

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #409 - Side A/B

Subject: Alice Delore

Date: August 24, 1990

Place: Paulina, Oregon

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: ... Alice Delore on 8-24-1990 at her house. And where are we located, Alice?

ALICE DELORE: Township 8.

EDWARD: Oh, good. Range?

ALICE: Or I mean Section 8, Township 19, Range 25.

EDWARD: Is that Crook?

ALICE: No, Harney.

EDWARD: Harney. Excuse me, Section 8.

ALICE: It's just ---

EDWARD: That's Bud, the dog. (Laughter)

ALICE: Just one mile out from here to the county road.

EDWARD: Yeah, Earl showed where the line was.

ALICE: Just a little over a mile.

EDWARD: I want to start, it makes it a lot easier to start from your beginnings, and I'm not doing this to hurt you or anything, Alice. I'm a schoolteacher, 20 years, same school, but I write during the winters, and I do my research during the summers. What I'm doing is, I'm going around this summer and looking at things that would be of interest to Oregon history buffs, or any history buff. And you certainly, I think, are a very interesting person.

Anybody that lives --- how many miles from the main highway, 15? No, more than that, isn't it?

ALICE: Well, it's 28 miles from here out to Paulina, but I think it's about 20 miles, because it's about 8 miles from the oil, when you hit the oil there, I think, on to Paulina.

EDWARD: Yeah. In today's living conditions, we don't see too many people that do this, and enjoy this, probably as much as you do.

ALICE: Well, perhaps not.

EDWARD: Yeah. Well believe me, there is nothing wrong with it, nothing. Could you tell me a little bit about your family background, your mom and dad, when you were born?

ALICE: I was born in Rockford, Washington.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: And my folks moved here into Central Oregon when I was 6 weeks old, in 1908.

EDWARD: Did they come to The Dalles and take a train? No, the train wasn't there then.

ALICE: No, no, no. No, they came through by Prairie City and John Day, and on out, down the Bear Valley Road at that time. I don't know if it's continued now or not. But that was the main road from that area on over into this at that time.

EDWARD: Okay. Did they come here --- first of all, what was your dad's name?

ALICE: Oscar Oberg.

EDWARD: O ---

ALICE: O B E R G.

EDWARD: O B E R G. And your mom?

ALICE: Pristina Ann Clark Oberg.

EDWARD: Okay. Did, how old were they when they came to the Paulina area, do you recall? Were they in their 20's, 30's?

ALICE: Well it was --- how old were they?

EDWARD: They, yeah. Approximately.

ALICE: Well my mother was 22, and my father was 12 years older than her.

EDWARD: He was approximately 34.

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Did they ever tell you, or do you know the reason why they came to the Paulina, Oregon area in 1908?

ALICE: Well we didn't live in Paulina, we lived on farther up this way, you know, farther north --- or southeast of Paulina was where they acquired a homestead. And they came, all of them, my grandparents, and mother's brother's and sisters. And all --- they came to Central Oregon to acquire a homestead. Because at that time there was homesteads being opened for the people to file on.

EDWARD: Yeah, 1906.

ALICE: In 1908. And they were all renting farmland in the Rockford, Washington area. And they decided well they would --- somebody explained to them that there was being lots of people homesteading down here, so that's why they came.

EDWARD: That's why a lot of the people came to Northern Klamath County, same reason.

ALICE: I imagine so.

EDWARD: Same reason. Because in 1906 they opened up what they called the Forced Homestead Act, and that opened additional lands.

ALICE: Oh, could have been.

EDWARD: Yeah. Did they, is the place they originally homesteaded --- approximately how far is it from Paulina, Alice? Or Earl, do you know where it is?

EARL McCONNELL: Not for sure, no I really don't.

ALICE: I don't know just how far it would be from Paulina.

EDWARD: Anything left?

ALICE: its probably about 26 miles maybe, something like that.

EDWARD: Oh, quite a ways.

ALICE: Would be the same distance on up from the Angel place there. I really don't know just exactly, but it's under 30 anyway, I imagine.

EDWARD: Was their homestead in Crook County?

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Do you know if your dad paid cash for it, or did he spend his 5 years and ---

ALICE: I don't know. Because they had to make improvements on it before they could file on it.

EDWARD: Right, okay. Probably 5 years.

ALICE: Certain kind of improvements, building, and so much land worked, or something.

EDWARD: Do you, did you have any brothers or sisters?

ALICE: I have one sister, and I have one brother, but he only lived to be 6 months old.

EDWARD: Okay. There was a lot of that, yeah.

ALICE: But I have one sister.

EDWARD: Was your sister here recently?

ALICE: Pardon.

EDWARD: Was your sister here recently?

ALICE: Yes, yes.

EDWARD: Where does she live?

ALICE: She lives in Redmond.

EDWARD: And what's her name Alice?

ALICE: Florence Kuhn.

EDWARD: Oh brother. K --- here we go. K U E N?

ALICE: K U H N.

EDWARD: H N. Did they --- is that the one that had the ranch down here on, by Brennan's, the Kuhn Ranch?

ALICE: No. Yes, that's members of the same family that her husband was.

EDWARD: I see, I see.

ALICE: But not her. Her and her husband didn't own that much, just other things.

EDWARD: Are you older or younger?

ALICE: I'm older, two years.

EDWARD: I hate to ask those kind of questions.

ALICE: Just two years older. She ---

EDWARD: I wanted, I know there are some questions, Alice, that you probably might hit me, but I would really like you to answer them.

ALICE: Well I would try if I ---

EDWARD: I know you're an honest lady, I know you will give it a shot.

ALICE: I'm positive that I wouldn't be making a mistake.

EDWARD: Good.

ALICE: No, I don't want you to get information that maybe that I might be making a mistake on.

EDWARD: I don't know a lot about this country, but I did do a little bit of research in the last four days or so.

ALICE: Oh.

EDWARD: So I've got a few things I'd like to really find out about. First of all, have you lived in this area since 1908?

ALICE: Well I have lived right in this area since 1924.

EDWARD: The place here?

ALICE: Yes. But up until then I lived at my parent's home over at Suplee instead of here.

