

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #418 - Sides A/B

Subject: The Narrows - With Marcus Haines

Date:

Place:

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

(Note: There are three different men talking with Marcus Haines, Wilber, Fred, and John, but they did not identify themselves, and their last names are not known by the transcriber. Do not know the date or place the tape was recorded. Sound quality is not good, and hard to understand in places.)

MARCUS HAINES: ... we're talking about last night there.

WILBER: I want to ask you, do you remember the old bachelor that lived right back down in here, and hell he used to cut hay? That's who we got our hay from.

FRED: Well there is a fellow name of old Gable, used to live right down, maybe Gable lived right down there.

WILBER: Gable.

FRED: And ... lived down there, and had one of those big old wind gauges.

WILBER: Oh yeah, right on the turn down there.

FRED: Yeah, right down there. Lived right this side of him. And then right on down to where you see the ... of the hill there.

WILBER: Yeah.

FRED: Old man Farnsworth, that was the ---

WILBER: ...

FRED: Yeah. And old Fitzgerald lived a little further down there.

WILBER: Yeah. That's where Bud got bit by the rattlesnake.

FRED: Yes. Well Frank Dunn lived right on ---

WILBER: Lived on ... Yeah, right there, we seen that, yeah.

FRED: And then ... you remember where they ---

WILBER: Oh yeah.

FRED: Yeah, and tried to bring that water from the artesian well out there ... trough, and build it way up high there.

MARCUS: Run it back to the well.

WILBER: Well this fellow I'm talking about is right where these cattle are, right where that clearing is.

FRED: He lived there.

WILBER: Oh. He was a Grousbeck.

FRED: Cliff Grousbeck.

WILBER: That's who it was.

MARCUS: Grousbeck.

FRED: Yeah, old Cliff Grousbeck.

MARCUS: He wasn't, there was a Mrs. Grousbeck around here too, she wasn't a bachelor. Grousbeck wasn't.

WILBER: Well this guy was a bachelor.

FRED: He was a bachelor, and he sent and got that woman from back east somewhere, one of them what-do-you-call-it, hand me down ones.

MARCUS: Sears and Roebuck woman. (Laughter)

WILBER: She was working at the hotel for the old lady ... Pretty soon she come in, she says, "My husband here, I'll have to entertain him." They went upstairs to the bedroom.

She worked for old ... remember him?

MARCUS: Who was ... was that ...

WILBER: He was a running for commissioner.

MARCUS: Yeah, I remember he was crippled.

WILBER: He was running for commissioner, and they come by there, and ... had two or three men at that store. And then Allman (sp.?) I think a guy by the name of Allman he hated him --- so he wanted a crate of oranges, he was going to give away to the ladies, he was going to make a speech at Catlow Valley. By god they went and put a crate of lemons and put it in his car, going ... out there. Made this speech, and I'll give you ladies these oranges. Opened up and it was lemons. (Laughter) Boy did he work them over when he come back.

MARCUS: Well did you fellows decide who was buried here?

FRED: No.

WILBER: Well this here was by itself.

JOHN: I can remember that.

WILBER: I think this was old Daddy Lynch's right here, but I don't know who is there.

FRED: I don't know who is here.

MARCUS: Old man Woodcock.

FRED: Oh they buried old man Woodcock here, don't you remember? WILBER: And then ... came down here ---

FRED: I think he'd be the last one in ...

MARCUS: He probably would be.

WILBER: And then this is old what you call him here, and then I guess Woodcock.

JOHN: What about that, isn't that a grave over there?

WILBER: Well that looks like a little mound, maybe a little child or something.

FRED: Supposed to be a kid buried here.

WILBER: A little child or something, or what. I don't know about that.

MARCUS: Yeah this, we were looking at that last night. It looks like it has been dug out here. It's either that, or it has been hauled in, you see, its come out of the bottom of something.

WILBER: But I can't see ---

MARCUS: There is two graves here, there is no question about that. And something fenced in over here, and probably over there. There is probably four graves here, is probably about what it amounts to.

WILBER: Marcus, why did they pick out such a rocky place, they had all this country?

MARCUS: I don't know. They wanted them to stay dry, I guess. Put them high, get them high.

FRED: Wilber, seem to me like there was a grave up here, maybe it wasn't, with a picket fence around it.

WILBER: Up here at one time?

FRED: Seemed to me like it.

MARCUS: There used to be a picket fence around this.

FRED: They did.

MARCUS: Yeah. There is the headboard. I can remember a picket fence up here.

FRED: It seemed to me like there was.

MARCUS: Yeah, there was, you bet.

FRED: ...

MARCUS: Oh golly yeah, ... We're talking back quite a ways.

FRED: I can remember when there seemed to me like there was ...

JOHN: Yeah, they've cut ...

FRED: ... look at the other ...

JOHN: ... is all.

FRED: Probably. But no writing on it. Well there wouldn't be.

MARCUS: Must have all worn off by now, weathered away.

FRED: Weathered away. ... well I said there is some right here. Go right off here, and there is a big rock there. It was raining and I was just a kid hunting rabbits, and I crawled under that, here is this Indian writing.

MARCUS: We'll have to go over there and find that after bit.

WILBER: It's right along the edge there.

FRED: Well did you find that Indian writing back down here?

MARCUS: Yeah, the one across from Carey's there.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, right out in the ...

FRED: Well by golly Pearl and I went out there about a couple years ago, we started to come up home there, and looked for that Indian writing. And I had a book, and I opened that book to show me different writings, you see. And I said well hell, that there is right down there at the Narrows, you seen that writing a thousand times when I was a kid, right off the old Reineman place there, where we used to live there, you see. Well Pearl and I we just come down here one day, we was driving around, and we drove out there, and by golly we never could find that.

JOHN: Is that right.

FRED: Yes sir.

MARCUS: Well the kids, the kids have worked it all over with crayon the last time --- I took some folks in there 2, 3, 4 years ago, and the kids had just defaced the whole thing with crayon.

FRED: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

FRED: Well anyway, Pearl and I couldn't find it.

MARCUS: Well it would be gone now. No, I think it was kids work.

WILBER: ...

MARCUS: I'm sure it was kid's work.

WILBER: ... right down there just about where that white cow is. Had it all surveyed out, had the streets.

FRED: Oh yes.

WILBER: ... and everything.

MARCUS: Used to be a pump in there.

FRED: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: They dug that, dug Mud Lake back in there, and they had a pump set in there, and the irrigation system. Well you've seen it there, John.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: I called in the refuge ...

JOHN: And they come and got that pump when they were gathering up the iron during the war.

MARCUS: Oh, that's when it left.

WILBER: ... car.

MARCUS: Well what kind of car?

WILBER: ...

MARCUS: Never heard of it.

FRED: Six, seven, eight thousand dollar operator ...

WILBER: ... it broke down. Sit in there in the garage ... And it come from Minnesota and

it had three license numbers, for three years.

FRED: One time you buy a license ---

WILBER: You get three years ...

FRED: ... we used to come up every morning and fix them, that's what they did.

MARCUS: That's the first car I ever remember riding in, was that old E.M.F. of Ed's. And the flywheel was sticking down, and he drove down there to the house, and I remember getting down on my hands and knees and looking under and watching that flywheel turn.

