

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #417 - Sides A/B/C

Subject: Bill Robertson - On Scottie Hayes, History of Beulah, Juntura and Otis Valley -
With Video

Date: 1993

Place: Drewsey, Oregon

Interviewer: Conly Marshall

(Note: Hard to pick up what is being said on the first part of the tape as there are other people in the room talking, and they interfere with Conly and Bill's conversation.)

CONLY MARSHALL: ... start in back down at, well start at the upper end, I guess Bill, up above the reservoir.

BILL ROBERTSON: Above the reservoir?

CONLY: Well, before the Agency and stuff ---

BILL: Okay, start out at the Castle Rock place.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Okay, that was, the Castle Rock place was the Altnow place, T. Altnow place.

CONLY: That was Joe Altnow's ---

BILL: Aunt.

CONLY: Aunt.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: What about above there?

BILL: Tom Goodman.

CONLY: Tom Goodman.

BILL: Tom Goodman. And then there was Lenny Berg was up in that area for a while. Who is the old guy that run the moonshine, hell I think he might have died, he lived over at Prairie City. He married a ... damn, I can't think. But those people all lived up there around Tom Goodman.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: I can't think of his name right now. Anyway, then you come down across their place. And then the next place down was the Winnie Scott place.

CONLY: That's the one right at, just above the reservoir.

BILL: Above the reservoir, on the North Fork River.

CONLY: Now Bill, wasn't, isn't there an old cemetery right there at the ... place?

BILL: Well just one grave.

CONLY: One grave.

BILL: That I know of. It was supposed to have been the Chambers.

CONLY: Who were they?

BILL: Well it was the immigrant train that went through, it was Mrs. Chambers.

CONLY: Oh, that's where they come up with that Blue Bucket.

BILL: Blue Bucket, Chambers deal, yeah.

CONLY: And ---

BILL: I, I'm sure; I think that's what it is.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: But the main cemetery is over above the old Murphy place.

CONLY: Isn't that on, a little off the road that you was up past where ---

BILL: Just before you get to the old Murphy place there is a road that takes to the left, just goes due west. In fact if you look you can see the cemetery from the main road.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Kind of a ... Then you get --- that's Warm Spring country.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: And go by ... Murphy place, and right on the corner where Bill ... just started out.

CONLY: Who owned that place that Billy was at?

BILL: Taylor Johnson.

CONLY: Taylor Johnson.

BILL: Taylor Johnson. And they bought it from Johnson, I think, ...

CONLY: Was it hooked up with that place that is on around towards Bendire?

BILL: That was Mulker (sp.?) place.

CONLY: No, I meant on the other road. Mulkers was up on the Spring Creek.

BILL: Oh, the old Hunter Ranch.

CONLY: The Hunter Ranch.

BILL: No, that has always been Hunter Ranch.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: When I was a kid, oh I was probably about 14; Mrs. Hunter was still living, alive. She was --- we went there hunting with Ralph Hunter and Junior Hunter ...

CONLY: Oh that's Junior Hunter's ---

BILL: Grandmother.

CONLY: Grandmother, yeah.

BILL: Clarence Hunter, her and Clarence, Clarence was a brother or her boy. Clarence, Clarence and George and Ralph that I knew of the Hunters. Mrs. Allen was a Hunter, Mrs. W. P. Allen.

CONLY: Oh she was?

BILL: Yeah. She is the only girl that I knew that was a ... girl I knew they had. But there were three boys and a --- let's see ... George and Ralph and Edith. There could be more

for all I know, but I knew those.

CONLY: In that family.

BILL: In that family. And Mrs. Hunter was a, I think was either 93 or 95 at that time when I was up there, when I was 14 years old. And she stayed there until she was 98 years old on that Bendire Ranch.

CONLY: Well did she sell out to them ---

BILL: She died and then --- Ralph Bennett got into a, oh a family hassle or something, I don't know, into an estate is what it amounted to, and they sold it.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Murphy bought it.

CONLY: No, didn't Frank Grout (sp.?) or somebody like that have that for a while?

BILL: I'll tell you who it was, Chet Hall.

CONLY: Oh, Chet Hall, okay.

BILL: Chet Hall and, had it or --- who did you say Grout?

CONLY: Yeah, you know ---

BILL: Grout bought the old Masterson place.

CONLY: Grout bought the Masterson place. Well who I'm thinking of is, oh god, Al Wallace, they were teaching school when we moved over there. She was teaching --- but the people right below Gary Defenbaugh, Calderwoods ---

BILL: Okay. This is where this guy come from that was up there.

CONLY: Yeah, but --- well I'll think of his name after awhile.

BILL: But I think it was Chet Hall that owned that at one time. And I'm not, I don't know whether he sold out to --- to the guy we're trying to think of his name ---

CONLY: Yeah. Well we'll think about it after awhile. Yeah.

BILL: Hell, we was just talking about it the other day. I went over to Butlers to pick up a

yearling the other day and I was a visiting with Bill Butler about it.

CONLY: Mother, hey Maw.

MRS. MARSHALL: What.

CONLY: Who was up on, when Al Wallace and Vivian and them, who was up there that they were in with up on the Hunter place?

BILL: He rode a mule.

MRS. MARSHALL: Is it John ---

BILL: Okay, John ---

MRS. MARSHALL: John ---

BILL: Nunn.

MRS. MARSHALL: Okay.

CONLY: Okay, Nunn.

BILL: That isn't what it was.

CONLY: No, no, you're not right.

BILL: He is related with ...

CONLY: They went down, and they were on the Calderwood place down there when Gary and them went down.

MRS. MARSHALL: Well just a minute, I'm thinking, real hard too. (Laughter)

BILL: ... Well who was Chet Hall? You know?

CONLY: No.

MRS. MARSHALL: I'm a newcomer.

CONLY: Well we'll get back to that.

MRS. MARSHALL: Well just a minute, those people that had the deaf and dumb daughter that lived down there in the South End. My step... used to be a real good friend of hers. Be friends with her down there ...

BILL: Isn't that funny ---

CONLY: We'll think about it ... Then from there down who had the Mulker's place before Billy and his dad were there?

BILL: Well there was a fellow by the name of --- hell who married Primrose Looney's woman the first time? Anyway he owned that, or he rented, I think he had it rented.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And --- the names, I'll think of them someday ... But Mulker's owned it, leased --- well Billy went to high school in Juntura. They lived there quite awhile. In fact he went to school at Juntura when he was a little kid.

CAROL ROBERTSON: Didn't he stay with you guys for a while?

BILL: Yeah.

CAROL: I know because Bush was talking about him ---

CONLY: I was just a little kid.

CAROL: He was sitting there, and you said he was --- Bill was kind of, about half crying, and he was talking about his dad and

BILL: He said I wonder what ... Bill Butlers ... (Laughter)

CONLY: Well Bill ---

BILL: Well Christ, that's got to be 60 years ---

CONLY: Well did the Murphy's, they didn't come in there and homestead did they, Tom and John and --- not Tom ---

BILL: No they ---

CONLY: They bought that from somebody, didn't they?

BILL: ... Stringer backed him, and they went up in Montana and bought some pretty ... cattle you ever seen in your life. And about that time, that was probably in the late '30's,

then the war broke out and everything just started climbing from then on. And Murphy got started again and just kept a going.

CONLY: Well I'll be darned.

BILL: Then they got going.

CONLY: Do you remember anything, or any talk about places that was under water?

BILL: Under water?

CONLY: Under water.

BILL: Yeah, those people that --- Carol, what was those people's name that had those beautiful tombstones up ---

CAROL: Thompson.

BILL: Thompson. There is three Thompson's buried up there.

CONLY: Well I know when the water went down, you know, when the dam, when I was over there water went down and you could see indications of the places there.

BILL: Yeah, there was three or four places there. I think there were the McKenzie's, Thompson's, now this here kind of --- I just know the names, I mean heard of the names.

CONLY: Uh huh, yeah.

BILL: But I think Thompson's evidently were the big landowners. Well Walters, Fred Walters ---

CONLY: Yeah, Walters, I've heard that.

BILL: They bought that, they called the Agency Ranch. They was probably the biggest one in there.

CONLY: Uh huh. Well was there another one on up towards where, as we know it, the ... place, or on --- Winnie Scott place, was there another place right in, below the dam that was under there?

BILL: Under water? Well there very well could have been. I'm not --- I don't know.

CONLY: Then you went down where Johnny Robertson was at.

BILL: Now I don't know who used to own that. Oh, I do too. Who was it that Esther McDonald --- Johnny --- Rodney McArthur ---

CAROL: Roddy.

BILL: Roddy McArthur.

CONLY: Owned that.

BILL: Owned that.

CAROL: Was that who ---

CONLY: Did they own where the store and stuff, or did ---

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: --- or Johnny Robertson was ---

BILL: I think he got that from Rodney.

CAROL: Roddy.

BILL: I think, I'm pretty sure that's --- not for certain, but I'm pretty sure that's where Roddy Robertson bought that place.

CONLY: From them, yeah.

BILL: Roddy McArthur was married to Esther McDonald's mother.

CONLY: Okay, all right. Then from there was the ... and you say that's always, as far as you know ---

BILL: As far as I know it was always ...

CONLY: Did they own above and below the road? Did they own some of the Johnny Robertson place, or did you just have ---

BILL: No, I think they owned some of the Johnny Robertson place. Or maybe just owned a little neck down in there. It was not very far from the lower end of Johnny Robertson place to the upper end of where you folks lived.

CONLY: And that was the Sizemore place.

BILL: And that was Ed Sizemore's place.

CONLY: Ed Sizemore. And then who did you say lived above that place, or east of it up there in the brush, or whatever you want to call it?

BILL: ... Joyce lives?

CONLY: No. Even with that Sizemore place.

BILL: Oh.

CONLY: Back up the draw there.

BILL: Oh, Rod Macomber, Jack Macomber, then after Jack Macomber died I think his name was --- this don't sound right, Conly, but I think his name was Spangler, I think his name was Earl Spangler? And they were good friends of Granny Gearhart, Mama's mother.

CONLY: And then right around the corner where Tony Joyce now lives, where Orin and Mark Currey was living was another Sizemore.

BILL: Was Granny Sizemore, ... and Currey. And they ---

CONLY: Orin Currey's dad. Okay.

BILL: Orin Currey's dad.

