John was the only one I knew.

ANNE: Who was he married to, was it someone from around here, or do you know?

DREX: Eunice could tell you.

ANNE: Eunice can tell me, okay. I'll ask her about that.

DREX: I should know, I've heard it ...

ANNE: Okay, this John Fenton, you ever heard of Fenton?



DREX: ...

ANNE: Okay, Fox, F. M. Fox? O. U. Franklin?

DREX: Yes, Byron Dunten owns the Franklin place. He was a ...

ANNE: O. U. William Fredericks, now that's the same guy that owned ---

DREX: Yes, quite a story, quite a history ...

ANNE: I've got quite a little bit about him, but --- Okay, now this John F. Gearhart, I need to get some of these Gearharts straightened out, do you guys know much about them? Okay, now there is John F., William, James Poke, and a James Gearhart. Now this James Poke and James were evidently two separate people?

DREX: Poke Gearhart was a patriarch of the Gearharts when they came into this country. Gearhart Mountain down towards Calamity that was named after the Gearhart family. And he came up, and John Gearhart was his son.

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: And what was the other Gearhart's name?

ANNE: William.

DREX: I know nothing of him, but it would have to be some of the same ...

ANNE: ...

DREX: Now Eunice can get you a lot of this. Now Bill Robertson, you see Poke Gearhart was Bill Robertson's grandfather, great-grandfather, well he can give you some stuff. He showed me his picture.

ANNE: Oh he did?

ROTHA: Well didn't Poke, the one that owned the ...

DREX: He was the originator.

ROTHA: And he owned the Acton place at one time. One of the Gearharts owned that someone told me.

ANNE: I want to get some stuff, more stuff on the Gearharts. I really don't have very much.

DREX: No they never ...

ANNE: I never have gotten very much, get them all organized together, you know. I've heard bits and pieces of them. This Bill George and Julian George ---

DREX: Yes, they had a place right above the Robbins' Ranch. ... And incidentally my son down at Lincoln City he knows some of that ...

ANNE: Oh really.

DREX: ...

ANNE: This Gibler family, they lived over here somewhere supposedly.

DREX: Giblers ---

ANNE: They came with the Getting's family.

DREX: Yes, I was just trying to gather part of that Stuart Getting's outfit. They were all related to Giblers.

ANNE: I suppose they came from Missouri is what ... had said in his interview ... No one knows what their first name is by any chance. Okay, this --- I've got A. I. Getting's here, so ... got the A. I. J. Gould, G O U L D?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Don't know him. Jack Greenly?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Fred Gregg?

DREX: Oh yes, knew Fred well.

ANNE: Where did he live at?

DREX: Principally around Juntura, around Juntura. He had quite a family. He married a lady by the name of Roberts. And they had quite a family; they had seven or eight

children.

ANNE: He never did live around this area much?

DREX: Oh yes, he was up here some, but his homestead and all that in my lifetime, he was principally around Juntura.

ANNE: Juntura, okay. This Honey Guyer?

DREX: Honey Guyer.

ANNE: Hone, okay.

DREX: ...

ANNE: Yeah I do.

DREX: That Honey Guyer ran a cat house in Ontario, and ... Believe it or not she was a real nice person. Honey married ... And they bought the O. D. Acton place. I sold them some thoroughbred horses one time. Honey died, that's all I know of.

ANNE: Now this O. D. Acton place, wasn't it where Bakers ---

DREX: Uh huh, uh huh. And before that Tom Woodard had it.

ANNE: Tom Woodard had it, okay. This Robert I. Hall?

DREX: Bob Hall?

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: He was the son of ... Hall, the man that lived in the cave up here. Bob worked for me, and worked for my father some. He was a bachelor. I think he was a veteran of the First World War. He is buried right up here in Drewsey.

ANNE: Okay, James and Joseph Holladay.

DREX: Yeah ...

ANNE: Uncles, okay. You know I don't have any more of Holladay's on here but those.

DREX: There is another ...

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: James and Joseph, that was Ad.

ROTHA: I don't know Drex.

DREX: What names do you have there?

ROTHA: She has got James and John, all I knew was Frank and Les and Ad.

ANNE: Frank and Les and Ad, okay.

DREX: You'll have to get them off of the stones over there.

ROTHA: Yeah ...

ANNE: Okay. They're all, where are they buried at?

DREX: No, I don't know any Joe ... Holladay's.

ROTHA: Or James either.

DREX: James Rowan, Rotha. Granddad Holladay's.

ROTHA: Grandfather, that's her grandfather.

ANNE: Oh.

DREX: That's her granddad.

ANNE: Huh. Where were --- they're buried in Drewsey.

DREX: Yeah, they're over there in the family plot, all the Holladays.

ANNE: I was thinking they were. You get to reading so many names pretty soon you go crazy with it. You guys have some stuff written down about them don't you, that I could get a hold of?

DREX: Yeah, Rotha ...

ANNE: Okay. Sim Hamilton?

DREX: Uh huh, he was married to Bill Miller's mother, that was her second marriage.

ANNE: How did he come into the country?

DREX: She ran the Hamilton Hotel. I know nothing about that, but Wilma could sure tell you. She raised Wilma.

ANNE: Okay. Walter Hart?

DREX: Yeah, Walt Hart. There is the one that was married to Jeff Cawfield's daughter --

-

ANNE: Oh was it?

DREX: --- was Walter Hart. ...

ANNE: Foxy Hart.

DREX: Yeah, he was married to Edna, Edna ---

ROTHA: Then there is a Hart place up there ...

DREX: Yeah, that was Foxy's place, and he was married to Edna Cawfield.

ANNE: And where was the Hart place at?

DREX: Well --- who lives on that place now, Rotha?

ROTHA: I just don't know, but Barbie and Ken probably could tell you more.

DREX: Well he lives right above, beyond the Cawfield place, or the Cleveland, or your place.

ROTHA: Oh you mean Knowles.

ANNE: Knowles.

DREX: Well going up Knowles, you just go over that hill and the little valley toward the ---

ROTHA: Well that's the Story's, you know ...

DREX: Well that's where Hart's homestead was.

ANNE: Oh it is.

ROTHA: Oh yeah, it was the Story place, yes, uh huh. And then eventually, you know, that ---

DREX: Well let's go on.

ROTHA: Yeah, but anyway ---

ANNE: Glen Heath, or Gen Heath, I got Glen. Okay. Eiph Heffenstau?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Albie Highsmith?

DREX: Yes, he was a teacher at the school.

ANNE: He was a teacher.

DREX: And he owned the Fredericks place at one time.

ANNE: Okay. Marion or Babe Hodge?

DREX: Yes, I knew Babe, knew him well. He was a bachelor when I knew him, worked around the country.

ANNE: Oh he did.

DREX: All I can tell you about him. In his younger days he was supposed to be quite a bronco rider.