(Laughter)

... Pause

MARCUS: And the livery stable was sitting to the north of that, wasn't it, just about --- And George Cawfield had a saloon that hooked on to the west side of the hotel there, didn't he?

FRED: That's right.

MARCUS: And then down where the old building is there, Sid's old deal, there was a saloon, and a hotel and a dance hall in that area there. Well Ed had his garage down here just to the left of this ... pole wasn't it?

FRED: Yeah, just in there.

MARCUS: Yeah, right about where that bare spot is, wasn't it, about where the roof comes across ...

FRED: Where this roof turns, remember.

MARCUS: Then just to the left now there was a long house about where that trash pile is, the front of it would be about in there.

WILBER: That was old Dunn that had a, took pictures.

FRED: Yeah. Him and his wife, his name was Dunn.

WILBER: Yeah, he worked for Dad.

FRED: I guess maybe he did.

WILBER: Yeah, and his wife was a nurse. When they left, they left me this old three-colored cat, she had about 14 kittens. Dell and I run some ... Yeah, we had ... working these little wagons, you know, the shoeboxes. So hell I ... when I think that old cat and kittens ate every one of them.

MARCUS: Well then there was a doctor, a Dr. Harrison, wasn't that his name?

FRED: Yeah, that was his name, an old redheaded fellow.

WILBER: Yeah, that's what ...

MARCUS: Where was his office at now? It must have been right out in front of us here someplace.

FRED: Well seems to me like, Marcus, that after Dunn left why he moved in there. I ain't sure.

WILBER: He stayed at the hotel, I believe.

FRED: Yeah, I think he did. But ---

WILBER: Remember when Walt Seal got his jaw broke over there at the P Ranch?

FRED: Oh yeah.

WILBER: He stayed there, and they had that little old redheaded doctor. And this guy used to take his grub up to him, and take him water and stuff.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Then Sid Seal bought three of those tough horses that the P Ranch had.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Ready to come down from the P Ranch, and I don't think that Walt had been out of bed for two days. And Sid got on this one horse, and he was pretty humpy, and turned him out. And pretty soon Walt got on one, and then Sid got on a big white horse, or a black horse, and gee he just tore ... He set up like ... Condon, Oregon is where they

...

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well then there was a Dr. Volp here, V O L P, do you remember him, Fred?

FRED: No.

MARCUS: I've read about him, but I've never heard any of the old timers ever mention a Dr. Volp. But he says he was here. And then we get on over a little bit farther, then your place was, Fred, was right just back under the edge of the hill right here.

FRED: ... hill right here.

MARCUS: And then Harris' lived on over toward the Cawlfild house, and kind of down in front of you there, wasn't it?

FRED: Well, Harris' lived there in what they called the old Harper house, just about where that there tank is there.

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

FRED: The house set there, towards that road, facing that road.

MARCUS: Then there was a barn on the north side of it.

FRED: The barn was on the other side of it.

MARCUS: Was on the other side of it. Uh huh.

FRED: Yeah. We used to come right up the road ---

WILBER: Well Fred, do you remember the house that ... had just this side of Georgia's?

FRED: Yeah, that little house this side of Georgia's. Rankin and Gladys lived in it a long time.

MARCUS: Yeah.

FRED: Jake ...

MARCUS: And then the house that sits there is the old George Cawlfild house, and probably one of the first houses built here too.

FRED: Well I imagine it was.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

WILBER: Then the old man ... moved in here, and he was right down the road, and he had a tent. And he was a butcher. God I went down there one time, you know they cooked all the guts and every-thing, it was good, geeze I just loved it. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Then there was a house on down here that set off to the north there ...

WILBER: Old man Schafer had a jewelry business.

MARCUS: Was that the Schafer house down there?

FRED: That was Schafer.

WILBER: You remember ... they called the son; didn't he marry Charlie Frazier's sister?

FRED: Yes, Charlie Frazier.

MARCUS: And then the old building there, back south of the store, that was your home wasn't it, Wilber? And your dad had a tent stretched in the corner of it here, and that's where he slept in the tent, wasn't it, slept there for many years, didn't he?

WILBER: You bet he did, yeah.

MARCUS: Well he started the store here about '92, wasn't that about right, about the time

WILBER: We had an old dog called Fritz, do you remember him? Big old bird dog?

FRED: No, I don't remember him.

WILBER: And Dad was a pulling this little wagon, kind of a two-wheel cart, and hay was in it. And Raymond Harper, do you remember Raymond? Well he was standing there; Dad has a cap on, a sweater.

FRED: My god, that was taken years and years ago. It's there at the house ...

MARCUS: Well your dad was here for about 45 years, Wilber, wasn't he? He died in 1916.

WILBER: '16, yeah. He was 47.

MARCUS: 47 years old when he died.

WILBER: Well you see he went down to the hot springs, his legs would swell. So he moved the house, got somebody to move the house down there to that hot springs. He didn't use it much, but he'd get an old buggy and team and put some grain in, and we'd go down there after we got supper. Then we'd stay all night, and he'd get in there and ... you know. I think he went about three times, then he went to the hot lakes, that helped him. It got swelled again there, and he went clear all to pieces. And the first thing you know I was going to school in Portland.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Well he was in the hospital there, in the hospital for two days before I ever knew he was there. So Uncle Fred and Mother they went across in mud clear to Bend. Old Willy Dibble took them over there. They plowed mud clear through ... When I seen Dad, why he said we get over this, we're going to Portland, going to the bank. They built a big First National Bank. Then he passed away.

MARCUS: Well then down here to the house, or by the tree here, where the bridge, the 300-foot bridge was put in here. It was put in about '92, I think. That's the reason your dad and Charlie --- well Fred Haines came down with your dad and helped him get the store started.

WILBER: Yeah, they was partners.

MARCUS: Yeah. It was about the time the bridge was put in.

WILBER: I think Dad kept two years with Fred up there. But the way it happened here, Aunt Julia, that's Fred's wife, their name was Ferguson, they was from Baker, they was quite a pound of people. He was a, quite a blacksmith. He said I got a brother Charlie, he said, got to talking, and Aunt Julia says why don't you send and get him? ... Sam ... you

remember him?

FRED: Oh yes.

WILBER: Well Dad got off at St. Louis, and the conductor wouldn't let him back on. So he walked down the street and run into this fellow, it was old Sam, he didn't know him then or nothing, talked to him, and said that fellow won't let me back on that train. He said, "Well I'll see about that." So he gets ... and got Dad back on some dang way, you know. So then old Sam had a niece at John Day, and he come clear from St. Louis out. And darn if he didn't come over to Burns and he met Dad. Dad said he was going to Harney. Sam told me all about that one day.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well then your dad homesteaded down here where the tree is too.

FRED: I guess that was, that was the homestead.

MARCUS: Yeah, it was his homestead, wasn't it? He later sold it to Rose Kerns Henderson.

WILBER: No, he sold it to a man I was telling you about, butchering that hog. And then Rose got it from, it from him.

MARCUS: Got it from him, uh huh. And then the schoolhouse set ---

WILBER: It was right there beside of the store.

