

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #41 - Side A

Subject: Howard Anderson

Date: December 12, 1975

Place: Burns, Oregon

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

(Note: Discussion of giving land for a park by the high school.)

HOWARD ANDERSON: ... land, and I had a, build fences to keep my cattle from straying too far. And I had miles and miles of barbwire fence. I think I told one relation I had, they lived up in Seattle, and I told them I had enough barbwire to stretch a fence clean up, up there, at one time it seemed. (Laughter) But my god, I'm awful grateful for Harney County.

ARLIE OSTER: Well it's a good place to live, you bet.

HOWARD: You bet it is. (Looking at pictures.) And I really believe this is the first old house. Because, and I don't remember --- they ain't no trees around there. But the trees, there was a lot of trees out toward Home Creek, and then in behind.

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Well I lived in that. The reason I'm so sure that that's what it is, because I lived in that house for ten years.

HOWARD: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And ---

HOWARD: On the second ---

PAULINE: At the Experiment Station. And what that looks like to me is at the field day at

the experiment station.

HOWARD: Well this here is, this here is down --- this isn't Home Creek.

ARLIE: No, that's the P Ranch there.

HOWARD: That's the P Ranch.

ARLIE: Yeah.

HOWARD: I don't think this is either. This ain't the original. It might be, if it is, it's been ...

PAULINE: Well that has, I'm just sure is the old Experiment Station house out here, just out, six miles out of Burns. And it's before they planted any trees around it. It's just when it was brand new.

ARLIE: That your homestead, or your home at Home Creek, Howard?

HOWARD: No, I don't think --- isn't that the Diamond property?

ARLIE: Oh yeah, sure it is. Where is this at?

HOWARD: Oh gosh, that could be. I can't even remember who they are. That could be one of them. That's before --- my wife's relation. And that's the lad I come back with from the war. I can't tell what --- that's blotted out, can't tell what it is, I mean this one here. Oh, it's upside down, put upside down. Oh, that's a cannon, that's a cannon.

ARLIE: Something in Germany in 1918.

HOWARD: Uh huh. Well that's what it was. I wasn't in the --- I was in the infantry. And I was a goldbricker, I done just about as I pleased, and, with the position I had. And I wouldn't go any higher, because I wasn't interested. I didn't go to fight that war because I believed in it, because I don't. I don't believe in it. And as I told the girls, I don't believe in America fighting on foreign soil, no I don't. I don't want American men to ever die on foreign --- Lord Halifax, I think I said that to Mike. He said, "We got you in World War I, and we'll get you in World War II," and they did too.

ARLIE: Yeah.

HOWARD: And I've got no use for Lord Halifax. It's a good thing that I couldn't have got a shot at him in World War I, because I'd just as soon shoot an Englishman. And I'm Indian, but I ain't proud of the English language. I don't mean to insult you, either one of you, any of you are English. I don't mean to insult you because you're in America now and you can be a good American too. And if you're going to pay homage to Great Britain, because as I told you before, you got you in World War I, and I can get you in World War II. I asked every man to refuse to go overseas again to fight wars.

ARLIE: Yeah.

HOWARD: And you've seen articles --- I've got the paper somewhere, but I don't know where, just where I've got them. It goes on down to where the war was that I was in, and on down further too. And they're still trying to get America mixed into it.

ARLIE: Uh huh.

HOWARD: And it's the American people going over there with their money to spend it.

ARLIE: Yeah.

HOWARD: It's them that's doing it.

PAULINE: Well I'd like to ask you one more question. I know either from reading this document that you had drawn up, what you're thinking behind your gift to the community was, but I thought maybe you'd like to tell us in your own words just why you made this wonderful gift.

HOWARD: Well I don't know, you put it too strong. It wasn't so awful wonderful. I just want all you good people to love America. I want you to do, and think the way I do. I'm not demanding that, but there is no other country in this world that's as good, and I'm awful grateful that I live in Harney County. All you have to do is go to a big city and you can stand on the street corner for days, and you'll never see nobody that will even shake hands with you or ask you a question, unless he is a stranger too. (Laughter)

ARLIE: You don't have that happen in Burns.

HOWARD: No you --- well not if you've been acquainted any length of time at all. By golly I know everybody, and the best part of it --- And I only hope that I can feel the same way as I think they feel towards me, and I do feel that way. But I'm getting old, and I don't remember faces. And the same as you girls here, a lot of these was kids in my days when I was a man and --- The folks are all gone, but I sure do like if they remember it's the greatest thing that they can do is just say hello.

ARLIE: You bet.

PAULINE: That's beautiful, that's really beautiful. Well Carolyn, you've been sitting over here taking notes, and haven't had a word to say.

HOWARD: Well she's been busy writing. She can't talk and write both.

