

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #420 - Sides A/B

Subject: Pioneer Day 1998 - With Norma Curtis & Carroll Bennett

Date: June 13, 1998

Place: Senior Center - Burns, Oregon

Interviewers:

(Tape is not in sequence to program.)

PAULINE BRAYMEN: ... I think someone told me this was the 82nd, but I forgot to check up on whoever told me that to see whether it was true or not, so if I'm wrong don't correct me, just tell each other what the right date is.

It was shortly after the 1900's that Harney County residents decided that they should honor those people who came to this country and settled it, and who raised families here, and even people who came and stayed a short time then left, have come back year after year for Pioneer Day. I was always amazed when I first started writing the histories of the Queen Mother and President for Pioneer Day, I was always amazed at the number of people who came to Pioneer Day who lived here for one year in 1918. They came ---

WOMAN: 1916.

PAULINE: --- pardon?

WOMAN: 1916.

PAULINE: Well, in 1916. There was a period of time when we had a lot of rain and the crops grew really good one year, and a lot of people came and settled. And then the drought hit, and away they went. So, but those people fell in love with Harney County just the same as those of us who remained here. It was always home in their hearts, and

returned. And it is still true today, we have a lot of people here from out of town who have made a special trip, and a special effort to be here today for this celebration.

And we're going to honor today two very special people, both of whom are members of pioneer families who can trace their history back to the very beginnings of Harney County history. Norma Curtis, a member of the Whiting family, and Carroll Bennett whose family came also very, very early, and whose family has been a part of Harney County life all through the years.

I'm going to change the order of the way we do things just a little bit this year. Usually we wait until the end and then we thank everybody, and introduce everybody. The way the program is set up today we'll be finishing with music from the High Desert Fiddlers, and so I'm going to introduce everyone now, and thank them. And then when we have the music then that will be the end of the program.

I'd like the kitchen crew to come out. Kitchen crew. (Applause) Those folks who served us today are Deena Moore, Darli Moore, and Terry McClintock, and we really thank you a lot. It makes our life a lot easier to have this good service. (Applause)

Our registration committee, what would we do without them. These ladies have taken care of keeping track of our names and addresses for low these many years, and we owe them a great hand of thanks. They are Cheryl Yates, Dorothy Starbuck, Viola Cowing, and you know what Judy --- you know what I wrote down? Well I caught my error, it's Judy Thompson, but I've got Judy Cowing written here on my paper. (Applause)

We have a group of board members who are very dedicated to seeing that this happens every year. It's a lot of work, a lot of responsibility, and they accept that and just see to it that this happens every year. They are George Sahlberg, who is chairman, and Twyla Turner, secretary and treasurer. And believe me it wouldn't happen if it weren't for Twyla. Pauline Braymen on publicity, I play a very minor role, believe me. Rex Bosch,

Cheryl Yates, Agness Brown, Bud Harris, Dick Clark, Rosie Runnels, Alice Shepard, Clyde Cowing, and Helen Hart. Let's give those folks a big round of applause. (Applause)

There is one other change in our program. You know we've always had an old time dance following the Pioneer program in the evening. This year it just didn't look like it was going to work out at all. But the Bennett family are dancing fools, and so they twisted Ruel's arm, and the High Desert Fiddlers will be here tonight to play at 7 o'clock. They will play for a few, or a lot. They will be passing the hat for a contribution. And there is going to be need for help moving chairs and tables around. So come help, and put your dollar in the hat and have a good time tonight. At this time we will seat the Queen Mother and the President. Oh, I did forget one thing. The co-chairmen for today's program are Gayle Hoar, daughter of the Queen, and Caroline Salsbery, the daughter of the President. If you folks would stand up and take a bow. (Applause)

And I'm not going to attempt to introduce each member of each family, but if the President's family would like to stand we can see who you are. (Applause)

And the Queen Mother's family, please stand. (Applause) This is the immediate family, there are some others here that are nieces and nephews and other relatives, so we're glad to have you all here today.

At this time we will seat the Queen Mother, Norma Whiting Curtis. Her grandchildren Travis and Christopher Hendon will be escorting her to her seat. (Applause)

Now that we have a Queen, we have to have a crown. Doing the honors are Norma's daughter Kelli Hendron, and her granddaughter Megan.