MARCUS: Yeah, just ---

WILBER: Just about where the green grass is.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: Close to where the road goes through there.

WILBER: Do you remember the big old juniper, or post in front of it?

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Supposed to put a flag on, but we never did. We had an old wagon wheel, and

... one wheel was going and then one guy would get in there like this, and then the other guy would push him around and around, and he'd go up the side ...

MARCUS: You were born in Burns, Wilber, and then brought right back here about 1900, wasn't it?

WILBER: Well Mama said that she put me in the buggy, but she never knew how they ever got back.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh. But you come back here. When did you move here, Fred? When did your folks come into the Narrows?

FRED: About 1911.

MARCUS: Well you were a pretty good chunk of a kid then.

FRED: Oh yes.

MARCUS: Yeah.

... Pause

FRED: Then ... how they got back. That was in 1900.

MARCUS: Well Fred, along about the time that you came here, 1911 or '12, what would be the population of the Narrows, would be your guess?

FRED: Oh at that time?

MARCUS: Yeah, along about then. Well I say at the heyday there, when it was really going there.

WILBER: At that time ----

FRED: Five dwellings, wasn't it? There was about 22 kids went to school here.

WILBER: Yeah, that's right. Well you was the furthest ones, Fred, you come around here in your old buggy, remember?

FRED: We come from around the Reineman place.

WILBER: Reineman's place.

FRED: To the Reineman place. There was four of us.

WILBER: Yeah.

FRED: Then afterwards ... to go to school, built the house here. Then when Mother sent him, I think one year, and then after that why she sent Jimmy Hoy and May and all the Walters kids used to--- they moved back here and sent those kids.

WILBER: Harry, Carey Smith, they went to school there, you remember?

FRED: Yeah, Harry Smith and, and Carey.

WILBER: You remember when what-you-call-him, old Ty Shulls, Andrew Shull, do you remember when he set him out here?

FRED: Oh yes.

WILBER: God he was three feet further ... I remember him.

MARCUS: Well do you boys remember the racetrack that was grubbed out right down in here?

FRED: Oh yeah, just about where that there dirt is. A little farther ---

MARCUS: A little farther down, I believe, wasn't it Fred. There was a half a mile oval track, wasn't it?

FRED: Yeah.

JOHN: Yeah.

MARCUS: ... Uh huh, in an oval, a half a mile.

WILBER: About that time old Fritz and them would kill a rattlesnake, you see him do that, and then he'd step on his head and cut his rattles off. So old Bub went down and ... and he shot a rattler and he just grabbed a hold of him and ... (Laughter) ... run that old team of his, and Dad couldn't do a thing ... (Laughter) Nellie, you know, married Nellie Miller. That was --- she went to school there.

FRED: Oh yeah.

WILBER: I think Bub's girlfriend, you know. We'd be there at the dance and ... Nellie, Jesus Christ, he'd just pass us ... He'd never stop, walk right in the door.

FRED: Wouldn't let ...

WILBER: Nellie was awful nice, but she ...

FRED: ... he was just a ... is all he was. We always teased him.

WILBER: You going to tell that story about the, burning that hay up out there, when we went out to feed your cattle, smoking cigarettes. We put those old big shells your dad had on the stove, and blew all the lids off, built a fire, you know, and they set them off. And we'd run outside, and the stove would go off ... Oh gosh. (Laughter)

FRED: Quite a country, wasn't it?

MARCUS: You bet, there is a lot of history here.

WILBER: You remember, used to shoot ducks off that old bridge?

And ... buy a whole case of shells.

FRED: Oh yes.

WILBER: Go down there and just set down and just shoot them. And they'd tie that old Fritz dog up, and god I don't know how many we'd kill. Pretty soon they'd turn him loose and he'd dive off and he'd bring in about 15, 20 ducks, and then they'd put a rope around his neck and bring him back to the store.

FRED: ... used to be lined there, was just --- I bet the shells was that deep on that bridge, and you know, you measure where the banisters --- there was some banisters on there. And they was back quite a ways there ... well like teams and wagons, there was no cars there.

WILBER: In Mud Lake we had an old boat, we used to go out there and let these guys off on them muskrat nests, and they'd, everybody would shoot all the way around, then this guy would come --- remember that old boat they had? Had Daisy written on the front of

it? (Laughter) That was Mud Lake.

MARCUS: You want to ask these boys some questions for your sign, John?

JOHN: When was the post office first established at the Narrows?

WILBER: Do you remember when old Mac McKenzie got married ...

MARCUS: ...

WILBER: She was about 60, and she married an old man, and he died over there playing the fiddle, this side of Les Griffin. He had these --- and then Mac married her. So we all went over to celebrate then, and we had that Model-T Ford, and Uncle George, you remember him, he got to running and hit the clothesline and pretty near broke his neck off. Anyway they got up and lit the old coal oil lantern ... looked around and here was old Mac down on his knees, he was pulling that corset ...

MARCUS: Lacing the old lady up.

WILBER: Hell, there was about 50 of us all standing ...

MARCUS: Wilber, do you remember when the post office was established here in the house?

WILBER: No, but I can --- the old lady, Rose ... took it away from Dad.

MARCUS: You dad put it in first, probably.

WILBER: First, then she got mad and got a petition, and I don't know what, a lawsuit. Dad didn't want it, he just give it to her. But she kept it about a month, turned around and told him to come back and get it. So then Dad, they had to move it back up.

MARCUS: Well where was --- was she living in your dad's homestead house at that time?

WILBER: Yeah, she lived there also. And then I think they moved up to the old hotel for one, for a few years.

MARCUS: Yeah, but back at this time when she wanted the post office, she was down in

the, in your dad's old homestead shack there.

WILBER: Yeah, underneath that where he kept the postage, that's where I'd get my money. Went to town to buy some bananas, well I'd take up in dimes, and of course Dad wouldn't miss them, you see. Just change, you know, just try to keep that separate I guess until they got ...

MARCUS: But as to the date, it's kind of --- you didn't remember

--- I suppose he got the post office in here shortly after the store was established.

WILBER: I suppose.

MARCUS: But we don't know just when.

WILBER: Well I knew Dad built this telephone line to Burns. We can tell about that.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: We can tell about that.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: And he paid for the whole thing. See they used to have these, well he first hauled out of Huntington, Oregon, and then they hauled out of Ontario, and a fellow down there had a store, Frazier, his name. Dad used to call him, then he'd load these wagons here. He'd buy a carload of flour, a carload of sugar. These people in Burns sent teams down, buy from him. That's what kept him a going. And Bill Hanley had all of his; you remember the old fellow used to do nothing but haul, just groceries. I don't remember what his name was. He had a four-horse team, you know, and he'd haul for the Bell-A and then to, back to Catlow, and all over.

I remember old Bill Hanley come in and he bought a Buick, three-seated. Said he was going to the Double O, and asked me to go with him. And he had a chauffeur, he started down there and was running just a little ... and it started boiling, so then we'd have to stop.

MARCUS: You hold this, will you, and I'll get the, I'll go get the camera. Yes, it's ---

WILBER: But I remember when the, when Bill Hanley would come with his buggy and he'd have his driver. And Dad would see him a coming down there, so then he'd tell me to go get a box of cigars. I'd go right out and put it in the seat, you know. And old Bill was going to run for governor, you know, and I heard Dad tell him that you ain't got as much of a chance as a Chinaman. And he did, you know, and he never made it.