CONLY: Then halfway in between there and Tom Howard's was a kind of a neck in there.

BILL: Tom Joyce, you mean?

CONLY: Yeah, Tom Joyce --- what did I say, Tom Howard?

BILL: Tom Joyce.

CONLY: Yeah, was there somebody lived there?

BILL: Sam ... bought that one time. And I forgot what they called that. Then Tom Joyce bought it from ... Sam ... give \$1500 for that place. I don't know what he sold it for.

CONLY: From there then on down the canyon, all from there was all Masterson place

then.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: All of that ---

BILL: Down to the Woodward place.

CONLY: Now the Woodward place is ---

BILL: The one on the corner of the bend of the highway ---

CONLY: Where Joyce ---

BILL: The first place below where Pete Joyce lives now.

CONLY: First place.

BILL: Is down the bend where --- as you leave Juntura Valley.

CONLY: Now who did you say that was?

BILL: Tom Woodward place.

CONLY: Tom Woodward. Now is that ---

BILL: Liz Woodward's dad.

CONLY: Liz Woodward's dad. And then they sold that place ---

BILL: Yeah, they sold that place that --- they rented there for a long time. I can't think who --- and then Katie Joyce bought it. And then Pete Joyce bought it from Katie Joyce.

CONLY: Yeah, that was when they --- that was when they separated and then Wilber's bought some land up here above ...

BILL: Yeah, yeah.

CONLY: Back up in there.

BILL: Yeah, the Jack Joyce homestead and --- the O'Toole homestead, they never did own the O'Toole homestead. I don't think they ever did buy it.

CONLY: Oh they didn't?

BILL: I don't think so. I think that belongs to Pinky Catterson, I think they just rented it.

That used to be the old Harry ... called the Harry ... The last homestead up Coffee Creek.

CONLY: Okay. Now we, I think it by-passed where John White and Myrt lives. Did Masterson's sell out to them or to somebody else?

BILL: No, Al Masterson's widow, her name was Lily, Lily Masterson, was step-dad to Gibb, Don and Ralph Masterson, Doris Edmunson. When he died she ended up with the ranch, and she had a kid, a boy named ... She was a ... before she married old Al Masterson. Then they run it for, oh two or three years. Then there were some owners in there that --- oh you said his name a while ago, Conly, Grout.

CONLY: Yeah, Frank Grout.

BILL: Frank Grout owned it.

CONLY: Oh that's, yeah, okay; now I've got it straight, yeah. He come in there with ---

BILL: He was in there sometime. I don't --- but in the meantime Gibb bought it too. Okay, Gibb, Gibb Masterson bought the place from Mrs. Masterson. And then he sold it to Fred Grout, I think, now I'm not sure or how, but they were all involved there about the same time. You remember when they had that big fire, ... had that big fire in Calf Creek and it burned that whole ...

CONLY: Yeah, that was prior, a little bit prior to when we moved over there.

BILL: Gibb owned that place at that time. And they had an old fellow by the name of Bill Fenton working for him. And the house burned up and burnt old Bill Fenton up in that house, during that fire.

CONLY: During the fire.

BILL: During that fire, whatever year that was, I can't remember.

CONLY: Uh huh, okay.

BILL: Then going on down to Juntura to, on the Beulah side, since I can remember they called it the Jones place. Then Louie Belsoe (sp.?) bought it. And Drex Williams owns it

now, or Bill Williams, some of the Williams family.

CONLY: Yeah, some of the Williams.

BILL: Yeah, some of the Williams.

CONLY: Then the next place down was the Johnny Hopkins place. Then the next place down was what they called Granny ... place. But she was a mother to Suzie Freize (sp.?) and Mattie Goodman, Dean Goodman's wife. They were Hoffman's.

CONLY: They were all Hoffman's.

BILL: All Hoffman's.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: Then you go on down to the next place where ... Joyce lives, this is the old Fred Currey place. This has been the Fred Currey place ever since I can remember.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh.

BILL: Then Tom Joyce bought that from Orin Currey.

CONLY: Well he bought the, wasn't the next one across the river then the Jones place, across the bridge where Orin was living the last?

BILL: No, that's what they call the --- Ben Jones owned it all right.

CONLY: Yeah, that ---

BILL: But they called it the --- oh when I was a kid that was nothing but a slough and a willow patch. And old Louie Belsoe used to feed the, pretty near winter a bunch of cows in there on Cotton Cake and that rough willows and ryegrass. I used to trap muskrats in there when I was a kid; I lived right next to it.

CONLY: Well did you live right on the corner on the ---

BILL: I lived right on the corner, just across the road from where --- the house that Orin Currey lived in there used to be our house ... a bunch of willows across the road.

CONLY: Oh, right east of there, just right across the corner.

BILL: Yeah. My grandmother sold that to Jim Jones, that place that we used to own down there.

CONLY: And then that was ---

BILL: And all east of the Beulah road.

CONLY: Yeah. And that was the Jones that ---

BILL: Jim Jones.

CONLY: --- that Drex grandkids ran it?

BILL: No, that was the Woodruff, they always called that the Woodruff place.

CONLY: Oh did they?

BILL: Where the, Drex Williams lived down on the highway.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: They always called that the Woodruff place, and that was --- and then Jones bought it from people named Woodruff. That's been way back, before I could remember.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: But they called it the Woodruff place. And the place we had was, the river went right down through the middle of that place. And right along the Beulah road was a great big slough, tules and a big slough.

CONLY: Yeah, right.

BILL: They used to trap muskrats in that, when I was a kid. Jim Jones bought it and changed the river channel, and put it over next to the hill and leveled up that piece of ground clear down to his place.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Where some of the Williams boys ...

CONLY: Yeah. Yeah, where Gary lives.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: After Drex moved up and built the house on top of the hill.

BILL: Where Gary lives now.

CONLY: Okay. And then, well I guess then the piece of ground where the cemetery is, isn't that right ---

BILL: That was what they called the townsite.

CONLY: That's the townsite.

BILL: Used to belong to Hanley, old Bill Hanley that owned the Bell-A at Burns.

CONLY: Well did he own much stuff around here?

BILL: He owned all that town of Juntura at one time.

CONLY: Oh he did?

BILL: All that area of ... all of Drex's ...

CONLY: Oh I didn't know that.

BILL: He owned the whole thing. You know what they call the Nigger Field over at --- you know where the stockyards used to be?

CONLY: Yes.

BILL: Well all that field that runs back in there next to Jordan and Allen's.

CONLY: Clear across into the --- the south, or the, yeah the south ---

BILL: South end of, below the stockyard, the old stockyards.

CONLY: Well I didn't know that. He sold this stuff out and then went over to the Bell-A?

BILL: No, he owned that ---

CONLY: At that time, huh?

BILL: He owned it at that time. Old ... would be a nephew of old Bill Hanley that owned the Bell-A. There was another guy by the name of Henry Welcome that owned the drugstore in Juntura.

CONLY: Is that the same Welcome that went to Burns?

BILL: Would be a brother to the one in Burns. He would be an uncle to Wally Welcome.

CONLY: Oh is that right?

BILL: Uh huh.

CONLY: And he had a drugstore there in the corner ---

BILL: No, right in between where the Texaco Station, or the ---

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: --- was, and down to the corner where the old bank building was.

CONLY: Right in the middle there.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Where those buildings used to be.

BILL: A restaurant, and then a drugstore, and then the Juntura Mercantile.

CONLY: Yeah, right.

BILL: George Becker had a service station right on the corner.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Used to be the old bank building.

CONLY: Yeah, he was still there when we was there on that.

BILL: Yeah, the bank building.

CONLY: I'll be darned. Well I didn't know that.

BILL: But before that, before the Bakers moved up there they had a garage right on the corner, just before you get to the depot, when you go down where the highway sheds are right now.

CONLY: Oh.

BILL: They had their home and a big garage there.

CONLY: And then they moved on up into this one up there. I don't remember anything there when we moved over there.

BILL: When I was a little kid they had a big garage. Dee Baker run it, he was the mechanic. Well when they moved up there they started building the highway, U.S. 20, through there. And they bought; they furnished all the gas and stuff for all the equipment and stuff there, working on the highway.

CONLY: Bill didn't, wasn't there a high school or something there at Juntura at one time?

BILL: Oh yeah, I went to school two years there.

CONLY: Whereabouts was it at?

BILL: In the grade school.

CONLY: Up there on the knoll, where the grade school is at, that was the high school, huh?

BILL: Yeah. They built a new addition on. Well they had high school up there until about, oh probably '43, 1943 probably.

CONLY: About the middle of the war then?

BILL: Yeah, right in the middle of the war they closed it up.

CONLY: I'll be darned.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: How many kids were going to school at different times, or how long had it been there, do you know?

BILL: Well tell you how long it had been there, all the Allen kids and Liz ... went to high school.

CONLY: Did they? So it had been there quite a ---

BILL: Quite a long time.

CONLY: --- quite awhile then, huh?

BILL: Yeah. Then there was what they called the big room, and the little room. The little room and the big room, from 1 to 4, and from 5 to 8.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh.

BILL: And then on the north side of the school was the high school, there was two rooms.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And there was probably, well I could pretty near name every kid that was in school. There was the Gibbons kids, Tom Joyce family, Martin Joyce family --- well there was Pete Joyce, Martin Joyce, Jack Joyce, Tom Joyce, Johnny Hoffman had a daughter that went there, Horton kids went there, Allen kids. And then a lot of times there would be some people come through there working at various jobs or something that would probably have kids in school.

CONLY: Talking about Horton's, now where did they live?

BILL: Lived over on the river, just below where that, on the road over to the old Allen place. And Gregg's, Horton's and the Gregg have lived over on the river over there, just below the bridge.

CONLY: Okay, just ---

BILL: As you go to Allen's.

CONLY: On the way to Allen's.

BILL: Yeah. ... remember.

CONLY: Did Marvin Horton, as you remember, did he live in any of the Hoffman places, or did he live only where John, and White and Deniece --- not that it makes any difference.

BILL: I'll tell you what I think; now I'm not sure of this, but he worked for Denny Jones first, for several years.

CONLY: Well Marvin worked for Drex while we was over there.

BILL: Well he worked for Jones before that, Denny Jones.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: And then he made a, then he bought, he bought that place where Deniece and Johnny White lives.

CONLY: Did he bought that, buy that from Butler, or did he have that before Butler?

BILL: He had to have bought it from Butler.

