

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #416 - Sides A/B

Subject: John & Georgia Crow - With Video

Date: December 10, 1994

Place: Burns, Oregon

Interviewer: Conly Marshall

CONLY MARSHALL: ... now Johnny, John and Georgia Crow is here, and I'm --- go ahead, that's fine, just keep talking, doing anything. And I'm going to interview them on history.

JOHN CROW: Would you like me to turn?

CONLY: No, you just sit still, just do whatever you ---

GEORGIA CROW: Just practicing.

CONLY: What I --- John, what, where was you born?

JOHN: Cedarville, California.

CONLY: What year?

JOHN: 1902.

CONLY: 1902.

JOHN: I'm 92 years old.

CONLY: Yeah. Georgia, when was you born?

GEORGIA: I was born in April of 1914, in Seymour, Connecticut.

CONLY: Connecticut, you're an out of stater, ain't you? (Laughter) You're an outsider, that's what you ---

GEORGIA: A coast to coaster! Yeah.

CONLY: Okay. And then when was you married? I'll get back to that, but when was you

and John married?

GEORGIA: The 26th of March, in 1937.

CONLY: And whereabouts, if you don't ---

GEORGIA: Burns.

CONLY: In Burns, okay, all right. Now we're just kind of getting to the things ---

JOHN: Georgia was teaching school out there at Voltage.

GEORGIA: Oh he was underfoot and in the way out there.

CONLY: We won't talk about them days, John. It's a wonder she even let me through the door. I was the orneriest kid there was walking, as far as I know. You know, I was absolutely ridiculous. I would have been in the pen if ---

JOHN: Yeah, and I lived just over the fence that winter.

CONLY: Oh did you?

GEORGIA: Don't you remember? We watched him come home, and we'd build up the fire and try to thaw him out. That was the dangdest, that's the coldest weather I ever saw.

CONLY: How cold was it that winter, you remember?

GEORGIA: Oh golly, it went; we didn't even see 0 for six weeks.

CONLY: Well I know we used to wrap our feet in gunny sacks and stuff to try to get to school, and get the fire started and stuff. I know it was terrible.

GEORGIA: You and I would walk, and Junior refused to walk, and we'd have to get him off and make him break a trail for us, because he was freezing to death on the horse.

CONLY: Oh yes.

GEORGIA: And that was the dirtiest snow I ever saw it. It fell on the dust, you know, and it would blow one-way one day, and blowback the next.

CONLY: Well that was kind of after the break up of the drought though, wasn't it? Wasn't the drought kind of breaking up at that time, or ---

GEORGIA: I guess, I don't know. But there wasn't any snow when I went home for Christmas that year, and when I came back it was like that, just --- we had big drifts, and it was cold, cold, cold.

JOHN: I left the Narrows a horseback and it was 35 below, and I rode out to, well down to the Marshall place, you know.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: Just over the fence on ---the game wardens ---

CONLY: George Benson?

JOHN: He had 160 acres there.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: Of meadow, you know, on the river.

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh.

JOHN: And (John) Scharff wanted me to move down there, and I didn't have anything but a sheepherder's stove to keep me warm. And you had to keep a plugging it all the time to even warm up at all.

CONLY: Well did you stay there in that house where Dad Wilson used to live, that right --- at the corrals?

JOHN: Just over the fence.

CONLY: Just over the fence there. That's where ---

GEORGIA: It was just over the fence from your house there.

CONLY: You know Dad Wilson, or that's what we called him, I don't know whether you remember him or ---

JOHN: Old Dad Wilson lived there all right, once.

CONLY: Yeah, and he stayed there for a while, I don't know how long, you know.

JOHN: He come to a dance at the Narrows one time, a horseback, and got drunk. He

tried to drag his horse in the hall, but he wouldn't go in.

CONLY: Oh, he couldn't get him in the hall?

JOHN: No.

CONLY: Well he was, that was up a little high though, wasn't it, getting into that hall? Wasn't it off the ground about so far?

JOHN: What his horse?

GEORGIA: No, the porch.

CONLY: No, the porch on the hall? Wasn't the porch on the hall raised there, that he would have had to jump him in there? Or am I thinking ---

JOHN: Well I built a front porch on there, when we lived there.

GEORGIA: No the hall, on the porch down there at the Narrows.

JOHN: Oh.

CONLY: No, where the dance was held.

JOHN: No, they was just a floor out in front, no top on it.

CONLY: Oh, oh, okay, all right, all right. (Laughter) That's a ---

JOHN: Just coupled up to the store.

GEORGIA: That's a long time ago, Conly.

CONLY: I wasn't very big at that time, John.

JOHN: Well it might have been about as wide as from here to there.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: And full length of the store.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: A little farther there was another cabin, just east. And old Joe Morris he owned the store, do you remember that?

CONLY: I don't remember him.

JOHN: He used to sleep; he used that for a bedroom. Then Shorty Lester and I we leased that hall and made a service station out of the cabin.

CONLY: Now you're talking about the one up on the hill, up away from the road there, John? Where the ---

JOHN: Well I built a cabin right across the road, went right by, through the Narrows, right by the white cabin on the east end of the store there. The porch run clear from the cabin across to the end of the store.

CONLY: Are you talking, John, where the, where Church's are at, where Church's are at now, where the rock buildings ---

JOHN: Yeah. Well Gladys --- George Cawlfeld gave Gladys a little home there, just north of the Cawlfeld house.

GEORGIA: Those houses are gone now.

CONLY: Yeah, yeah, they're pretty well, everything is gone.

JOHN: Pop and I wintered there, 1917. We lost, we come down to the Narrows and bought hay from Jimmy Anderson. We had 154 head of cattle, and we left that spring with 54 head. We lost a 100 head of cows, mostly.

CONLY: What year was that John, was that '80?

JOHN: No, it was 1917.

CONLY: 1917, uh huh.

JOHN: Yeah, and the water come in in the wintertime, and we was west of the Narrows. You might remember a greasewood knoll over there.

CONLY: Yes.

JOHN: Well that's where my dad bought hay from Jim Anderson. And we had our cattle on that island, the water come in and --- Then it froze over and we went a horseback once after it froze over, but the ice had cut their legs, it wouldn't hold us up. So we walked

that winter, waded that water, and it wouldn't hold us up either, part of the time.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: We carried enough grain for four workhorses and two saddle horses over there. And the hay that we bought, the water even got around it, we had to use the four horses to get the hay out with.

CONLY: Well now was that, was that Henderson place, was that close to ---

JOHN: You know where the bridge starts ---

CONLY: Yes, yeah the old bridge, the one by the tree.

JOHN: Jim Anderson lived in that big house right ---

CONLY: Right there.

JOHN: Right there, yeah.

CONLY: Oh, okay. I was thinking on ---

JOHN: Rose was his wife, that was her first name, wasn't it?

GEORGIA: I don't know, because it was before I ---

JOHN: And you knew Maxine ---

GEORGIA: Maxine Bailey.

JOHN: --- Kerns.

CONLY: Just did, just did, John.

JOHN: You knew Nellie Miller.

CONLY: Yes, uh huh.

JOHN: Yeah, well her name was Sitz, wasn't it, Nellie Sitz?

CONLY: Well that's, that's what they tell me, now John I don't know for sure. But I understood that she was related to the Sitz over at Drewsey.

JOHN: Yeah, I think she was ---

CONLY: To Glen and ---

JOHN: The more I think, Jim adopted her.

CONLY: Oh did they?

JOHN: Yes, if I remember right.

CONLY: See I don't know.

JOHN: I went to school, Nellie was out of school, but I went to school with Maxine. Well it was darn near three different years we bought hay down there. We didn't have hay out on the desert much, you know.

GEORGIA: And you are right about being Rose Henderson, I remember the name now that you kind of mentioned it.

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: Was Sizemore's there at that time, on around back towards the lake?

JOHN: Yeah, Otis Sizemore lived 3 miles east of the Narrows in a, well it was kind of a shed house, it was white. Otis Sizemore and Taft Miller, and they had a boy too, Edward Sizemore. And Taft Miller lived there with Otis and his wife.

And my dad had hayed for Otis, he was lazy, you know. And he was short of workhorses, and he told my dad if you'll furnish the workhorses and help me put up the hay, I'll winter your cattle. Well Otis was so damn lazy my dad was doing all the work. And so you remember where the Grousbeck place was, south of the Narrows about a mile and a half or two.

CONLY: South of ---

JOHN: Right on the edge of the lake. The Grousbeck place.

CONLY: Not by that name. Who else could have owned that, John, afterwards?

JOHN: I don't know. My dad quit Otis and rented that place, there was no one living there. It was a two-story house, a pretty good building.

CONLY: Well when you say south of the Narrows, now do you mean back over towards

the river, back over towards Rocky Ford Lane, and back in towards that area?

JOHN: South of the Narrows, you know the road used to go along the fence, right by the Shaffer house. It's a quarter of a mile from the Narrows.

CONLY: Yes.

JOHN: And the road went along that fence, and one road went to the Double O.

CONLY: And the other went on towards Princeton --- or Frenchglen.

GEORGIA: Yeah.

JOHN: Yeah. The other one you turned out there on that road that goes over to the Sod House, to the left, used to years ago.

CONLY: Yeah, right.

JOHN: And it run out there past old Bill Newton's place was on the north side of it.

CONLY: Yeah, out there on the lakes, or I call it the lake side.

GEORGIA: Lakeside.

CONLY: Yeah.

GEORGIA: Be out in there kind of where those gravel pits are to the left now.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: And the old road went up there to where the road goes over the hill, and then turned to the right and went on up to French-glen, those days.

GEORGIA: It didn't go over the hill like it does now.

CONLY: Did it go around, did the old road, old, old road, did it go around that a way, and then by where Myrtle Caldwell lived, and stay right in through there? Or did it stay on the Narrows side and head kind of towards Rocky Ford Lane, and back in through there underneath the hill, John?

JOHN: Yeah.

GEORGIA: Well it kind of went in through, as I remember Conly; it kind of went in by the



old Black place where Andy Dunbar lives now. Kind up through, in that general direction.

CONLY: That way, uh huh, okay.

JOHN: Then the road turned and went over the hill and down a fairly steep hill across to Saddle Butte, and around Saddle Butte.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: But they built a new road, you know, from ---

CONLY: Yeah, yeah, they went out behind.