ANNE: Oh. He just worked for ranches around the country. Okay. Charles Holbrook?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Okay. Well here is a Ben Holladay, but it is spelled different than the --- They were all related though weren't they?

DREX: Ben Holladay was never in this country. But he was a distant relative of my mother's and all of them. He is the one that had mail lines all over the west and subbed them out. Had the steamship lines out of Portland, and a railroad builder. He had quite an in with Washington, D. C. He was a wheeler-dealer. There is books written on him.

ANNE: Okay. This Bud Howard, he is not related to the other Howard's, but do you know anything about him at all?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Okay. Or Mark Howard?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Or John or ... Howard?

DREX: No. Not unless they would be part of the Wilber ---

ANNE: Wilber.

DREX: --- early days.

ANNE: Oh really.

DREX: I don't know a thing about them.

ANNE: June Ingersol?

DREX: Yes I knew June. Tom Howard can tell you all about June, because he was associated with Ed Howard a lot.

ANNE: This Will, Elmer Ingles?

DREX: Uh huh.

ANNE: Where did they come from, do you know?

DREX: No. But Elmer helped build the hot springs with Uncle Lou and lived out there for a good many years. And then he was a kind of a student of fossils, and liked that. He collected quite a few fossils out there and donated them to the paleontologist that represented the University of Southern California, and they're on display down there. Jim could tell you about that.

ANNE: I never realized that was the guy that was doing it though. Jacobs family, ever heard of him?

DREX: No.

ANNE: I've got some on ... family? Herman Johnson?

DREX: Yes, Herman was quite a character in this country. He was a big redheaded, red-whiskered fellow. When he would come to town he --- I'd heard one time that his family had burned up, was what caused it, but we kind of considered him a little odd. He would come to town and get a hold of something to drink, and then he would get down on his knees and sing a song and pray.

ANNE: Oh really.

DREX: He was just a fascination to us children, you know, us kids. And then he was working for Mike Acton up there grubbing willows. And Whackey Pipes, he lived at Milldale, always said that he thought it was a porcupine, he shot him in the ribs with a .22, but it glanced off. And then he was up around VanDerVeer's and went down into the basement and thought he was getting some liquor and drank some formaldehyde and it killed him.

ROTHA: ... would you like some 7-Up.

MAN: I've got work to do.

ANNE: Okay, we were on these Johnson's. John and Julian and Turkey, were they all related?

DREX: John, Julian and Turkey, I can't answer that. But Turkey was killed at Juntura and his skeleton was dug up for that ... three or four miles this side of Juntura.

ANNE: Oh really? How was he killed?

DREX: Murdered. I believe a Kimball was the one that ...

ANNE: Why --- you have any idea about the background of that?

DREX: Oh no.

ANNE: Even hearsay?

DREX: Hearsay. Well this is being recorded now.

ANNE: Well that's all right, we'll say it is hearsay.

ROTHA: ...

ANNE: Okay, how about Charles Jones and Jessie Jones, and W. L. Jones, do you know any of those guys?

DREX: Well Jess, the Jess Jones I know, was Cougar Jones' son, but that might not be the same.



ANNE: Okay. I think W. L. is Cougar too, so --- Okay. Ben Kerns?

DREX: Yes, Ben took a homestead up, up there this side of the Gearhart place out --- I knew Ben Kerns. I know nothing of him; he just homesteaded up in, the other side of Duck Creek.

ANNE: Okay. How about Tom and Wesley Kanton?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Don't know them. Charlie and Ira Kimball?

DREX: Just hearsay.

ANNE: Okay. Where were they? They, Kimball Flat Kimball's weren't they?

DREX: I believe so.

ANNE: Okay. Kingsbury, Frank Kingsbury?

DREX: Yes, I know of him. I knew his son Fred Kingsbury real well. And Frank Kingsbury's wife was a sister of Bill Robertson. So, the older Bill Robertson.

ANNE: Oh really, older Bill. Huh.

DREX: A great friend of my mothers when she was first in the country. And the Kingsbury place is the place that Rod Robertson lives on out here now.

ANNE: Oh it is? Oh, huh. This Charlie Kraft, ever heard of him?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Oh, and you told me about that family, that Lavery family instead of Livery, okay. Louis Luckey?

DREX: The Luckey place is up there on Duck Creek. It was a house up on the hill where you cross the creek when you're up on the hill. I think the people that lived there that sold and moved to Ontario, who wound up with the Luckey place, you know, up there at Duck Creek?

ANNE: Johnson's.

DREX: Johnson's, Johnson's, yeah.

ROTHA: Oh yeah, Mike Johnson, uh huh. Now ---

ANNE: Borelli's own it now.

ROTHA: Yeah, uh huh. They're in the process of buying it.

ANNE: Charlie Lutton?

DREX: Uh huh. His wife ran the caphouse over here in Drewsey.

ANNE: Oh, was that Mae Gillispie?

DREX: That was Mae Gillispie. You better shut that off.

ANNE: Well I already have a lot about that. You wouldn't believe some of the ---

ROTHA: I don't think you need to be hesitant, Drex.

DREX: And that house that Alan moved up, or Bakers moved up, that burnt up, was moved up from, that was the original caphouse.

ANNE: Oh yeah, that one that Alan and Sissy lived in?

DREX: Well yeah, that burnt up.

ANNE: Oh for Pete's sake. Huh. Okay Jacob Lutz, L U T Z? Don't know them? Okay, William Lidle?

DREX: Oh Bill Lidle, you bet I knew Bill. He lived on the Stewart place; he worked for my father a lot. He was stone deaf, but he was a very honorable man. He had a large family; a lot of them are living yet. And he was married to Nellie Lidle; she was Merle McMullen's sister.

ANNE: Oh man, everybody is related.

DREX: Well they never "clumb" the mountain to get married in this country ... you know. I knew Bill well; he worked for my father a lot. He was a good, hard working, honest man.

ANNE: Yeah, well that's something isn't it?

ROTHA: Anne, you know I showed you a picture of Nellie ...

ANNE: Uh huh, okay. Marks brothers, have you ever heard of them?

DREX: I've heard of them, but I can give you nothing more on them.

ANNE: Okay. Al Masterson?

DREX: Yes, Al grew up over in the, oh Mitchell or that country, and he came into the country here with Joe Robertson, that was the start of the Robertson family. And they picked him out of a saloon as a kid, he was swamping out of a saloon, swamping out in there. They brought him over here, and young Bill Robertson's ancestor, old Joe Robertson, took him under his wing, and Al took his pay and cattle, that was the early, early days, of course '83. And as soon as he got a few cattle he moved into Juntura country. That was Gib's dad, Joe Gib. Of course Ruby married the older Gib Masterson. That's where Al come from.

ANNE: Well that's good; I never heard any of that. The McAfee brothers?