CONLY: See Billy's dad was on that there for a while.

BILL: And Butler, there was a, Winn Seward; a guy by the name of Winn Seward bought it from Sam ...

CONLY: Oh.

BILL: Sam ... owned it when I was a little kid. Then Winn Seward bought it. Who is lease

CONLY: Marvin Horton.

BILL: No, wasn't Horton.

CONLY: Billy Butler's dad.

BILL: Seward.

CONLY: Yeah, Winn Seward.

BILL: Winn Seward.

CONLY: Is that right?

BILL: Winn Seward bought it from Sam ... And then there was another owner --- oh Butler, Butler.

CONLY: Yeah, Billy's dad owned it sometime. Or Billy and his dad or something, I don't remember.

BILL: Then I think Marvin bought it from Butler. I'm not certain of that.

CONLY: Uh huh. We was trying to figure it out ---

BILL: I know they were on it, on it, but what intervals I don't know.

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh. Now I'll go back around --- the places headed towards Riverside,

who owned that?

BILL: That was all, all that area in there was all ---

CONLY: Hanley?

BILL: All Hanley, or what they called town site, except that little place where Don ... lived, and that was called the Reed place.

CONLY: The who?

BILL: Reed, R E E D, Reed.

CONLY: Uh huh. Okay. Now I'll jump back over to the Allen place. Was that Hanley, or how did that come up?

BILL: That was, I remember old Bill Allen talking about the --- they called the, called it the Wort's place, which was a part of it, and what the other part is I don't know.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh.

BILL: It was called Wort's. But Allen's owned that ever since, oh I kind of think he built that big home over there in about 19-- the railroad came into Juntura in 1913, so he probably --- I'd say he built that house in about 1916, 1916 or 1918, somewhere in that era there.

CONLY: It seems like to me I'm missing somebody there, around the town site maybe.

BILL: Well there was no, to my knowledge, there was no other --- the Gregg family lived down on the river, and then they had a, the Gregg's had a place up under the butte.

CONLY: Where do you mean by up under the butte?

BILL: Do you ever hear them talk about Black Butte, there is a ---

CONLY: Yes.

BILL: --- the McGetrick place, somewhere in there. I'm not real familiar with that up there.

CONLY: I just know ---

BILL: The Gregg's called it the ranch, and they'd go up there and spend the summer,

then they'd go down and live in that shack along the river and send the kids to school.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh. How did Jones, Senator Jones, wasn't it the Senator or something?

BILL: Uh huh.

CONLY: How did he come into all of this?

BILL: He ---

CONLY: Did he have Jonesboro?

BILL: Yeah. Jim Jones.

CONLY: Jim Jones, right.

BILL: Jim Jones owned Jonesboro. Jim's dad, Billy Jones, came in there a long, long time ago. Then there was Pete, Pete Jones --- Ben, Pete, and Jim, were the three boys.

CONLY: And they were there for a long time.

BILL: Long time. And then they owned, they owned what they called the Woodruff place where ... lived. They owned the old Jones place on the Beulah road. They owned the Farnes ranch up here.

CONLY: Back up here by Bentz's, or below ---

BILL: ...

CONLY: Yeah, okay.

BILL: They were big operators. They had sheep and cattle.

CONLY: Well now was, is Denny related to them, Denny Jones?

BILL: Yeah. Bill Jones and Gene Jones, Denny's dad, were brothers.

CONLY: Bill Jones and Gene Jones, Denny's --- Okay.

BILL: Were brothers.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: So he was a, actually Denny was a cousin, would be a first cousin to Jim Jones,

isn't that right, wouldn't that be right?

CONLY: Yes, sounds like it.

BILL: But anyway, Jim, or Denny --- I think fed cattle at the Altnow place in Otis one winter, fencing Jones' cattle. And then he went to work for Jim Jones and moved down on the, what they called Jonesboro, below Juntura. And about that, oh I think it was before the war, probably '38, '39 they bought that. If I remember right I think he give \$50,000 for that place.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And that's how he got a hold of that place.

CONLY: Now you're talking about, not Denny, but ---

BILL: I'm talking about Denny.

CONLY: You are talking about Denny. Now didn't Denny and Mildred, which was an Altnow, Joe Altnow's sister, they lived on the Farnes place up here for a few years, didn't they, before they ---

BILL: Well if they did, they was probably working for Jones.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: At that time.

BILL: Working for old Bill Jones.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: Or Jim Jones.

CONLY: Because it seemed like to me Denny said that he had been on that ranch, or something.

BILL: Yeah, probably did.

CONLY: Maybe a few months or something, I don't remember.

BILL: But he wintered out at Altnow's there one winter, is where him and Mildred got together.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh. Oh, I, what about Martin Joyce? Where did he come in to this, when he was running sheep and stuff down there?

BILL: Back there they didn't have any base property; they didn't have to have base property. Well the BLM come into effect in 1934, and all those Irishmen just had bands of sheep, and if they had to feed they'd winter, like winter in Vale.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Or Ontario, or somewhere, and bring the sheep through. All they had was pack strings, and didn't have to have any base property. And then later on when they had to have base property he bought a place at Harper.

CONLY: Yeah, that's right, yeah. Okay, right.

BILL: Then about that time in the '30's, like the Gibbons and O'Toole's and all those, they --- the depression broke them, and they never did have any base property.

CONLY: Well now Johnny Robertson he was working with some other fellow.

BILL: Roddy McArthur.

CONLY: With sheep.

BILL: Rodney McArthur.

CONLY: Okay. He was herding for him or something. Uh huh. And that was back in the '30's or ---

BILL: Yeah, probably --- well it might have been back further than that; it might have been in the '20's. I'd say back in the '20's, because they put the Beulah Dam in, in what, '32, or '33?

CONLY: Well even a little earlier, I don't remember.

BILL: Yeah, it was the early '30's. And Johnny was, would have had a store there before

the dam went in, or when the dam was going in, I don't know which.

CONLY: Well I know he was running it during the time of the dam, he told me that, but I didn't know whether he had had it prior to or not.

BILL: I can remember he had a brand new saddle when I was a little kid over there. I just tried every way in the world if I could buy that saddle. Oh, it was a fancy saddle!

CONLY: A, really a dandy, huh?

BILL: Oh yeah. As far as I know, I don't know whether he ever sold it, I don't know.

CONLY: Yeah. Well I doubt it, probably kept it forever.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Well ---

... (Pause in tape) Date: February 24, 1994

CONLY: ... this valley, about the history of Otis Valley. But we're down here at Ontario right now. He's not --- we'll take some pictures later on of Otis Valley itself. So now Bill, when did your folks, where did they come from, when did they come in to Otis Valley? What years, and where did they come from?

BILL: They came from Dayville in, I think it was 1883, before the Indian, before it was declared open, the Indian Reservation. Or before the Indians were on the reservation.

CONLY: Yeah, okay.

BILL: And then they moved their family over in about '85, I think it was, or '86.

CONLY: What did they do, Bill, did they come over and stay for a year or two prior ---

BILL: Yeah they, that Chalk Mountain divides the ranch out there, they just dug a cave back in that chalk.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Where they wintered when they first came.

CONLY: What was that spring above your house, was it named at that time? Was there

a spring named to that house, or to that spring above your house there?

BILL: Yes, that's Jackson Creek.

CONLY: And then the creek ---

BILL: Below the house was Middle Creek.

CONLY: It's Middle Creek, uh huh. And then there is Cottonwood.

BILL: No, and then there is Otis Creek.

CONLY: Otis Creek, okay.

BILL: And then Cottonwood.

CONLY: And then Cottonwood. And well what about the creek that comes in from, by your corrals?

BILL: That's Otis Creek.

CONLY: That is Otis Creek.

BILL: Yes. And the creek below the house that comes through that upper field is Middle Creek, but they're known as Candy Kid, or Birch Creek. But on the map it's Birch Creek, but everybody calls it Candy Kid.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And that heads at Antelope Swales.

CONLY: Now when your folks, do you know when your folks come over, how they come to Otis Valley? Did they come straight over the mountain past Antelope and back in through there? Or did they have to swing around through Canyon City or someplace like that?

BILL: They came through Canyon. We looked up some old records over there on the Robertson's. Joseph Robertson and his wife and a baby, and the baby's name was Rex Robertson. They are buried right over in Canyon City.

CONLY: Oh is that right?

BILL: I went over and looked the graves up, and they're right on the edge of a --- the cemetery is on, kind of on top of the mountain.

CONLY: Yeah, I know up there above the hospital.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Back up in towards the airport or someplace along in there.

BILL: Or the courthouse or somewhere --- go up one of them draws. And you can overlook the, overlook the town ---

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: --- from that area. And why they were taken back over there for burial I don't know.

CONLY: Oh, they passed away over in Otis Valley?

BILL: Yeah. And why they were taken over there, I don't --- whether they called that home, or what it was.

CONLY: Now did they come over, Bill, I kind of thought that them and Altnow's might have come about the same time, is that right?

BILL: About the same time, but they didn't come together.

CONLY: Oh didn't they?

BILL: About the same area, the same time though.

CONLY: Uh huh. And then you say in '85 your family moved over.

BILL: Yeah, the old man moved his family over.

CONLY: Uh huh. And then was, then he was out at the Agency then, or ---

BILL: In '85.

CONLY: In '85 went out of the Indian ---

BILL: '83 is when it was declared open.

CONLY: Oh '83, oh.

BILL: Yeah, was when they was supposed to open it up.

CONLY: Yeah, okay.

BILL: But they didn't have, they didn't have the Indians gathered up until, oh I think they figured about '85.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: The old log house up there, I think, was built in about '86, '87, somewhere --- '86 I think it was.

CONLY: The one that is out in front of your house up there?

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Okay. Now Bill, do you know who else was settled in that area, or did settle in that area at that time, and where they might have settled from your grandparents?

BILL: Since I can remember it was Masterson and Stallard, Chet Stallard --- or Chet Stallards dad, and I think his name was Len Stallard. And Chet Stallard had a boy named Lorenzo, or they called him Len, he was killed in the war.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: The Second World War.

CONLY: Whereabouts, do you know where they settled, what part of the valley from where you, where your place is at?

BILL: The very lower end.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: The place that Drex Williams has got at Otis Valley is, was a part of the Stallard place at one time. And the old man sold part of it off to Dean Goodman. And they kept the little place below what they call the Stallard place now, down the lower end of the valley.