JOHN: From the Narrows, it goes over, straight over the hill and around by my homestead.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: I kind of, I homesteaded in Rimrock Field. They hayed that ever since French's time. I found ---

CONLY: Now are you talking about the homestead that you had up above, you and Rankin had above Rocky Ford Lane and stuff back up in there, or another one?

JOHN: Yeah, that was my homestead.

CONLY: Was up against the ---

GEORGIA: It's along the rim, as you go to Buena Vista.

CONLY: Along the rim. And what did you call that, John, what was that place?

JOHN: Oh I just ---

CONLY: The rim field, did you call it?

JOHN: The people around Frenchglen called it the Crow Hotel.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: Everybody in the country stopped ...

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh, in between and stuff like that.

JOHN: I worked for Scharff out there 5 years before I was married. And then Georgia

and I stayed down there at the Marshall's, just over the fence from the Marshall house two years.

GEORGIA: Just over the fence from where we were, when I was with you, in that cabin with you.

JOHN: When she boarded with us.

CONLY: Yes, she boarded with us that year.

GEORGIA: In that little house that was just across the corrals there, that's where ---

CONLY: You guys stayed there?

GEORGIA: We stayed there ---

CONLY: That was George Benson's place.

GEORGIA: Yes. We stayed there a year and a half or so.

CONLY: He had taken, you know, he had that clear across to where the Marshall fence line come down.

JOHN: The fence was, well the fence was ... close to the cabin.

GEORGIA: Came across a little bridge there by the --- all those willows are washed away now.

JOHN: We got shivareed down there.

CONLY: Oh did you, I don't remember that, but I should have.

JOHN: They come in ---

GEORGIA: They came in from in, out by your ---

JOHN: --- by old man Marshall's home.

GEORGIA: Your grandfather's house.

CONLY: Yeah, come down that.

GEORGIA: Yeah, they came through the meadows that way. And we finally had to ---

JOHN: We never got warning. We had been to town and got married. And oh we was

there a few days before they gathered up and shivareed us, wasn't we.

GEORGIA: Just ---

CONLY: Who played the music and stuff for you at that time?

JOHN: We moved to the Narrows.

CONLY: Oh, did you?

GEORGIA: Well we went down to the old hotel thing there.

JOHN: I owned it; I owned that hall at that time.

GEORGIA: You owned the hall, and we went down there. And they had planned to go over to the schoolhouse, but gee there was so darn many people there wasn't any room over there. And Edna Haines and Marcus, and ---

JOHN: Myrtle was there.

GEORGIA: I don't remember, but Edna played the piano, I think. Oh, Georgia Comegys had a saxophone.

CONLY: Yeah, and the Comegys ---

GEORGIA: They had the store out ---

CONLY: Was any of the Bunyards there at that time?

GEORGIA: No, not there.

CONLY: None of the Bunyards was down there, you know, because ---

GEORGIA: They were maybe at, they were at Crane, but it was just the ---

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: They was, well Bunyards lived ---

CONLY: South of Hills. Bunyards had a place --- oh north, excuse me, north.

JOHN: North of, yeah north of you.

GEORGIA: I don't think there is any of them there. I don't remember that they were.

CONLY: Uh huh. They might have been gone, or come and gone, or something.

JOHN: They was shepherders was there, they bought hay off of --- CONLY: Was Domingo Zabala there?

JOHN: Huh?

CONLY: Domingo Zabala had bought, he had bought some hay from my granddad.

JOHN: Matt Davis, that winter, he bought hay from Myrtle right across the road.

CONLY: Oh, from Myrtle, uh huh.

GEORGIA: I don't remember. Myrtle and Ted Graves and Mildred were there. And I suppose Dunn's, I can't see it.

CONLY: Oh Charlie Hills and Dunn's and, you know.

JOHN: Marcus and Edna and all the people around the Narrows.

CONLY: Yeah, oh yeah.

JOHN: Yeah, we was there. We saw the lights a coming, it was after dark, and they come in by Mr. Marshall's home.

GEORGIA: Yeah, by your granddad's.

JOHN: There was a whole string of cars. And I said, "Let's just lock our door, and put out our light." And we did!

GEORGIA: But we had to let ---

JOHN: Ted Graves ...

GEORGIA: Because they were pounding the walls so much things started to fall off the shelves.

JOHN: And I'd built shelves and used these big-mouthed jugs for beans and rice and stuff like that, up kind of high. That old shack was pretty rickety. And Ted found a post and pounded the side of the house so we opened up the door pretty fast, was afraid they was going to knock everything off the walls.

CONLY: Cave the whole thing in.

JOHN: So we let them in. I was so poor ---

GEORGIA: And there was enough junk out there in the yard to fill a pickup after they left.

CONLY: Oh I'll be darned.

GEORGIA: And we took off. And we had worked like dogs cleaning up the yard, and everything else, the day before.

JOHN: I was so poor, I couldn't pour the whiskey. But I got two gallons of wine.

CONLY: Oh you did.

JOHN: And there was no room in that house, only standing room, because the bed was all full of people. So I passed the jug of wine around. Myrtle Caldwell said, "By god I'll drink with you, John." And then I did buy a box of cigars, and I passed them around. Myrtle smoked a cigar too.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh.

JOHN: She was a fine old lady.

CONLY: She was, you bet she was.

JOHN: Georgia wasn't used to that kind of people that cost much, you know.

CONLY: Well I think Georgia got an awful education when she come out there to teach school.

JOHN: Yeah.

GEORGIA: I lived ---

CONLY: They lived with us, and --- my god I don't know why she even stayed in the country to tell you the truth. You must have had a hell of a hold on her. What did you do, tie her down or something, and wouldn't let her go, or something?

JOHN: No.

GEORGIA: I liked it outdoors; Conly, and I decided that that was a lot better life than ---

JOHN: How we kind of got together, it was 40 below there and Georgia didn't have no ax to cut her wood with.

GEORGIA: Remember how we used to cut the wood? I asked for an ax many a time, and didn't get it.

CONLY: Nobody would give it to you.

GEORGIA: So we went out there and got the sharpest, biggest blocks and took the thin ones and broke it over the corner.

CONLY: You bet, I ---

GEORGIA: And then we couldn't even get any heat out of that stove.

CONLY: That old big pot bellied stove with a wire deal on --- oh gosh almighty.

GEORGIA: And I refused to go to school. I got up one morning and your dad, you know, sent your mom to California with his folks.

CONLY: Oh yeah, I guess I should have ---

GEORGIA: You remember that Margaret thing that came to live with us?

CONLY: Oh god, yeah.

GEORGIA: And she wouldn't cook or anything else, and we didn't have any clean clothes around there, so one morning I just got up and I said, "I'm going to wash today." And your dad said, "Aren't you going to school?" And I said, "I've told you for days and days, until you fix that schoolhouse so that we can get warm, I'm not going." And we'd kicked Margaret out by then.

CONLY: How come we didn't, you didn't teach us right at home? Was there anybody else going to school at that time?

GEORGIA: Yeah, Jinks Harris' girls.

CONLY: Oh yeah, both of them was.

GEORGIA: And before Christmas ---

JOHN: All the Miller kids were living at Voltage.

GEORGIA: All the Miller kids were there, remember?

CONLY: That's right, yeah, okay.

GEORGIA: Don and Jean and Virginia, and Lucille.

CONLY: The Millers, yeah that's right, yeah.

GEORGIA: There were five of them.

CONLY: Yeah, okay.

GEORGIA: Besides ---

CONLY: Because I was thinking, you know, along about that time there was just the two of us.

JOHN: And then Culver told Georgia that if she'd get me to go over to help, they'd clean that damn stove. So we went over.

GEORGIA: I suppose you helped too, I don't remember, but ---

JOHN: And that stove pipe, you couldn't even stick a broomstick in it, it was all full.

GEORGIA: No wonder we couldn't get any heat, we couldn't even put a broomstick down that stovepipe. And there was four or five joints of pipe to take down. We had to walk on the tabletops to get the pipe down. And I got a whole five-gallon can of ashes out of the chimney hole.

CONLY: Oh my god. It's a wonder we didn't burn down.

GEORGIA: Well after they did that, then I had to open all the doors and windows to cool us off.

CONLY: They had too much heat.

GEORGIA: I'm a good fire builder, I always ---

JOHN: She didn't have an ax so ---

GEORGIA: He brought me an ax.

JOHN: The next day I took over an ax and chopped her up some wood.

CONLY: Was you chopping, was we burning sagebrush at that time?

GEORGIA: No, we had some slab wood. We had some sagebrush there that was leftover from --- but --- and you kids and I stacked that wood, it was just scattered all to the breeze.

CONLY: Did we put it inside that porch, or whatever you want to call it?

GEORGIA: No, it was just stacked out to the side. There wasn't any room to stack it on the porch. And like I say, the kids helped me break it up over a sharp edged. We asked for an ax, and we couldn't get anybody to bring us an ax.

CONLY: How much money was you making, great gobs of money, or what?

GEORGIA: I was getting \$75.00 a month.

CONLY: Was you?

GEORGIA: And giving your dad \$25.00 of it for board and room.

CONLY: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: And then he brought that Margaret in. Can you remember one time when we came home, you and Junior and I, came home from school and we'd had to --- I had to cook when we came home, because she wouldn't do a darn thing. And you kids were having to pump me some water and carry the wood and all that. And we got a bunch of magazines and stuff in the mail that day, and I said, told you as we came home, I said, "Now we're not going to do a darn thing when we get home, we're going behind the stove." We had a little bench behind your front room stove.

CONLY: Yeah, yeah, that one ---

GEORGIA: And I said, "We're going to sit there, it will be warm whether there is any wood in the house or not, and we're going to read our new magazines." And you kids called me Missy all the time.



CONLY: Oh is that right, I never remembered that.

GEORGIA: Yeah, right from the very beginning. See my name was Creswell, and all you kids, including the Millers, said, "Well that's too big a name, can we call you Missy?" And I said, "Yes, if you'll behave yourself."

CONLY: We didn't nothing, I know damn well we ...