MEGAN HENDON: Hendon.

PAULINE: Hendon. (Laughter) Let's have a big hand for our Queen Mother. (Applause)

Our President this year is Carroll Bennett. He will be seated by his daughter Caroline Salsbery. And I believe there is a granddaughter Dianna born --- and a great-granddaughter Megan who will be pinning on his boutonniere. (Applause)

CARROLL BENNETT: She is more nervous than I am. (Applause)

PAULINE: Well a few years ago I did fall off the stage, but I'm going to do my best not to repeat that performance today. But I'm not off to a very good start here.

I'd like to welcome some other people here today, it's really good to see Pete Clemens here, and Katie Wheeler, and Johnny Crow, and I know there are some others here that have come a long ways, or made a great effort to be here. Let's give all of ourselves a big hand just because we made it. (Applause)

At this time we will have the Queen's history, will be read by her daughter Gayle Hoar.

GAYLE HOAR: Welcome. Thank you for coming to the 1998 Pioneer Day. I see a lot of friends, a lot of family, and I certainly appreciate and sincerely thank you for making it --- gosh the Turners are all over here, the Whitings are over there, there is some Curtis' and Hendon's --- there is my Aunt Audrey. Welcome, thank you for coming. Celebrating my mother's history is truly an accounting of the people of Harney County. The family was one of the first settlers to take up permanent residence in this area. Although most old time families traveled to Oregon via the Oregon Trail, the Whitings were thought to come from Maine aboard a boat, around the Horn to San Francisco in conjunction with the California gold rush. We wanted gold man, we didn't want land, we wanted gold. They settled in California for a while. On a visit up from the Susanville, Nevada City region, they were very impressed with the grasslands in this area. And the Whitings left to homestead in what is now Harney County.

In the winter of 1874, Tom and Lone Whiting, my mother's grandparents, lived in a dugout dwelling at the north end of town. However the actual town didn't exist. They lived there for the winter. And then the following year Tom and Lone built a permanent residence on the river land north of Burns.

Tom and his sons ran horses, trailing them as far south as the Sacramento Valley for sale. Lone became the first postmistress of Burns, and the parent of three --- are you paying attention Mom? (Laughter) She knows this by heart. Three sons, Frank, Skylar or Skip, and George; two daughters, Ella and Lizzie. George, my mother's father, chose to be a cattleman after riding for such folks as John Devine, Pete French, William Hanley, and the Pacific Livestock Country, Company, sorry. He also decided to marry the local schoolteacher, and very pretty, Ida Turner in 1907.

Ida's family included her mother Julia Hunter, and brother Arthur Turner --- you guys know those folks, don't you --- and their sister Lillian Turner Wood. Now Lillian Turner never came to Oregon, she always stayed in California. But Grandmother Hunter and Arthur traveled to Oregon, via California.

George and Ida had six children; Herbert, Lottie, Hilton, Wayne, my mother Norma, and this lady down here, Audrey. Together they homesteaded north of Burns and purchased land east of Burns to develop their land holdings. It was at the ranch house east of town that my mother was born in 1918. Ella Whiting Luckey and Frankie Turner were my grandmother's attendants during her labor and delivery. Dr. B. F. Smith was expected, but unable to make it on time because of an ice cream social. (Laughter) Mom attended both grade school and high school in Burns.

...

... by her older brothers, usually my Uncle Hilton. Some of her playmates were Thelma Harris, Alice Duhaime Shepard, Norma Pugsley, Dortha Peabody, Doris Peabody, Nona

and Viv Bossuot, Helen Clemens, Audrey and Dorothy Cowing, and her sister Audrey.

In 1938 my mother met and married my father, Howard Curtis. Some years before that, my Aunt Lottie had married my father's uncle. Now stick with me here, okay, Vern Bossuot. Sisters married a nephew and an uncle. My families always had a lot of fun with that one. You never know how you truly are related. My brother Roy and Shirley Bossuot, about ages 5 and 6 coming to fisticuffs arguing how they were truly related. It appears that they were probably both correct. They still argue about that.

In 1940, my brother Roy was born while my parents were living at the Strutt place east of Burns. Later they did move three or four times until my father purchased the house my mother presently lives in. World War II had been declared, and my father joined the armed forces. Some months after he shipped out to England, my brother Pat was born in 1945. My father, unable to see him until he was about a year old. During these years my mom worked in the summers haying for folks like Harley Hotchkiss, and Earl Sitz.