DREX: I can't add anything to it.

ANNE: Jack Macomber?

DREX: Yes, Jack lived in the, the Maccombers in the early days some of them worked for Irene's grandfather over in the Milton-Freewater area. See he had the original Hudson Bay Ranch that was the early day post. The Maccombers worked there, and then ... come over here, drifted over here, and they had a homestead up North Fork. Then Jack Macomber married Ed Stallard --- or Chet Stallard married his widow later on.

ROTHA: What was her name, Julie.

DREX: Julie Macomber. But Jack and Julie lived up on the Jack Drewitt place, Bentz owns now, on the road on this side. And then, you know where that Jack Drewitt place is?

ANNE: Uh huh, yeah.

DREX: Then when Jack passed away, Julie taught school, then later on married Chet.

She is buried right up here.

ANNE: Okay, well good. There is a George and a James McDowell.

DREX: No.

ANNE: Don't know. John McGetrick?

DREX: Yes. He had the Gearhart place rented. John came in with the railroad as a contractor. As the railroad was built through Juntura, he had his table tents and his horses. He came out of Wyoming. After the railroad was built he acquired a place over on the Warm Spring Valley. And then in 1918 the dam was put in, and he was drowned out, and then he came back toward Juntura and bought a Blaylock place. Finally left that and came through and stayed at the lower ranch, he and Lloyd, and then they took the place these people have, rented it, up to the Gearhart place. He was there a number of years. When he left there he went down into Catlow Valley, and then he died. He is buried over here. And he died in his 50's; he died a relatively young man. And Gib Masterson married his daughter, Ruby. He had four children; he had two boys and two girls.

ANNE: Well that's interesting.

ROTHA: Which one did I tell you died Saturday, Drex?

DREX: Lloyd, the older son.

ROTHA: Lloyd.

ANNE: Time goes by. This M. S. McGowan?

DREX: No, not in this country.

ANNE: Bob McKinnon?

DREX: Yes, he was an early day pioneer here in the Burns area. He was here, some. And his son Leo, they had the stage line from here to, up the river. That's about all I know about him. But the McKinnons were early time people in the Burns country.

ANNE: Oh were they? Okay, there is James, Lester, Jeff, and Merlin McMullen.

DREX: Uh huh. Now you've got lots of information on them already.

ANNE: Quite a bit, off and on. You don't know any good stories do you?

DREX: Well, I can tell about Merle buying the cow.

ANNE: Yeah, tell me about that, I haven't heard that one.

DREX: You better shut that off.

ANNE: No, now you tell me Drex.

DREX: You put this in the book, and I'll kill you!

ANNE: Okay. (Laughter) Can't even get any good stories out of him.

DREX: I'll tell you after you shut that off. People hear me make that comment about Merle buying the cow, why they'll know what I mean.

ANNE: (Laughter) How about Bill Meeker?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Bud Metcalf.

DREX: Bud Metcalf.

ANNE: I can't even get it out, Bud Metcalf, yeah.

DREX: Well he was a brother of Mrs. Cramer, Charlie Cramer's brother-in-law. And there was several stories about him. And it's the truth, I'll tell it. He was put in the penitentiary for a number of years for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. And he was finally released, and died.

ROTHA: Now was Dorie a Metcalf, the one that married Charlie?

ANNE: Yeah. Did you know anything about this Van Middlesworth at all?

DREX: I had the Middlesworth place up on the river up here, and they were from over in the John Day-Prairie City country, I believe.

ANNE: Oh were they?

DREX: No, no --- I've heard but not enough to put it on tape.

ANNE: Then you didn't know anything more about the Miles family then ...

DREX: No, I know nothing of ...

ANNE: How about this Arch Millard, ever heard of him? Evidently not, huh? Let's see, John Mitchum?

DREX: No.

ANNE: How about any of the Moffets, Jim, Robert, Rodney, and Bummer Moffet?

DREX: Oh yeah, we all knew them. And I imagine you have quite a lot on them.

ANNE: A little bit.

DREX: See Bummer is Marjorie's and Jeannie's and Mardell's --- See Mardell wasn't born yet when Bummer was killed. ...

ANNE: Morgan family?

DREX: Carl Morgan's?

ANNE: I don't know, it's all I have, is the Morgan family.

DREX: Well that's Betty Sitz's people. Yeah, they worked for Gib out here, and around the country. Betty would know about them.

ANNE: Yeah, she told me a little. But --- I think I have quite a bit on Moss, well no, Brad Moss. No, I guess I don't.

DREX: I don't know anything about Brad Moss. I know where his place was and ---

ANNE: Where is it exactly?

DREX: It's up; you know what we call the Anderson place?

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: Well Brad Moss, the lower end of the Anderson place you will see a canyon coming in from Capps Mountain, Brad Moss had a place right there.

ANNE: Right there, okay. Then this, these Howes, you know, was it right, was that where

they lived too for awhile after they sold the Cleveland --- George?

DREX: I don't know, was that the Howe homestead. One of the Howes lived, you know where that Pine Creek School set down there, just above the Acton place at one time?

ANNE: Uh huh, yeah.

DREX: I think right along in there, there was a Howe lived there.

ANNE: I think that was Edna George's dad that lived there.

DREX: And the Howes, I remember he operated a threshing machine, and I was a little boy around, and that --- a man by the name of White was the engineer, steam engine. They had a water wagon, took lots of water. I used to hang around that steam engine when they was threshing down here, by the hour, just to get to blow the whistle at quitting time. (Laughter)

ANNE: Oh dear, that would be fun. Okay these Muldricks; did you know anything about them?

DREX: No, just what I've told you. That's this place right down here, and that little boy drowned there. And that stone with the angel on it. Some of the people are over in the John Day --- I talked to one of the descendants as I told you, here a year or two ago.

ANNE: I'll have to ask about that one. Did you know the Newell's at all? There is J. Webster, Lassan, Pinkerton, and William, Oscar Newell.

DREX: I knew Oscar and Pink. Pink worked for me a lot. Oscar was right over here. They were the only two Newell's that I knew. Oscar worked for the PLS Company in the early days down in the Agency Valley.

ANNE: Oh.

DREX: I think they were raised in Arkansas or some place, I've heard him talk about picking cotton.

ANNE: Yeah. Okay, this Frank and Fussie Norton?

DREX: No.

ANNE: Don't know them. Alec and Lou Olsen?

DREX: Yes. The Swede Saloon, the Olsen's had that in early days. Let's see there was a picture put out on Alan's calendar, wasn't there?

ANNE: Yeah ...

DREX: And I know Howard Riley swears that's ... Saloon ... I'm sure that was the Swede Saloon, and that was up toward the Hamilton Hotel. And the, Alec Olsen took a homestead up out on the end of Bartlett Mountain, that Milers own now. And I'm not sure but what Alec at one time might have owned the house that Milers later lived in up on the hill right out of Drewsey.