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh. Okay now where was --- now that is split up and Glenn Sitz and -- or Glenn --- Jim Sitz's family has got the lower part of that?

BILL: Leased, leased it. Belongs to, it belongs to Chet Stallards nephew now.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And I think his name was Orin, I'm not real sure now, I think his name is Orin Stallard.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: In fact I think Orin Stallard died, and I think it belongs to his kids now. But it still belongs to Stallards.

CONLY: Stallard folks then. All right then whereabouts was the Masterson's, have?

BILL: The place where Rod ---

CONLY: That place where Rod, at the forks of the road that goes across the valley.

BILL: Across the valley to Beulah.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Uh huh. And they homesteaded that. Did Masterson's, or was these places bought from somebody?

BILL: They were bought. I've got some old records that belonged to Kingsbury, and I think Kingsbury married one of the original Robertson girls.

CONLY: Your granddad, or ---

BILL: My granddad's sisters.

CONLY: Sisters.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: My granddad Robertson's sister.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Married to a Kingsbury.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: I believe that's right now.

CONLY: Okay. All right then back up the canyon, what, knows where Glenn Sitz's or it was Stallards for a while. Who had that place?

BILL: That, what we would call the Fredrick's place, where Glenn and Sherri Harris live now was --- it originated since I can remember, an old German name Fredrick's bought it. Then he died, and then there was a fellow by the name of Highsmith who was a teacher ended up with it some way. And then Preston Farber bought it. And then Farber sold it to Chet Stallard, and then Chet Stallard sold it to Glenn Sitz.

CONLY: He sold it to, prior to that he sold it to Jim Gardner, I think, Bill, is this right, or did Jim just have it leased maybe?

BILL: Well I ---

CONLY: You don't know?

BILL: --- well I guess maybe it was a sale, but I always considered it a lease.

CONLY: Yeah, all right. Well I was just trying to get the names in sequence there.

BILL: That's right.

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh.

BILL: I think it was considered --- to show on paper it was considered a sale.

CONLY: Yeah, one of them paper deals.

BILL: And then after Jim Gardner was there, then Glenn Sitz bought it. Then Glenn Sitz was burned up in the house, and it was left to Sherri, his granddaughter Sherri Sitz and Glenn Harris.

CONLY: Okay, all right.

BILL: Her husband.

CONLY: We'll come back to them. I want to talk some more, but then let's go then east

of your place, back up, what I call Cottonwood, whatever you, you know back up there. Was there anybody back up in there a ways?

BILL: Yeah, there was the Beedes took up some land. Well that piece of land that lays between our ranch and the Altnow Ranch.

CONLY: The Beede ---

BILL: It's called Beede desert, it was taken up as a homestead.

CONLY: Okay. Well in that, then in that lane up there where there was a house or a cellar or something, was that Beedes?

BILL: That was originally --- I think, I think Ed Stallard built that house, but I'm not real certain of that, because they called it the Ed Stallard place.

CONLY: Oh, uh huh.

BILL: Up where the lane goes through.

CONLY: Uh huh. Now did the Beedes live there on the desert, or on that, we call it a desert, it's a sagebrush flat.

BILL: I never, I don't know whether they ever did or not.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: I really don't. I've never heard them --- Then I was trying to think, Ruth run it --- you go ahead Conly, ask me where you want to.

CONLY: No, no, just keep a going. Just start, you know ---

BILL: Well that's all I know about it. Then probably around in the 1900's, early 1900's, there was a fellow by the name of Miller, Ben bought that property. They bought it for the mineral, for the chalk that they are taking out of there right now. And they've owned it ever since.

CONLY: They own it now?

BILL: There today, yeah.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: They still own it today.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And then --- I'll go up west of the ranch, like on the road or the lane that goes above Prairie City road. And the place just as you go through the second cattle guard into the lane was what they called the south field, and that was Ruth Riley's folks, and Gladys William's folks. And that was called the south --- And they lived out, they were, when they were kids they lived out there, they were neighbors to my grandfolks.

And then that property that laid above that was what they called the Upton fields. And there was a Norm Upton and a, I can't think what his brother's name was, but he had a brother. And then there were some more Upton's that lived at the end of the lane on the Prairie City road, just before you go out of the lane. There used to be a cabin up there, and her name was --- I heard my granddad talk about Juanita, Juanita Upton. There used to be a steep hill that you leave the valley floor to go up the lane, a steep hill they called Juanita hill, where everybody got stuck.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And I don't know of any more --- now you take what you call the, we were referring back to the Friedrichs place where Glenn Sitz owned, and above it was what they called the Howell field. And evidently Howell had homesteaded it. Now I don't know this ---

CONLY: Is that the field, isn't there a windmill or something back up in there someplace towards Candy Kid or the upper end?

BILL: Well that was the Upton field.

CONLY: That was the Upton field.

BILL: That was the Upton field.

CONLY: The Howell field then was between there and the Friedrichs place over the

creek.

BILL: And Masterson owned it, when he had that place where Rod Robertson lives.

CONLY: Uh huh, okay.

BILL: And they had an old well-drilled back then, they was going to drill wells and irrigate that flat out there, and it never did pan out.

CONLY: Now Bill on the Upton, is this by any chance the same Upton's, or some of the same Upton's that was down, that the Upton Mountain is named after, and there is a cabin down on the river?

BILL: Upton cabin, I've heard of it.

CONLY: Below ---

BILL: I don't know whether that was the same family or not.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: I don't know.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: Drex Williams would know.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Would know about that.

CONLY: Yeah, but I, you know, wondered about that. Okay, does that, that pretty well got everybody up in that corner of the area. Let's go then over towards the lake, or Altnow's over in past the Beede desert. Was, then the next one, next to the Beede desert, was that Altnow's, or was there somebody else in that area there too?

BILL: No, that was all, that was always Altnow at the lake and that mountain east, or southeast of the Altnow Ranch. That had always been Altnow ever since I can remember.

CONLY: Uh huh. That's where the lake is at, or where they built the dam and stopped

the spring.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: That's where the trees and the houses sets. And the Altnow's settled in there approximately the same time your granddad did.

BILL: There in the late '80's.

CONLY: Yeah. Okay, now we went right around the middle of the valley where Edmunson's was at. Who and what was that area there?

BILL: Ever since I can remember that was the PLS Company land. And when they took it up, I don't know. But I don't know of, who

--- George Hatt bought it from the PLS Company.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And that's long, as far back as I know. I don't know whether it was homesteaded or --- I never heard of any names, who-ever owned that. And then Edmunson, or George Hatt bought it from PLS Company, and then he sold it to Everett and Anna Grace Edmunson. And Anna Grace was George Hatt's daughter. Then there was, and then George Hatt had a boy named, was Harvey Hatt. And it is still owned by Edmunson's today.

CONLY: Yeah, okay. Then we got to Drex, was the Stallard place.

BILL: ... Stallard owned it.

CONLY: Well let's back up and go up what I know as Mill Gulch, back east of Altnow's and back up the canyon. What was up in that area? There --- back up in the flat there, is my understanding towards Otis there was a station up there, freight station, or stage coach station or something. Was there people back in that area much, or was that just a -- at Tub Springs, I think it was Tub Springs.

BILL: Tub Springs, yeah. You know, god I --- I can't remember those people's names. I

don't remember anything about them, they was gone before I --- I can't think what they called that flat now, do you?

CONLY: No. No I don't. I just know it as Tub Springs.

BILL: Tub Springs, yeah, I know that.

CONLY: When you go up there, there is the flat, and then there was Tub Springs.

BILL: Those two brothers that homesteaded that.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: But that wasn't on Mill Gulch, that was ---

CONLY: No, that was on ---

BILL: The foot of the Agency, going to Beulah.

CONLY: Uh huh, west. It was a freight road or something.

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BILL: You know I just lost it again on that, but I know that name. And the county line goes right through there, between Malheur and Harney County.

CONLY: Do you know where the county line is at right there? I know where it's at on the highway, but is it right in on the other side of the Tub, or right there?

BILL: Right next to Tub Springs.

CONLY: Right next to Tub Springs, and it heads off north.

BILL: In fact I'm not real sure that Tub Springs isn't in Malheur County. I don't know that for sure, but I think it's in Malheur County.

CONLY: Well you know that chalk, where they're mining that chalk up Mill Gulch, a big majority of that mining, they tell me, is in Malheur County. Because it might have been, it might be possible that it might be up there.

BILL: Then up above where they're mining, what they call the Kelley Field, there was an

old fellow by the name of George Kelley homesteaded that.

CONLY: Is there any chance that that Kelley there was any relation to Ruby Kelley who was Orin Currey's ---

BILL: Dad. No I --- not to my knowledge.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: I don't think they were, but I'm not sure of that. Then old George Kelley moved into Drewsey, and he --- I can remember that when I was a kid. He had that little place where Freeman's own now, just across the river bridge there. He lived there for years. He had a team of horses, and he put up enough hay there for his horses. He lived there for a good many years.

CONLY: Uh huh. What was he kind of a team, a contractor, or just on his own raising a little hay and a little stuff like that?

BILL: Well rumor has it that he made pretty good moonshine.

CONLY: Yeah I've heard up there, that there was some moonshine ...

BILL: Involved in it.

CONLY: Well we knew up the river that there was moonshiners.

BILL: Everybody moonshines on those homesteads.

CONLY: Yeah, they --- Now I'm going to go back, I guess, I'll go back then to Altnow's. There was some springs there, and they built that dam, or somebody built that dam.

BILL: Levee, yeah. It wasn't a dam, it was a diversion.

CONLY: Diversion, to divert the water out onto the higher ---

BILL: Higher ground.

CONLY: Well, okay. Who built that, Bill, do you know?

BILL: Yeah, it was the old, the old man Altnow, Albert Altnow's dad.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Built that. And I don't know the, I don't know the years. But I would say it was early, real early 1900's, or maybe back in the late 1800's, I don't know for sure on that, when that was built. It was built with a fresno, and they worked on it for years, they told me.

CONLY: Yeah, horse fresno.

BILL: Just a horse fresno. The old horse would go back and forth on his own.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Somebody up there would load him, then he'd go back. Some-body ... to dump him, and he'd go back. But they spent years a building that.

CONLY: Yeah. Okay, then on, I guess then, I'm jumping back to what do you call it Friedrichsen place?