MARCUS: Oh yeah.

WILBER: ... they used to call him.

FRED: Only Bill.

JOHN: What did they call him then?

FRED: Only Bill.

WILBER: I didn't have no saddle horse, so they give me a little horse out here to the Sod House, Bill did, and had them bring it in. They called him Peanuts. And then I'd ride him all summer, then one of the buckaroos would take him back out there and feed him. They'd bring him back again the next spring. And we had an old buckskin mare, old ...

FRED: Yeah, I remember.

WILBER: Well they had a manger there, and the next morning come out and she'd kicked that old horse over in the manger. He was a cross, but he held his head up, was the only thing that saved him. Took him about a week to get over it.

FRED: Yeah, I remember the old buckskin mare.

WILBER: Well then ... out to the P Ranch up there ... Hanley would. Old Mac MacKenzie, do you remember where he lived?

JOHN: Oh yeah.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Well that wife of mine has been making candles, and she ... everything is to

make a candle out of, and colors --- say you set them in the bathroom, and it's the nicest smell you ever saw. Let it burn, you know, just burn it slow. Well I can remember over there to old McKenzie house, I'll bet you he had twelve of these, and they was made out of tin, and the holes were in it. And I'll bet you John, where you go around the corner there, where you can see where the tin cans and stuff, I'll bet you that stuff is still there if somebody hasn't taken it.

JOHN: Yeah.

WILBER: You see how they put their string down in there, and then they'd pour this tallow on in there, and that was their candles. I'll bet you there was ... to make 14, 18 candles.

JOHN: Yeah.

WILBER: But they was there to Mac's house.

JOHN: Someone was telling me that this Elliott, Mrs. Elliott here was with this lost wagon train, Meek, that wagon train. She was one of the people on that.

FRED: She could have been.

JOHN: And that was Haden's mother.

FRED: Haden's mother.

JOHN: Uh huh.

FRED: Haden and ...

MARCUS: ...

WILBER: You going to do anything else?

JOHN: Well let's see, wasn't there a Cressman, wasn't there a Cressman family here?

FRED: Yeah. But they lived over the other side of the lake, John. Right there close to where the old Hailey place is, you know.

JOHN: Yeah.

FRED: Well they just lived right there by the, join that old Hailey place.

JOHN: Well then, now there was some land right in here, it was owned by either Cressman or ...

FRED: That was a different outfit, John, that was somebody from California by the name Cressman. Come in here and bought some of this here land.

WILBER: Yeah.

JOHN: That was probably in later years.

FRED: Later years, you see. Old man Cressman had a ranch over there, and he had a, one boy named Wally, and another one named Johnny, and one of the girls married Frank Steele, you remember Frank Steele, was he here?

JOHN: Yeah.

FRED: One of the girls married Frank Steele, one of the Cressman girls.

JOHN: You mean Frank, he sheared sheep?

FRED: Oh yes.

JOHN: Yeah.

FRED: And Anna Smith's ---

JOHN: Father.

WILBER: Well there was a gal about a year and a half ---

JOHN: Rita Currey.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: About a year and a half ago --- in there to see me, and come to the door, walked in, she is one of your old girlfriends--- I'll tell you who she was ... She turned around and she had me, and then pretty soon looked sideways, Mabel Quier.

FRED: Mabel Quier, old Mabel Quier.

WILBER: She was telling my wife, said you remember, Wilber, when we used to dance miles and miles?

FRED: Oh yeah.

WILBER: She got her --- set somebody up, that was Fred Witzel, that wasn't me.

FRED: Old Mabel Quier.

MARCUS: You dance a little, Wilber?

WILBER: Oh --- we used to call her Quier Mabel, you know. Well she lives just the other side of Roseburg; it's what they call Wilbur, Oregon.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: And --- what you call them, that donated all the money up here to ---

FRED: Jim Fellows?

JOHN: Yeah.

WILBER: She knew all about him, and she had been there to his house, and knew everything about Jim Fellows.

FRED: They had a homestead; Quiers did, out here in Virginia Valley.

WILBER: Well this car drove up to the side of the house, and there was a big man --- answered the door, and went to it, said the fellow out here wants to see you. So I went up there, and they had a big old Lincoln car. They had a pair of smoked glasses on and I couldn't tell --- finally he took them off, and it was old Jim Fellows. He was paralyzed in his legs, he just couldn't walk.

JOHN: Who was that?

WILBER: And he wanted to find some of the boys over here to the Folly Farm. Fred ...

JOHN: ...

WILBER: Yeah. So I set and talked to him. This man or woman she cooked for him, and he drove for him.

FRED: What did you say his name was, Wilber?

WILBER: Jim Fellows.

FRED: Jim Fellows, yeah.

WILBER: And I said, well how about Ethel Haines, you know, she was in California. He said I went there two years ago and drove right up to where she lived. And these people come to the door, and he asked them, well she died last year. So Ethel Haines, that's Fred Haines' daughter, she died. You remember she used to play the violin, and he played the ... That's the music we had.

FRED: That's right.

WILBER: And then Jim died right after, not too long after that. Apache, Apache, Arizona I believe.

FRED: Yeah, that where he ---

JOHN: That's right.

WILBER: She was ... in, Roddy McGill there in Boise, moved from Burns.

FRED: Oh yeah.

WILBER: Had that buffalo club there. I guess Barbie still has it. Big old ranch, that ... has 380 head of black cattle, thoroughbreds there.

FRED: And old Fred.

WILBER: I never did run into him.

MARCUS: Wilber, how long did your mother run the store after your father died? Sid Comegys helped her, didn't she, or didn't he?

WILBER: Yeah he did, they was all there. Sid, yeah. They sold it to Sid didn't we, or did we sell it to Brown?

MARCUS: Well I don't recall. Joe Morris showed up here along in the early '20's, and I think ---

WILBER: I think that Sid had it.

FRED: We did, we traded that for the hotel in Diamond.

MARCUS: Oh that's the way that went. Uh huh, uh huh.

FRED: Then he sold it to Browns, or they got it anyway. Then Morris come down.

MARCUS: Joe Morris came down and run the store here up until, oh late '20's sometime, wasn't it there, sometime? And then that's when Rankin Crow ended up with the store here.

WILBER: Yes.

MARCUS: Wasn't he about the last store man, Rankin?

FRED: Well he worked for Joe, he said.

WILBER: I think he was.

MARCUS: Yeah. But he ---

FRED: I didn't know if ---

MARCUS: He worked for Joe first. But he ended up with the store here.

FRED: He owned the store, you see.

WILBER: Did he really?

JOHN: I didn't know ---

WILBER: Georgia, old Jess Cawfield worked for old Rankin after awhile, you see, and then Rankin finally wind up all alone. That was the last of your store then.

MARCUS: I took Charlie Chapman down to Corvallis. His paper all ended up down there in the Benton County State Bank. They traded it off, discounted it and sold it to, paper all over the country, you know.

WILBER: Yeah.