ANNE: Were they brothers, Lou and Alec?

DREX: Yes.

ANNE: Okay. Del Overton or Tom Overfelt, I think they were just, I think they were Company people.

DREX: Oh yeah, I know the names but that's all.

ANNE: Okay. This Lawson Pinkerton?

DREX: Let's see, Lawson was a brother of Pink's. Yeah, that name is wrong.

ANNE: Wrong, okay.

DREX: Pink Anderson, Pinkerton Anderson.

ANNE: Okay, Anderson.

DREX: That's Pink's name. Pink Anderson Newell.

ANNE: Newell, okay.

DREX: Pinkerton Anderson Newell.

ANNE: These Pipes, what was, what did they call them ---

DREX: I don't know his first name, but I always knew him as Whackey Pipes. He had a



kind of impediment in his speech. And they lived right above where Riley's lived up the canyon, what was known as Milldale.

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: That's all I know.

ANNE: And his initials were A. H. whatever those ---

DREX: But they called him Whackey, he had a funny expression when he started to talk.

ANNE: Okay, how about, there is Ed, Brian and Oliver Poer.

DREX: Yes, Brian Poer was married to the oldest daughter of Cougar Jones ... And Oliver, they had the place right above Mike Acton's up there. They were in this country quite awhile. Well that's about all I know about them.

ANNE: Okay. Patterson Potts?

DREX: Potts, that could be up in the forest there, Potts. I can't tell you anymore about them.

ANNE: Amos Rattler.

DREX: I think he had something to do with the Middlesworth place up there, but I don't know nothing about that.

ANNE: Grover Reece?

DREX: My cousin, yes. They had the place that Tom Howard has now.

ANNE: Okay, now what was their parents, that was Grace ---

DREX: Grace and ---

ANNE: What was her husband's name?

DREX: Reece, I can't tell you his first name.

ANNE: First name. Okay, you don't have that anywhere, Rotha?

ROTHA: I think Drex has it in that ---

DREX: I have it in a copy of ...

ROTHA: Yes, I was going to say ---

ANNE: ... Okay. How about Charles, David and Henry Richardson?

DREX: Yeah, Henry was married to Velfa Riley; she was a sister of the insane fellow out here. The other two I didn't know. But Hoppy worked for us quite a lot, we called him Hoppy. He worked for us, he and Velfa ... they were married there in Burns.

ANNE: Burns, okay. No one knows those Reikerts first names ...

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

DREX: ... George and Lester's father. He ran the Superior Saloon over here.

ANNE: Yeah. Go ahead, Superior Saloon.

DREX: And that was right across from the store on the corner as you go into Drewsey. That little old building there that Maxine Wilber owns, Maxine owns now. Maxine Andrews. That was a saloon. There was a Hupmobile set in front of that with bullet holes in it for a long time. Us kids used to, you remember that Rotha, us kids used to walk by and look at that. When the country went dry in 1918 why Nevada was still open, and Jake he'd go down into Nevada and load up with whiskey and bring it up into this country. Well the revenueurs got after him and, down on the desert someplace. And those Hupmobiles had a forced air gas tank; you had to keep it pumped up to force the gas into the motor. They was coming up through there and Jake was bent over a pumping to beat the band, and one bullet went right through and it would have took his head off if he had been setting up straight.

ANNE: Oh for Pete's sake.

DREX: There was two holes in that windshield. I'll tell you that Hupmobile sat out there for months and never moved.

ROTHA: Never went to Nevada.

DREX: Forgive me Howard, but I think this is a good story.

ANNE: Lawrence and Francis were telling me about stealing from the, finding the cache of the moonshiners on whiskey. Not moonshine, whiskey they was getting.

ROTHA: Barb, they are in the packages where it says ...

ANNE: Okay. And you told me about Ira Ruble.

DREX: Yeah, they came down from Montana with my parents on the mainline. And he worked for him up until 1923, and his house burnt up and then he went to work for the Company.

ANNE: Huh, well that's something. Gabe Rush, did you know much about him?

DREX: Yes, he was associated with, stayed with the Cramer's a lot. And we always thought Gabe rode the grub line, nobody ever knew of him working. He was a nice kind of a fellow. Yes, I knew Gabe well.

ANNE: This George, was George Smith related to ...

DREX: No, no. George Smith was married to a McMullen, Ruby McMullen. And his parents were, Frank Smith was his brother, his parents was over in the Westfall country. He is the one that accidentally shot himself. He was a Company buckaroo, buckaroo boss.

ANNE: Yeah. Can you guys tell me, this Bill South that was Gladys' ---

DREX: That was Gladys' father. And there was a young Bill South that was a brother.

ANNE: Okay, can you guys tell me something about Gladys' family and all, his family?

DREX: Well not especially. They were early day people. He homesteaded, her father homesteaded the property we have out there. And they have just been around here off and on forever. And he was quite a musician.

ANNE: How many brothers and sisters did she have?

DREX: She had two brothers.

ANNE: ...

DREX: Yes, she had Frank and Bill South was her brothers. She had Sadie and Maude and Ruth as sisters. Have I left anyone out?

ROTHA: No, I think that's it.

DREX: Maude was the one ...

ROTHA: Went to Canada. Did you read the last Drewsey, I mean the items in the Burns paper, talks about the South and about their lumber, I mean their timber mill up there. There was a piece in the last Burns paper.

ANNE: No, I'll have to dig that out. Okay, this Stallard that you talked about. Let's see Chester, Ed and Lorenzo, is that how you ---

DREX: Well Lorenzo was their father.

ANNE: Father, that was Chester and Ed's father. Okay. And they homesteaded in this country too?

DREX: Their father did.

ANNE: You know where they came from or anything?

DREX: They came from California, their father did.

ANNE: Okay. Let's see now, I have the Stewarts, and Charlie and Wally were brothers, and Cisero. Did you know anything about him? Let's see we already asked about, what you knew about them. Joe Sturtevant, Sturtevant?

DREX: Nope.

ANNE: Elmer and Jim Taylor?

DREX: Uh huh, I knew Jim Taylor. He married after Bill South and Gladys' mother divorced. He married Gladys Williams, we know her, he married her mother.

ANNE: Oh. What was Gladys' mother's name?

DREX: Mary, wasn't it, Mary?

ROTHA: I think it was another Mary.

ANNE: Well that's something. Okay, where did they live?

DREX: Well they lived, Jim, Jimmy Taylor, was a marshal here in Drewsey for some time. Then later on they lived up near Ruth and George Riley's. Ruth would have been a, Mrs. Taylor's daughter. They lived in ... maybe on the White's place, I think on the ...

ROTHA: Up on Milldale, didn't they ...

DREX: Yeah, the Whackey Pipes place.