EDWARD: You pronounce it Suplee.

ALICE: Uh huh, that's what it was at the time.

EDWARD: And that's what it should be, that's how it should be ---

ALICE: It still has that name, you know, just as an area name, no post office or anything like that now.

EDWARD: I went by Izee last week.

ALICE: Oh.

EDWARD: There is nothing there except a schoolhouse.

ALICE: Oh.

EDWARD: And the teacher's cottage.

ALICE: Oh.

EDWARD: What was your life like when you were young?

ALICE: Oh, just sort of like it is yet today, I guess. What I mean my mom and dad's homestead was off, more or less, by itself. And of course we went to a one-room schoolhouse.

EDWARD: Which, what was the name of that schoolhouse, Alice?

ALICE: Suplee.

EDWARD: Suplee.

ALICE: Yeah. And oh my sister and I did lots of playing, riding stick horses.

EDWARD: Did you make them?

ALICE: The stick horses?

EDWARD: Uh huh.

ALICE: Yeah, beautiful willows, cut them and make pretty stick horses.

EDWARD: Probably could make up until this day, couldn't you?

ALICE: Well they could, all right, if there was any interest in it. And I wanted, as I was growing older, a little more grown up, I wanted to become a very good rider on real horses.

EDWARD: Real horses.

ALICE: Yes, you know, really riding. And I didn't get to do much of that until after my second marriage, my second husband, and he was a good teacher and he helped me a lot to learn just all, how to do things properly.

EDWARD: Did you ever ride a horse to school?

ALICE: Uh huh, yeah.

EDWARD: By the way, how far were you from the school property?

ALICE: Three miles.

EDWARD: Three miles.

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And you did this, even in the winter, you rode the horse to school? Or did they have school?

ALICE: Well, some of the time a horse in the winter. And then some of the time my daddy would take us to school with a little sled, team and sled.

EDWARD: Yeah. Was school real important to your parents for you?

ALICE: Oh yes.

EDWARD: Just hammered into you?

ALICE: Oh yeah, they wanted us to do the best we could. But I didn't get to start to school until I was 9 years of age. In those days, you know, there wasn't no school close enough that --- there wasn't the Suplee School there that I attended later. That was built later.

EDWARD: Oh, oh, okay. Because there is a school building still there. I didn't know if that was the original ---

ALICE: I don't know if it was the old original Suplee School. It was on, too far away for us to attend, so the first year when I was in the first grade why I was 9 years old, and my mama had moved out and rented a house near that school. And my sister attended too, she was of course 7.

EDWARD: Did you and your sister have any chores, specific chores you had to do when you were say, before you were a young lady, you know, 16, 14, 15?

ALICE: Oh yes, we had to, oh one of the things in the summer we had to herd the cows, keep them off of the grain fields.

EDWARD: The milk cows?

ALICE: Yeah, milk cows, and other cattle that they were raising for more or less, just for sell. Steer calves off from it.

EDWARD: How did your dad make money? Or was it important?

ALICE: Well he raised wheat. He was a wheat rancher. And then of course he also raised lots of pork. And I don't remember just how old I was when he used to butcher pigs and deliver them to, out to the Buck Creek Ranch, to Bill Brown.

EDWARD: Bill Brown.

ALICE: Uh huh. And exchange them for groceries.

EDWARD: Because he had a store there.

ALICE: Uh huh, yes. He would exchange the pork meat for groceries.

EDWARD: Was Bill Brown's Store in his house at that time?

ALICE: No, it was a separate building. It was a separate building, which burned in later years.

EDWARD: Oh the store, the store burned.



ALICE: Uh huh, yes.

EDWARD: Oh.

ALICE: No, the house was left in tact until Dominique Verges bought the property, a lot of it. And then he removed some of the lumber to use in other places. There was a little red building down at the ... Springs. Dominique Verges built that one, with some lumber out of the old Buck Creek house.

EDWARD: I was just up to Buck Creek by the Barney Ranch.

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Last week, I forgot what day.

ALICE: Oh.

EDWARD: And went up to the old Bill Brown house, and they are remodeling it. The GI Ranch owns it now.

ALICE: Yes, yes.

EDWARD: And they remodeled it.

ALICE: Oh.

EDWARD: And it looks really nice.

ALICE: Well it used to be a much bigger building than what ---

EDWARD: It was?

ALICE: --- it was in later years now. There was a big dining room out toward the east. And upstairs over the dining room was what he planned for a nursery. A big upstairs ---

EDWARD: A nursery?

ALICE: A nursery. But he never married nor had any children.

EDWARD: No, he never married.

ALICE: No, he never married, and never had any need of it for a nursery. But when he built the house that was what, over the big dining room was for.

EDWARD: I'll be doggoned. I want to get back to Bill Brown in a bit. I've got some names here, Alice, that I know you know. When did you leave home, when did you leave your dad and mom's homestead?

ALICE: When I was 16.

EDWARD: 16. And where did you go?

ALICE: I married.

EDWARD: You married.

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: Sixteen, your dad let you marry at 16?

ALICE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Where did you get married, in Paulina?

ALICE: No, John Day.

EDWARD: John Day. Oh, you had to run away?

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: No. (Laughter)

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: When did your sister, how old was your sister when she got married?

ALICE: Oh, 18 I guess.

EDWARD: Eighteen.

ALICE: I'm not sure. I think she was probably 18.

EDWARD: Where did you meet your first husband, over there on the homestead?

ALICE: He was the son of the elderly man that had homesteaded this property.

EDWARD: This, right here?

ALICE: This, yes, this.

EDWARD: The son of the man that homesteaded this. What did he have, a 160, or 320?

ALICE: Well, 320.

EDWARD: 320, I think, yeah.

ALICE: Yeah. 1913, I think.

EDWARD: And --- he homesteaded --- okay. Your husband's name was what, first husband?

ALICE: Merritt Peacock.

EDWARD: Merritt Peacock.

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: His father homesteaded ---

ALICE: This, John W. Peacock.

EDWARD: --- this place, in about 1913.

ALICE: I think so, somewheres around 1913; I'm not really quite sure about it.

EDWARD: This is in Crook County, right?

ALICE: Pardon.