MARCUS: So I took him down there, and I'd lost what money I had in the bank, and we got credit from Rankin here to get gasoline enough to go down to Corvallis. And Charlie had borrowed \$10.00 from Jim McEwen to make the trip on. See he was down there in the Riverside country at that time. And I know that Rankin was in the store in '32, but I

can't recall just --- he wasn't there much after that, I'm sure. But he had the gas station, and had a gas pump out there in front, and a little something there.

FRED: See Fred was vice president, or president of the Harney County Bank. And Dad was president of the First National for years there. ... he was ...

MARCUS: Conser was the guy that was in here when the bank went broke, you know. And he was ---

FRED: ... Conser.

MARCUS: Yeah.

SIDE B

...

MARCUS: They kept pretty foxy, they travel in sounds, they'll stay close enough --- a cow will do the same thing.

FRED: That's right.

MARCUS: You had them --- you put them with a cow --- I hauled a cow in from the desert here 3 or 4 years ago, and she'd follow the cows right into the barn there.

FRED: You betcha.

MARCUS: She'd stay right with them, she wouldn't let them get 10 feet away.

FRED: You bet.

WILBER: You remember the time we had the spelling bee down here? Bill Gault was there, and Maxine?

FRED: No, I don't remember --- When you and Delbert ...

WILBER: Whenever they had the spelling bees on, why everybody had to go to the toilet, you know, ... Well they held their hand up, nah, she ... he had his feet, you know he used to set his feet on top of the desk. ... pretty soon looked down ... and that was the end of

the spelling bee that time. I don't know who ---

MARCUS: She was living here. He was running the store, I know, in 1932 when the First National Bank went broke up here.

... Pause

MARCUS: She was living here.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: He was running the store, I know, in 1932 when the First National Bank went broke up here.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: I took Charlie Chapman down to Corvallis. His paper all ended up down there in the Benton County State Bank. And they traded off, discounted it, and sold it, all the, paper all over the country, you know.

FRED: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: So I took him down there, and I'd lost what money I had in the bank. And we got credit from Rankin here to get gasoline enough to go down to Corvallis, and Charlie had borrowed \$10.00 from Jim McEwen to make the trip on. See he was down there in the Riverside country at that time. And I know that Rankin was in the store in '32. And I can't recall just, well he wasn't there much after that I'm sure. ... He was a dentist.

FRED: Yeah ...

WILBER: Does that come the other way?

FRED: Yeah. What there is, it come from Silver Creek. Mostly that spring water.

WILBER: Well did he go completely dry? Was there always some ---

FRED: Oh it has been dry most every year, until recently. It will probably hold a little water this year. Well is it getting pretty full, John?

JOHN: No, there isn't too much in it.

FRED: I didn't know. Freddy said he flew across to Bend the other day, and he said there was lots of water in Harney Lake. And I couldn't see how there could be so much. We was down that time, it was way in the upper end, there was just a small pond.

MARCUS: In the south, southwest, or southeast corner is all dry over in there. Hell there isn't probably an inch of water all over ---

JOHN: He didn't mire in the mud ---

FRED: Who run ... place over there at Warm Springs?

WILBER: Virgil Moon.

FRED: Virgil Moon, ain't it.

MARCUS: Joe.

FRED: Joe, yeah. They got over the hill here. Oh, out there by, where Bill Harris used to live in that flat there, you know. And on both sides of the road there --- I don't know how much land they got there now. ... been a clearing that and sowing it to crested wheat, ain't he John?

JOHN: Uh huh. Well he's ---

WILBER: Van Bundy had his ...

FRED: Yes, but they just let that go, I think. Maybe Virgil Moon has got that.

MARCUS: I think he has.

FRED: Got a lot of that out there, I know.

MARCUS: Van Bundy property there, ...

FRED: Virgil Moon has got all that.

WILBER: He's got it fenced, or something?

FRED: Well it looks like there is a fence across there.

MARCUS: Yeah, it is all fenced.

FRED: And a road. I think he has ---

MARCUS: Even got the gates all locked on it too. I went up last fall, I went up on this road here by the Eagle Point, and come out over there, and I had a terrible time, and got stuck. I come out over this big bend, but I didn't know whether I was going to make it for a while, I couldn't get inside of his fence. He had his gates all locked.

FRED: Well he did, huh?

MARCUS: Yeah, you bet. Well we haven't talked about Francis Griffin very much. He was kind of a landmark around the Narrows for many, many years. (Laughter)

WILBER: Is he still alive, is he?

MARCUS: Yeah. He is up in a rest home there, yeah.

FRED: ... old Les there too?

MARCUS: No, he is in the hotel.

FRED: Oh he is?

MARCUS: Uh huh.

JOHN: He's around town there.

FRED: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Lester Tyler was telling me here, just shortly before he died, he said you know you fellows have been trying to get rid of Les Griffin here for years and years, and he said all I had to do was buy his property out, and he'd drink himself to death now. (Laughter) He said I'm going to get rid of him for you.

WILBER: Les ...

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

FRED: By golly he is about right too now.

MARCUS: Oh gosh yeah, you bet.

JOHN: I guess Mary has come up here a time or two and tried to dry him out a little bit, but she has never had much luck.

MARCUS: She comes up about once a week and kind of checks on him. But he is wearing the same thing every time she comes up, I think.

FRED: Yeah, I seen him the other day going up the street, holding his hand down, you know, kind of walk straddle legged going up the street. I told Pearl, I said, by god there is old Les getting drunk.

MARCUS: Yeah.

WILBER: I remember when old Francis used to walk back and forth on that dirt road ...

FRED: Oh yeah.

WILBER: And he was living upstairs in one of them old houses, and he'd pulled the ladder inside after he got up there.

MARCUS: Fred, he was admiring the beautiful sunrise one morning and fell out, you know, and broke his arm. Broke his arm that time.

WILBER: Oh my god.

MARCUS: Yeah, you bet, and missed the ladder and down he went.

FRED: Used to live right over there on the corner, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's where it was.

FRED: Yeah, that old house. Took off his god damn clothes and run from there to that there artesian well over there at that big trough to take a bath, and back.

JOHN: Where did he live?

FRED: Right out here on the corner, where the road used to go there, you know, and make a turn, and turn back, and that old house used to set on the corner there.

WILBER: Big old house.

MARCUS: Two story, yeah.

FRED: Had stairs in it, a ladder to the window.

WILBER: Is that water there still running? What did they call that, Swan Lake Field?

FRED: Swan Lake Field, yeah.

WILBER: Dad owned that one time.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Took over a debt of some kind. Then old Howell, I think, bought it, or something.

JOHN: Yeah.

WILBER: I see this one down here is still running, we was pretty close to it.

FRED: Well I ain't been over there to this one for a long time. And it used to run just a little stream there.

MARCUS: Where was ---

FRED: Over there at Swan Lake.

JOHN: ... they had troughs there, and ---

WILBER: This little old stone building here, Marcus said something about a jail. That never was a jail, Dad kept potatoes in there.

MARCUS: Us kids always called it the jail.

FRED: Oh did they?

MARCUS: Sure.

FRED: I can remember when your dad used to run that there. Before he built the warehouse on back behind there, he built a big long warehouse.