ROTHA: Yes, on Milldale. And they picked that for a ranch, they were down there working for my dad.

ANNE: Okay, this Dave Travis, know them? How about Norm and Frank Upton?

DREX: Uh huh. And Art --- you left, Norm and Frank and Art. Wait a minute, Frank Upton was the father.

ANNE: Father of Norm and Art.

DREX: Yeah, Norm and Art and Jack, there were three brothers. Norm, Art and Jack. And then they had a daughter, we went to school to her over here. Taught school, she taught school ... Yeah; they had a homestead out here above the Robertson place.

ANNE: Oh they did? Who owns it now?

DREX: Glenn Sitz owns part of it. And then Jack and Norm's homestead ...

ANNE: Oh, okay. Edgar and W. J. VanDerVeer?

DREX: Yes, they, let's see Edgar I guess is buried up here isn't he. They had the, the Pine Creek outfit owns that. You know where Pine Creek place is.

ANNE: Sam and Bill --- no just Sam Wade, I mean. Where is the Wade place at?

ROTHA: ...

ANNE: Okay.

ROTHA: ...

ANNE: Jacob Reece is Grace's husband, okay. And they just have the two kids then, ...

ROTHA: ...

ANNE: Howard Waylen?

DREX: Yes, old Dad Waylen, this house where this string of trees is up here at the Young place?

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: The house sat over against the hill.

ANNE: Yeah.

DREX: That's where Dad Waylen lived.

ROTHA: That's why they call that Waylen Bridge.

DREX: Yes, I know nothing about, nothing about --- anything more about that.

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: And then they moonshined a little.

ANNE: How about these Steve ...

DREX: I ... Steve ... but I know there was a Webley. No, I don't know anything about this one.

ANNE: Okay, Percy West?

DREX: Yes, Percy West had a homestead, you come out from Buchanan and up on top, then the road turns out and goes off to the right back towards the timber. Percy West had a homestead back in there.

ANNE: Huh. ... Oh, John Worlow?

DREX: Yes, John Worlow had a homestead above, just above the Howe field out here on Otis Creek. He was a bachelor, and he was born before Milt Davis was. And he raised a little garden, cut a little wood. Was a nice old fellow, and they found him dead in his cabin. ... Pearson's mother hadn't seen him for a few days and she sent somebody up

there to look, and he was dead in his cabin.

ANNE: Good way to go by yourself, I guess. Bill Wiley? Okay. Arch and Smith Wilson?

DREX: Yes, Smith took the place up out to Tub Springs. Arch, as far as I know --- Smith was married and he had three children, two boys and a girl. And he lived in the ... place down here for a while. Arch never, and they were both illiterate, neither one of them could read or write.

ANNE: Oh for Pete's sake. Was Arch a brother's name, but he never got married ...

DREX: Arch never ...

ANNE: Levi and Jack and Steve, ... Levi Woodruff and then Jack and Steve Woodard. I got Levi Woodruff first. Know anything about him at all? Must be some ...

DREX: Has to be part of that ... was Dee Woodruff's brother. That's the only two ...

ANNE: Where did they live at, the Woodruff family?

DREX: Well they lived in Drewsey, up where Fred Baker lives; there was a house there that Lee Woodruff lived in at one time. And then they was in Burns. Then they were over and worked for my father two different times. Then they were up, over at ... Dunlap place. You know I told you the market road goes through.

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: Yeah, that's where they were living when he died.

ROTHA: There was a ...

DREX: That was the daughter. You're talking about Alfred's sister; you're getting out of ...

ANNE: Well Jack and Steve Woodard then.

DREX: In Juntura.

ANNE: They were Juntura people. How come I have them in here? Good question, huh? Art Worts?

DREX: Tom can tell you, Howard, about him. Worts field, Worts grade, and one thing

and another. The old immigrant trail goes through Worts flat. He can tell you about that.

ANNE: Okay. Frank and Jake and John Wright?

DREX: Now there is two Wright families in this area. One was an old bachelor, and we knew him as Tommy Wright.

ANNE: Yeah ...

DREX: He was right out of Drewsey. Then there was a family of Wrights that were related to the Wilber's.

ANNE: Oh, two different families.

DREX: That's all I knew.

ANNE: Okay. Now did you know who this Young ... what their names were, first names?  
... Okay. And those three people ---

ROTHA: Was Tommy Wright the one that had the racehorses?

DREX: No.

ROTHA: It was a different.

ANNE: ...

DREX: Never knew of it.

ANNE: Why don't we just start out with a typical year on one of these places when they used horses and stuff. We'll start in January. Did you guys feed very many animals or anything?

DREX: Well yes you would feed until turnout time. There was various operations, some only had a little bunch of cattle, and some of them had cattle numbering in the thousands.

ANNE: Uh huh.

DREX: A thousand cow operation outside of the PLS Company was unusual in this country. My father had 1500 at one time. Lou Sitz had about the same amount, maybe 1200. And I suppose other than the PLS Company they were about the two larger ones



here. Brand up and turnout.

ANNE: Most of them had horses though.

DREX: It was all done with horses.

ANNE: Okay. But I mean more people ran more horses than they did cows.

DREX: You, what do you mean by that? More people ran horses, no.

ANNE: I mean did they run, seems like a lot of the stuff I've looked up so far, looked at so far is that a lot of people did not run cattle, maybe just a few for their --- they made their living out of horses.

DREX: Made a living out of horses. In the real early days I think that was true. Then when the bottom fell out of horses, you know, they got so you couldn't give them away.

ANNE: Oh, when was --- about what time was ---

DREX: Well when I got out of school, it had been a number of year's horses had been valueless; nobody branded them up and took care of them. A concern in Portland by the name of Schlosser's started buying horses for animal feed. Gib Masterson and some of us started in, and the first ones that we ever gathered we got fifty cents a hundred pounds for them. Thousand pound horse would bring you five dollars. And I know I was trapping then, and it took an exceptionally good coyote to bring you five dollars. Then they got up to six bits a hundred, a dollar a hundred, why we really went to work at it.

ROTHA: What kind of stallion was that that Dad had, a Percheron or ---

DREX: No, in my memory he had a Clydesdale and a Belgian, but the majority of the horses in the hills was a saddle ---

ANNE: Saddle horses. Well what, in the '20's then and early '30's was when the bottom went out on horses then?

DREX: Yes, my knowledge goes back to about, 1927 was when they started ...

ANNE: So what did the sheep and cattle become more prominent in the country then?

DREX: Sheep had been real prominent prior to that, and along about that time. Then the depression hit and ---

ANNE: Wiped a lot of them out.

DREX: Well they just went broke. I know the government came in, went to buying, they gave the ... at Juntura, they gave fifty cents a head for ewes, and they just took them out and cut their throats. And they allowed \$20 a head on the cows. Supposedly killed them ...