EDWARD: This is in Crook County?

ALICE: No, Harney.

EDWARD: Harney.

ALICE: This is Harney County.

EDWARD: I got to go to Harney County, Burns.

ALICE: Just a corner here in the county. The blockhouse over here is in Harney, and from there on east is Harney County.

EDWARD: Okay. I'll get it Alice. I'm getting confused about the counties here, because Suplee is in Crook County.

ALICE: Pardon.

EDWARD: Suplee is in Crook County.

ALICE: Oh yes, yes.

EDWARD: Yeah. Oh, I know why, it makes a jog --- okay, yeah, yeah. Because it makes a jog there, that's why. Goes "whack, whack", all right. So you married Mr. Peacock when you were 16.

ALICE: ...

EDWARD: That would be ---

ALICE: And he was 19.

EDWARD: That would be --- think, 1924?

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And where did you and Mr. Peacock live when you got married? You lived here?

ALICE: Not in this house. An old log cabin.

EDWARD: And is it here?

ALICE: No. Been gone a long time.

EDWARD: And you have been here since 1924.

ALICE: Uh huh. I haven't lived constantly here, continuously, because my second husband had a home over in Crook County, just above the old Suplee School, the old original school. And we spent quite a bit of time there. And then we let my daughter have that property, and we moved over to this part. But I had not parted with it, I kept it.

EDWARD: In other words you live here basically, since 1924, year around? Almost, almost every year?

ALICE: Yes, almost.

EDWARD: Year around?

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: How do you get to town right now, Alice, with that pickup?

ALICE: Yeah, but just out to Paulina is all. Then I have to hire somebody to take me on down to Prineville or any of the other towns. But I do drive out to Paulina.

EDWARD: What was Mr. Peacock's first name? I'm sorry. What was your first husband's first name?

ALICE: Merritt.

EDWARD: Merritt, Merritt, Merritt, okay. Now he was shot, right?

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: What can you tell me about that?

ALICE: Huh?

EDWARD: What can you tell me about that, Alice?

ALICE: Well ---

EDWARD: Whatever you want to.

ALICE: Well I'll tell you this, he was shot by a young fellow that wanted me to leave him, and take off with him. And when I said, "No, I won't do that," he said, "well if you don't, why then he's not going to have you either."

EDWARD: This man told you that?

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: Here in this house?

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: Oh, okay.

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: What year was that?

ALICE: 1936.

EDWARD: So you and Merritt had been married 12 years?

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And were you and Merritt --- were you running cattle up here, or sheep, or ---

ALICE: We had a few cattle, not many. Because we didn't have enough property for a big outfit, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

ALICE: And my father had, there wasn't no 4-H back in those days, but my father gave me a black heifer that he didn't care about. A cow had one black calf in the days when there was no Angus. That is, you know, ranchers didn't have a lot of Angus. But a man from The Dalles bought some range up here, just like nowadays people coming in, get range, rent range. And he had Black Angus bulls. And my father took the milk cow down and put her in the pasture with this other type bulls, short-horned bulls. And we supposed that probably their little calves would be shorthorns. But when the little baby was born, it was a little Black Angus. And my dad said, "Ah, I don't want that calf at all. I'll tell you what, you can have her if you want it." And that's my first cattle. I continued to keep them.

EDWARD: How, approximately --- was that before you were married to Merritt, or during?

ALICE: Oh yes, yes.

EDWARD: Oh, okay, okay.

ALICE: I was just a kid at home.

EDWARD: So when you got married you and Merritt came up here and brought some head of cattle, and a few horses.

ALICE: Uh huh, my horse that I had.

EDWARD: And probably a --- 1924 --- probably a Model-T or something?

ALICE: Yes, he had a Model-T.

EDWARD: And, and, what else, chickens?

ALICE: Oh, yes of course. I didn't have that kind, but my mother always supplied me with

a little, baby chicks or turkeys and what not, so I had those for a long time.

EDWARD: The reason I'm asking, Alice, I mean Earl and I just come up this beat up old road over here in his 4-wheeler, I think. How in the world did you get up here, back when you and Merritt were married?

ALICE: Well of course we used horses a lot of the time. Horses, teams, buggy.

EDWARD: What about, let's say ---

ALICE: The old Model-T that we had, we just used it occasionally. All traveling, mostly, was done with team and horses, a team and buggy.

EDWARD: Up until about how late, 1930's, '20's, '40's?

ALICE: Oh, I just, I guess, probably, I'm not sure about when the Model-A's came out.

EDWARD: '29.

ALICE: Is that when it was?

EDWARD: Yeah, that was a new one, you know.

ALICE: Yes. Well when the '29, or I mean when the Model-A Fords came out, we bought a Model-A Ford. And we had that then.

EDWARD: You know where it is by any chance?

ALICE: Pardon.

EDWARD: You know where that old Model-A Ford is by any chance?

ALICE: Oh my goodness no. I don't know anything about where it ever went to.

EDWARD: Okay. It might be sitting down there in the pasture.

ALICE: No, it isn't. We --- oh goodness, traded it in I guess.

EDWARD: Yeah, probably.

ALICE: Probably, yes.

EDWARD: Well whatever, let's say ---

ALICE: Traded it to somebody else. I've really kind of forgotten just what we did do with

it.

EDWARD: Let's say it was January and you came down with pneumonia, and it's 1930. How would you guys get out of here? How do you and Merritt get the heck out of here, because you had pneumonia or something, whatever, something went wrong?

ALICE: Well we, fortunately we didn't have to generally.

EDWARD: Right, right. Emergency ---

ALICE: As I say, with horses.

EDWARD: Horses.

ALICE: Yes. Sled in the wintertime, with a sled. We even used horses in much later years to --- we left our car, a later Ford, down the road here, the way you come in, you know, up 7, that way. Left it down there, and then we'd take a team and take whatever we wanted down to the car and load it up.

EDWARD: In town --- load on into the car, yeah.

ALICE: Yeah. Then he'd bring the team back, and then walk back, and get in the car and then we'd go on.