WILBER: Yeah.

FRED: And over there they used to have a big granary, he used to keep the coal oil right there. Used to come there and then ---

WILBER: Yeah, yeah.

FRED: Well to get the coal oil, he kept it away from the store there, kept it in a little old rock house.

MARCUS: Oh, out here on the hill there.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: I used to have to take bottles and siphon off ---

MARCUS: Nobody seems to know about who built it, or who it belonged to.

FRED: We always called it the jail, you said that.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's all we always called it, the jail.

FRED: When ... well that's the jail, used to have a jail here at the Narrows.

WILBER: Did they ever have one?

FRED: No, don't think so.

MARCUS: Dad Wilson lived in it when you came here, wasn't he John?

JOHN: Yeah, he was living in it when we come.

WILBER: ... used to come in and get drunk. ... then he'd leave.

FRED: Yeah, old Tice.

MARCUS: Teddy Dunn emptied lots of six-shooters right around this turn right here too, heading for home, didn't he?

FRED: You bet.

MARCUS: One in each hand, and kerrawang over here, and over here, just always ... around the turn he'd go. (Laughter)

WILBER: Ed Springer, of course he didn't shoot a gun, but he done the running.

MARCUS: Yeah, he drove the car, didn't he?

WILBER: Yeah, old man ... I remember that. He come down here drunk, ... he'd set in the horse straight. God they had some nice horses. Remember them sorrels, he had a team, you know, the old man did.

FRED: You betcha.

WILBER: ... on old Ed, somebody else is there. They had lost a key out of it, and so old

Ed Anderson took a steeple and bent it, and by god the way she went. And they got up there and they decided they wanted to come back and get another drink, and they run out there in the sagebrush and lost the key. (Laughter)

JOHN: Lost the ...

WILBER: And that fellow by the name of Bundy, you remember that big tall guy that freighted?

FRED: Oh yes.

WILBER: Well he was drunk, and he had ... a team of sorrels and a buggy, beautiful team. They got them in a dead run there, and pulled them right through that fence, just cut their necks. Oh Jesus, they walked back.

MARCUS: This Bundy did this, you mean, or Mundy?

WILBER: No, he was a great big man, freighter guy.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, his name was Mundy, wasn't it?

FRED: Yeah, Mundy, yeah. He just done, he was freight. Big man.

MARCUS: P Ranch, buckaroo outfit took a whipping down here one night, they didn't fare very well as I remember the story. You remember --- maybe you were in on it, I don't know.

WILBER: They ---

MARCUS: Did they finally get him?

FRED: Old Dad Calderwood finally ...

WILBER: A lot of them buckaroos would come ---

FRED: They just walked all over them.

WILBER: ... P Ranch for a dance. And Lester Cawfield and I was setting there, just a getting dusk, and --- Winnemucca Red ---

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Well they took all the horses, saddle horses, and all he had was damn mules. He was a way behind. He come along right there, just a settling the dust, just a fogging, and he stubbed his toe and the old mule just fell down, just went end over end. Old Red smashed his hat and bruised his ears. Then the next morning after the dance then they'd all want to run races. You remember how they used to do that?

MARCUS: Oh yeah, you bet.

FRED: Old Red ...

MARCUS: Run from the store across from the hotel. The rocks would just fly, they'd pull their shoes off and ---

WILBER: One was that Walt Sullivan that worked for Dad ---

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: --- good foot racer.

FRED: Oh yeah.

WILBER: And Pete Caldwell said he had a horse he could run a 100 yards, turn around and come back, and beat you. And by god he'd catch up with him. Then old Walt set up, little horse would go about 25, 30, 40 feet. Probably beat him a quarter of mile by the time he got ... They bet money on that.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

WILBER: I had a picture of that little old ... horse, now this is history, you remember it?

FRED: Yes.

WILBER: And I don't know who was on him, but ... they could get him back, and they ... with spurs and he'd buck ... Remember that?

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: I had one of them pictures, taken years ago, and damn my kid took it.

FRED: Oh yeah.

WILBER: Tom did down there, and lost it.

FRED: God, I'd give anything for one of them.

WILBER: ... was there.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Yeah. That little horse, Sywobby (sp.?).

FRED: Sywobby.

WILBER: Yeah.

MARCUS: What about Jimmy Hoy, is he around the country now?

FRED: Yeah, he is up at Burns staying down at ... and Albie's.

MARCUS: He was with them there last fall, we saw them. And then I saw he was a patient in the hospital here.

FRED: Yeah, he was ---

MARCUS: In the paper, or something.

FRED: Seemed like he had, kind of had pneumonia this winter. He was in the hospital a few days.

WILBER: Couldn't hear ...

FRED: Who?

WILBER: Didn't he lose the hearing, ...

FRED: Yeah, he can't hear very good. He's got a hearing aid.

WILBER: Yeah.

JOHN: Well he was up there working some of those colts for Joe Fine, wasn't he?

FRED: Yeah, but he found out he was too damned old.

JOHN: Did he?

FRED: Yeah. He just couldn't get out of the way.

JOHN: I remember Joe told me that he was going to go up there and work some of those

colts.

FRED: He went up there, was going to break some of those colts for Joe. He found out he was getting too old, he couldn't get out of the way of them.

WILBER: Wonder how that Jimmy Hoy put a horse in there? Snaffle bit, bit, he done a good job. Do you know he did?

FRED: He was a good hand, and --- The horse wouldn't buck with him.

MARCUS: Yeah.

WILBER: Get him to just a turning and ---

FRED: He was a good hand.

WILBER: Yes he was.

FRED: You bet.

MARCUS: Better hand on the jug, that was his trouble.

FRED: That's the trouble. That and gambling.

MARCUS: Yeah, gambling.

FRED: Well he was just like his dad, that's all his dad wanted to do was just gamble.

WILBER: Do you remember Fred Lee died?

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: That's the first funeral I ever went to when I was a kid in Burns. And I got on an old suit, and bareback, and rode out there to the --- and it was all sagebrush where the graveyard is right now. And I sat on that old mare and watched that.

MARCUS: Watched the funeral, huh?

WILBER: That's right.

FRED: Who was that, Wilber?

WILBER: Huh?

FRED: Who was it?

WILBER: Hoy, Hugh Hoy. He married Fred's sister, see.

WILBER: Was Jimmy Hoy's dad.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Now I rode out there to Grandma's, just a little ways, you know where she lived there didn't you?

FRED: Oh yeah.

WILBER: Rode that old horse bareback out there. We used to work her at the buggy. Now that was the first funeral I ever went to. It is all sagebrush now, there was no clearing

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

WILBER: Yeah.

FRED: And I ... Oh, I think ---

WILBER: Well do you think we have stayed here long enough?

MARCUS: Whatever you think.

WILBER: Well I don't know.

MARCUS: Is that where, Fred ---

FRED: Georgia on the place down there. When you come up ... I come right straight down from that bend, I think old Minar owns the place now.

MARCUS: Oh.

JOHN: Pete Hotchkiss place.

FRED: Pete Hotchkiss place there.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

FRED: Used to be George Young. He used to own a butcher shop in Burns.

MARCUS: Oh, yeah.

FRED: Years ago.