In the following years, Mom and Dad became the parents of four offspring. I was born in --- and my sister in 1962. (Laughter) Roy and his wife Pam live in Sandy, Oregon, have three children, Troy, Tammy and Tracy. Mom is now a great grandmother. Troy has a little girl Destiny. And in April Tracy gave birth to a baby girl. But Roy delivers Freightliner trucks throughout the United States.

Three years ago my brother Patrick passed away after a very long illness. His wife Anita survives him. We of course miss Pat very much for all of the obvious reasons. But sometimes it is doubly tough on us, his siblings. You see it is a fact that he was my mother's favorite child. And if any of us needed Mother to go somewhere or do something we'd always tell Pat and we could get it done. So you see with his passing we have lost our leverage with this very independent lady.

My husband and I live east of Burns, have two children, Keenan who is presently at U of O. His current course of study is anthropology and archeology, which is also interestingly enough my mother's passion. She has been a great rock hound for years. My son Kevin will be attending Hendricks College in Arkansas studying sports medicine and playing soccer. I do high-risk labor and delivery at St. Charles, and my husband works for one of the power companies in Bend.

My sister Kelli and her husband are the very busy parents of Christopher, Travis, and Megan. They live in Umatilla. Labraun (sp.?) is one of the heads of Hendon Construction.

My mother has worked on the election board since 1943, and for the last thirteen to fourteen years on the Harney County Fair Board. She continues to be a board member of Harney County Historical Society. And her favorite hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Some 25 years ago I introduced my husband Bob to my parents, and to my family, and he was asked to go ahead and go hunting. It was after that very faithful hunting trip that my husband discovered a very, what a very formidable character that my mother was. He's told me that he has walked the line ever since that time. And I wouldn't be surprised if he told his favorite hunting story to Kelli's husband Labraun because there has been some very fierce competition about who is the favorite son-in-law at any given period of time.

My mother is truly a pioneer, with her independent spirit and formidable character, adaptability in the face of hardship and change. It is very much a privilege to have had our mother Pioneer Queen. She thanks you, as do we. (Applause)

PAULINE: I'm not going to climb up there. The reason we have so much caution about the stage is that the carpet is larger than the stage, so if you step right there, you just fall right on through. So stay in the middle and you're okay, but if you get too far off the edge

you're apt to fall off the stage.

The President's history will be read by Carroll Bennett's son-in-law, Tom Lovejoy.

(Applause)

TOM LOVEJOY: I'm going to --- can you hear me okay? I'm going to do if off the side here so you can keep looking at them.

I read the write-up in the Burns paper, and the Burns paper has a different version of Carroll Bennett's life than mine. And I understand we both have the same source. (Laughter) So there may be some differences of his memory that was told to me, as his memory as told to the lady that writes the paper, as to your memory of what you remember about Carroll Bennett. So it sounds almost like we're going to court here, because there is always six version of the same story.

So good afternoon, my name is Tom Lovejoy. The man that we honor here today is my father-in-law Carroll Bennett. He was born on the 22nd of April in 1919, to Ellis and Mary Bennett, right here in Burns. He has an older brother Cleve, and a younger brother Jack. And I now find out he also had another brother named Bertrum who is buried here in Burns. Your uncle? These stories abound.

The family business was a Standard gas station; a GMC used car lot, and an Oldsmobile car dealership. Early memories he has of Burns is being pulled around in a wagon on the old board sidewalks by his mom and his brother. He attended elementary school here, and was in Mr. Sutton's class. Some of you older folks remember Mr. Sutton, who was then also the principal. Seems he could toss his big key ring just right and land on the desk of the wrong doer, and scare the bigemini's right out of him. And I guess there was also a bell that when tinkled could freeze a person in mid-stride. And then a crooked finger, beckoning, that could put a person both in close proximity with a ruler and isolation, to ponder whether or not they were doing the right thing when they got

caught. Somebody got caught throwing snowballs, out front, where the windows were.