ROTHA: What year did Dad and Uncle Lou ...

DREX: Oh, remember Ray Emmett, the government spent \$20 for these cows at Juntura, and Ray was a good friend of all of them, and they let him go in and pick out a carload of cows for \$20 to send to Portland. And Dad sent me down with some 1200 pound steers at the same time. Ray took me under his wing and took those to Portland ... And the big 1200 pound steers Dad sent me down with ... he just worked like a beaver to get three cents a pound, \$36 for a 1200 pound steer. And we paid the freight and the commissions. But sheep and horses, the freight had to be prepaid before they let them on the train. Cattle, why you didn't.

ANNE: Wasn't that something. Well what year did you guys go into and added sheep?

DREX: Dad sold out in 1925 on cattle. In 1926 I talked him back into buying some. I didn't want to go on to school, but he sent me on to school. But he give me a \$1000 if I'd look after cattle, and that's what I brought into it. And he got a few misfits, you know. He stayed with the sheep then. And then until he passed away in '37 we disposed of them. But we had built the cattle up then.

ROTHA: Sheep, \$6 a head for the ewes, and that was high.

DREX: That's the way it was. And Uncle Lou ...

ANNE: Did you guys have to hire quite a few people to help with like haying and feeding

and working?

DREX: Yes. On this operation we were building cattle up. There was two men with the sheep all the time. Well in the summer there was three men, two herders, until we sold lambs ... together. And then in lambing naturally we took a bigger crew. Cattle operations had been building up, employed about two men. I think the ranch ...

ANNE: How much did they pay them?

DREX: Well in the depression you, a \$1 a day. And if they didn't work Sunday they didn't get their \$1. And at the end of the year the ranch owner was further in debt, but at least they kept people eating.

ANNE: Did they have to furnish them somewhere to live and all that too?

DREX: Well on this \$1 a day business, some of them just --- I remember Elmer Drewitt he ... Where they was on the ranch they were ...

ANNE: Where did these people stay if they had a family?

DREX: We've often talked about that, how people lived. These little old homesteads, homestead shacks, ... they worked a little in the hay fields and around. They seemed to get by. Of course it didn't take much money then.

ROTHA: Mr. Cramer that lived down here in the Drinkwater place, he was Dad's irrigator. I guess he irrigated for you too.

DREX: He didn't irrigate when he was on the Drinkwater place.

ROTHA: I thought that was ---

DREX: See he lost that about 1934.

ROTHA: Oh, uh huh.

DREX: When he moved up here, he went to irrigating.

ROTHA: Oh. See that's what I was thinking ...

DREX: But he hayed that, run that for the Drinkwater, ... Drinkwater for half the hay, and

he'd sell the hay. Didn't take much more ...

ANNE: No, not like it does now. We didn't run all over the country either.

DREX: You didn't open a tin can every time you wanted something to eat either.

ANNE: No, that's true. You raised it or you starved.

ROTHA: ...

ANNE: No.

DREX: ...

ROTHA: I think we were doing better then than we are now.

DREX: Oh nostalgia has a strange way of glamorizing the past, but wouldn't there be some screaming if you went back to it?

ANNE: Oh wouldn't it though, that's for sure.

ROTHA: ... I guess when they had the largest crews for haying, is when they were threshing, they'd usually have me on the second cutting of alfalfa, and they had a threshing crew at the same time.

ANNE: Oh for grain? What kind of grain was mostly raised around here?

DREX: Oh ...

ROTHA: Yeah, Dad used to have his granaries full, and used to, would sell grain to people that would come and buy some grain.

DREX: Sell the grain and never made any money out of it.

ROTHA: I think the marker is still down here on the granary.

DREX: Well I can't tell you much more about --- Let these upper country people tell you about how they operated the cattle business.

ROTHA: Drex, now tell them about, it was before Dad bought this place here, that the Indians cleared the sagebrush, or was it afterwards?

DREX: No, he wouldn't have given a dollar a day to clear the sagebrush off unless he

owned it.

ROTHA: That's ... That's where Lee was herding the horses down on the lower place. ...

ANNE: Okay. Well is there anything else, any wild stories you can think of?

DREX: Oh, I think I have covered ---

ANNE: Okay.

DREX: Yeah, I could tell you some that would make you blush.

... (Pause in tape)

ROTHA: And sitting up all night killing bed bugs, that's when Lee was a baby.

ANNE: Yeah.

ROTHA: She said just sat up all night killing bed bugs.

ANNE: I read that, heard that somewhere else, that she had a wealth of bed bugs.

ROTHA: Yeah, uh huh.

ANNE: Well the --- okay. You know did you ever, do you remember anything about some of the dances and stuff at Drewsey?

ROTHA: Not too much. I can remember the boys at Christmas time they would have a dance, and the people would bring their children and they would lay them on the platform, or along the sidewalls and, for them to sleep. And I don't know, Egglestons used to come over and play quite a lot for the dances.

ANNE: Oh really.

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. Now Drex can tell you more about that, because he is older, he remembers better. But they would dance until daylight. And like I said, the men would keep their moonshine and what have you out in front under the sideboard sidewalk, or out in their cars.

ANNE: Oh really?

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. They never brought liquor into the hall, but they would go out to

have a few nips to keep up their energy. And then you could almost wager that, very seldom ever did a dance go by but what there wouldn't be a fight or a knifing.

ANNE: Oh boy.

ROTHA: And Rink Meyers was real handy with a knife, right.

ANNE: Was he?

ROTHA: But that's about all I remember at the dances. And I can remember one Fourth of July they danced two nights in a row, they'd dance until daylight. We went over to Beulah; they had a platform, a board platform over there. And Gladys and Lee, and Drex and I we went over there. I wasn't ---

ANNE: Oh that would be nice.

ROTHA: It was fun dancing out under the stars until daylight. And like I said, Drex can tell you more about --- they used to have racing over here, horses that would race over there on Conly's, you know, where the road goes down. That was where they held their, had their race track.

ANNE: That would be a lot of fun.

ROTHA: And I can remember sitting up on a platform, I guess they must have had --- I mean wood bleachers there.

ANNE: Oh for heaven's sake.

ROTHA: Like I said, Drex can tell you more about that. He remembers running a horse in, racing a horse, horses.

ANNE: Yeah, he told me about the racetrack a little bit. Now let's go back to when your parents --- I've got when they were married and stuff, but you said when they first got married they lived at the lower ranch, right.

ROTHA: Right.

ANNE: And they built them a house there, did they?

ROTHA: Well I think it was kind of like a homestead cabin, as near as I --- well I know my mother said it was awfully cold there. I mean, you know, it was real cold.

ANNE: Yeah.

ROTHA: And of course the stove, wood stove, naturally wouldn't, you know, keep the place very warm.

ANNE: That's true. Well they built a house there later themselves?