MARCUS: Yeah, I remember that. I never knew where he lived.

FRED: And then he sold it to Hotchkiss's.

MARCUS: He'd be a brother to Clarence, wouldn't he, George?

FRED: Well I think it was Clarence's dad, wasn't he?

MARCUS: Was it his dad, maybe he was, maybe he was.

FRED: I think he was Clarence's dad.

MARCUS: Could be. Clarence is so old you never think of him having a dad ...

FRED: I'm pretty sure that it was his dad.

WILBER: Yeah he ... Schafer lived there; he was a jewelry man, wasn't he? You know where he lived, Schafer?

FRED: Yeah. He was ---

WILBER: But the highway don't go where the old road was. It was clear over, went right past that point, do you remember that?

FRED: Oh yes.

WILBER: Yeah.

MARCUS: It swings over almost to the highway, you see. And then it comes back, swings back.

FRED: It swings right back, and right to that point.

WILBER: Goes in front of Georgia's house, you see.

MARCUS: Yeah.

FRED: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: And old Schafer's house is on the west side of the road there.

FRED: That's right, old Schafer ---

MARCUS: Yeah, that's ---

FRED: Old Schafer and Harper was brother-in-laws.

MARCUS: That's where Mannis' were living when Bob got killed here in '35, about the last people to live in it, I guess.

JOHN: That was up on flat there?

MARCUS: No, it would be right, about over the top of ... green head top shed there. Yeah, right out in there.

WILBER: Did that old man Schafer, he make a living on watches? I never heard of ---

FRED: Well sir, I don't know, he never worked.

WILBER: He lived there.

FRED: He sent that boy to school, and that boy was an engineer.

MARCUS: Oh, oh.

FRED: And ... what was his name ---

WILBER: Charlie Frazier's ---

FRED: Married Charlie Frazier's sister. What was his name, Ernest Schafer?

WILBER: Yeah ... Well now Dick Smith used to live in that house too.

FRED: Oh yes.

WILBER: ...

FRED: Dick Smith lived right before Schafer's did.

WILBER: Yeah, that was it. Well I can remember Fred standing in front of the store when the old stage was there, and she had quite a lot of Indian in her.

FRED: Oh yes.

WILBER: And he put her on that old stage, open stage, and they took her then and went on to Pendleton. Nobody went with her, I can't ... Dick never went.

JOHN: Well didn't they have some children, Dick and she?

FRED: Dick and the old lady, yeah, they had those three girls.

JOHN: Wasn't one of them married a Hamilton?

FRED: Yes, right there, Hazel or Daisy. Let's see was it ... or Daisy married ---

JOHN: Well Daisy married Harvey Hamilton. But then another girl I believe she married a fellow by the name of Hamilton too, didn't she?

FRED: Oh, I think so too. I think that's ---

JOHN: ...

FRED: Lester Hamilton's brother. He lived over the other side of the mountain, didn't he John?

JOHN: No relation to these Hamilton's.

FRED: No, no relation to the others.

JOHN: I ran on to her down there when I bought that section of land there, and I looked ... was it Eugene, she lived then. Some-place down in that country.

FRED: Yeah.

JOHN: And the boy had just gotten out of the Army.

MARCUS: She was a full sister of Daisy?

JOHN: Yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

JOHN: Well let's see now, I'm not sure she is a full sister or not. She probably was though. Probably full sister, wasn't she Fred, Daisy?

FRED: Yeah, I think she was.

MARCUS: Well now down here where Sam and Larry Dunn lives now, that was the old Dick Smith place. I think we got that from; Billy Dunn bought it from Dick Smith.

WILBER: I think so too.

MARCUS: And that's, that was probably before they moved up here to Narrows, wasn't it?

FRED: Could be, yes.

MARCUS: Yeah. But Dunn's had that place for many, many years, I know that. But that was the old Dick Smith place, ... told me about that.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: That Dick Smith was quite a character. I seen him shear sheep over there ... with a pair of shears. Talk about go with that thing. I guess he had two or three bands of sheep at one time ...

FRED: Well I think he did too, up on the mountain at one time, a long time ago.

MARCUS: Is there anything else you think that you might need here, John, that ---

JOHN: No, I can't think of anything.

MARCUS: I can't either.

WILBER: Do you remember that Elder that had that big team here?

MARCUS: We got it pretty well ... in ...

JOHN: ... Yeah.

...

MARCUS: No, I don't ever remember ...

JOHN: I got to thinking about that ... we were talking about Pete French. You know that fence ... we called, that fence was in place when I was up there with old Emanuel, and we cleaned that fence up and I'll bet that's the time that post disappeared.

MARCUS: Probably, probably. According to Jinks, Butch Arntz's crew took the fence up, and rebuilt it, the one over there next to the road.

JOHN: Yeah.

MARCUS: But that's what we are up against. Butch isn't around any longer, you know, and these things.

JOHN: Yeah.

MARCUS: Getting away pretty fast.

JOHN: He probably, he pretty much, may not have remembered anyway.

MARCUS: No, no, probably wouldn't remember a thing. But you never know, either.

JOHN: No, you never know. Because I know we used to have them ... those crews clean up some of those old stack yards at the same time, you know, and it could be that they ...

MARCUS: ... and somebody might have told Butch all about it too, you know, this is the marker for Pete French, and if you were to talk to him he might remember quite well. And then again he might not even know a thing about it. It's a thing you just don't know.

JOHN: You'll never know.

MARCUS: No, no.

JOHN: That's for sure.

JOHN: ... your water out at all?

MARCUS: Well, I imagine you want to get on to town.

... Pause

FRED: Is the old bar still down there?

WILBER: I don't know.

MARCUS: It used to be, yeah.

FRED: I just always wondered if the bar --- used to be a bar and a big glass down there.

MARCUS: Yeah the bar was there, I hear back 25 years ago, but I don't know whether it is in there or not. I can ask Pat sometime about that. I will too.

WILBER: He had four barrels of whiskey here, along that ...

FRED: I always wondered, you know, what ever happened to that.

WILBER: And ginger ale, they had that for a chaser. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Let's talk a little bit about the Elliott's. That would be Earl Elliott's family, and there was --- Jack was the oldest boy, wasn't he? Jack ---

FRED: Yeah, Jack would be his name, is Alfred.

MARCUS: Yeah, didn't he --- he left here ---

FRED: Alfred, Ellie.

MARCUS: Yeah, Ella and Delta --- Della.

FRED: Della.

MARCUS: And Louise ---

FRED: Louise and Cy.

MARCUS: And Cy, and Roy. There was quite a string of them.

WILBER: Well how did they get tangled up to the Brangles (sp.?), Fred?

FRED: Well, Mrs. Elliott was a Brangle, you see. And old man Elliott, his wife died, why he married Homer Brangle's mother, you see. That was, how come to be a Brangle there, you see.

WILBER: Maybe ... up there haying that time, and he was mean to fight his horses.

FRED: That was Walter.

WILBER: Walt, or what was his name?

FRED: That was Walter Brangle.

MARCUS: Walter Brangle.

WILBER: And Homer the young one, he went to Eugene.

FRED: He went to Eugene.

WILBER: Yeah, he left here.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Then there was Haden, and what was the other one, the tall one?