EDWARD: No wonder you guys live a long time. Take us flat landers down there in Eugene, you know, we choke up from all the junk we got to breathe, or something. Okay. Was there anything you really --- did you ever want to leave here when you were married to Merritt? Did you ever just say, "Merritt I've had it?"

ALICE: No, no.

EDWARD: "Take me to John Day, man."

ALICE: I love the freedom, I still do.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: No. Earl drove me by where Merritt was murdered, killed, murdered, really.



ALICE: Yes, yes, yes.

EDWARD: its part of history, it's all, you know, it's a part of this type of life out here. This, what was the man's name that murdered Merritt?

ALICE: Darrell Walker.

EDWARD: Darrell Walker. Did this happen --- Earl, help me. Coffeepot Creek?

EARL: I just know what Joe and Velda told me. It was over there by the spring I showed you on Coffee Creek.

ALICE: Coffee Creek.

EDWARD: Coffee Creek.

EARL: He was camped there.

EDWARD: Okay.

ALICE: It was Mills'; they had a lambing, and shearing operation there. ...

EDWARD: The Mills Brothers. Oh, that's alright, just let it --- What can you tell me about --- you don't have to say anything if you don't want to Alice, don't worry, about the shooting, I guess it was a shooting, over there at this particular place. What occurred there?

ALICE: Well of course I wasn't there. But the boys were shearing sheep, and Merritt was one of the shearers. And they were just washing up for lunch at the Mills' house, you know. And they were just, all the boys were washing up just outside the house. That's what Golda Mills told me. And, Merritt was shot there. Nobody knowed, it happened suddenly, you know.

EARL: Was he working there too, this Walker, or did he ride in?

ALICE: No, he wasn't working there.

EARL: Huh.

EDWARD: Oh, he rode in on a horse?

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: Oh, I see.

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: Now would this have been after he saw you or something? Did he ride from here to go over to there?

ALICE: No, no.

EDWARD: He just rode in from the old range?

ALICE: Yes, yes. He had a, he had told me about it. He had a cabin built up here in the Ochoco National Forest.

EDWARD: Was he, he just kind of squat up there?

ALICE: Yes, yes, that's right.

EDWARD: Do you happen to know where that cabin is, Alice?

ALICE: It's all fell down now. I happened to go by it one time in late years.

EDWARD: We could ---

ALICE: But it's all fell down now.

EDWARD: We could find the location though. Could we do that? Not today.

ALICE: Well I don't know. It's up above ... might have passed it. It's all fell down. It's up from Cow Camp; you know where the watering trough is at Cow Camp?

EARL: Uh huh.

ALICE: It's up, just up that steep hill, right up north.

EARL: Right north of Cow Camp, huh?

ALICE: Uh huh, right up on the top there.

EARL: Do you know where that place is north of Cow Camp ...

ALICE: He didn't have knowledge of building log houses or anything, it was just something ---

EDWARD: Thrown it together.

ALICE: --- that he could go up there and fish in the creek and stay there.

EDWARD: Oh, is there a creek up there?

ALICE: Silver Creek.

EDWARD: Oh Silver Creek, oh excuse me.

ALICE: Yes. Silver Creek is all around from it.

EDWARD: Where did this Walker guy meet you? Just see you some-place?

ALICE: Why he was, his father owned this ranch over here, the Walker that I own now, which we bought.

EDWARD: Oh, okay. That's right near by.

ALICE: Yes, yes. He owned that.

EDWARD: He got a jail sentence, didn't he?

ALICE: Huh?

EDWARD: They picked him up and he got a jail sentence didn't he, Alice?

ALICE: Yes, he was in the penitentiary for some years. I don't know just how long before he was paroled.

EDWARD: I'll just ask one more question, unless you want to tell me anything else about this Walker guy. What, and I hope I don't make you feel bad, okay? What month was it that Merritt was murdered, do you recall?

ALICE: June 1936, June the 5th.

EDWARD: June, okay, '36. All right, do you want anything, do you want to say anything else about all that, any of that?

ALICE: Well I don't know if there is anything else that would be of any ---

EDWARD: Oh, maybe --- now it was over there at the spring on Coffee Creek.

ALICE: Yes, it was where the Mills had their lambing quarters and shearing quarters.

EDWARD: Did they have a little house there or something?

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: A little bunkhouse?

ALICE: Yes, the old Wade house.

EDWARD: The old Wade house.

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: Oh.

ALICE: They had purchased the Wade place. And the old original house was there.

EDWARD: That's long gone now.

ALICE: Yes, it is.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: Yes, it has been gone for a long time.

EDWARD: Yeah. Is that the road that you --- do you use that road that Earl and I just came up?

ALICE: No, not very often.

EDWARD: Oh, okay, okay. I just see Earl's fishing pond.

ALICE: Yeah, well I don't know, I've just got used to going the 12-mile road, and out that way. So occasionally I go that road, but not very often.

EDWARD: What I'll do, Alice, a lot of this information will be in the paper, you know.

ALICE: Do what?

EDWARD: A lot of this information about this Walker guy will be in the paper. I'll look up the old papers, and I can find out information about this Walker.

EARL: Newspaper accounts ...

EDWARD: Newspaper, yeah.

EARL: ... would probably have it.

ALICE: Oh perhaps, the Crook County paper.

EDWARD: Do you want me to send any articles to you?

ALICE: No, I guess not.

EDWARD: Okay, okay.

ALICE: I don't think ---

EDWARD: Now I'm going ---

ALICE: My grandchildren, that is my granddaughter Velda in Paulina, she is insisting I destroy everything before my death.

EDWARD: No.

ALICE: All records, all papers, everything.

EDWARD: No.

EARL: Who is this?

ALICE: Velda doesn't want me to keep anything.

EDWARD: Oh no, no, no. I've heard that too often.

EARL: That's a tragedy to ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: She says she don't want to have the job of doing, looking through things and what not. She wants me to have everything, my keepsakes, my wedding dress ---

EDWARD: Don't do that.

ALICE: --- when my second husband and I were married. She insists that I burn that.

EDWARD: Earl, we got to have a talk here. This happens too often.

ALICE: She doesn't want me to --- you know, she just ---

EARL: I can't imagine that kind of thinking.

ALICE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Me either.