BILL: Friedrich's place.

CONLY: Friedrich's place. There is a dam up the canyon, up there. Who built that dam, and do you know when it was built?

BILL: Well that was built in later years, that's built in, oh probably the, somewhere in the '50's, 1950's sometime. Chet Stallard built it.

CONLY: Oh, uh huh. Okay. Now Bill, when your folks and the rest of them come and settled, they were allowed to settle a 140, or something like that, how much of the valley did they settle and buy up, or own or anything? Do you have any idea, way back when, you know, or pretty near or something like that?

BILL: Yeah the, I have some old deeds here where the old man took up some. And then there was --- my granddad's was William A. Robertson, and then there was a John, a brother to my granddad, John Robertson. And they were four, they had four sisters, and I think each one of them took up 160 acres. And that's what is known now as Cottonwood, the swamp field. And then where the house is now, there is my granddad's homestead where the headquarters are now.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: But, and then my granddad bought out his brother and his sisters.

CONLY: But they --- there wasn't any land script or anything like that, like they did over on the lake and stuff. And I don't understand what script was, but I've read about it a time or two. They pretty well just settled homesteads, as opposed to buying them from somebody else, or something like that. They owned ---

BILL: Yeah, it was just the original homesteads, they just had to --- well I think to qualify they had to build a cabin, and clear so much land, which my granddad done that. And it hasn't been too many years ago they tore the old original cabin down there, the old homestead cabin.

CONLY: The one that was over across the creek?

BILL: No, no the one, no huh uh.

CONLY: The ---

BILL: The one that was right ---

CONLY: The log house.

BILL: Well setting right where that trailer house is.

CONLY: Oh, that's right, excuse me.

BILL: It's setting down there.

CONLY: Yeah, that's right, it was there, yeah. Behind your, the new house.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: North of your new house back --- yeah.

BILL: That house there was built in 1900, the old house. But then back where the cellar, what we call the cellar or storage building back there, there was an old, just a typical 10 x 12 homestead cabin that had been tore down a good many years, but I can remember when it was out there.

CONLY: Okay, was your log house built prior to, or after, or during ---

BILL: Well that was built many years before.

CONLY: Before.

BILL: Yeah, that was the original, the first house that was built there.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: The log house.

CONLY: And then these others were built after.

BILL: Was afterwards, yeah.

CONLY: Well Bill, I know way back when, I know that you had, well I think you did, had this spring and stuff piped into your house. Did they always have running water when they homesteaded and stuff like that, or did they pack their water?

BILL: That was a well.

CONLY: Oh, that was a well.

BILL: Yeah, artisan well.

CONLY: Oh, I thought it was a spring.

BILL: No, that was, that was a drilled well. And they drilled it with steam engines, steam powered well drills back then.

CONLY: Oh, I'll be darned.

BILL: And they hauled the coal from Juntura.

CONLY: Is that right? Here all this time I always, all these 40, 50 years I thought you had a spring.

BILL: We had a spring. No, no, no. That well was drilled, I don't know what, I think 'round about --- I never knew the depth of it, about 350, 400 feet I think is what it was.

CONLY: Oh is that right? What, a 4 inch, 2 inch, 6 inch?

BILL: 6-inch casing.

CONLY: Well I'll be damned. I didn't know --- Where did your lumber and nails and stuff to build them houses, where did, who brought them in, how did they get that stuff down in there?

BILL: How they, well the log house, I just assumed they just went up in the forest and cut that. But the lumber that was, that they used to build the house in 1900 came from the Ott Mill that lays just about 12 miles north of the ranch.

CONLY: What we, what I call it the Ott cow camp.

BILL: Ott cow camp, yeah.

CONLY: You know, that that I don't know where it's at. Bill is that, it's on the other side of Antelope Mountain, is that right, or on this side of, where the mill was at?

BILL: It's on the east side of Antelope Mountain.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: There used to be, back a long time ago, that mill was at the foot of Ott Mountain. And the big mountain, what they call Swales Mountain now, which overlooks the swales, was called Antelope. And when the forest renamed all that stuff, they messed it up somewhere.

CONLY: Yeah, because it wasn't long ago that somebody told me that Antelope was the one past your cow camp.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Right there at your cow camp.

BILL: Right at the cow camp.

CONLY: Right at the line, the forest line.

BILL: Yeah, it was, that was Antelope Mountain. And the other one was --- well no, that's right, Conly. Antelope, in fact they call that Antelope Spring where the Ott cow, or where the Ott Mill was. And now I think they've changed it to ---

CONLY: What are you talking about, Alder Springs?

BILL: No. You know where the cinder block cabin, now the Ott cow camp there.

CONLY: Yeah, right this side of the ---

BILL: That was called Antelope.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: That was called Antelope Springs.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Then ---

CONLY: Well then, I'm a little --- was there a mill at Alder Springs, which is as I know Antelope Mountain is clear over on the north end, was there a mill up in there?

BILL: At one time there was a mill there, and that was owned by Ott.

CONLY: Oh.

BILL: Then it burned up, and they moved down to what we call Antelope Cow Camp. But ---

CONLY: They didn't --- okay, I'm --- Alder Springs, and then you had a cabin that was at the mouth of the creek that went towards Cottonwood, there is a meadow east of Alder Springs, or am I on the wrong place?

BILL: Well that, no, what I'm --- the one I'm talking about is just outside of the forest, where the national forest boundary is.

CONLY: Okay, all right, okay.

BILL: And there is a cinder block cabin and a spring there.

CONLY: Yeah, that's Antelope.

BILL: And that was Ott, that was also Ott Mill.

CONLY: Ott, yeah, okay.

BILL: And then the other one you're talking about, Alder Creek that was also an Ott Mill at

one time.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And they both burned up.

CONLY: Oh did they? Okay. But that, there was nobody homesteading or anything up in there particularly, or was those homesteads.

BILL: No, not to my ---

CONLY: What about the swales, I'll jump you over just a little bit west of ---

BILL: Well there was homesteads, yeah there was homesteads over in that area. As far back as I know the swales at south belonged to the PLS Company. The PLS Company would always --- Then Horton had a homestead, oh I guess it would be south, south of Antelope Swales.

CONLY: Headed towards Candy Kid.

BILL: Heading toward Candy Kid, yeah.

CONLY: Where those troughs and stuff along that road up there, there is some metal troughs or something, or old metal troughs or something. Kind of a little meadow there.

BILL: Be the head of Otis Creek.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: Now that wasn't Horton there. Horton was on down toward ---

CONLY: Blue Bucket?

BILL: Yeah, Basco Spring and that country, was a Horton homesteads, they were Horton homesteads. And I, up there where you're talking, where, at the head of Otis, I always called it the Mary Allen homestead. But I had talked to Mr. and Mrs. Allen; she never had any knowledge of that.

CONLY: Oh the Allen's that were at Juntura?

BILL: Juntura, yeah. She didn't have any knowledge of that, of Mary Allen ever taking a

homestead. But they always called it, ever since I can remember it was the Mary Allen homestead.

CONLY: Huh.

BILL: And I don't know what happened there. And that was the head of Otis Mountain, right on the head of Otis Mountain.

CONLY: Yeah. Okay then I'll bring you back, keep a coming towards Candy Kid, I call it Candy Kid.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Call it what you want to.

BILL: Birch Creek.

CONLY: Where you --- you got a field up there.

BILL: 160 acres on Candy Kid. And there was an old fellow, they called him the Candy Kid, and his name was Anson Parson, but they called him the Candy Kid. He'd get drunk and give all the kids candy, is how he got his name. But he homesteaded that 160 in there.

CONLY: Well am I confused a little bit, haven't you got a Swede field or something?

BILL: Well that's over on what they call Middle Creek.

CONLY: All right, now take me to that one from where we're at.

BILL: From the swales, head of the swales?

CONLY: Yeah, to the Swede field.

BILL: Okay that would be due east.

CONLY: Okay.

BILL: And it's just about, well I was going to say about half way between the swales and Otis Valley. It would be a little closer to Antelope Swales than it would be Otis Valley.

CONLY: I'm going to turn you around now and head you back for Antelope, or the

Swales. There is a place up there known as the dipping vats. Why was it so named, and for what reason, and who had it, and why was that?

BILL: Well the PLS Company had the, got these skates, and they put in a vat there to dip cattle, is how that got its name.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And the dipping vat was a school section, what they called the school section. And what I --- 16, Section 16 and 36 were allotted to the schools, the revenue off of them, or the land. And this here was a Section 36, and the ranchers bought, ended up buying that for, well for the water is what they bought it for. And it used, the old saying was if you controlled the water, you controlled the land, and controlled the grazing. And I think half of that was, there was a fifth interest in that, there was Williams --- Williams, Stallard, Jones, Robertson and Masterson, bought those undivided --- owned the 320 acres, undivided fifth interest in those just to control the water.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And then the other half of that was, I don't know whether it was sold for county, I think just county taxes, sold for taxes, land, I think.

CONLY: Did the PLS Company take 40's and stuff in that area, springs and stuff up in, through that area?

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: I know they did down on Steens Mountains, and Trout Creek and through there. But I didn't know whether they was able to in the forest or not.

BILL: Well I don't think they owned any up there, but out in the Agency, between Beulah and Drewsey they took up 40's in there.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Fred Walters he bought, he bought those Agencies at one time, and out around Mill

Gulch and that country. Those 40's belonged to the PLS Company at one time. They had good control of the water.

CONLY: Yeah. Well I know they did down in that country.

BILL: Oh yeah.

CONLY: But I didn't know for sure how far they went up into the forest or anything like that.

BILL: I don't, they owned the swales, but to my knowledge they never did get over any further than that, that I know of.

CONLY: Uh huh. Now I'm going to jump you back over against Otis Mountain and down the canyon. It seems like to me that there was a cabin or something down there in that, there were some springs above Stallard's dam, back up the canyon, back up in there. Was there somebody in there, or am I, was that my imagination?

BILL: No, there was a lot of homesteads in there. That was, that place, just above the dam that Stallards built was a Newell homestead. I can't think what his ---

CONLY: Was he related to Tuffy Newell?

BILL: Yeah, he was an uncle.

CONLY: An uncle.

BILL: Tuffy Newell's uncle.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Tom Howard would know what his --- And then there was what they called the Dribby (sp.?) homestead. And I'll be damned; I can't recall what their name was right now. But Tom Howard would know all ---

CONLY: Okay. See I never brought Tom over into Otis ---

BILL: Into the Otis part of it.