GEORGIA: Pretty well, you did. And so we came in, and we went and sat down and I got you each a sandwich, because you said, "What will we do when we get there if we're hungry?" And I said, "I'll fix a sandwich." So we went behind the stove, and we caught Margaret in your dad's lap in the big rocking chair.

CONLY: My dad.

GEORGIA: And they sat there and talked about us for quite awhile. And finally your dad said, "I guess you better start to cooking, I better go do chores." Because I told you kids, I said, "We're not going to go out and get any wood, or water, or anything else, we're going to make them do something tonight."

CONLY: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: It took awhile, but they got on the ball.

CONLY: Was that, I shouldn't ask, say this, but was that when my dad and mother split up, over that?

GEORGIA: Well they were ---

CONLY: Because see I went to Ontario in '38.

GEORGIA: Well now I don't remember that part. But I just remembered what happened while we were still there.

CONLY: Well he was wandering ...

GEORGIA: See it was in March when John and I got married, and I went over the fence.

CONLY: See we went in '38 and '39 to Ontario. ... we stayed with my Grandmother, and

then in 1940 we went to Grants Pass.

GEORGIA: Uh huh, yeah I remember something about that ...

CONLY: And my folks had split up, you know, at that time.

GEORGIA: Well now that kind of, could have been. You see at the ending of this episode with Margaret, they --- there was no phones or anything, and she got a telegram in the mail and her mother was in the hospital over at Pendleton, and needed her to come home right away. And I was so glad to get rid of her, that when we got that mail and got home, I packed her clothes and your dad's clothes, and I said, "The gate leads out that way." And your dad said, "How are you going to feed the cows?" And I said, "To heck with that stuff. I never drove that team, but the kids and I can do it, or we can go to the refuge and get somebody to help us."

JOHN: You was the one with the kids.

CONLY: You bet.

GEORGIA: And so just --- I got their stuff all ready to go, and made them --- I cooked dinner and got them on their way. And just as they were to go out the gate, Carl came and he saved the day.

CONLY: Oh is that right?

GEORGIA: Yeah. I didn't need to worry any longer. All I had to worry about was cooking and getting to school. Because Carl fed the cows.

CONLY: Well I'm going to go back now, John, I'm going to go back to, you was born. When then did you live next, and where did you go to school, and that type of thing, from the time you was that high?

JOHN: Where did I live?

GEORGIA: Yeah, where, you were born in Cedarville, dearie, and how did you ---

JOHN: Yeah, my mother passed away when I was just a year old, and my dad --- Rankin

was two years older than I was. And my dad --- we stayed with my aunt, she was a sister to my mother, quite a bit. She had a big family, Stewarts were their name.

GEORGIA: And that was still at Cedarville.

JOHN: Papa --- Aunt Ida kept Rankin and I, I think, pretty much until we was around 6 years old, or I was, and we went to school at Cedarville. And she was awful nice to us. But then come fall my dad found a widow woman at Cedarville that had about a 15-year-old boy, and she took us boys in to feed that winter. Rankin went to school; I was only 5 years old. Rankin was 7; he went to school from there.

And the next year, well my dad worked, he run the 7T buckaroo outfit. That's the picture up there on the old post.

CONLY: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: That's right at the ---

JOHN: That was in 19---

CONLY: Now this is still at Cedarville?

JOHN: --- 1910.

GEORGIA: This buckaroo outfit was on the top of Hart Mountain, just ...

JOHN: My dad run that buckaroo outfit, oh I guess till I was about 10 years old, and I was only 5 that first year at Cedarville. And I was about 8 years old when that picture was taken.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: And they're all my dad's men except one fellow farther over, he was a homesteader. And he shot a fellow, and by gosh I forgot his name.

CONLY: That's all right.

JOHN: It comes to me --- but he had a homestead on Hart Mountain. And he was with the buckaroo outfit.

CONLY: Okay, John, when you say on Hart Mountain, can you be a little more specific for this camera as to where it might be?

JOHN: Well Hart Mountain, we was camped up at the old post, they called it the old post, up on Hart Mountain. There was an Army camp up there for ---

GEORGIA: It's right close to where the BLM has their outfit now.

JOHN: And several fellers guide up there. And the wrango, Clarence Fessler was his name, and he was around camp quite a bit. And Rankin and I was just kids, and he took -- - there was several graves around there, so he decided to dig up a grave. And he dug down --- Rankin and I was just kids, well I don't imagine that I was over 6 years old when that year was. Because that's the year that picture was taken, I was about, maybe 6 years old. And he dug down and hit a box lined with tin, but it was all rusted out. He knocked a hole in it, and reached down in and pulled a bone out. Then he put the bone back in and covered it up. And we didn't --- he was the wrango, and we didn't tell nobody about it.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh.

JOHN: Just Clarence Fessler and Rankin and I was all that knew that he dug the grave up. Yeah ---

GEORGIA: It was an old army post, for some reason or another.

CONLY: It was, this was an army post or something.

GEORGIA: Yeah, I don't know how come.

JOHN: The next year they was a lady Papa got to take care of us, to board us, her name was Byne (sp.?) Perry. Byne was her first name.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: And she was a fine old lady. Her husband was a teamster. And in the wintertime I guess he was hauling wood or something, a four-horse team, and it was cold and he

was a walking along side of the front wheel. The team was going along on the road, and stumbled over a brush and fell under the wagon wheel and killed him.

CONLY: Oh did it? It run over him and then it killed him, it didn't break him up.

JOHN: She was a fine old lady.

GEORGIA: I met her several times down there; she was a very fine person.

JOHN: Yeah, she treated us just like we was her kids. Had to go to Sunday school every Sunday. And I had to put on stockings and elastic ---

GEORGIA: Knee pants.

JOHN: --- around my waist to hold my stockings up. Had to go to Sunday school dressed up, you know, every Sunday. I got a pin or two for being pretty steady. But I had to go, I didn't have no ---

CONLY: You didn't have no way out, huh?

JOHN: No way out.

GEORGIA: She taught the kids things.

JOHN: I run off. God, Rankin and Mrs. Perry they'd kind of team up on me, you know. They didn't treat me very good in ---

GEORGIA: He didn't think so anyhow.

JOHN: Well Rankin and I had one fight that cured him of bothering me so much.

CONLY: That's sounds familiar.

JOHN: It's a big house, Mrs. Perry's house was. Had more rooms in the back with four schoolteachers, high school teachers, boarded with her. She cooked for them, and they had rooms where they ---

CONLY: Well now the high school wasn't right there, it was down in ---

GEORGIA: It was in Cedarville.

JOHN: Yeah, it was in Cedarville.

CONLY: Okay, okay, yeah.

GEORGIA: Not too far from where she used to live. It was easy, an easy walk, just two blocks.

JOHN: She washed her hair with sheep dip. I never did like her, she, sheep dip stinks.

CONLY: Yes it does.

GEORGIA: Conly ought to know, because ---

CONLY: I know, they give me a bath or two in that stuff.

GEORGIA: I'm guilty for that. When I came back, when I came back home at Christmas -  
--

CONLY: We had fleas or lice or something.

GEORGIA: You had the itch.

CONLY: Oh that's right, yeah.

GEORGIA: And I made you guys all take a bath in sheep dip. And I washed the blankets and the sheets and everything.

CONLY: Yeah, oh I took two or three of them, and eating sulphur and stuff.

GEORGIA: It cured.

JOHN: Anyhow Rankin and Mrs. --- well I knocked Rankin down with a rock. Him and I was --- it was a big house, and the kitchen was long and our bedroom was along this north side of the kitchen, only it was out a corner there, and no door to our room there, had to go inside. But we was back there, and Rankin teased me until I got so god damn mad that I jumped up and took a poke at him. And of course he hit me back. But he's a little more awkward than I was, I could hit him twice while he was a hitting me once. So he started to run, and he run, had to go around the kitchen to get to the kitchen porch. Mrs. Perry was going to build another house over a well on that porch. She hadn't had it built in, just a platform. It was up about like that, built right out from the screen porch.

And Rankin, I was hitting him too fast, he run, and he outrun me to get around the house. I know he was a heading for Mrs. Perry, and if he got there I knew my fight was over. And he was in the lead of me, and I seen I wasn't going to catch him before Mrs. Perry came out. And it was kind of rocky around there, and I picked up a rock and I let ... and I hit him right between the shoulders and knocked him down when he was, just started to climb the porch. He was a screaming, and Mrs. Perry come to the screen door, so the fight was all over.

CONLY: (Laughter) What did you do, turn around and run the opposite direction then?

JOHN: What?

CONLY: What did you do, turn around and run the other way then, right quick?

JOHN: I don't remember. I might have stayed out in the barn with the old horses.

CONLY: She couldn't see.

JOHN: Had a horse I liked pretty well out there.

CONLY: Well then you, when did you leave that country, when did you head for Catlow Valley and stuff? See I got some pictures of you going to high school there in Catlow Valley.

GEORGIA: Yeah, they called it ... it was just a grade school.

JOHN: Yeah, Bill Newton, I got a picture of us kids. I went to school there, but only about two or three weeks.

CONLY: Oh is that right, oh?

JOHN: Yeah, I was in, old Bill Newton was supposed to teach the high school, and I had been in the 8th grade for two or three years. And Papa bought hay around the Narrows, and I never got to take my diploma, because we'd turn out the first of April. I had to help turn the cattle out.

GEORGIA: He never finished up.

CONLY: Well then how long did you spend in Catlow Valley? Or did you spend any time really, much time ---

JOHN: Well I was going to school at Sageview, that's the town north of --- well it wasn't a town, but it was a store and a post office. And the teacher, Mrs. Smith, got the Clover Swale School. And the only pupil she had was lone Tuckey and myself. And I walked to school most of the time, just over the hill. And Mrs. Smith had, her dad had to look after the store and bach, you know, for a week at a time, she had a Model-T. And I just, I don't think that she taught there over, about two or three weeks. And I just walked from home up, and through a big cut in the rim rock. To school, it wasn't over two miles.

And Mrs. Smith --- they didn't have no, they had to haul the water. Her and lone was over there, new schoolhouse. lone and Mrs. Smith --- lone lived with Mrs. Smith. She, Mrs. Smith said to me, "John do you think Dave would let you come and board with, down at our store this winter? We'll fix up a sitting room there and make a schoolroom out of it. We'll take some blackboards and a couple school desks and ---" She asked me if I would go. "Sure," I said, "I don't care where I'm at." And so Papa he said, "Yeah, it's all right with him if you want to keep him down there, and board him."