ALICE: That's the way, the attitude that she has. She doesn't want to have the bother when I pass away to have to ---

EDWARD: Oh, you'll be here longer than she will, probably.

ALICE: Oh, you know all that ...

EDWARD: I hear this a lot as a historian. I just about --- Okay, let's move on. I want to ask you if you know anything about some of this --- do you know what a saddle blanket blaze is? You ever hear of that term?

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: Have you Earl?

EARL: A what?

EDWARD: A saddle blanket blaze. You know how you blaze a tree when you're surveying or something like that? But a saddle blanket?

EARL: I never heard of it referred to as a saddle blanket blaze.

EDWARD: Because what I'm getting into here is, you know we've always had problems, I'm neither a cattleman, nor am I sheep man. Well what the heck went on up here with the cattlemen and sheep men?

ALICE: Oh, well that was way beyond, you know, way back ... All I know on that was just little things that older timers told, that they really hadn't experienced, you know. It's just so far back that they ---

EDWARD: Far back.

ALICE: Yes, you know.

EDWARD: They had it pretty well straightened out by 1906. Pretty, because the government came in and said, hey that's enough of this.

ALICE: Well, perhaps so.

EDWARD: Yeah. What's your knowledge --- you see I don't know this, Alice, you have to

tell me, I'm only 49. Izee Sheep Shooters Organization, what do you know about those guys? What stories have you heard?

ALICE: Oh, I really don't know anything about it. But it was some of the ranchers at Izee, I guess, and some at Paulina Valley, and some of those places kind of, oh got together, you know, and destroyed sheep, and whatnot. I ---

EDWARD: Did you ever hear of Harry Snodgrass?

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: No. Billy Congleton?

ALICE: Someplace, somewhere, I have a little article on that that was mailed to me by a friend that, over in Monmouth. She comes hunting up here, her and her family. And she read this in a paper, and I'd have to hunt through all my things, but somewhere there is something about that. Oh, sort of an organization, you know, the --- I can't even remember any of the names. The earlier days, people that were, of course, in cattle and sheep, the names of them.

EDWARD: How did your dad feel about sheep men?

ALICE: About what?

EDWARD: How did your father feel about sheep men?

ALICE: Oh, he was --- that was all over with by the time they came here. In fact my daddy had some sheep. He had sheep and cattle both.

EDWARD: He must have been all right.

ALICE: We had sheep and cattle both. Just a couple hundred sheep, and whatnot. But he acquired them after I was married. That was in later years that he had those.

EDWARD: Okay. Oh, by the way, do you, can you recall your father's and mother's birth year and --- I hate this word, death, the year of death? Do you know those, Alice?

ALICE: Well my mother was born on the 5th of November. Now deduct --- I could give

you all that if I had time to go get my records.

EDWARD: Okay.

ALICE: She was 22 years older than me, and her birthday was the 5th of November.

EDWARD: Can you send that to me in the mail?

ALICE: Yes, I'll do that.

EDWARD: I'm in no hurry.

ALICE: Yes, I can do that; I'll hunt it up.

EDWARD: Okay.

ALICE: And my father was born in Sweden. He was a Swedish man. And I don't know what, you know; I really don't have much of a record on him.

EDWARD: He --- let's see, approximately 1886. Okay. I'm just trying to get some idea of what years they were born, and how long they had been around. Okay, what I want to do, I'm going to mention some names, and I really need some help. Oh, before I forget, my god, you remarried.

ALICE: Yes, I did.

EDWARD: And that was to who, Alice?

ALICE: Sedrick Delore.

EDWARD: Delore.

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And where did I see Delores? I saw Delores ---

ALICE: Well they were early day old timers, the Delores.

EDWARD: Bowman Museum, there were some pictures of some.

ALICE: Yes, I expect so. Yeah, probably so.

EDWARD: So they must have been here early, early, huh?

ALICE: Yes they were, yeah.



EDWARD: And when did you marry Sedrick?

ALICE: 1937.

EDWARD: '37. And --- '37, 1908 --- you were about 35. Somewhere in there.

ALICE: Well I --- we were little kid sweethearts in school.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, oh.

ALICE: The Suplee School.

EDWARD: Oh yes, doesn't that happen a lot.

ALICE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. He finally run into you again, didn't he?

ALICE: Oh, he was in the community at all times.

EDWARD: What did Sedrick do, what was his ---

ALICE: Well he was a rancher, and one heck of a good buckaroo.

EDWARD: Did he ride in the ---

ALICE: Rodeos?

EDWARD: Rodeos, yeah.

ALICE: No. He wasn't a rodeo rider. But he could go break horses for somebody. And he was a, used to work for old Bill Brown, buckaroo for Bill Brown. And ride on the range out there.

EDWARD: And Bill Brown had quite a range, I guess.

ALICE: Yes he did, you bet. It extended all the way from here clear to the other side of ---

EDWARD: Yeah, that's what Earl is ---

ALICE: --- way out to Sand Springs.

EDWARD: Wagontire.

ALICE: Out Wagontire.

EDWARD: You know he shot a guy, don't you? Blew him away.

ALICE: What?

EDWARD: Bill Brown shot a guy.

ALICE: Yes, but I didn't know anything about that. But history has said that.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: But I, of course, you know, that had happened long before, well before my folks came here or anything, you know.

EDWARD: But the Delores have been around here a long time, haven't they?

ALICE: Yes they had.

EDWARD: 1880's, I think.

ALICE: I guess, something like that.

EDWARD: I think so.

ALICE: They had been here. They were early day trappers, you know, like the ---

EDWARD: Oh, Hudson Bay guys?

ALICE: Yes, yes, yes, like that. They came here from Canada.

EDWARD: I'll be doggone. And Mr. Delore passed away when, Alice?

ALICE: June 24th, 1982.

EDWARD: '82, okay. And did you, did you guys stay here? Did you stay here, or were you, did you move, Sedrick go somewhere else, or ---

ALICE: We lived over at his place some, and then we lived here ---

EDWARD: Okay.

ALICE: --- a lot of the time too.

EDWARD: Did you use --- I see you got about 18 head --- are those your cows down there too?