CONLY: I kept, you know, I stayed on that side until we got things, but go on in that.

BILL: And then as you go up Otis Creek there was a Howell's homestead, Lige Ward homestead.

CONLY: I know where Lige's is.

BILL: You know where Lige's homestead is.

CONLY: Yeah, where it breaks out almost to flats up there.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Yeah I know, knew where that was at. But there was a homestead or two below that.

BILL: Yeah, there was a Spencer.

CONLY: Spencer field.

BILL: Spencer field. And I'm, I think the Spencer field belongs to Edmunson.

CONLY: I thought --- well you might be right. Tom Howard's got a section of the ground above ---

BILL: Well let's see now ---

CONLY: --- up there on the side of that hill.

BILL: Well what homestead is it that Dick owns up ---

CONLY: I was going to ask you that. The one that, right straight across ---

BILL: Worlow.

CONLY: Worlow, Worley?

BILL: Worlow, I think.

CONLY: Worlow field.

BILL: Worlow I think it was. Spencer was the next one up there.

CONLY: Yeah, almost, kind of east, or not east, west of ---

BILL: Be west of the Stallard place.

CONLY: Yeah, on the, kind of on the side of the face of the hill there. And then the

Worlow field was south of that peak there.

BILL: Yeah, there was a Worlow, Spencer, and Worlow and Newell. And I can't think who Gertie, this Gertie something, but I can't think, they called it the Gertie homestead.

CONLY: Okay. All right then we're around on that side of the hill and coming around above your place, above where Rod lives. Was there anybody up there towards them springs, or anything back up on the side of that hill at all, where the old road used to come over?

BILL: Yeah, there used to be a big two-story house up there that Al Weatherley built.

CONLY: That's the name of that hill, Weatherley Hill.

BILL: Weatherley Hill, yeah.

CONLY: Whereabouts was it at, Bill, right in that flat there?

BILL: It set just, where the old road used to go through, there was a big two-story house that Weatherley ---

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And Al Weatherley married my granddad's sister, Elaine Weatherley. And that house was torn down and the lumber was used to build a house out at Otis that Friedrichs, on the Friedrichs place. Highsmith, a fellow by the name of Highsmith tore that down and built that.

CONLY: Now is that the house that Glenn burned up in?

BILL: Burned up in, yes.

CONLY: Yes. And that Weatherley house went to build that house, or part of it.

BILL: Build part of that house.

CONLY: Part of that house.

BILL: Part of that house was recently a log house too.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And then they built on to it, and that's the lumber they used to ---

CONLY: Uh huh, okay. Then was there anything then there, from there to Drewsey, anybody in that area, let's say until you hit the valley there in Drewsey? Anybody else in there?

BILL: Well there was a --- well Riley, I think George Riley owned some property in there. It joins you, but I can't think of what

CONLY: Up, up the creek?

BILL: It's where Sand Creek, up Sand Creek.

CONLY: Up Sand Creek.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Oh they did?

BILL: There used to be a reservoir beside it.

CONLY: Yeah. I know about, pretty well at the upper end.

BILL: Yeah, west, or northwest.

CONLY: Yeah, Sand Creek field.

BILL: Sand Creek field. And I think Williams or French owns that now, don't they?

CONLY: Yeah, yeah, I think Rotha ---

BILL: 160 acres.

CONLY: Yeah, yeah, I think Rotha and Arnold, Barbara Arnold, French, Rotha.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: Yeah, they've got that, that's fenced off.

BILL: And I think that was recently Riley, wasn't it?

CONLY: Could be, you know, it sure could be.

BILL: Yeah, I think it was Riley's.

CONLY: Okay then we'll jump from there back to below the Stallard place, or where the bridge used to cross at the upper end of Williams' field. Was there anybody right in above the bridge there? As I knew it that was all the Stallard place, the Ed Stallard place. Was there anybody lived right in there just above that bridge by any chance? Because there was a ditch or something, as I remember it, come around the point of the hill on the west side.

BILL: Yeah, I can't --- you know I can't think right now, Conly, who --- it just left me.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Now Drex Williams would know all about that.

CONLY: Okay, yeah.

BILL: I can't ---

CONLY: Well it's ---

BILL: It just left me right now.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Yeah, there was ---

CONLY: Drex and, you know, them, they should ---

BILL: In fact Williams own that property now. Lidle ---

CONLY: Oh, is that right?

BILL: Yeah, Lidles, people by the name of Lidles.

CONLY: The reason I wondered, because I knew there was, for some reason I knew there was kind of an old ditch or something.

BILL: Yeah, Lidles owned that piece of property in there.

CONLY: Then, so we pretty well went around that. Now Bill, I'm going to ask you some --
- did your granddad and the rest of them say what this country looked like when they come into it? Was there grass, sagebrush, did they ever mention what the hell it looked

like, if anything, as far as trees or sagebrush?

BILL: I can't remember my granddad saying anything about that part of it. I do know that they talked about in '90, I think it was 1992 or '94 or somewhere in there where they --- it was when they brought their cattle over. When they brought their cattle over, and they used to run like down the river, Malheur River and Agency, or I mean the Warm Spring Valley in there.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: They wintered their cattle out. And I think it was one of those years, I think they turned out, I heard them telling about they turned out, I think it was, it seemed like 600, 700, 800 head of cattle. And I think the next spring I think they gathered up about 75.

CONLY: Big winter kill.

BILL: Winter killed.

CONLY: Kind of a year like two years ago.

BILL: Two years ago.

CONLY: A lot of terrible snow, a long time, stuff like that.

BILL: Tough winter, and hard winter.

CONLY: I know over there on the lake I heard about them, the Company and stuff losing lots and lots of cattle along in that period. I don't know just exactly what period it was, but they winter killed and stuff.

BILL: They tried to winter them out, and that's --- I think it was the latter 1800's, 18--- seemed to me like 1896, somewhere in there.

CONLY: I don't know just exactly what --- somebody will tell me for sure. Bill, how do you remember the grass as then, as now, as during your period of ranching back up in there? What do you --- you used to be able to turn out and go south, and north, and east.

BILL: I can't recall any different. I can't see no different.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Right today, as it was back, Christ, 50 years ago.

CONLY: That's right, I can't either.

BILL: I can't see no difference.

CONLY: Some people --- I think one thing that is noticeable in this country is how much the junipers have grown, and the mahoganies and stuff like that. To me that seems like they have increased quite a bit, but maybe not in your area, I don't know.

BILL: Oh it's terrible the way the junipers have taken over.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Oh, in our area --- in fact those juniper exploded so fast that oh 20 years ago, well for like that Swede field that we were talking about a while ago.

CONLY: Yeah, up Candy Kid, back up in there.

BILL: Up in that country, it --- I wasn't in there for about, oh 8 or 10 years, and those junipers have taken over so much that I didn't even, I couldn't even find the spring.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: I hadn't been in there for a little while.

CONLY: Did you notice any drying of your spring or anything? Did it keep running pretty much the same, or did it change?

BILL: Oh ---

CONLY: Of course we have went through some droughts and stuff, so I don't know ---

BILL: Well went through that drought, but we had a lot of juniper cut up in that area.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: The watershed in those springs. And even in the drought year that water came back.

CONLY: Held out.

BILL: Held out.

CONLY: I noticed that too. Now I'm going to ask you, how do you remember the game, the deer, the elk, the birds back when?

BILL: Well I know back in '48 or '49, the year that Carol and I was married, her dad and them used to come up there and go hunting. And we never thought about taking anything that, at least a 4-point or older. Bob ... at Harper there came up with Carol's dad and went up Swede field and camped and hunted. And he got a forked horn, but I mean the base of that forked horn was that big, he was an old deer, a huge rack of horns.

CONLY: Yeah. Probably didn't have no teeth.

BILL: Probably, he was still a forked horn.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: We never shot anything that was; we never killed a deer that was less than a 4-point. And you go up there today and I bet you could hunt for a week and you're lucky if you got a forked horn.

CONLY: Did your granddad or any of them ever say anything about deer, whether they was able to get any deer or anything way back when? Or did they say there was a lot of them, or do you ---

BILL: Ever since I can --- I never heard them talk about --- My granddad never was much for hunting. But when I was a kid which was in, probably 55 years ago when I first started hunting there was, I can never remember hunting if there wasn't, you know, plenty of deer, and big deer.

CONLY: Yeah. The only thing I was talking to Tom Howard and he says his dad never did kill any deer, he wasn't a hunter.

BILL: Well my granddad wasn't either.

CONLY: Tom said he killed his first one about 1948, something like that, along in there.

BILL: Oh.

CONLY: Went up Mule Creek, and back up in there, there was some big deer. But he said he didn't know how the deer was, you know, prior to that time as --- He said they didn't come down in the meadows, he didn't think that they come down on the meadows until about in that time when he was irrigating and stuff like that.

BILL: Oh I think this deer deal is just a --- they were just naturally over hunted, that's all there was too it.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: The Game Commission just got to putting out, selling more tags than they had deer, is what it amounted to.

CONLY: What about the sagehens? Do you remember whether they --- you used to have, you know, there used to be some come in your upper field up there.

BILL: In 19---

CONLY: And stuff like that.

BILL: Yeah, 1942 the Game Commission came in there to track sagehens, they was going to relocate them. And right around the house, the home place there they estimated 1500 sagehens, right in those meadows.

CONLY: Right in the meadows there.

BILL: They built traps there, and I helped them. Helped herd those sagehen into those traps. And just right in that meadow below the house, and above the house, and in that -- - they estimated at least 1500.

CONLY: Is that right?

BILL: They trapped over 500 sagehen out of there that I know of.

CONLY: I'll be darned.

BILL: Yeah. And right after that the sagehen disappeared. And they come up with, that

they had gotten a worm or something in their spine and they died off. And there was very few sagehen around there for, oh quite a few years. Back about, oh three or four years ago they kind of got a comeback, quite a few sagehen out in that area. But the pheasants disappeared.

CONLY: Uh huh. The chuckers have too.

BILL: And '40, in 1942 there was --- in fact I've got pictures, we bought that old Masterson place down there where Rod lives, and I've got pictures where they run me up on a stacker head, or feed ... I was feeding down there. And it looked just like a chicken farm, there was all the pheasants on that feed ground out there, hundreds of them.