ROTHA: Uh huh. Where is that picture there. But you'll have to ask, see if Drex knows when that house was built. That I don't know. It wasn't too long before they built the house there.

ANNE: Yeah, and then it burnt down later on.

ROTHA: Uh huh. And Drex, I heard Drex, someone was wondering when this house was built that is down there at Terry's and Lee's now. He said 1923 was when Bill Baker built it.

ANNE: Oh.

ROTHA: See they, and it was strictly a cookhouse, a ranch house. Had a mammoth kitchen in it. And so whenever the other house, first house was built, I don't know. But it must have been after; around the time Lee was born. I'm sure they weren't up above the ditch too long before the other house was built. And who built it I don't know.

ANNE: Huh, that's something.

ROTHA: That's why I think, but Drex, maybe he knows. Now Drapers built this house.

ANNE: Oh they did.

ROTHA: Yes, uh huh. Contractors, you see houses built similar to this over in John Day country, and down in the lower country.

ANNE: But I know that was after your mom lost George in the ditch, she moved over here.

ROTHA: No, huh uh. Now that's something else Drex will have to be the one to tell you. They lived over, lived in a house over there at Drewsey. And I think it's the same house that, oh where Ira Ruble lived too.

ANNE: Okay. I think I have it on that Drewsey history.

ROTHA: Lee probably told you, yeah. But I'm sure before they moved up there that Lee rode horseback from the lower ranch up here to Drewsey to school.

ANNE: So they lived in town for a while. But do you have any idea when they built this house?

ROTHA: Yeah, this house was built; they started it in 1913, and finished it in 1914. I was just a baby there when they moved over here. So I couldn't have been too old.

ANNE: Well what, it was after they bought this land, or did they already have this land, is why they built a house here? Did you ever hear?

ROTHA: Well the deed ---

ANNE: Well that's all right.

ROTHA: Look there on that thing of Lee's, he tells you, gives you the dates.

ANNE: Yeah, that's true. But why did they come here, do you know?

ROTHA: Well they wanted closer to school for us.

ANNE: Oh, I see.

ROTHA: Yeah, they wanted up here, you know, closer to school for us. And then like Drex said, Mom didn't want to stay at the lower ranch after she lost George.

ANNE: Yeah, that makes it kind of hard losing a baby like that. Well what, when you guys were growing up and everything, there is quite a bit of age difference between all of you.

ROTHA: Drex and I were another family.

ANNE: Uh huh.



ROTHA: See, well Lee was --- where is their thing. Lee was born in 1902, and Midge is born in 1904. There is two and a half years difference between them. And then George was three years later. And then Drex was '11, and I was '13, two and a half years between us. Well Lee and Midge were practically grown before Drex and ---

ANNE: Before you guys were born.

ROTHA: --- like I said, Drex and I were kind of a second family.

ANNE: Well were you guys all born at home?

ROTHA: No, huh uh. Lee was born out to the Carpenter place, out at the foot of Stinkingwater at the stage stop. And Drex, I'm sure was born over town here. And Midge was born down to the lower ranch. Because I've heard him tell about, someone met Dad on top of Stinkingwater, he was in a buggy, and they told him that he had a little girl. And they said Dad whipped up his team, and the last they saw of him he was sailing for home. And I'm sure that Drex can tell you the doctors that took care of them, you know, delivered them.

ANNE: Well how about you and Drex, where were you born?

ROTHA: Well Drex was born in Drewsey. I was born over at Haines. Aunt Grace was over there, and George Baker, now he is the one that moved to Juntura, right, that's George.

ANNE: Yeah, uh huh.

ROTHA: He came up and he took my mother over to Prairie, where she got on the train to go over to Baker and Haines to stay with Aunt Grace. She took Drex with us. And so they've told about Drex, he would hang on the gate and watch the trains go by. He was real delighted.

ANNE: Did the women, when you were growing up, do much work out in the fields?

ROTHA: No, heavens no. We weren't even --- we didn't get out either. I used to just love

and drool to see the --- you know, itching to get out to, you know, work or do something. No, our place was in the house.

ANNE: In the house.

ROTHA: Yeah. But Dad did relent when I was in high school. My job was to keep cattle gathered up and push down the river, you know, when haying was on. I did get to do that a few times. I took them down below Drewsey field.

ANNE: Yeah. Well that's something. Were all these places fenced like they are now?

ROTHA: Well the BLM, of course, they hadn't even come in. I mean we had, they were fenced pretty much, except their pastures weren't, hillside pastures there weren't any, no.

ANNE: Everyone just turned their cattle out together?

ROTHA: Right, uh huh. And, well now Lee probably told you that the cattle went, were down in the lower country at one time, and then they'd end up toward the mountains.

ANNE: Oh, during the time ...

ROTHA: But Dad did have a permit up there for 200 head of steers. And Lee, when Lee came, you know, after Dad passed away and Drex left, and help was scarce and everything, he did, was trying to do some trading with Robertson's and Edmunson's on the, I don't know whatever happened to the range. But anyway we lost our range up there in the mountains.

ANNE: Well that's not very good.

ROTHA: No. But I mean he just didn't have the help, you know, it was during World War II and all.

ANNE: Yeah, makes it kind of rough. The clothes and stuff that they wore back then, were they a lot different than they are now?

ROTHA: You mean when we grew up?

ANNE: Uh huh.

ROTHA: Well you saw some of the pictures. You saw that outfit my mother had on. No, they weren't, I don't think that much different.

ANNE: Just kind of go in cycles don't they.

ROTHA: They are long and short, and long --- For a long time Mom had dresses and things upstairs, but I think we've probably, moths probably got into them. I can remember some of the old button top shoes. But they evidently got thrown out.

ANNE: Well it is kind of fun looking back over the years, isn't it, and the changes that are made.

ROTHA: And we walked to school from here.

ANNE: Yeah, well that's quite a ways.

ROTHA: Yeah, Drex and I we walked. No matter when it was 20 below, we walked. I can remember toes --- no wonder we had chill blains.

ANNE: That's true.

ROTHA: Toes and feet being cold.

ANNE: Yeah. Boy I bet the school wasn't real warm either, was it?

ROTHA: Oh, it wasn't too bad.

ANNE: Too bad.

ROTHA: I can remember, it must have been my first day at school, or sometime --- I always blame it on Drex. I can remember, I think it was Mrs. ... whacking me on my fingers. I don't know what I did ... And I sit out in the hall and bawled, they probably heard me all the way over here.

ANNE: Yeah.

ROTHA: I always told Drex it was because he was so ornery they thought ... on me. But I can remember coming home from school in a --- and I could --- now that was about the time the rabies were going through the country, and I could see a mad coyote behind

every sagebrush. I don't know how I ever got home.

ANNE: That would be awful. Things weren't all as green in the meadows as they are now.