I had a mustang that was, oh he was ornery, but I went on a Monday morning. I'd get up early and saddle that horse up and gallop down there to Sageview. I didn't stay with the road, I went down the road as far as Duhaimes homestead, then I cut and went over the hill. The road went around Rock Creek Point, and it was a lot further. I just galloped through the sagebrush and get down there in time for school.

Bob Johnson was on the ranch, Rock Creek Ranch, and he had a stack of hay just inside the west field, and a windmill there. And I had to have some place to hold my horse. So I went to Bob Johnson, I knew him real well, and asked him if he cared if I turned my horse in the west Rock Creek field, down by that stack and the windmill.



"Sure," he said. He was a wild mustang that was branded with an EH, the E sticking out that way, coupled up to an H.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: EH. And I don't remember the fellow that owned the horse, but we was running horses and found him there with other horses, you know. And so Rankin, he was strawberry roan, and kind of bald faced, he was awfully pretty. And so Rankin and I wanted him. And Ed Holler, it come to me, it's a wonder. But Ed Holler, that was his iron. My dad knew him. My dad said, "You kids want that horse so bad ---" he was three or four years old, wasn't very big. Said, you kids want him so bad, I'll write to old Ed and ask him if he'll sell him to my dad, you see, to give to us kids. He got a letter from him, and he said, "I don't want any money for that horse, Dave, but I'm sending you a bill of sale of him." And he was so damn mean that Rankin and I never rode him for at least a year.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: And he never did really get very gentle. But I had him to ride down there to school. And I got the chain out here yet, a chain and a strap on his front leg. I could outrun him. But he did like grain, and I had just a small pan, and maybe hold about a quart of oats. I'd go down to catch him --- well we'd rode him several years by that time, but he never did get gentle. And I'd go down to catch him and he'd run. And I was only about 12 to 13, along there, and that chain when he'd run would beat him on the legs.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: And I could outrun him. He would run a ways, and I could outrun him, and then I'd shake that grain at him, he'd stop, because I guess his legs was hurting too.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: He'd stand there and snort until I got up to him with the grain. He'd eat that; I didn't feed him very much, just enough to catch him mostly. And I'd jump on him

bareback and ride him to Sageview. Saddle him up in the afternoon when school went out. There was a post office there, and I'd take the mail to Clover Swale. And I stayed with --- that would be on a Friday night. And the Kern boys was at Clover Swale, and the Robinson outfit, he usually had a hired man or two. Augustine Gilbert, they'd all come there for their mail on a Friday night when I would go home. Then Monday morning I'd keep him up, we had rye hay there that we put up. Monday morning I would saddle him up and gallop him all the way. That's all he wanted to do was go, you know.

CONLY: Well, go ahead, I just ---

JOHN: I'd turn him, unsaddle him there at Sageview, jump on him bareback and ride that quarter of a mile and turn him in the field. There is no other stock except their milk cow. That was my job to get the milk cow in at night see, turn her in the daytime. There was hay stacked there, and a windmill. Bob Johnson told me to throw him a little hay over the fence. There is lots of feed in there too, big fields, you know.

CONLY: What year was that, 19--- what?

JOHN: Well ---

CONLY: Was it during the drought? Could that have been during, starting of the dry ---

JOHN: I can't tell you the exact year, I don't think. But I was probably 12 to 14 years old. I had to live alone a couple years when I was 10 to 12.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: My dad run the 7T outfit, and they wouldn't let him stay at Clover Swale.

GEORGIA: He had to go over the hill.

JOHN: They wanted to gather all the horses on Hart Mountain, and Beatty Buttes, and part of Catlow Valley, you know. And Guano, that was in Nevada, you see.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh.

JOHN: And my dad would go run the outfit. Him and I started 12 head of colts before he

left the last time. And I must have been 12 years old.

CONLY: All right if you was 12 years ---

JOHN: That must have been about 1914.

CONLY: 1914, okay, all right.

JOHN: Would have been the year.

CONLY: Uh huh. Can I ask you ---

JOHN: The teacher got sick at Ragtown, and lone and her went to take her school over until she got better. And I boarded with an old couple; Byrums (sp.?) was their name. An old man and old lady had a big house about a quarter a mile away from the school. I boarded with them. But on the weekend we'd go back to Sageview, overnight. And they were fine old people though.

During the week he always had a cow to milk, and chickens to look after. And he was getting kind of feeble, and I took his chores away for a few --- And I think I boarded down there possibly and went to school with those kids. I can show you a picture of them.

CONLY: And, can, just while we're thinking, where was Rankin at all this time?

JOHN: Oh Rankin, he was awful, he was an invalid. He got rheumatism and was helpless. And Augustine Gilbert and Bill Crow was out there, my uncle.

CONLY: Bill Crow, your uncle?

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: Your dad's brother.

JOHN: Huh?

CONLY: Your dad's brother.

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: Okay.

JOHN: And Augustine and Bill took Rankin to Fort Bidwell to Doc Leathhead (sp.?). And

he made him get a case of oranges, and he didn't --- that didn't bring him out of it.

GEORGIA: That's the school.

JOHN: That's the picture of the schoolhouse.

CONLY: Now I don't have, I've got the picture of you standing on a porch with your hat on. I've got the picture of you standing on the porch.

JOHN: I don't have my ---

CONLY: I don't have quite this many people ...

JOHN: I'm right there.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: I didn't have no hat on there.

CONLY: Well the pictures I've got, you've got a big felt hat on, just standing right --- you was standing next to the teacher right in here.

JOHN: Yeah, this is ---

GEORGIA: Different shot, evidently.

CONLY: Yeah, would have been a different picture.

JOHN: This was, yeah it was.

CONLY: I took it down to Katie, to have Katie, because some of them, some of them was in there.

GEORGIA: Yeah. All the names are on the ---

CONLY: Some of the Moores was in there, you know, and that type of thing.

GEORGIA: --- it's all on the back.

JOHN: Ira Moore. Katie is in the picture.

CONLY: Can I have this for just a minute?

GEORGIA: Yeah.

JOHN: Ira Moore, Claude Moore, the Jones --- let me see. Theodore Jones and Katie.

CONLY: And Stub, I think.

GEORGIA: Stub maybe.

CONLY: Well I've got a picture of Stub and Carl and them.

JOHN: Yeah.

GEORGIA: I don't know whether ... would be in that or not.

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: Denver wasn't in hardly any pictures that we had.

GEORGIA: He was older.

JOHN: I thought, real plain.

CONLY: But I had her check them out and tell me all ---

JOHN: Yeah, right there is Katie.

CONLY: Okay, yeah.

GEORGIA: Oh yes. What I was going to say, I've got it all on the backside.

CONLY: But you only went to school there for ---

JOHN: Oh, I only went to school there about 3 weeks, I'd say.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh.

JOHN: And moved back to Sageview. And lone Tuckey and I was the only scholars she had.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: I was around --- well 12 to 14, I imagine.

CONLY: What, John, what do you remember about that country at that time? Was there big sagebrush, was there grass, what do you remember as ---

JOHN: Well it just natural sagebrush and grass, I guess you might say. Sagebrush and grass.

CONLY: Not really an awful lot of difference in the sense of the word, there was

sagebrush and grass.

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: And stuff like that. And if you had good moisture, you had good grass, and if you didn't, you didn't.

JOHN: That's right.

CONLY: Yeah. And was there a lot of cattle and sheep and stuff there at that time?

JOHN: Shepherders used to come in there and crowd the, come right in and get in the --  
- Well my dad's field, one time my dad started out to wrango, or caviada, we had always 15, 20 head in our caviada. And my dad went out to wrango, got on top of the hill, he'd have to go up --- you've never been to my dad's homestead.

CONLY: No, not down there. No, I never was.

JOHN: Well right east of this was a big long rim rock right west of our house about a quarter of a mile.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: And ---

CONLY: Now you talking up toward ---

JOHN: --- and there was a gate and an opening to get out on top, that's where our caviada used to be.

CONLY: When you say out on top, was you talking like towards Home Creek, and back up towards the Steens? Or were you talking towards the mountain and back that direction?

JOHN: East toward the P Ranch.

CONLY: East towards the P Ranch.

JOHN: Yeah, the rim rock.

CONLY: Okay, where the rim --- where Home Creek, Spangleberg, Three Mile and

Roaring Springs, and ---

JOHN: Roaring Springs is south of us about 20 miles.

GEORGIA: See that Clover Swale place was kind of down in a pocket, you might say.

JOHN: My dad was working for Bill Shirk when they got married, and he worked for Bill and Dave Shirk --- Bill had Three Mile Ranch, and Dave Shirk homesteaded the Home Creek Ranch. My dad worked for them for years. Rankin was a baby at Home Creek.

CONLY: All right, who was your mother?

GEORGIA: This was ---

JOHN: Well she was a schoolteacher over ---

CONLY: What was her name?

GEORGIA: Mattie Young.

JOHN: Martha ---

GEORGIA: Well they called her Mattie.

JOHN: Young.

GEORGIA: But her name was Martha, Martha Alice.

CONLY: Where was she have been from?

GEORGIA: She was from Cedarville.

CONLY: She was from Cedarville.

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: Okay.

JOHN: My dad had a little ranch at Cedarville at that time.

GEORGIA: What took her away, she had, way back in those days babies came about once every year.

CONLY: Yeah, right.

GEORGIA: And there was a baby sister. And I never knew too much about it, but it

caused pneumonia for baby sister and mother, and it took them away.

JOHN: And a son too.

GEORGIA: Well there was another boy, but I never did ask ---

CONLY: Oh, you had another brother?

GEORGIA: There was another brother Frank, but we never did know whether he was older or younger than Rankin.

CONLY: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: And Johnny's dad didn't want to talk about things like that.

CONLY: Well a lot of them didn't, a lot of them wouldn't.

GEORGIA: And so I never asked any questions. And I missed the boat when I met Mrs. Shirk, I could have found out all of these things, but I didn't realize she was so closely related, you see.

JOHN: That boy and girl died when they was pretty young.

CONLY: Now you say Shirk. See there was some Shirks over around Drewsey.