ALICE: Those ---

EDWARD: Are those your cattle down there too?

ALICE: Yeah.

EDWARD: So you got more than 18 head, don't you?

ALICE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Because I saw, counted 18 up here, didn't I.

ALICE: Well those are Earl's up there, those aren't mine.

EDWARD: Oh. I thought he was going to give those to you.

ALICE: I was over checking my cattle. I walked all day yesterday. Another cow had, was missing, a cow that was supposed to calve. And I hunted all day and couldn't find her.

EDWARD: Couldn't find it.

ALICE: So I went back this morning and I met Zap, and he said well he would go do some looking too, because he had found one about 10 days ago that I couldn't find, a dead calf and its mother.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's what happened on our place.

ALICE: No, I've had, I've got 24 head out there, and then these out here in the field.

EDWARD: You got a lot of coyotes around here?

ALICE: Yes there is.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: Yes, there is.

EDWARD: A lot of coyotes this year, all over, all over.

ALICE: I think that's what's having a lot to do with the shortage of the mule deer.

EDWARD: Huh.

ALICE: They're getting the fawns.

EDWARD: Okay. I'm going to name some names, and tell me kind of maybe what you know of them. Just --- because you know these people, I think. Billy Congleton, did you ever know him? Billy Congleton?

ALICE: I really was never acquainted with him. I know where he used to live, according to what other people have told me over in the Paulina Valley.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, okay.

ALICE: Paulina Valley country.

EDWARD: Now here is one I really need some help, the Mills. Now you know that they had Earl's ranch.

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And they had, I don't know what they owned up here, but a lot I guess.

ALICE: Well they had the Mills property on over here. It's over about 3 or 4 miles from here. And that was where Ike Mills ---

EDWARD: Ike?

ALICE: Ike Mills, that's the older Mills, Ike Mills' homestead.

EDWARD: Now is that the father?

ALICE: That's the father.

EDWARD: Father.

ALICE: That's the oldest Mills that I know anything about.

EDWARD: Oh, okay, yeah.

ALICE: And his wife was a Laughlin, which was also older day people, the Laughlin's. And him and his first wife, I don't know what her name was, but his first wife and Ike they had two children, Oren Mills and Madge Mills.

EDWARD: There is an Oren Mills photographer, that couldn't be.

ALICE: Yes, that was the first two. Then his first wife died. And then he married Effie Hale.

EDWARD: H A L E.

ALICE: H A L E, Effie Hale. And then that, him and Effie had three children. Darrell Mills

was the oldest, and then Ogden Mills.

EDWARD: Is that a male?

ALICE: Mills.

EDWARD: That's a male, a boy? Ogden is a boy?

ALICE: Yes, yes, yes.

EDWARD: Oh, okay.

ALICE: And then Violet, their daughter, of those three children, the Mills children.

EDWARD: So there is four boys, I think so. Ike had four boys and one girl, I think. I think that's how it came out.

ALICE: Three.

EDWARD: Three boys and two girls.

ALICE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay. Now was that --- the reason I'm asking Alice, the Mills seem to be --- was there any other uncles or grandparent Mills? Was that Ike Mills; was that the only Mills family?

ALICE: That's the oldest that I know anything about.

EDWARD: Oh, okay, okay.

ALICE: I don't know --- I don't know anything about any of the family before that.

EDWARD: Did you, you've met Ike before?

ALICE: Yes, I met him.

EDWARD: What kind of temperament did he have? Was he a nice guy, or was he a mean old guy, or was he a ---

ALICE: Oh ---

EDWARD: --- what kind of guy was he?

ALICE: I really didn't know him so very well, as far as that goes. And he had the name of

killing a man before my folks ever come to this country. And their argument was over a colt, that's what, the information was gave out, you know.

EDWARD: Was that, did that occur around here?

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: Paulina?

ALICE: Yes, right over here, right this side of the, upper Mills. EDWARD: Oh.

ALICE: The man's name was Wagner, and he had a homestead down next to the Mills' place.

EDWARD: There evidently was a lot of homesteads up here in this high country, huh?

ALICE: Yes, there was.

EDWARD: There was.

ALICE: Yes. When I came here in 1924 why there was eleven or twelve homesteads, neighbors around in homesteads.

EDWARD: And they live here year around?

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Holy mackerel.

ALICE: Nobody was big.

EDWARD: No.

ALICE: You know, just small ranches, just small homesteads.

EDWARD: And the Mills are off over there about four miles.

ALICE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: But they owned a lot of land, didn't they, in '24?

ALICE: Yes, yes, they did. And they continued to buy land too, after I lived here.

EDWARD: Alice, can you tell me approximately when the Mills left the country, just sold out, or whatever they did?

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ALICE: ... maybe, and it's a possibility that maybe they made one on the ... It's possible that maybe they were getting behind on that. And maybe that's --- but I really don't know.

EDWARD: Sounds like the depression years.

ALICE: I really ---

EARL: In the '30's.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: Yes, in the '30's, yes.

EDWARD: Because the government, I know, did try to help out some of the ranchers.

ALICE: But of course as far as me knowing anything about any difficulties that the Mills and them had, I just really don't know. Don't know anything about it.

EDWARD: The Mills evidently bought out a lot of homesteaders.

ALICE: Yes they did, yes.

EDWARD: Yeah, a lot.

ALICE: Yes, they did. Old Bill Brown did the same too, at first. And then Mills bought some of the land from Bill Brown then too in later years.

EDWARD: Oh I see, I see.

ALICE: The Benedict place, you know, whatnot.

EARL: Bill Brown owned that at one time, uh huh.

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: He came way over the hill.

ALICE: Yeah, that's right.

EDWARD: Did Bill Brown own what we call, or whoever calls it, the GI Ranch? Basically down in ---

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: I don't know even when that started. It was a long time ago; I know that, early 1900's. The Houston's had a big place.

ALICE: I think some people by the name of Gilchrist were some of the first owners of the GI.

EDWARD: I think you're right too.

ALICE: And then Pouch's (sp.?) ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: --- owned it in later years.

EDWARD: Pouch's had it in the '40's.

ALICE: Yes. But there was Gilchrist and something else, but I really don't know.