ROTHA: Well I'm sure in the summertime, but that would be, you know, I don't remember what period that the rabies went through; it must have been along in the spring of the year or sometime. I can remember one time the kids were --- of course we were always running all over the hills. The Sitz kids were with us a lot. And Uncle Lou came around the corner, and he told us we had better get to the house; he had seen a mad coyote farther back. And I remember all the rest of them ran off and left me.

ANNE: Oh no.

ROTHA: And I thought I never was going to get to the house. Memories! You know in the flu epidemic they moved out to the Weatherly place. The Weatherly's had a beautiful two-story house out there. That was out toward Robertson's; it's on the left side of the road. And so they moved out there and lived for awhile until the scare ---

ANNE: Your folks did?

ROTHA: No, no huh uh, Uncle Lou and Aunt Georgia.

ANNE: Oh they did.

ROTHA: Yes. Did Glenn mention that to you?

ANNE: Huh uh. Why did they, how did they happen to move out there?

ROTHA: Well they wanted to get, I guess it must have been vacant. The Weatherly's must have moved someplace. Now the Weatherly's, one of them, the wife was a Robertson, was related to the Robertson's I'm sure.

ANNE: Huh, for heaven's sake.

ROTHA: Yeah. I expect Carol has told you all of that, hasn't she?

ANNE: Not yet, no, huh uh. Well that's ---

ROTHA: I can't think of her name, the lady's name. But anyway, Uncle Lou wanted to get away from the --- you know how vicious that flu was during World War I, and so he moved out.

ANNE: Oh that's something isn't it?

ROTHA: But like I said, I'm not much help here. Somewhere up-stairs we've got our school cards, grades, upstairs.

ANNE: School a lot different then, probably than it is now.

ROTHA: Well we learned a lot more, I can assure you of that. You sit where they have all eight grades, and the younger kids you're learning while the other people are doing their problems and diagramming on a board, you're learning.

ANNE: Uh huh, yeah. It makes a difference, they baby kids around anymore.

ROTHA: No, they do. Well your computers, and what have you, but I don't think they learn as much.

ANNE: No, probably not.

ROTHA: At least then people could learn to write. We had Palmer, you know, in grade school.

ANNE: Uh huh. It was a different emphasis on different things than it is now, you know. Which I think we should go back to some of it, really.

ROTHA: Well I think they made a big mistake. Because you take a lot of people, years ago that got out of 8th grade they're better educated than these kids getting out of high school.

ANNE: Yeah, that's for sure.

ROTHA: Seems like, anyway.

ANNE: Well Rotha ---

... (Pause in tape)

ANNE: Okay, so Effie Lee Holladay, and she was born May 11th, 1882.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

ANNE: Columbia Adair, Kentucky. Was married the 17th of September 1900 to Sylvester --- did he have a middle name?

ROTHA: Yeah, Sylvester S. --- don't tell me it isn't on there. Just put Sylvester S.

ANNE: Sylvester S. Williams.

ROTHA: We've had, there is someplace ...

ANNE: They were married in Burns.

ROTHA: That's why I said; I'd like to know which minister.

ANNE: Yeah, that would be nice.

ROTHA: But I sure don't know.

ANNE: Let's see, and Effie's dad's name was James Rowan Holladay.

ROTHA: Uh huh, Rowan. Now here it is Samuel Sylvester Williams.

ANNE: Oh, okay, Samuel Sylvester Williams. Okay. And he was born at, what was the name of it?

ROTHA: Panquitch, Utah, on February the 3rd, 1872.

ANNE: P A N Q U I T C H.

ROTHA: Garfield County, Utah.

ANNE: Okay. And he died the 31st of January 1937.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

ANNE: Okay. Let's see, and his mother's name was Mary Ann Snyder, and she was born the 31st of January 1842.

ROTHA: '83.

ANNE: Yeah, 1843, at Jobe Creek, Hancock, Illinois.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

ANNE: And died the 10th of September 1876, at Panquitch, Garfield, Utah.

ROTHA: Is where she is buried.

ANNE: Okay. And her husband was Hiram Andrus Williams, and he was born the 4th of March 1843, in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois. Married the 19th of July 1863, in Salt Lake City. Died the 4th of October 1896, in Ontario, Oregon. I think that's all I'll get from that.

ROTHA: Well you can just read it, I mean, yourself on the thing.

ANNE: And then, let's see, James Rowan Holladay was born in 1849, at Columbia Adair, Kentucky. Married 1870. And was married at Columbia Adair, Kentucky, and died in 1917 in Drewsey. And his wife was Frances Ellen Miller, and she was born the 16th of February 1855, in Columbia, Kentucky. And died the 8th of August 1947, in Seattle, Washington.

ROTHA: And she is buried over here.

ANNE: And she is buried in Drewsey, okay.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

ANNE: What was she doing in Seattle when she died?

ROTHA: With Aunt Frances. You know she homesteaded; Uncle Lou had her homestead the hot springs out here. And Grandmother lived there for quite a number of years.

ANNE: Yeah.

ROTHA: Of course, I mean she spent time here and with Aunt Georgia. And then Uncle Ad, and Uncle Les, and Uncle --- they all, they would come up and stay with her, you know, quite a bit of the time.

ANNE: Well that would be nice.

ROTHA: But when she was elderly we had, Aunt Frances came down, and so we made arrangements, my mother and Uncle Ad made arrangements, they paid Aunt Frances to

take care of Grandmother because she was up there close to a doctor, and that's why she was ---

ANNE: That's why she was up there.

ROTHA: Yeah, she was around the late 80's before she ever went up to Seattle. Uh huh.

ANNE: That's really neat. Well, okay, so the Holladay's you said had come out here with their, Effie had come out here with her brother, and you explained that.

ROTHA: Yeah, came out to visit her brother. And like I said she met Dad, and stayed. Well you saw the nice letter that her dad wrote. I thought that letter, something to be pretty proud of.

ANNE: It is all right.

ROTHA: Then after that, I don't remember what year Aunt Georgia came out to visit my mother. But then she went back. Of course I guess Uncle Frank was still around then too. And then she went back to; I guess they moved to Missouri, Jamesport, Missouri. Then she went back, and then she came, the next time she came back that's when --- I suppose she stayed with my mother, or with Uncle Frank. But then she married, met Uncle Lou and got married.

ANNE: Yeah. Well that's neat isn't it? Quite the history of ...

ROTHA: And then after that Grandmother came out. Like I said the boys were already out in the west.

ANNE: Yeah, yeah.

ROTHA: Spoiling the staging line more.

ANNE: And that's basically what brought them out here anyway, wasn't it?

ROTHA: Yes, was the mail contracts. And I'm sure that their cousin Ben, having, you know, staging and everything, played an important part of them following the mail contracting. I'm positive of that.



ANNE: Well, I think that will do us Rotha.

(END OF TAPE)

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