JOHN: Yeah, and I ---

CONLY: Were they any relation?

JOHN: I don't think they were. It could have been, I guess.

GEORGIA: They may have been, although they never, aren't connected in any of the stories that I have ever run against.

CONLY: Well ---

JOHN: Dave Shirk and Bill Shirk married Crow sisters.

GEORGIA: Grandfather's sisters.

JOHN: That's what ---

CONLY: Okay.

GEORGIA: That's what brought them into the family. And they had Roaring Springs,



then Three Mile, and Home Creek.

JOHN: They didn't have the Roaring Springs then.

GEORGIA: No, but in time.

CONLY: Who did have the Roaring Springs at that time?

JOHN: They didn't have the Roaring Springs at that ---

GEORGIA: They had Home Creek and Three Mile.

JOHN: Company owned the Roaring Springs, the FC outfit, ever since I can remember. My dad brought, they had --- that's when --- well my dad was buckarooing there. Bill Crow was at Cedarville; he was my dad's brother. He was 14 years old, and Chino was buckaroo boss, and he had 14 --- they was all, 14 Mexicans, and they was living at Roaring Springs at that time. But my dad made a trip to Cedarville, and he brought Bill Crow back, and Chino gave him a job. He was running the --- Augustine Gilbert was, he was a Mexican, and he was 14, and Bill was 14.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: So they teamed up, but they couldn't, didn't either one know how to talk.

CONLY: They just kind of ---

JOHN: Augustine he knew Spanish, you know, and Bill Crow he knew English.

CONLY: Now that was at Roaring Springs?

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: That was when he was --- Was Roaring Springs at that time still tied with the P Ranch? Was it still ---

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: --- together, or whatever you want to call ---

JOHN: It was tied with the P Ranch for years.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: Roaring Springs. Home Creek was Dave Shirk's place. Three Mile was Bill Shirk's.

CONLY: Now are you saying then that Pete French didn't have any of that?

JOHN: Huh?

CONLY: Pete French didn't have all of Rankin's Spangleberg ---

JOHN: No, he didn't own that property. He owned the P Ranch, and he bought land --- well he was trying to buy all of the land. He got the Sod House finally.

CONLY: Yes. I know on down this way.

JOHN: That's as far as he went. He never got across the lane. He worked at it, but the homesteaders was too tough, they never let him get on.

CONLY: But he never really acquired anything south. Actually ---

JOHN: No they, of course old Tebo homesteaded that P Ranch, old Mexican.

CONLY: Oh he did?

JOHN: For Pete French. He planted them big trees that was there

---

CONLY: Uh huh, there by the white house.

JOHN: --- when he was a kid, pretty much. Yeah, old Tebo, I saw him the day before he died, he was an old Mexican.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: And I buckarood at the P Ranch any time that I wanted a job; I could get a job there.

CONLY: Was you buckarooing for the Company, or was you buckarooing for French, or who was you buckarooing for at that time?

JOHN: No, French was killed in '86, and I wasn't borned until 1902, I guess.

CONLY: Okay, all right that clears that one up. (Laughter)

JOHN: Yeah. And Papa was with --- and Pete French would help him gather the Sagebrush Field, he had lots of cattle there. Chino was sick, he run the buckaroo outfit. But French, being Chino was sick, he ---

CONLY: He was running it.

JOHN: --- he was over there for a day or two.

CONLY: Well didn't your dad ride to Winnemucca?

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: He went to Winnemucca with the news.

JOHN: He'd gathered cattle all day, and he was the third man to French but that --- hell, I can't think of his name right now. Anyhow, he come up ---

Pete French went, they had all of these cattle gathered, and was going to put them in what they called the Wright Field, out of the Sagebrush Field, and it was closer to Sod House. And Pete rode with them that day. Oliver (Ed) was the feller that killed him.

CONLY: Yeah, yeah.

JOHN: And he come up out of an old dry canal the Company built some time. And it was just a little ways from the Wright gate, out of the Sagebrush Field. French went ahead a horseback, and opened the gate. And he galloped up behind him. He just got on his horse, he opened the gate and got on his horse, and cattle started through. And Oliver rode up behind him, this is the story I heard.

CONLY: Uh huh.

SIDE B

JOHN: ... and he said yes, and started to ride away from him, and he shot him behind the ear.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: He was dead.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: But they never put the cattle in the field that night, I don't think. Set a tent up on him, around there. The next day they got him ---

CONLY: Well you see this Oliver, the one that shot French, Gary my boy at the Double O, was married to a relation of his.

GEORGIA: Yeah.

CONLY: McNamara.

GEORGIA: McNamara, yes.

CONLY: She was, her grandmother --- they were Oliver's, Oliver's.

GEORGIA: Yeah, and there is, Shelby Petersen's mother was ---

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: Shelby Petersen, he lived with Shelby's mother, I think, quite a long time, Oliver did.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: Shelby told me about it.

CONLY: Well ---

JOHN: They never knew what happened to Oliver, for sure.

CONLY: For sure, yeah.

JOHN: They didn't do nothing about him a killing French. Yeah, my dad ---

CONLY: Well they turned him loose.

JOHN: My dad, after working all day gathering cattle, Pete French's brother kind of took over and asked my dad if he would take the news to French's partner, Glen.

CONLY: Yeah, yeah.

JOHN: And after he worked all day, he went to the P Ranch from the Sod House.

GEORGIA: I've got a story, he did tell me that story, and I can't find it right now --- that's what I was digging around for, but I can't ---

JOHN: He went on past Roaring Springs, and Home Creek, and Three Mile down to another --- where two old bachelors had a place before you go over to Field Station out of Long Hollow.

CONLY: Oh, right in there. Then ---

JOHN: That's where my dad rode the first night after the --- he changed horses at the P Ranch.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: That's where he went the first night. And there was two old Germans, and they got in a fight, and my dad said to him, "How did you get your eye so black?" And the other old German jumped up and says, "That's ---" oh, he told my dad a mule kicked him. The other old German jumped up and said, "That's the mule what kicked him."

CONLY: That's what kicked him. (Laughter)

JOHN: My dad told me about that. But that was quite a ride from the P Ranch up there, you know, after he had rode all day.

CONLY: You bet.

JOHN: And he stayed all night. And they, all they had was a snaffle bit horse that was pretty bad to buck. And he didn't make, he left on that horse, and about all he wanted to do was to buck. He couldn't make very good time. But he met the buckaroos that, this side of Field Station, they was gathering cattle up --- well you went through that way.

CONLY: Yeah, you bet.

JOHN: It was kind of a slope, and the road turns and goes over to Field Station.

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh.

JOHN: It's flat, and there used to be a cabin there, and some trees, you know. And now I

got to think a fellow changed horses with him. That horse had bucked so much that I guess Papa didn't want to ride him any further, he couldn't make no time. And I ---

CONLY: Well then ---

JOHN: He was a homesteader right there.

CONLY: Right there at ---

JOHN: Fields, close to Fields Station. I can't think of his name right now, I could find it or it might come to me.

CONLY: Well then did he make it clear on to Winnemucca, or how far did he go?

JOHN: Oh yeah. He rode to Denio. Melvin Doan, you probably heard the name.

CONLY: Oh yeah, when I was down there.

JOHN: He was a riding there, so he told my dad, "You take my horse and go on to Denio." My dad wanted to keep a going, you know. So my dad went on to Denio that night, I think. Then I forget the name of those ranches, I've been through there too. But anyhow it took him three days, or four days to get to Winnemucca.

CONLY: Well he must have, he must have only made it on down past those ranches on the other ---

JOHN: We've got the full story on it.

GEORGIA: I can't find it right now.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: He rode into ---

CONLY: It took about three or four days.

JOHN: He rode into a barn one night, it was dark, going to put his horse up, and he got off his horse and stepped on a big old sow.

GEORGIA: With a bunch of little pigs.

CONLY: She went squealing hard.

JOHN: I guess she scared him pretty bad.

GEORGIA: He leaped into the manger. ... made into a manger.

JOHN: That was quite a trip all right.

CONLY: Oh god yes, you bet that's a long ways.

JOHN: And the best horse he got was at Surprise, it isn't Surprise Valley, what's the name of that valley?

CONLY: Paradise.

GEORGIA: Paradise Hill, yeah.

JOHN: The best horse he said he got on the trip --- it's 20 miles from there on in to Winnemucca. They had an Indian pony, they was pumping water with him. You've probably seen them pump water with them.

CONLY: You bet, ...

JOHN: And that's the only saddle horse they had.

GEORGIA: They let him have it. And he said that's the best horse he had on the trip.

JOHN: They had him take that horse. And my dad said he just left the rope that was on him, it had a knot in the end of it, and he said he'd have to hit him about every other jump or so, but he said it kept him awake, and he galloped him. He said that was the toughest horse he got on the trip, galloped him into Winnemucca.

CONLY: Huh, that's something.

JOHN: Yeah, I had some experience, Elmer Baker, Alan Jones and myself, and another boy by the, his first name was Bob, that's all I ever got. We had 30, or 236 head of horses we went to Winnemucca with them. 36 of them was saddle horses. They had sold all them horses. And there was a lot of mares had colts, they went, the colts was too young to take --- and what was that fellows' bosses name that was there? The headman at ---

GEORGIA: Alan Jones?

JOHN: What was his name?

GEORGIA: Wasn't it Alan Jones?

JOHN: No, Alan Jones ---

GEORGIA: Oh, he went with you.

JOHN: Hell, I know him as well as I ---

CONLY: Whereabouts you talking about now, John?

JOHN: Huh?

CONLY: At what place are you talking about?

JOHN: Island Ranch, he was boss there. And he said if he couldn't give those colts away, he'd have to kill them. And then we went to Princeton that morning; we got started pretty early and went across Malheur Lake.

CONLY: Right across the lake there.

JOHN: That country. And Mrs. Dougall run kind of a restaurant there, and she cooked dinner for us, and they was a lot, barbwire lot to put the horses all in. And we, after dinner, we went on to Anderson Valley. But Currey, Nolan Currey, I'm right aren't I?

GEORGIA: Yeah, I think so.

CONLY: I think that's right.