On the bright side he learned to play trumpet from Helen Jenkins, and continued playing through high school, as well as college. And he also played basketball and football. And his senior year he played quarterback, calling all the plays. He says that none of the plays came in from the sidelines. He doesn't say whether or not they won all that year. And he played all the plays. His football number was 22, and his basketball number was 24. Now the first time he told me he said they were the same number for both teams. (Laughter) These discrepancies.

He was voted most inspirational athlete of the year, that year. Their coach, Mr. Hagen gave them all fond memories of the great victories. It seems that Carroll's dad's brother, Merle Bennett, was then the high principal at the high school during that time, so Carroll got a good chance at graduating. He also had to walk the straight and narrow. That's again his version.

There was also memories of a barnstormer that came through Burns every year, about springtime, and his name was Tex Rankin. And he'd land his plane in a hay field close to town and the folks would turn out to see the sight of their neighbors going for a joy ride for \$5.00 for fifteen minutes in the air. Now this must have had some effect on Carroll, because later he and a couple of his pals learned how to fly from a fellow by the name of Daryl Eggleston, in high school. It was an old high wing, single wing, Taylor-Craft. But it lit the fire that glowed later on in life. And what about the time he was down at the gas station during the summer, helping at the gas station, and a big limo pulled in, and he got to shake the hand of president Herbert Hoover, who was passing through town at the time.

Carroll graduated from school in 1937, and worked that summer at the station and the car lot both. That fall his mother put \$15.00 in his pocket, took him to the edge of

town, pointed him east, hitchhiking, and sent him off to college. His first ride took him as far as Boise. And his second ride took him all the way to St. Louis. He attended Principia College at Elsah, Illinois. Money was in short supply in those days, so he took a job at nights as a busboy to make ends meet. In the spring his dad got him a car delivered there from Detroit, so he at least had a way to get home.

After working that summer in Burns it was decided that he would attend Northwestern Business College here in Oregon.

The following summer, while working at home and attending the dances at Tonawama he met Marian. She was visiting her sister in Burns, and would return home in the fall. Carroll switched schools, for some mysterious reason, and went to Oregon State College at Corvallis. Weekends and spare minutes were spent visiting Marian's house.

In 1941 everybody was talking about the war, and whether or not we'd get into it. At college he could enroll in a cadet-flying program, if he could pass the physical. He did, and graduated the program in July of '42.

He started two careers almost at the same time, as he also got married to Marian. The military knew a good man when they saw one too, and put Carroll into flight instructor school all over the country. After several transfers they ended up in Blythe, California where Caroline was born. Several more transfers later Roger was born in Wake Cross, Georgia.

In September of '44 he was transferred to Europe, assigned to the 339th fighter group, attached to the 8th air force. He flew missions across the channel, and is credited for 5 planes in the air. Now that is a quick and easy way to say he was a World War II flying ace. Not everybody recognizes that it took 5 planes in the air to become a flying ace. And this man here with us today is a flying ace from World War II.

One of the first jets in combat, the ME 262, he destroyed aircraft on the ground,

and four trains. His plane carried the words, "My Darling" on its nose for good luck. He don't talk about it much, but he was also put up for the DFC, the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1945, was a big year, his daughter Kathy, the one I was interested in, and am interested in, was born in Portland.

And he and the brother of the guy that first taught him how to fly, Daryl's brother Dale Eggleston started the first commercial airline in Oregon. Had a nifty name, called Oregon Airlines. A neat name, but it didn't catch on. In about 5 or 6 months they were out of business.

After trying his hand at several other endeavors he was back in the service. War broke out in Korea, and Carroll got assigned to multi-engine transports and assigned to Tokyo. They flew supplies into Seoul and Saigon, during the Korean War, and all over the Pacific.

After the war he was assigned to Greenland as transport commander for the military airport transport services, or MAX. When we started involvement in Vietnam he was back flying supplies into Saigon and Seoul again.

He retired in 1964 as a major and moved his family to Burns. Not one for being idle too long, he was soon involved in the Job Corps for about 3 years. After that he flew smoke patrol for the forest service, and then worked four summers on forest service fire lookouts.

Before, during, and after all of this, they joined the LDS Church, went on two missions for the church, and managed to compile a list of approximately 5,000 names of relatives, going back to Europe on several occasions, dating back more than 300 years.