CONLY: That was what year, approximately?

BILL: It would have had to have been, oh probably '54 maybe, somewhere in the middle '50's. And then the pheasants, after that they disappeared. And I just can't, no idea what ---

CONLY: Yeah. Did you have ducks and geese come in on your meadows and stuff out there much, Bill?

BILL: Lots of ducks and geese there.

CONLY: Was there?

BILL: One --- back in, I think it was about --- well about the same time, about in the '50's, I had a little bunch of grain and I cut it for hay. Those ducks came in there in droves, thousands, and we --- I had everybody I could advertise or tell to come over and shoot ducks. And there were people from Bend and Burns and they would come in there and just shoot ducks all day long.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Coming into that grain stuff.

CONLY: When did they kind of disappear, or do you even, they just faded out.

BILL: They didn't fade out like the, they just went in years. One year, some years there would be a lot of ducks and geese, and maybe the next year there wouldn't be very many. But the ducks, the ducks and geese to my knowledge held pretty steady as far as --- they didn't come and go like the pheasant. But the pheasants never did come back. I'll bet there isn't 15 pheasants in that whole valley right now.

CONLY: There used to be a lot of them, because I don't see any around at all --- How has the forest changed as far as feeding, water, and stuff like that? Has it pretty well held, or has been a lot of sheep, do you have problems with sheep and stuff? Was that a problem?

BILL: Not really. I can't, as far as that forest I can't see where it's, I can't see where it's any different from what it was

CONLY: What you're seeing is really when Mother Nature puts the moisture down, the grass is going to grow.

BILL: You had grass, and when it was dry, you were short.

CONLY: When it's dry ...

BILL: But as far as this government, of the government taking over the grazing and whatnot, and all they're doing --- I can't see where they've made one iota difference, I really can't.

CONLY: Well Bill I'm going to make a statement here, I've never seen the government accomplish anything. Bird refuge is --- any-thing, tell you the honest truth.

BILL: Screw a lot of things up.

CONLY: That's me, so what the hell difference does it make, you know. But I can't see where they've accomplished nothing on any of it, but that's me.

BILL: But I can't see any difference in these creek bottoms. They talk about the riparian

areas, where they got to protect it. Cows eat that feed first, they're not stupid, they're not going to leave feed on a creek bottom and go up on a hill when there is feed right there, feed and water.

CONLY: Feed and shade and water.

BILL: And they haven't, as far as I'm concerned they haven't, they haven't changed it one bit.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Just made it more complicated and complex in your grazing deal.

CONLY: Okay, there is something else now that brought that on. Tom Howard told me that back a number of years ago that Mule Creek had, used to have some fish in it. That they used to go up there, and Harvey Cronin told me the same thing, they went up there and they'd catch a little small mess of fish, up in Mule Creek. Now the fish are gone, there is no fish there at all. What about any of the creeks in Otis Valley that has caught ... any of them. Was there any fish down below in any of that stuff?

BILL: Oh I've caught a lot of fish up Otis Creek.

CONLY: Have you?

BILL: Oh yeah, what they call, well above the dam that Chet Stallard built on Otis Creek.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: And up above the, what they call the Pink Newell homestead. Hell I've caught a lot of fish in there. And I think you probably still could today.

CONLY: Uh huh. Still should, could be some little frying pan size fish and stuff.

BILL: Oh god, some of those weren't frying pan.

CONLY: Oh were they big rascals?

BILL: Some of those, I mean you're talking ---

CONLY: Good fish.

BILL: --- 15, 20 inches long. Hell I've caught fish out of there, like the spring of the year when they'd be up there spawning. I shouldn't be telling this, I mean I never --- you couldn't catch them, but I shot them with a .22 in there, and good ones.

CONLY: (Laughter) Yeah, I know what that's like too.

BILL: But that was in Tom Howard's, that would be on Tom Howard's private ground.

CONLY: Yeah, back up in there, that area.

BILL: Back in that area, yeah.

CONLY: Okay then, any other creek there, Cottonwood, did it have fish way down ---

BILL: Oh yeah, we've caught a lot of fish on Cottonwood.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And that creek would be, would dry up every year. I guess just from those springs and --- you could ride up Cottonwood and --- well in the spring of the year my dad and I used to go up and, but I think those fish might have come out of the river.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: In the spring when it flooded.

CONLY: Yeah, when the high water coming up.

BILL: High water. And we used to go up in that canyon above where the Cottonwood dam is now, what they call the Palmer field, in that area, in that canyon. And we used to catch some of those big, they were red-meated, they weren't those little, they weren't the little brook trout.

CONLY: Brook trout.

BILL: They were those ---

CONLY: More like salmon.

BILL: More like salmon, red-meated fish, yeah. And they would be up, we caught them

up to, oh 20, 24 inches.

CONLY: Good. Okay we, then we kind of by-passed the Palmer field. What we got right in there now that we're talking about it, how many homesteads was in there, or who was there?

BILL: That whole country up there was solid homesteads, no --- well the Palmer place, then the Jack Joyce homestead. Well that whole country was homesteaded by the Irish, mostly Irish.

CONLY: Were they sheep men?

BILL: Sheep men, yeah.

CONLY: They were mainly sheep men there?

BILL: Yeah. Yeah, there was Gibbons homestead --- this wasn't on Cottonwood, but I mean it was up in that ---

CONLY: Yeah, in that area.

BILL: In that area there. Gibbons and Stanton, Tom Joyce, Martin Joyce, Harry Dave, John O'Toole, and there were some more that I've forgot. I think I mentioned Gibbons.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: But that whole country was homesteaded.

CONLY: Did Phil Coin have anything up in there?

BILL: Not to my knowledge.

CONLY: Uh huh. I know he was down the river when I was over at Beulah.

BILL: Yeah. No he didn't have, not to my knowledge he didn't have any.

CONLY: That's, you know ---

BILL: There was another homestead, but I can't think of --- they called it, he might have been Joyce, they called him John F. Always called it the John F. homestead. And I don't know whether it was Joyce or, whether it was Joyce or Stanton or what he was. I think it

was Joyce though, John F. Joyce, I think.

CONLY: What did they just, taken up the water, small place ---

BILL: Those were sections.

CONLY: Oh were they?

BILL: They were 640's.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: They just took up a full section.

CONLY: Uh huh. Instead of the 160's or 140's.

BILL: Yeah the government changed that. For a while I think it was 160's, and I don't know which way they went on that. Conly, I don't know whether they reduced from 640's to 160's, or 320's, or whether they started out with 160's and went up to 640's, I don't know which way they went on that. But everybody took up a homestead.

CONLY: Now let's go back down to, let's say during our time, on your ranch you put up a lot of hay. You also combined seed grass. When did you do that, when did that start, when --- red ... foxtail, I don't know what you called it for sure.

BILL: German Timothy, meadow foxtail or ---

CONLY: German Timothy, uh huh. Was that planted there, did some-body bring that in?

BILL: Old, yeah old Friedrichs, the old German that was, that's on the, that owned the place where Glenn and Sherri Harris live now, had that seed, a little bit, shipped in here from Germany, is how that got started.

CONLY: I'll be damned.

BILL: And it started on that place up there, the Friedrichs place, and it just came down the creek. And back in the '40's or --- yeah, well let's see, wait a minute, it would be, well it would be before that, probably the late '30's or early '40's. Those sheep men used to come in there and rent pasture from Farber, from the Friedrichs place there. And then

they used that pasture up and then they'd move over to, I think they bought some pasture from George Riley. And those sheep packed that seed over there and got it started on George Riley's place.

CONLY: And then did it just, water and everything just drift on down through the rest of Otis Valley?

BILL: Yeah, full length of Otis Valley.

CONLY: I'll be darned.

BILL: Yeah, that stuff just exploded when it got started.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And that had to have been started probably in, I would say around 1910 maybe, somewhere maybe in that area. Maybe --- I would say between --- I can remember my dad talking about this old Friedrichs, and he was born in 1900, so I'd say it would be between ---

CONLY: Or 18---

BILL: --- 1910, 1918, somewhere in that area.

CONLY: I'll be darned. And he come from Germany?

BILL: Come from Germany. That old German sent and got a ---

CONLY: What is the true name of it then, I know I've called it everything in the world.

BILL: We called it German Timothy.

CONLY: German Timothy.

BILL: But ---

CONLY: Well when they sold it they sold it in meadow ---

BILL: Meadow foxtail, yeah.

CONLY: And I thought that was --- because I was raised where there was foxtail.

BILL: Anytime they mentioned foxtail I backed right off.

CONLY: That sounded like, uh oh, beards here we come. I'll be darned, I didn't know that. How long did you thresh seed and stuff, how many ---

BILL: We, well let's see, I threshed seed there for, I'd say about 1946, I'd say when I probably started. And then it kind of died down, and then in the '50's, it was about 1950 we started threshing it again, then it kind of --- market, or the seed market kind of went haywire and we just finally quit.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: There was, oh a seed outfit from Forest Grove came in there, and they would give you, when they first started out they would give you 40 cents a pound for it, and they done everything. They took care of the combining, and the drying, and the sacking, and they handled it all. Then after they got started, or got established and got it scattered around and got to raising it down in that country, down around Forest Grove, they'd still buy it from you for 40 cents, but you had to do all the combining, and all the work.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And I remember one year I combined a bunch of it and they didn't want to, they didn't want to buy it. But they were the only ones I could get anybody --- they would clean it, they'd clean that seed. And so the next year I combined a bunch more, so I had two years of crop, and I couldn't get rid of it. So I ended up, I think, storage deal, and the cleaning bill and everything, finally I think I took 10 cents a pound just to get rid of it.

CONLY: Paid them to get rid of it.

BILL: And then they had the guts to come back the next year wanting to buy it from me for 10 cents a pound.

CONLY: (Laughter) Yeah, I want some more of that 10 cent, more of that cheap seed.

BILL: Well that was the last of the German Timothy. Did Tom Howard say what year he was out, out in Otis?

CONLY: No. See I never, he never come over here.

BILL: He never come over.

CONLY: I got to bring him over the hill. I told him I'd go back and --- and I knew that he had, and I didn't get in on that feed lot.

BILL: I couldn't remember whether he got in on that seed deal or not. But I don't ---

CONLY: Well I got, I come over to Drewsey, it must have been about the year that they quit. Because I worked for Everett and Harvey out there.