JOHN: He was the buckaroo boss there then. I asked him if he'd show me a few horses there that was, I wouldn't give a damn if they was a little cranky.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: I kind of wanted --- we didn't know anything about the saddle horses, we had 36 of them, and could have bought anyone of them, or all of them, for \$35.00 a piece. But anyhow we had dinner there, and I asked Nolan Currey about this, some of these horses. He said, "You see that brown horse over there with a brown spot on his head, his name is Dollar." And he said, "He's an awful good horse, but he's pretty cranky. He bucks off



most of the people that ride him." Well we went that far to Princeton and had dinner, and I told Alan to catch that Dollar horse. I was never afraid of bridle horses, even if they were cranky.

So I caught him, and I pulled my coat off when I got on him. He tried to buck with you, you know, and I hung my coat on the post and was --- We started out with the horses, and I forgot my coat until we got about 2 miles. We went to Anderson Valley that afternoon. And I said, "By god I got to go back and get my coat." And he didn't want to go back, and I drug the romal off of him a time or two, and he agreed to go with me. (Laughter) I got my coat and put it on, and got on him. I watched him pretty close, but I made a good get on. Caught up with them.

Alan Jones, we got over in what they call Adobe Flat, and Alan said, "John, we're going to stay at Anderson Valley tonight, you gallop on ahead and have the gate open." So I galloped up in the lead and got to the gate and I rode in, right up to it, there was this 2 x 4 you had to pull back. And I was a watching him awful close, and when I bent over and shoved that 2 x 4 back he throwed out with me, but I had a good hold on the reins, one hand, you know. I sat him down and had them long ... spurs on, and I set him down and drove them into him, and set him down about two more times. And the gate though, it come open when I got that 2 x 4 out of there.

CONLY: What year was that, John? Do you remember what year that would have been?

JOHN: I can't remember, I guess.

GEORGIA: Would have been in the '20's, I guess.

JOHN: Damn, I don't know for sure.

GEORGIA: Because it was before I came.

JOHN: We got into Winnemucca on the Fourth of July. And before you --- well we had all of those horses, and there was a lot of bunchgrass before we went down into Paradise

Valley. And we'd stayed all night at a big ranch this side of ---

CONLY: Right on the other side of McDermitt?

JOHN: This side, the other side. UC Ranch, I think. And I'd rode him that day, and I --- Alan Jones, well it was kind of his job, we had a, I think it was a mule to pack our bed on, our beds, we had two beds. Let me see, did I think of that ranch foreman's name again?

GEORGIA: No.

JOHN: He come along, anyhow. And Alan Jones threw his saddle in the car, and there was a boy --- I was over about a quarter of a mile east of the road, he just wanted us to herd them in there until they got filled up. Then there was an old place right over the hill, east of where the main highway goes down, and these corrals, big old barn yet down there. That's where we was going to hold them. So Alan said, "You guys just herd these horses until dark." And the fellow I worked for all summer, what was his name? Hell, I worked for him all summer. We stopped, we picked up, we stayed all night at Mann Lake as we went over.

CONLY: Stewart wasn't at Mann Lake at that time.

GEORGIA: Paul Stewart wasn't there then, no.

CONLY: At that time, that was still owned by ---

JOHN: No, this is an old timer. He'd been around Drewsey some before he moved over there, I think.

CONLY: You're not talking about Meyers?

JOHN: Huh?

CONLY: Meyers?

JOHN: No.

CONLY: Arch or one of them.

JOHN: He run quite a lot of horses over there at that little town west of it, as you go to

Winnemucca, that little town this side of Winnemucca.

CONLY: Oh, Paradise?

JOHN: He had a ranch just three miles the other side of that little town. What's the name of that little town where your brother won a hundred dollars?

GEORGIA: Oh, Reno?

JOHN: Huh?

GEORGIA: Reno, no. Las Vegas.

CONLY: Paradise?

JOHN: No, this side of Winnemucca where Chris won ---

GEORGIA: Oh, I can't think.

JOHN: --- a hundred dollars down at the slot machine.

GEORGIA: I don't remember now.

CONLY: Yeah, that little place out there where that highway comes together now.

GEORGIA: Yeah.

JOHN: Anyhow, Art, Art was his first name; saw him up here standing in the garage, you know, in the door.

CONLY: Art Seals, are you talking about Art Seals?

JOHN: No, I knew Art well, I run horses with Art. We run horses 30 days over here, and our headquarters was at Otleys, Mr. and Mrs. Otleys lived there, the old folks. And that was our headquarters; we run horses 30 days there. And the two Venator boys, and the two Petersen boys, and you named him, he is quite a rider.

CONLY: Marvin Meyers, Art Meyers, Seals.

JOHN: Yeah, this was Art Meyers that I worked for.

CONLY: Arch Meyers?

JOHN: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: Arch Meyers.

CONLY: See Arch was down to McDermitt when I was down at McDermitt ...

JOHN: Well we picked up that wild mare, she was with our horses. We stayed all night at Mann Lake. Alan Jones, he decided he'd go cut her out. (Laughter) And Elmer and I was the only ones that could help him, that Bob didn't know how to do anything. And we didn't volunteer to help him cut her out. And he run around through there, and she'd go right in the bunch again, you know. So we got over to Art Meyers, that was the name I had such a hard time with.

GEORGIA: Arch Meyers.

JOHN: He had that ranch, and had a bathhouse north of that ranch.

CONLY: That hot springs?

JOHN: Yeah.

CONLY: Yeah, I've been to that one too.

GEORGIA: That's where I got my driver's license; Mrs. Meyers gave me my test.

CONLY: Oh was it? No kidding.

JOHN: Yeah, Mrs. Meyers she was a judge.

GEORGIA: Many years ago.

CONLY: Is that right, I didn't know that.

GEORGIA: Yeah, she was.

JOHN: Anyhow, old Art, we laid over a day, and we showed him that mare and it was one of his horses.

CONLY: Oh it was?

JOHN: A wild mare. And I was on a good old rope horse. He said, "John," we put them in a stockade corral, he said, "John you go in and rope that mare, and drag her in another corral here, I'll help you get her in there. There is a gate from that big corral into the other

one." He said, "I'll hold her there, and turn her out with some gentle horses later." Well we stayed all night, and we laid over a day.

And Arch, he liked to visit with me, and I liked him. So he wanted me to come back and hay for him. I told him I didn't want to; well I didn't know anybody over there. Anyhow, this side of Winnemucca, this side of Paradise Valley, he come along and rode, and I was about a quarter a mile away. And this boy Bob, he was going along close to the road. And Arch called him over to the car; I was about a quarter of a mile out. We job each other if we could. He come a galloping over there, and said, "John there is a fellow over there that wants to see you, he sent me over here to get you." And I didn't want to go back. Well he said, "You make him come back, I want to see him."

Went back --- "Well John you've got to come back from Winnemucca and work for me in haying." I just had to, according to him. I said, "Arch, I don't know anybody in this country, I don't want to come back." And this boss, and Alan Jones was in Winnemucca, they, with a car, they was going to bring Elmer and that Bob and me back. But he talked me into the notion of coming back to Winnemucca, and I helped him hay.

CONLY: Did you?

JOHN: Yeah. He was going to, we got in an argument, I said I, he had mules and horses both. I said, "I don't want to work any damn knot-headed mules on a mowing machine." "Well, John, I'll leave you the horses. Mules are better anyhow on a mowing machine." He mowed a lot of hay pretty fast, and they give out with him. (Laughter)

But I stayed all summer and then I, coming back, and I had a letter from MC Ranch, I can't think of his name. He run the MC Ranch for years, was a boss over there. Wanted me to meet the buckaroo outfit over at Coleman, that's across the valley, he had a ranch across, 10 miles or 12 across the valley. I was supposed to meet him on a certain date. Well it ---

CONLY: Was Dollarhyde the boss of the MC at that time, Ross' dad?

JOHN: No, Miller, Virgil Miller was the boss there.

CONLY: Okay.

JOHN: I worked for Ross Dollarhyde at the P Ranch; he was a fine man too. Virgil Miller was too. So anyhow he had to go to Boise, we was just about through haying, another day or two was all we had, one other stack, I think, to put up. Well he went to Boise to get some more money, and he got just enough money to pay --- well there was a buckaroo boss there from Paradise Valley, he was an awful fine man, we run together pretty much.

There was a dance at McDermitt. So we got a gallon of moonshine and got about 10 bottles out of it, Coke bottles and things, you know.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: And we bootlegged at McDermitt. (Laughter) Arch paid us off, and he was going to Paradise the next day, Valley. And I was, had to hitch a ride to; well I hitched a ride the next morning to the Whitehorse Ranch. An old man and old lady was on the ranch, I knew them real well, they lived just east of Crane as you dropped down going toward Venator, dropped down that hill, you know, and then come to a ditch at the foot of the hill.

This old couple lived in that ranch house right there when I knew them.

CONLY: Was that the same guy that was over towards Juntura?

JOHN: They had a son, I can't think of his name either, him and I fed cattle, and watered cattle for him in the swamps there east of the Narrows, we bached. He turned out to be a preacher later. Anyhow, I knew him real well. So the next morning I hired them to take me to Andrews. I wasn't broke, but they was an old couple, and had a Model-T Ford, and I asked them to take me over there. And they took me there, and I give them \$10.00 for doing it. I've never saw them again.

CONLY: They, you say they were running the Whitehorse at that time?

JOHN: They was, I think he was doing chores, and his wife was cooking help.

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh. Are you getting tired, I can shut this thing off if you're getting tired.

JOHN: No.

CONLY: As long as you want to talk, I'll talk, you know.

JOHN: I'm not tired.

GEORGIA: I'll take the cat out of the chair and you can sit down again. She likes to get in the chair.

JOHN: Anyhow, Andrews was a little town, you know, over here, east of the mountain.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: I had them take me there. And ---

CONLY: See I spent three years down there.

JOHN: Huh?

CONLY: I spent three years on Trout Creek down there.

JOHN: Oh you did?

CONLY: Yeah. I worked for Al Wallace there on the, on Trout Creek. And I was down there for three years, and then I was over to ---

JOHN: Anyhow, I run into a fellow that married, oh that old timer that buckarood so long, his wife in Catlow Valley there. His wife lived at Blitzen, you know. He was working at Guano.

CONLY: You're not talking about Razz Lewis?