FRED: Haden and Leon and Cortis (sp.?).

MARCUS: Leon.

WILBER: Cortis, yeah.

MARCUS: I don't remember hearing about ---

FRED: Well Leon left here when he was about 16 years old, and went into Idaho. And they never heard from him for a long time. And finally then, I think when Cortis died, why he come back here, and was here just a little while, and went back to Idaho. He married up there, and I think he had three boys.

MARCUS: Oh, oh.

FRED: He was a big tall redheaded fellow, freckle faced just like old Cy.

MARCUS: Oh, like Cy, I'll be darned.

FRED: He was a big tall fellow. I imagine he was about 6 foot 6 or 7.

MARCUS: Hey now, we're overlooking one of the boys. There was another boy that was killed in the war here, World War II.

FRED: Well that was Alfred.

MARCUS: No, younger than that, Fred.

FRED: Oh, Buster.

MARCUS: Buster, right.

WILBER: You're right, yeah.

FRED: That's Buster.

MARCUS: He was in there right close to Cy.

FRED: Yeah. He was the youngest boy. See they never did, they never did find out whether he was killed or not, but he come up missing ...

MARCUS: ...

WILBER: ... going around that point right over there, and had a .22, so he said you throw your hat up and I'll shoot at it. And he threw his hat up, and of course I shot a hole in it. And he wouldn't throw his. But I shot ... shot at the end of his finger.

MARCUS: You shot him, shot him hat and all. (Laughter) Made him throw his hat then.

WILBER: Wonder some of us didn't get killed.

MARCUS: Oh boy, you bet.

JOHN: Well let's see now, your dad died just before World War I, didn't he?

WILBER: '16.

JOHN: '16.

WILBER: Yeah, that's when I went to school in Portland. I went to school in '14, you see. Yeah, he died in '16. I believe it was March, or May --- March or, or May. He was 47 years old. And they, this building, everything was in it, a little over three hundred thousand dollars, and he had --- of course that is given, just less price. He had 80 acres of land right here, is all he had.

JOHN: How much?

WILBER: 80.

JOHN: 80, uh huh.

MARCUS: My gosh he had a mortgage on half of Harney County though.

WILBER: Yes he did.

MARCUS: You bet, yeah, you bet he did.

WILBER: Yeah, we had a whole ... full of it. The state government just collected some of it. Faye Comegys collected some of it.

You got this rock showing down there at that point.

JOHN: Yeah, uh huh.

WILBER: And there was a fellow come in there on the other side and carved Dad's name, C. A. Haines, it's the prettiest thing you ever saw, right in that old building. And inside there, you remember that Fred, where he had two little planks he took off there? And there was a chute, board chute down below, and he put the pickles in there.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: Just slide them right down in the basement.

FRED: Oh yeah. Just stand up there to the freight wagon on the other side there. Used to be a big porch there.

WILBER: Yeah, great big platform.

FRED: I mean just drive up there, and they just had that there, and they just unloaded that, and all that there stuff would shove right down that chute.

MARCUS: Oh, slide into the basement there.

FRED: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: I see.

FRED: The liquor and everything, it went to the basement.

WILBER: The freight would be about, four teams pulled in here right behind one another, come evening they would all get drunk. The next morning they'd pull that old harness out there, and they'd get out there, and they'd take them leaders, make them pull three of them wagon loads. And them old horses just scratch, grabble, and just turn sideways --- jerk line on them, that's all they had.

FRED: Yeah.

WILBER: And then they'd bet on that. Then they'd go back and drink some more.

FRED: Was Millers.

MARCUS: Oh.

WILBER: I know we used to have an awful time a getting flour brought in so as to have a cover over it. And the whiskey, my god he couldn't hardly find anybody to haul that whiskey. If they didn't always stop somewhere and get drunk.

MARCUS: Well Wilber, Sid Comegys told me about the books that all the clerks were furnished. And all of the customer's names were in this book, and they were listed at 1, 2, 3. And number 1 was to sell all you could to them on credit. You remember seeing those books?

WILBER: No.

MARCUS: And then the other one was to sell, if you would come in, and if he didn't know who you were, this clerk would ask your name and step back, and he'd find your name, know just what to do with you. And if your credit wasn't too good, why he'd let you have just the bare necessities on credit. And then there was another group that cash sales. And Bud Kidwell headed up that cash sale rig list, and Bud told me about that, and Sid did too.

WILBER: Yeah.

MARCUS: He said that, and Bud told me, said Charlie Haines would never give me five cents credit. And Sid told me he listed up the --- listed on the no credit.

WILBER: About all these fellows, Frank Kueny owes him this, and Frank Kueny is going to have so many lambs to sell. And like John Witzel had so many steers. Maybe they owed him \$300, or \$250 ... Just a little ---

MARCUS: Well up here at the Island Ranch --- did you go on the grass tour last year, I mean to the Bell-A?

JOHN: No. Oh yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: Did you see those listings there of C. A. Haines, of the invoices that he, the stuff that he sold Bill Hanley? They got it on the porch there. I saw it the other day, but I didn't get any chance to look at it, just from a distance. We were in there with the Bell-A --

-

WILBER: ... would be something, wouldn't it?

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah. I'm going to go in there and take a picture of it sometime, or try to. It would be kind of nice to have, you know.

WILBER: I think of old Brindle, he was the guy that used to come down and haul for Bill Hanley here, deliver groceries clear to Bell-A, and then he'd go the other way. And he

was old Brindle, had four head of horses.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh, uh huh.

WILBER: Dad sold all of it. And he, generally he'd get a car load of flour, and my god I've pounded that old 2 x 4, you better flat ... to keep the mice from getting in. And the next year, when the spring come, by god maybe he'd maybe have a ton, or a half a ton. It's the damdest thing --- and sugar. And old Ben Brown and them would send teams down here and haul ton after ton. That's what made him successful. And I've heard these old Dunlap, and those old time salesmen, and he never seen a man that lived out here that new how much, and what the prices was. And he had two or three pictures; Dad took a picture of the salesman. And he says, it's written on there, the man says no to that kind of coffee. Couldn't sell him any coffee. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Well Fred you got credit from Charlie Haines. Well you told me about, when you worked out here at Sod House. He lent you money to buy a horse, or something, one time.

FRED: Yeah, I wanted to buy a horse, you see, and didn't have no job. And so I got a job at Sod House, worked there for \$40.00 a month. And I wanted this here horse, George Cawlfeld had the horse. So I went down and asked that ---

WILBER: Well I knew you fell off ...

FRED: "Charlie," I said, "can I borrow \$40.00?" He said, "What do you want \$40.00 for?" Says, "I want to buy a horse." He said, "Yeah, I'll let you have \$40.00." So I just thought he was just going to give me the \$40.00. "And oh no, no, no," he said, "you got to come in the office here." Went in there and they made me sign a note. And I wanted to pay him that --- a job you see, I wanted to pay him that \$40.00 and he wouldn't take it. He said you can pay me half of it, and then next month you can pay me the other half. He said, "Because you might want to buy a pair of overalls, or some candy, or some damn thing or

another." And that's the way he did me.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

(END OF TAPE)

bl