EDWARD: You're right. You just "oink" rang a bell there. It was Gilchrist. And I think that is kind of what they ended up doing too.

ALICE: Probably. I suppose they were the same Gilchrist that at early days had a sawmill up here in the forest.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: Back in the days when they logged with oxen.

EDWARD: Yeah, wasn't the Gilchrist, as I wrote about, it wasn't, they were from Mississippi. This is another Gilchrist.

ALICE: Yes, yeah it is different.

EDWARD: Verges, you mentioned Verges a while ago, Alice. Was Verges; did Verges buy when --- out Bill Brown? Was that the Verges ---

ALICE: He bought part of it.

EDWARD: Part of it.

ALICE: Yes, just part of it.



EDWARD: Boy, it's confusing, because they trade land all the time.

ALICE: He bought the Buck Creek and the --- and all land down --- not all of it, but down to Hardin, part of the Hardin Ranch. Dominique bought that too.

EDWARD: Where did Dominique come from, he just pop up?

ALICE: France. He was a Frenchman, he was from France.

EDWARD: Huh. Just amaze me. Who was Barney, the Barney Ranch? Do you know who that person was?

ALICE: Uh huh, Grant Barney.

EDWARD: Grant Barney. And he was right next to Bill Brown.

ALICE: Yeah. And he bought the old Street place. It was the Street place before he bought it.

EDWARD: Was that a big ranch, or ---

ALICE: It was an early day ranch, but of course I don't know very much about it. The Streets were there in early days, and I --- but it is the old Street place, is where it was.

EDWARD: Okay. That's what gets confusing sometimes, because they --- they'll get the homesteader's name, like Lister, I think. But it's not called Lister Ranch anymore, so you get kind of confused whose is whose.

ALICE: Yeah, probably so.

EDWARD: That is my job. I have to go to Portland, I can find out who owned anything.

ALICE: Well sure.

EDWARD: I got to go to the BLM in Portland, the 14th floor.

ALICE: Probably so.

EDWARD: Okay, a couple more names. Tom Payne, ever hear of him?

ALICE: Who?

EDWARD: Tom Payne.

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: Fred Smith.

ALICE: Well, yes Fred Smith owned the Trout Creek Ranch over at Weburgs, Trout Creek.

EDWARD: He had some sheep killed.

ALICE: Yes, he was sheep. But of course that was all ---

EDWARD: Alice --- Fred Smith had some sheep killed. Do you know anything about that, Alice?

ALICE: No, no.

EDWARD: I'm going to take my book back. (Laughter)

ALICE: I don't know anything about it.

EDWARD: You sure?

ALICE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Fred Smiths probably dead.

ALICE: I don't know.

EDWARD: Allie Jones.

ALICE: Who?

EDWARD: Allie, A L L I E Jones.

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: You sure?

ALICE: Nope.

EDWARD: Fred Smith, what kind of guy was he?

ALICE: Well my Aunt Bertha, she used to work for him and his wife. And they were both large people, big, pretty good-sized people.

EDWARD: Fred and his wife.

ALICE: Yes. And of course this is just my Aunt Bertha just telling me when I was a little girl about this happening.

EDWARD: You've got a good memory.

ALICE: And she used to do the washing for them in big oak barrel, put the clothing in a big oak barrel, she said. And then "chomp" them, and "chomp" them, and "chomp" them for washing. And that was when they lived at Trout Creek. In the early days, of course.

EDWARD: Is this the, the Weburg ranch is over the hill over here, where the hot springs are, or something like that.

ALICE: Yes, that's the Weburg's.

EDWARD: And that was Fred Smith's place at one time, or close to it I mean.

ALICE: Well ---

EDWARD: That area.

ALICE: It's on a little ---

EARL: Actually where the Trout Creek Ranch is, is just north of where the Reeves is over here.

EDWARD: Oh, you've mentioned the Reeves.

EARL: ... mentioned where his ranch was, wasn't it?

ALICE: Yes, yeah, it's just not ...

EARL: It's just right back over here.

ALICE: It was just about a mile and a half, two miles from where my folks lived, where I grew up.

EDWARD: Oh really?

ALICE: Yeah.

EDWARD: We should run over there next summer, see what, if anything is around. I get a kick out of you guys that live out here. You say, "Well it is just two miles over there" ---

and you go --- "ploo, ploo, ploo", you know. (Laughter) But Fred Smith, anyway, did he ever mention anything about his sheep being killed, or how he felt about it?

ALICE: Not to my knowledge. Of course someone could be, he could have in early days or something. But to my knowledge, you know --- Of course I, I just barely can remember when they lived there, and my Aunt Bertha were working for them.

EDWARD: Did you --- you met Bill Brown, personally.

ALICE: Yeah, a couple of times is all.

EDWARD: What, what did this guy look like? I mean was he tall like Earl and I, or short, or fat, or skinny, or wear glasses, or what was he like?

ALICE: I don't really know, what I mean, how to explain. What I mean he --- I only saw him a couple of times. He came here once when Merritt and I were first married, I guess. And he wanted to go check to see what the dam situation over here would be like. What all he would have to do to get it put back after it had washed out.

EDWARD: Is that the one right out here?

ALICE: And he was with a, a truck driver was driving his truck. He owned the truck, but another fellow was driving a truck. And instead of them taking, going back around on the road with the truck, why he just went right out here and right up over the hill and down, took his look, and come back pretty soon. So then he got in the truck and away they went. So I really didn't see him very, you know --- So I, it would be hard for me to actually tell you if he was --- I don't think he was no short fat man, by no means. I just really don't know ---

EDWARD: You went to his store with your mom and dad, or did you go? Or maybe it was just your mom and dad that went over there.

ALICE: No, my father used to just go by himself.

EDWARD: Oh, okay. Do you have any --- sometimes I luck out. Do you have any

receipts, or anything dealing with Bill Brown?

ALICE: No.

EDWARD: Personal possessions?

ALICE: No, no I don't.

EDWARD: Do you have any photos of your earlier days, you personally?

ALICE: I have, oh my goodness, I don't know where it's at. I do have a photo that I, not I --- I just cut it out of a magazine, out of a newspaper, I mean. And the newspaper was stuck in this old Walker house in a cupboard. They had lined the cupboards, you know, with pasted newspaper.