GEORGIA: Yeah, that's who it is, Razz Lewis.

JOHN: Huh?

GEORGIA: Razz Lewis.

JOHN: Old Razz Lewis. Well ---

GEORGIA: Mrs. Lewis was still there when we were on the stage line.

CONLY: Oh is that right, I didn't know that.

JOHN: Yeah.

GEORGIA: That was '39, I think.

JOHN: He bached in the south end of Catlow Valley, and he'd come up there once in awhile. About the time Jessie was born, Rankin and Gladys went to town and left me on the ranch by myself. And he, I didn't have my saddle there, I think I'd left it in Clover Swale, I'd just come by. And Rankin had a, about a half-broke horse, but he was awful mean, and mean to buck too. And Rankin's stirrups was pretty long for me, but I decided to go to Blitzen, that's where we got our mail from Rock Creek. So I caught that horse. I rode him to Blitzen, and old Razz Lewis was there. Razz and I we sat on the, I had a, there was a place, hitching rack I tied him up to. And old Razz and I sat on the porch at the store and visited. And I said, "Well I guess I better get on my horse and gallop home." I can't remember the horse's name, he was sorrel, bald face, and very cranky.

I went over, snaffle bit horse, got on him, and he got a head on me, he bucked, he bucked my hat off. Old Razz Lewis was a hollering, stay with it Johnny!

CONLY: Long time, kid, long time. (Laughter)

JOHN: Yeah. But Rankin had a pretty good saddle, and I managed to ride him all right. I got back to Rock Creek on him all right.

CONLY: And then when did you leave that country and come towards Voltage and over in there? What years did you ---

JOHN: What year did we --- Oh Voltage, I don't remember, that was around 1912.

CONLY: No I mean what year did you come from Catlow Valley towards ---

JOHN: Oh, I was only 8 years old in that picture. Papa would get us, he'd --- I wouldn't see him ---



GEORGIA: But he wonders when you got down around the Narrows and over toward Voltage. And when you got your homestead and stuff like that, that's what he is getting at.

JOHN: Well I took that homestead in 1930, in the government, or in the French field. I found, Rankin and I --- I told Rankin, I run into Rankin, and I said, "You know Slim," I always nicknamed him Slim, and it stuck with him. And said, "You know Slim, we got together, I'm getting tired of just a buckarooing here, and a buckarooing there, and no home, I'm going to get a homestead."

I'd filed, I filed on Rankin's homestead for him over at Silver Lake. There is a big, great big spring there, and he wanted that spring.

CONLY: But when you're saying Silver Lake, are you talking out here at the Double O?

JOHN: Yeah, west.

CONLY: Okay.

JOHN: West of ...

CONLY: And Rankin, Rankin had a homesteaded that, and you ---

JOHN: I took up a homestead for Rankin.

CONLY: For Rankin, okay.

JOHN: And he met two fellows from Missouri, they was both moonshiners.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: So they dug a great big hole out south of his --- he built a cabin, of course, and then them fellows went with him and they decided they'd moonshine. And Rankin built about a 270 gallon still and had a gas stove to heat it with. They dug a hole that would hold two 500-gallon vats. Rankin made two vats, 500 gallon, big vats. And then he had to put a roof on it. And they built another room right east of that big enough for the still, and a well, it wasn't very far to water. Built a well, put a pitcher pump in it. That's where

we did the moonshining.

CONLY: Now John, do you remember approximately where that was at? The reason I ask that, my boy owns that country now.

JOHN: Oh he does?

CONLY: Yeah. Gary has bought ---

GEORGIA: Bought clear out into that area.

CONLY: All of that Silver Lake and stuff, you know. I say pretty well, much, and ---

JOHN: Yeah.

GEORGIA: Silver Lake goes clear out around, pretty close to Paisley.

JOHN: And Silver Lake, that big spring is on the south end of Silver Lake.

CONLY: And it was right along in there where he had the ---

JOHN: Yeah, it was just about a quarter of a mile south of there.

CONLY: Okay, fine.

JOHN: That's where they ---

GEORGIA: They might be some ... stuff there yet.

JOHN: And them two boys, and Rankin, and myself we'd take turns a running it, about a quarter of a mile from the cabin.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: We'd come in and only had one bed. We had to all four sleep in one bed. (Laughter) Then we took turns a cooking breakfast. When it was my turn, we had some strong moonshine there that, some extra strong, and I'd make some hot toddies. I'd get up and build a big fire and put the teakettle on, and we had some moonshine that was well over a 100 proof, quite a bit. I'd make hot toddies.

CONLY: What was you making your moonshine out of. What type of grain, and what about the sugar and that type of stuff?

JOHN: Well just sugar, and I think sugar and rye they made mostly. CONLY: Rye.

JOHN: Might have made some out of corn.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: I don't remember exactly.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: But I helped them that winter.

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh.

JOHN: That was in about 1929.

CONLY: '29.

JOHN: I had a Whippet Coupe, I guess you would call it, and a pretty good-sized back; you could raise the lid from the bottom. It would just hold 14-gallon kegs.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: I was delivery boy.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: And one of the boys and I started to town, it had snowed at least six inches, and they was just two tracks for a road through the brush. You couldn't even see the road when we left over there.

CONLY: Where was you coming to?

JOHN: I was coming to the Narrows.

CONLY: You was coming to the Narrows. You was coming across.

JOHN: We got to the Narrows, and then we ate dinner. Papa was at the Narrows there. Rankin and Gladys had the hotel. Papa was at the Narrows, and we had a good hours visit while we was eating. And we headed on to town, and there was a lot of snow, and we had, they built a, well just took a road grader and just pushed the brush off, and they was still about 6 inches of snow on top. You could see, I had to take the Weaver Spring

road out to the edge of Dog Mountain.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: And they took a grader and just graded the brush to one side, and that was the road. I guess there was 4 to 6 inches of snow. Only way I could make any time --- I had knobby tires on my Whippet and they helped pretty good. The only way I could make any time was to wind it up in low gear and shift into second. Well we was a going along real good, second gear went out of it. Setting there in the snow, about a mile or two, about two miles just south of Wrights Point. He got all excited, and said, "Jesus, if they catch us here with these four kegs of whiskey they'll send us to jail for life."

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: I said, "Let's don't get excited, maybe them cogs have broke off, and will be in the bottom and we'll have second. If we can get on top of Wrights Point," I said, "in second, we can make it into town in high gear." Well we got on top of the Point, just on top, and down. The road used to come up there, and you go down a mile to go down hill.

CONLY: Yeah, I remember that.

JOHN: Second gear went out of it, and he was all excited again. I said, "Well let's just set here and kind of rest." And we had a bottle with us too, and took a drink and talked a little. Now I said, "I'll see if it will go in high." And by golly it was all right. We made it in. You remember old May when she used to run a sporting house?

CONLY: Just knew who she was.

GEORGIA: That was kind of ---

CONLY: Yeah, on up the street.

GEORGIA: Uh huh.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: Anyhow that was the first place. I'd had all the kegs spoke for, \$10.00 a gallon.

Five gallons, \$50.00 a keg, I guess. Well we got rid of that one keg. She told us how to get into the back garage; it was on the east side of her big house. And I forget the fellow's name, it came to me the other day, he was driving stage years ago, had a big, I think it might have been a Lincoln. And I went in the Ford Garage, it was a cold winter, and they never had no heat in there and this old car was froze up. It was, blew its top.

But he was working for May out there, and he went out and put the keg in the garage, and she paid us. There is another joint, you just go south a block and turn toward town across the street, they call that the little brick house, I think. And they wanted a keg. Then just north of the theater was another place, called it the yellow house, it was painted yellow, and they took a keg. And then down across the railroad track you turned on the road going to the stockyards, used to be, there is a big house there, and they wanted a keg. So we got rid of all the booze and got Cecil Bennett --- we got us a room at the Arrowhead the next night.

Cecil Bennett fixed the car up, and I hadn't had it, well about a year I guess. And it had a guarantee on it, supposed to. They had parts them days. And Cecil Bennett, he fixed it up, wanted me to pay him. And I said, "No, that goes in with the guarantee," so I didn't pay him anything.

CONLY: Yeah. Then when did you come on over to Voltage and buy Ted Dunn's place?

GEORGIA: Well that was after we were married and ---

JOHN: What, got Ted Dunn's ranch?

CONLY: Yeah.

GEORGIA: When did we buy Ted's place, that's what he ---

JOHN: Well it was 1940, we moved there at Ted's. And was supposed to have been there the 22nd, and we got there the 22nd. We had been on the stage line; I was working at Squaw Butte. I'd worked there just a year at Squaw Butte and I had a trailer, two-wheel

trailer. I hauled all of Rye Smyth's groceries from Crane to Diamond when I was on the stage. We went to Blitzen one day, and back to Crane the next.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: Stayed at Crane one night, and Blitzen the next. We lived in the store building at, out of Blitzen. We fixed up the --- the storeroom was too big to fix up, warm.

GEORGIA: We fixed it so we could keep the pickup in there so it would be sheltered.

JOHN: But I put a double door, or it had a double door on it.

GEORGIA: Yeah, it had been.

JOHN: You could open it and drive in.

CONLY: Well you must have bought that place then the year that I went to Trout Creek, or when my dad sent those cattle to Trout Creek.

JOHN: We bought that place what, about the third year we was there, didn't we?

GEORGIA: I think so. See we rented it first, or leased it.

JOHN: We rented it for a year at a time for three years.

GEORGIA: And leased some of his cattle. And then ---

CONLY: Before 1940, or after?

JOHN: It was, yeah it was 1940.

GEORGIA: It was after '40. It was about '40 when we went there to lease it.

JOHN: It was about 1943 or '44 when we bought that place.

CONLY: See I went to school at Grants Pass, that's when my mother and us kids went, I went to high school at Grants Pass. During that time I would go in the summer, I would go to Trout Creek to work for Al Wallace, because Al Wallace had my dad's cattle out there, and I was there at Trout Creek.

GEORGIA: Well we were living there at Ted's place, or maybe we had already bought it, when your dad moved a bunch to Nevada.

CONLY: Well that was Trout Creek.

GEORGIA: Trout Creek, oh yeah. Well I was thinking ---

CONLY: See we went to Trout Creek, and then we went to McDermitt.