Through all of this he has never gotten away from his flying. The same skills developed to instruct pilots during the war became tools to instruct the civilian, in civilian

life as well. His youngest pilots trained to date were Glenda Ausmus at 16, and her sister Brenda, who flew the longest dual cross from Burns to Calgary, Canada. And the oldest to date was Helen Jenkins, his old trumpet teacher from grade school, at age 75.

During his military career he soloed in some 42 different types of aircraft, most of it in the military. He has accumulated over 20,000 hours of flying time.

During his family career, he has accumulated four children, eleven grandchildren, and some 15 great-grandchildren, subject to update at any time.

And where has all the time gone? Just yesterday he was in mortal fear of his life at the hands of Mr. Sutton in grade school. Or he was hunting with his dad with his first .22 rifle. Or taking his first test ride in that old Taylor-Craft with Daryl Eggleston. Or drinking in the beauty of his first-born daughter, or trying to find the right words to say to that young pilot that would make him remember, that would save his life. It would give him the tools to win with. Or to teach another youngster the joy he must have felt in those first few flights that never left him. In the wink of an eye, the time has flown by.

It is fitting and proper that we take this time to honor our President of Harney County Pioneer Day. His contributions, and those of others of his generation have made it possible for us to be here and enjoy this fellowship. Carroll, for this and so much more, we thank you. (Applause)

PAULINE: Tom, thank you. I'd like to tell you a story. This young bride was going to cook the roast for dinner. And she put the roast out on the counter, and she sawed off, about that much off the end, and she put the roast in the pan. She put the piece that she sawed off on top, put the lid on, and put it in the oven. Well her husband watched this with great curiosity and asked her why she cut the end off the roast, put it on top, and put it in the pan before she put it in the oven. And she said, "Well I don't know, that's the way my moms always done it." So he was pretty curious, and he called up his mother-in-law and

said, "Mom, how come you take the roast, you cut off the end, you saw the top, you put it in the pan, you put it in the oven. Why don't you leave it in one piece?" She said, "I don't know, that's the way my mom always did it." So he called up Grandma and he said, "Why do you cut the end off the roast, and put it on the top before you put it in the pan, before you put it in the oven?" And she said, "The pan I had to cook a roast in was too small."

Well that's kind of the way it is with this microphone. We have always stood up there on the stage, always. These people here who have been here regularly know that I have fallen off this stage, because I stepped on this sloppy carpet. And we have babied a lot of other people on and off, hoping that they could survive the ordeal. This makes perfect sense. So from now on, this is the way we're always going to do it. (Applause)

We have a couple of other people that would like to speak today. Caroline Salsbery, the daughter of the President.

JEFF BENNETT: Another change of plans.

PAULINE: This isn't Caroline. (Laughter)

JEFF: Carroll Bennett, hello, hello, that's pretty loud, isn't it. Carroll Bennett taught me how to fly, and they haven't jerked my license yet, so he probably did a pretty good job. And if you look closely at these jeans, he taught me something that he learned in the garage, and we got to use some of that on the way over here. Didn't teach me to plan ahead and pack an extra set of clothes when you go on a trip or out of town.

I'm Jeff Bennett. We grew up in various places around the country. As you heard, came here for summer vacations, and Christmas time most every Christmas, so I met a lot of the Bennett family. Then when we came here, I think it was '63, when Dad retired and we came here, and I finished high school here. Being of pioneer stock from Harney County has --- I've gotten a lot of miles out of that. Had a good time in Harney County, and now live in Salem. Thanks for everything, Dad. Thank you. (Applause)

CAROLINE SALSBERY: He wanted to go first; because he said a couple things I was going to say. Mainly it has just been great to have a town like Burns to call your parent's home, your grandparent's home, and to come back to and visit. All the memories, really good memories are coming to Grandma's house, and going hunting in the cabin that Dad and Mom bought years ago. And many of you got to come there and hunt with us, and we were glad to have you join in, because it just makes more memories.