ARLIE: From Carolyn's standpoint, one of the things Howard, when you talked to us, you wanted to do something for the people here in the county, that his good friends ... probably the best thing he could do would be to help the kids, do something for the kids here.

HOWARD: Well that is too. But one thing that parents could do, they should --- if the kid don't mind, give them a spanking, it ain't going to hurt them, give them a spanking.

PAULINE: You could print that in the Bagpipe.

HOWARD: Yes, you can print that. If you have children and they don't mind, well give them a spanking.

ARLIE: And tell them to cut their hair.

HOWARD: And cut --- that's absolutely right. I've got relation that come here, and they stood up on that cot looking at the pictures, and long hair down there. Then they went up town about 10 o'clock, he was here at 10 o'clock. He went up town, a stranger didn't know where Main Street was or anything else, and he didn't get in until 3 o'clock. And I

always lock my doors, and when he come at 3 o'clock in the morning, oh I want to tell you he got an awful rough deal, I'll tell you that. And when I told his father, he's in this here picture somewhere, and he said, "Yes, and he's going to get another one too." But I don't know whether he did or not, because he's pretty lenient.

CAROLYN ? : One thing I wanted to ask you was, okay I'm going to put this story in the high school paper, and I wanted to know if you had any message for like the young people, for the kids in our school?

HOWARD: Yes, one thing, respect their mother and father because they'll never have anybody, under that same category. Of course they'll get married, and when man and woman is equally, they get married --- but I hate to see so many divorces, and the children that has to suffer for them. And I hope to God that you never have to do it. If you have, why then I apologize for mentioning it. Because you can't live with somebody that ... and it can happen both ways, both on either side as far as that's concerned, and I'm not going to make any judgments that way.

But I've had a good marriage to a lovely wife, and that's all that I can say. And I'm awful sorry to lose her, but I'd rather have her where she is today than to suffer.

ARLIE: Uh huh.

HOWARD: And --- but I'm looking forward to --- there will be a day of reckoning, might be a long time off, but I think our soul never dies. And, but we might not be here in body form, but our soul never dies.

ARLIE: Well you've really done a, you've really done something marvelous for the people in the county here. They'll respect you forever for that.

HOWARD: What have I done so marvelous?

ARLIE: Well we're going to put this --- we're going to get to work on this thing, and do something that you will be proud of.

PAULINE: One of these days you'll get to go out here and see the results. By then you'll

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ARLIE: We'll have Howard Anderson and his wife's name right on it.

HOWARD: I love my wife, and I love all you good people in Harney County. And I've had a good life in Harney County. And I don't know that I've got any enemies.

ARLIE: Not a one.

HOWARD: And I was awful pleased today. And some of them think that I've not got the ability maybe to look after my own affairs. Well I think I have, but I know I ain't as good as I used to be. And I'm willing to listen to, and that's what I said to the banker today. Well he said, "I think you've done a pretty good share of it." But I had an awful good wife. She done all the, keeping all of the records of a lot of things. And we could go over and --- but I don't know, I've got tears in my eyes enough talking about it. I can't think about, without the thoughts and things ...

ARLIE: Yeah.

PAULINE: It's a hard time, a hard time.

HOWARD: Well it was a hard time I want to tell you. And I don't believe I could have, without the woman I had, I don't believe that I ever could have done what we have done. But we worked together, and that's the main question. And I'm giving this advice to all three of you.

ARLIE: That's what it takes, you bet. You can't do it alone.

HOWARD: No sir.

ARLIE: That's right.

HOWARD: But if you can't get along with the ones you got, why it's better than to raise a bunch of children, and they're the ones that have to suffer more when you have a broken home. Don't you think?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

HOWARD: You bet I do too. But, I don't have any ill feelings towards anybody, because we don't know the circumstances. But I think a woman would be foolish to work with a man, and he drink all her money and his all up too, which happened to a, a lot of times.

ARLIE: You bet.

HOWARD: Why you're better off without them. I got a friend over on the coast, and I --- we corresponded with her for a good many years. And I notice the picture up on the wall, there is a man's picture, and I said, "Who is that? Who is that up there." She says, "That's my husband." And when --- we had sickness and death over there, she kept me posted here on the wife's brother, Dan ... she kept me posted. And she's just a lovely person, just a fine person. And when she told me that, I got it all figured out, there is 17 years when a woman hasn't, probably been more than that now maybe, but when a woman hasn't taken another man, she must have loved that other man very dearly. And that pictures still hangs, or was the last time. And that's the way my wife's picture is going to be, because I don't think there is anyone can take the place of her.

ARLIE: Oh no, never.

PAULINE: Well Carolyn, do you have any ---

ARLIE: I think we'll run off and leave you Howard.

HOWARD: Well ---

(END OF TAPE)

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