GEORGIA: Yeah, well ---

CONLY: Then we went on over to the Owyhees, and then I trailed, me and that Indian, trailed horses across by the 45. Then 1946 we come back with that, a bunch of horses through, over the top of Burnt Flat and down through there, and we stayed, left the horses there.

GEORGIA: Well I don't remember that part. But Boyd kept some buckaroos, some Indians, and your dad and I don't know just who all, because he didn't have anything left down there at the house.

CONLY: Yeah.

GEORGIA: And they stayed with us, as they got things ready, and that was before the time of trucks much.

JOHN: Taft Miller lived at ---

GEORGIA: They moved all that stuff ---

JOHN: --- the Marshall house at Voltage.

GEORGIA: Yeah, but wait, Conly is talking about the time that Culver moved those horses and the cattle.

JOHN: Oh I don't remember just what year that was.

CONLY: It would have had to been, I think, about 1940, because I was down there.

GEORGIA: We were there at the ranch.

CONLY: I was there in the summer of '41, I was down to Trout Creek in 1941.

JOHN: I helped him start ---

GEORGIA: I think it was the fall of the year when they moved those animals, but I don't

remember anymore for sure.

JOHN: Start, the morning they left, they had the cattle in that field where ---

GEORGIA: We had the cattle there at home ---

JOHN: --- Mr. Marshall used to live.

CONLY: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: Uh huh, yeah they were in your grandfather's field there.

CONLY: Yeah, up towards ---

JOHN: They moved over to, what was the name of that place where the mines were?

CONLY: Well we went down to, from Trout Creek we went on over towards the Codero Mines there, Disaster Peak.

GEORGIA: Yeah. Well that's somewhere in there ---

CONLY: We was there at Trout Creek with Al Wallace for three years, three summers I went into that, my brother and I. Then we went to Disaster Peak, and I buckarood for Arch Meyers and my dad at the head of little Fish Creek in 1944, '45. Then from there we went on over to Duck Valley, Idaho, trailed them cattle. And then from Duck Valley he was with John Smead. From Duck Valley, an Indian and I, Walter Smart and I trailed them horses across, past the 45, and down to Crooked Creek, and up to Juniper Ranch and over, and come out and left them horses there at my grandmother's place right next to you.

JOHN: There was two Indian boys went with them cattle from down here.

GEORGIA: Seems the ---

CONLY: The Teeman boys helped him trail. I got pictures of the two Teeman boys.

JOHN: They didn't have enough beds, and they stayed with us a couple days.

CONLY: Yeah. They ---

JOHN: They were pretty nice boys.



CONLY: I had a little black ---

GEORGIA: They were real good to me, they ---

CONLY: --- I had a little black horse that I had just started, and they rode my little bay horse too.

GEORGIA: It seems to me that I recall they said they were going to Duck Flat.

CONLY: Duck Valley.

GEORGIA: Well Duck Valley.

CONLY: Yeah, down in that place.

GEORGIA: It's so darn long ago, and I don't pay much attention to stuff like that.

CONLY: So you was there, then you had the ranch from 1940 till when, when did you sell out?

JOHN: 1940.

GEORGIA: '63, I think, is when Fred took it.

JOHN: We had our stuff moved over there, but he wanted to stay a little longer. I quit Squaw Butte, and I didn't like it at Squaw Butte, that damn plant wasn't, didn't amount to much. I was awful glad to get away.

We got the stage line to Blitzen for a year; we did pretty good on that. And when I got through with that, Scharff had this job out at Squaw Butte for me. I'd worked for Scharff five years when I was single, and Georgia and I worked for him two years, and lived in that old shack down there, and they built a new ---

GEORGIA: We quit working for the refuge, and he knew that there was a vacancy out there at Squaw Butte, so he saw to it that John got that.

JOHN: That was 1930 we took that. Took the stage line in 1930.

GEORGIA: No, it was, must have been '40, dearie, because we were married in '37.

JOHN: Yeah, that's right. '39, we took that.

GEORGIA: Was that?

JOHN: '39 and '40 we had it.

GEORGIA: We had the stage line then, I guess. Then we went to Squaw Butte.

JOHN: I put 165 miles on that Ford pickup in a year's time. We delivered groceries to Clover Swale, and Augustine Gilbert would come down, and he used to live with old Joe Butler and get drunk. And then I worried about him; I thought an awful lot of Augustine. But Georgia and I followed him home a time or two. You would see where he would miss the road, so, kill his motor.

GEORGIA: He couldn't drive a lick on ---

JOHN: We'd find a bottle of beer there, an empty bottle. And we got home, or got up to Augustine's, he was in the middle bedroom. There was a bedroom between the kitchen and the front room. He was in there, the kitchen door was open. Georgia and I we knocked on the door, and here come Augustine, and there was a beer bottle right under the edge of the table, it was empty. And he seen it was Georgia and I, and he give it a kick and it just ---

GEORGIA: That bottle was just spinning when we came in the house. (Laughter)

JOHN: No, I worried about him. It wouldn't have surprised me to find him dead. I trapped out there; horse trapped one winter, and had a trap line right up by his place. And he stayed drunk quite a bit, and I worried about finding him dead, maybe, but never did.

CONLY: What did you do when you worked for Scharff? What was your job, or what was ---

JOHN: My biggest job was counting cattle.

GEORGIA: But he rode fences too, and stuff like that.

CONLY: Yeah.

JOHN: Oh yeah, I rode fences, and patched fences. Well I built a fence from --- what is

that lane where ---

GEORGIA: Rocky Ford.

JOHN: Rock Ford Lane.

GEORGIA: He worked with the CC boys at first, building fences.

JOHN: I had 20 CC boys. Well there was 54 CC boys. They moved a camp into Buena Vista, CC boys. Scharff come to me, he said, "John, do you think you could get along with 54 CC boys?" He said, "We don't have anywhere to go with them for a day or so, and there is 54 of them, do you think you could get along with them and kind of teach them how to cut willow stays?" "Well," I said, "I could cut a willow stay all right, so I guess I could show them how."

There was two boys there from Missouri. The two boys made 500 stays, and the others just kind of played around. But I knew them all; I put in a day with them. And so the next day Scharff come to me and he said, "Do you think you could take 20 of these CC boys and build fence with them?" They was all pretty good boys too. And I said, "I guess I could."

So the next day I just put the end gate off of the truck, you know, it was just a ton truck. I guess that's about the size of it, I could haul 20 boys. And just put the end gate up and they strung them out. And I stood there, and if I didn't want one, I'd pull them, just get them by the sleeve and pull them over. And counted in 20, I counted in 20 awful good boys. I'd been with them and know the ones that could learn, you know, you can kind of tell.

GEORGIA: That was before they got down there at the Sod House.

JOHN: These two Missouri boys ---

CONLY: They were at Buena Vista before they was at the Sod House?

JOHN: I was working for the ---

GEORGIA: I think so.

CONLY: Because I can remember them, you know. We worked there at the Sod House

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JOHN: I was riding there, but they had me quit riding to herd these boys, and build fence through the lava beds to Diamond, to the Diamond road that comes out of Diamond on this side going to Crane.

CONLY: Oh, is that right?

JOHN: And the, oh it was just terrible.

GEORGIA: Oh, right through those rocks and rims.

JOHN: And I had to build rock shacks. Well I didn't have to build them, but I had to show those boys how to do it. They was good, I got along with all of them. But these two Missouri boys, I forget I nicknamed something.

GEORGIA: I don't remember. You called them your ---

JOHN: I give them a nickname of some kind. They had to unroll the wire with a crowbar, you know. And I said, "Boys, I don't care how much you look for arrowhead or anything, I just want you to keep the wire strung out about a quarter ahead of us." It was fine, boys --

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And we got nothing but hog swill for our dinner there for about three days, come in a five-gallon, well one of these big cans, ten-gallon cans I guess they are. And it was just kind of slop, you know. And they didn't bellyache much, and I didn't bellyache much till the third day, and we was going to eat dinner. It had a big tin lid on it, you know, and I said, "You know, them big shots is eating beef steak and all that good grub back there, and feeding this swill to us." I said, "I'm going to --- we'll just not work this morning, we'll go back and see if we can get some dinner."

And there was some big shots over these CC boys, you know. And they didn't

want me to go in, they was afraid they'd can me. And I said, "I don't give a damn if they would can me, I'm not a going to feed you fellows this kind of grub." So they all got in, and we went to Buena Vista, and I went in where these big shots was. I says, "I want you fellows to come out and see what kind of grub we got to eat, and build fence on." Boy they went in and sure jacked them cooks up, and they fed us a steak dinner, there was 21 of us.

CONLY: Uh huh.

JOHN: After that we got pretty good meals until I had to go back to counting cattle. And what's that fellow's ---

GEORGIA: That's the cat.

CONLY: Your cat.

JOHN: --- Overton. Overton ---

GEORGIA: She stands on her hind legs and rattles the door.

JOHN: What's that fellow I had to recount his cattle, that Swede?

GEORGIA: Oh, that was ---

JOHN: What was his name, they lived there where the county is now.

GEORGIA: Yeah.

JOHN: Albert Olson.

GEORGIA: Olson, uh huh.

JOHN: Well he was counting, supposed to count cattle at Diamond. And I counted cattle wherever people wanted me to. And he'd count a bunch of cattle in, then he'd call Scharff up, say, "Well I didn't get a very good count on those cattle." So Scharff would look me up.

GEORGIA: He'd have to go up and separate them.

JOHN: And I'd have to go out and bunch them and count them by myself, you know. But

I --- Ted and Dell Witzel, I'd wintered with them a couple of winters a time or two. We was good friends. So, I'd saddle up a knot-head ---

Ira Moore come by home one time a riding this knot-head, and he said, "Do you want to buy a good horse, a mean little devil?" I said, "Yeah, I think so, how much do you want for him?" "\$40.00." I was kind of short on saddle horses, because I had to gallop quite a ways sometimes to meet their cattle to count them. And I bought him.

And he broke a horse for Oscar Downs. Oscar Downs said, "Ira, if you'll break a horse to ride for me, I'll make you a present of this little white horse." And Ira broke one for him, and he was

--- well he was just ornery to handle too, a little.

(END OF TAPE)

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