BILL: And that was in the --- now they didn't ---

CONLY: God don't ask me when I come over for Christ's sakes, because I don't remember that for sure.

BILL: Well Harvey and, Everett and Harvey, they started selling that quite awhile after this Forest Grove outfit.

CONLY: Oh did they?

BILL: Yeah, and they sold theirs to Northrup King, I think, in Boise.

CONLY: Could have been, I don't know.

BILL: I was trying to think of that, I didn't think I'd ever forget that seed outfit from Forest Grove. I can't think of it right now.

CONLY: Yeah, we'll get it ---

BILL: But they were in there for years. But they took care of everything there for a while.

CONLY: I remember mowing behind Harvey. He had that little gas Cat, and that old John Deere #5 mower ---

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: --- and you'd pull that lever by hand. And down there by that old house I guess is the old ... house, the one old George Hatt ---

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: I think in about 200 yards I picked that sickle bar up 22 times, and ... going to give out. (Laughter) Because they had matted that clover and stuff down and --- So I remember, you know, that's all I helped them do. Boy I turned on the canvas a little bit, I think, and stuff like that.

BILL: Yeah, but they got to sell that later, after this other outfit had --- in fact I don't think they sold any to this ---

CONLY: To the valley.

BILL: To the valley down there.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And then they seen there was a market for it and they made a deal with North King over here a couple years. It helped like the devil, I mean ... haying machinery. I got, I think one year I got pretty near, I think as much as \$6,000.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: And that was a lot of money then. You could buy a lot of machinery and stuff with it.

CONLY: You bet. ... Bill, how many, how much hay did you put up per acre for instance back, let's say before the dam, and then after the dam, and did it make any difference as far as the hay that you put up, the dam? I know it does for pasture.

BILL: Well ordinarily that ranch there would put up about 600 ton.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: Just, I mean between five and six hundred ton ever since I can remember. And after the dam was put in well that increased it about 200 tons.

CONLY: Did it?

BILL: As near as I can tell.

CONLY: Of course you probably ---

BILL: Of course I wouldn't cut ---

CONLY: Cut a little later and stuff like that.

BILL: That one --- about the time the dam was put in, you know, I was, oh leveled some land, and put in alfalfa.

CONLY: Yeah, that's right, back up in Cottonwood and back over in ---

BILL: Yeah, Cottonwood.

CONLY: Yeah, that's true, yeah.

BILL: And so I can't tell for sure. I mean we --- but that one-year we put up, had all that alfalfa and whatnot, we put up I think right at 1200 ton of hay.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh.

BILL: When it went back to the native hay --- I've got no real ---

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

...

BILL: --- accurate records on it or anything, but I'd say about 200 ton. But what, where the dam really paid off was fall pasture.

CONLY: You bet, you bet, kind of understand that. I remember when I come over there for a number of years; your valley would be ---

BILL: Just burned up.

CONLY: --- golden colored, yellow, you know, burnt up.

BILL: Yeah, was no pasture left.

CONLY: You know, for years. And then ever since that it has stayed a beautiful green valley out there.

BILL: Well that's where that paid off.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: They just give you a month of excellent feed or more, didn't have to come in.

CONLY: So you probably then, you probably put up about two and half, three tons to the acre then, something like that maybe, huh?

BILL: We always figured about two ton.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: Before we figured about a ton and a quarter. And it will, from two to two and a half ton, I think ...

CONLY: Well --- you know we figured, you know, three-quarters to a ton of hay for that, for the BLM's benefit and stuff like that. The most ground ...

Now Bill, I jump again, when you run cattle you went to the forest in June, you run south, or east or something on your ranch in the spring, and then went to the forest. When normally did you turn out in them days on your BLM, and then go to the forest? When did you ---

BILL: We turned out the first of April just as ---

CONLY: Just as regular as clockwork.

BILL: --- regular as clockwork, yeah, it didn't matter whether --- The first of April those cattle were out of the fields.

CONLY: Uh huh. Then what time did you go on the forest?

BILL: We'd start gathering cattle, lower country, down around Juntura, in that lower country, about the 20th of May we'd start gathering and to go on the forest by the 1st of June.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh.

BILL: And we done that for years and years, ever since I was a kid, ever since I can remember you started somewhere around the neighborhood of 20, 25th of May, putting cattle on the forest.

CONLY: A lot of them old cows are already standing looking over the line, weren't they?

BILL: They were up there ready to go ahead, go on, yeah, you bet.

CONLY: They were tired of that old dry country down there, they was ready to go to the shade and the green feed.

BILL: Now it has changed, the cattle on the forest --- the first little snowstorm they want to come home. You got to gathering those cattle early, you know, they made you gather them early.

CONLY: Yeah, you bet.

BILL: And that's the first thing, the first little storm, or get a little dry well they thought about coming home.

CONLY: Well it used to be you, they'd start trailing in on you from high ground and stuff, you know, August, September, October, something like that. Then you go up there in November, down south, and start gathering the tail-enders. Was that kind of the way the forest was, or did they stay, or did they have to get out of there pretty early?

BILL: Well they, a long time you could stay up there. Yeah, it worked about the same. Mother nature kind of ---

CONLY: You bet.

BILL: --- kind of put them out of there. But then when they got to making us gather them early by the last of September, and then it started getting a little dry up there and those old, after they put the dam in, and had all that green, nice green pasture down home, those old cows just kept getting maybe a week, two weeks earlier all the time, wanting to come home.

CONLY: Uh huh.

BILL: But no, that ---

CONLY: Well you know, Bill, I remember back when we was running south of the

highway and stuff like that, people told us that that Bill Robertson weighed some of the biggest, heaviest calves off of that forest and stuff like that. Did you always, did your calves usually run quite a lot bigger from going to the forest, as opposed to staying on that lower ground? See we had calves off that lower country, about 375, you know ---

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: --- that was normal, I mean they was ---

BILL: Well it just made sense, Conly, that --- well you know that lower country after the middle of August; there is nothing to gain off.

CONLY: Yeah.

BILL: And the feed just dried up.

CONLY: Fight flies and starve to death, really, in a sense.

BILL: But that forest up there would be, well you feed them green grass, or green feed pretty near clear through, up until say the middle of September.

CONLY: Yeah, then it starts drying up.

BILL: Yeah, it started drying up then.

CONLY: Freezing out, drying out.

BILL: But you take July and August, and the middle of September, you was on green feed pretty near all the time, normally.

CONLY: Yeah. Uh huh.

BILL: But no, that's just --- I, well it just ---

CONLY: It made money, or I mean helped, you know, pay the bills.

BILL: Well to me it was just a natural setup. You went down east or south early, when the grass was coming, and starting. And then that country would start --- well you still had good feed down there the first of June. But then you just started moving with elevation. I mean you just, from low country to high country, it was just natural.

CONLY: And that was ---

BILL: But the BLM is going to screw that up. (Laughter)

CONLY: Oh now --- you got more faith than that.

BILL: Not really.

CONLY: There is something that I have by-passed now. There was a schoolhouse out there next to your place, someplace, I think right in the middle of your corrals.

BILL: That's where the corrals are out there.

CONLY: How long was this schoolhouse there, and how many kids? Do you remember any of the teachers? Did you go to school there, or did you not go to school there?

BILL: No, I never did go to school there at Otis. The first teachers I can remember of was Cassie Becker.

CONLY: Is that the Becker's from down at ---

BILL: From Westfall.

CONLY: Westfall.

BILL: And she stayed there with my grandparents, roomed there with the grandparents and held school there. Then, oh there were some more teachers in between there, but I can't remember, figure out what their names were. Then Ruby Masterson taught for many, many years there at Otis.

CONLY: How many kids, do you have any idea how many kids would have been going there at any time?

BILL: I don't think there would be over --- well the Altnow's, Joe and Mildred went to school there. The Altnow's, and the Hatt kids, Annie Grace, Irene, and Harvey.

CONLY: Harvey.

BILL: Yeah, they went to school there. And along toward the end there was, I think there was two kids, Gibby Masterson and John Morgan, I think were the last two that went to

school there.

CONLY: Uh huh. And then they consolidated with ---

BILL: Consolidated with Drewsey.

CONLY: --- with Drewsey.

BILL: Yeah. And Chet Stallard bought the schoolhouse and moved it up to where Glenn and Sherri Harris live now, and Jim Gardner was there at the time it burned down, burnt up.

CONLY: Yeah, I know, I think he made a milk house out of it or something, or barn or some type of deal.

BILL: Barn or something.

CONLY: But, well let me see, what have you forgot that I haven't asked you?

BILL: I don't know, Conly. Probably think of a lot of things after you get done.

CONLY: Well that's one thing ... over it sometime. We might as well relax for a minute.

BILL: Those homesteads up there, Tom Howard, those names leave me and I cannot think of them. But Tom Howard knows, would know every one of those homesteads out there, there at Otis.

CONLY: Well now you told me, I'm going to do this to you again. You told me when we was talking about over there at Juntura, like I told you, I missed the Thomas Joyce place, and the other Joyce place and the Holladay place. Do you remember anything, or did we just leave that out as a blank? Who owned them, and what it was about there? Who owned the Thomas Joyce, or ---

BILL: Hunters, Ralph Hunter owned it at one time.

CONLY: Ralph Hunter.

BILL: Yeah. And I don't know too much of the history about --- and the Pete Joyce place, that was Murray a long time ago, Murray place. And the Holladay place, I don't know any

history on that. And I remember you asking, Conly, about what was it, China Rock.

CONLY: Yeah, China Rock.

BILL: China Rock.

CONLY: There is a big rock right along ---

BILL: Just down below the Holladay place.

CONLY: Yeah, just sits up there.

BILL: Yeah.

CONLY: And I've heard it was, but I had never verified it.

BILL: And you know I'm not familiar with that either.

CONLY: Did you, maybe here again doing all this, did you hear that the Holladay place was haunted? Had you ever heard that it was?

BILL: No, no I missed that one.

CONLY: (Laughter) I don't know who told me that, but I'm going to ask Drex, I'll tell you that for sure. Because it sounded a little bit --- I didn't know whether it was some of that moonshine whiskey or not that might have ---

BILL: That made it haunted, get enough of that moonshine, you know. But I, no I never heard that part of it.

CONLY: I don't know who was telling me, but I didn't know whether I had ... it, or something like that.

(END OF TAPE)

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