EDWARD: Yeah.

ALICE: And I just cut it out, the picture of old Bill Brown. But I don't remember what I done with it. I might have gave it to Lila James so she could paint him, you know, look at him and make a painting. I talked to Lila about it, but I don't remember if I gave it to her or not.

EARL: I don't know who ...

ALICE: I'll check and see if I have the picture.

EDWARD: One other thing off the top of my mind. When did most of the homesteaders -- you said there were 11, or 10 or 11, 12 of them, when did they leave, Alice, when did they just say I've had it?

ALICE: Well they just sort of gradually left, you know what I mean.

EDWARD: Kind of ---

ALICE: Of course the Mills was one family, and the Garner, Charlie Garner.

EDWARD: These were people around in your immediate vicinity?

ALICE: Yeah. And Burt Williams, right over here at this blockhouse. That's the Burt Williams was there. And Bill Klensick (sp.?), Alvin Miller, on up ---

EDWARD: There is a Miller Ranch up, or used to be up there someplace.

ALICE: Yes, on up the creek a ways from the blockhouse was Alvin Miller. And right up next to this mountain, next to the forest, Walt Trotter, Walt and Kate Trotter. And Ira Berger and Mrs. Berger. And Chris Feeley and --- Mr. Feeley, his name was Ira, I guess, Ira Feeley. I'm just not too sure about the name. And then Fred Walker.

EDWARD: Heavens. We're all within two miles of --- oh well, approximately.

ALICE: Well they're all within 8 miles of here.

EDWARD: Eight miles of here.

ALICE: Some within, inside that --- this is, the Mills was really the farthest one. And then Paul Buker, and Burt Buker, and Ellis Laughlin, Ellis and Daisy Laughlin.

EDWARD: Yeah, you mentioned that.

EARL: That's over at Stewart Meadows; I showed you that, where she homesteaded, Daisy.

EDWARD: Yeah. Yeah, and then down the creek that Frenchman.

EARL: What was the Frenchman's name that had the homestead down there on the creek?

EDWARD: Grindstone, wasn't it?

ALICE: Oh, Toratet (sp.?).

EARL: What was his name?

ALICE: Toratet.

EARL: Toratet.

ALICE: Yes.

EDWARD: And his building is still standing.

ALICE: Loucian (sp.?) Toratet.

EDWARD: Loucian.

EARL: That's an old house that is still standing there.

ALICE: Yeah, it's still there, I guess. I've not been down there for a long time. He was a Frenchman.

EARL: He is the one that had the lava bear.

EDWARD: Yeah.

EARL: Did you ever know anything about the lava bears, Alice?

EDWARD: Yeah, I was going to ask you about that. Ever hear of it, lava bear?

ALICE: Oh I can remember a little bit about him catching a little bear, but as to what kind it was I --- it don't seem to me like it was a lava, it was something else. More like a panda or something, but no ---

EDWARD: (Laughter) Boy, that would be something, I'll tell you.

ALICE: He caught it in a trap.

EARL: Bill Weburg told me that his dad told him that he seen the, this animal, and that the Frenchman said it was a lava bear, and he kept it on a chain to his house.

ALICE: He could have. He caught it, but it don't ---

EARL: He described it as a little animal, it was a little bear.

ALICE: Yeah, yeah.

EARL: And it never did get very big. And I've always tried to question people as what kind of an animal it was that he called a lava bear. I never did see it, but it don't seem to me like it was called a lava, at the time, but maybe it was.

EARL: Well old Bill Weburg, as he referred to it, as a lava bear.

ALICE: Yeah. And of course his father was quite a person for history too, Melvin was, Bill's father.

EARL: But I don't know.

ALICE: But I think --- it don't seem to me like it was a lava bear, but it could have been. I

don't know.

EDWARD: How far, Alice, would it be from your place to that Frenchman's place by horse? Got any ideas, mileage?

ALICE: Oh let's see ---

EDWARD: Except for the fence.

ALICE: --- about five miles, possibly.

EDWARD: That far, okay.

ALICE: You know, straight down, I guess that's about what it would be down there.

EDWARD: Was that easy for you, I mean would you do that in 1925, get on your horse to go down to the Frenchman's place and just go, "whish", right over the ridges?

ALICE: Well I never visited him down there.

EDWARD: Oh. But you could do that?

ALICE: It was possible; a person could do it, yes, of course. But I never visited him down there.

EDWARD: Boy, that would be fun. Let's see ---

ALICE: Thanks a lot Zap.

EDWARD: Oh, here they come ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: ... back next summer. There was a, I think now, Earl will help me out. There were the sheep man that somebody shot, hung, whatever, and they buried him by a creek someplace, right?

EARL: This is what Sedrick, Alice's husband, told me. But I don't --- whose sheep was it that got shot up on the old shepherd point there, the old sheep point?

ALICE: I don't know, I really don't.

EDWARD: Alice ---



ALICE: Oh, no I really don't, I really don't. I don't even know who was in sheep business in those early days, you know, and whatnot. But that, I've been told, that that big high rim up there is where they pushed sheep over, you know. But you'd have to investigate early day records or some kind of ---

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, they herd them right off these bluffs.

ALICE: Because I don't know anything about it. That would have happened long before, of course, I was even born.

EDWARD: ... again.

ALICE: Before I was ever in this country.

EDWARD: Are there any Delores around now?

ALICE: No, there is just none, really. Most of them are gone, you know. And there is some around The Dalles.

EDWARD: Relatives of the homesteader?

ALICE: Some of the same ones; some of the same families of them. They were living at The Dalles, but whether there is any there now or not, I don't know.

EDWARD: Yeah. This is the hardest thing on historians, when we lose good people like you, you know, or somebody that has lived this life. Because most, a lot of the kids don't have any idea what their parents, or anything. And there is a lot of them don't care.

ALICE: There might be a possibility of a Delore in Bend. I've never even checked the phone book.

EDWARD: I think that's it for now, Alice. See that wasn't very hard, was it?

ALICE: No.

(END OF TAPE)

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