Mainly wanted to just thank Dad, thank all of you for doing this, because tradition, family and everything else is the most important thing for the grandkids and the kids coming up to follow on with. Thank you Dad, and Mom too who couldn't be here. I don't know if all of you know why my mother is not here. She broke her hip, had an accident in the cabin, and she is not quite recuperated. So we are kind of, some of the program that we had planned didn't follow through either. My sister is up there helping take care of her, and some of the grandkids are still there. So we don't have any little singing grandkids, and little poems to show Dad like we were going to. But thank you everybody again for coming, and thank you Dad. And, thank you. And oh, and Glenda, is Glenda Ausmus here? She was --- Brenda, Brenda Ausmus I think wants to say a couple words, right? No. Okay, yes, I didn't tell you because I wasn't sure that Brenda Ausmus was --- she is going to really get angry here with all the changes. Here she comes. (Applause)

PAULINE: It gives me great pleasure to introduce my niece, Brenda Ausmus Brizendine

BRENDA AUSMUS BRIZENDINE: Don't worry Pauline; I can take a knife to this carpet. No one has ever thought of that in all these years? (Laughter) And Carroll, you're lucky this isn't a roast, because I've got stuff. I've got stuff on you. If this were a roast, I can tell many stories, but it's not.

So --- Carroll is probably one of the neatest, one of the neatest people around. I started flying with him after I got really jealous because Glenda got to fly first. And he has

got nerves of steel, and he is persistent, and Carroll I do remember what you taught me. And when I get in a real pinch, its Carroll's voice and his calm nature that always come back to me. I'm not very good at speaking in public. We did take the longest cross-country up to Edmonton. And if it were a roast I would tell about how we got kicked out of the hotel room while Marian went through the white pages of the telephone book, looking for relatives. And our adventures while we were kicked out of the hotel room. And I could tell about going through a national park, through the Rocky Mountains, and in my nervous way tapping on the compass so much that it fell out of its holder. He seemed a little concerned, but managed pretty well. We screwed it in when we landed in Canada. Just a very compassionate, wonderful person who taught me more than just flying. We probably debated everything there is to debate. And when you are a 15 year old, independent, knot-headed female in Harney County, that's something that you really need is someone who will let you talk, and ask you to think about things, and ask you to defend why you think that way. And after I went to college we tried to convert one another several times, all with a lot of love, and appreciation. Thank you Carroll. (Applause)

PAULINE: It wasn't easy watching first Glenda and then Brenda climb in that airplane and do their solo. But they are right; they had the best teacher ever. And they have both had a good time with their flying, and have been safe pilots. They gained a lot from you Carroll, and I thank you too.

There is one more person here today that has a few things to say about Carroll Bennett. Mary Ausmus.

MARY AUSMUS: Hello Carroll. Are you scared, because you never know what I am going to say? I want you to be scared Carroll. And hello Norma. I can't talk about Carroll without saying Carroll and Marian, because it just goes together, Carroll and Marian. And while the girls were up flying, and their Dad was at the airport with them, Marian and I sat

at home and we went through books, and we watched nature programs, very healthy, wholesome programs on television. And we waited for them to get back down out of the air. And Marian would have such a good time if she were here. But she is here, whether she and Kathy and the grandkids are here with us in spirit. I just couldn't let the afternoon go by without saying Carroll and Marian, because that's who I love and appreciate are Carroll and Marian, and God bless you both. (Applause)

PAULINE: I would like to add a couple of memories of both these people. I went to school with some of Norma's relatives. (Laughter) And, we were neighbors of Ida and Hilton and Eva, still are. I can remember Ida so well, that tall willowy woman with the sparkling blue eyes, the clearest orchid blue eyes I think I have ever seen. She taught me a lot, just about being --- just about being a good neighbor I guess you would say. And it's, was with a thrill that I was here when Hilton was President of the Pioneer Association. And it is a really honor to be here with you today, Norma.

Carroll, I have known his mom and dad ever since I was a little, little kid. They had the Chevron gas station, and the Oldsmobile dealership, and that's where my folks got gas. So we saw them on a regular basis. I remember the monkey calendars that they gave out for years, and years, and years. In fact I think I still have some of those monkey calendars. We looked forward every year to getting the new monkey calendar.

And Mary is a friend to many of us here, who will remember her with much love. She gave so much to this community, and she taught her family to give also, and they have.

That's part of the good thing about Pioneer Day; it gives us a chance to remember those that came before. To recognize and honor those that are still with us, and to plan for a good future for our children and grandchildren. I want to again honor Norma and Carroll. Thank you. (Applause)

I mentioned two or three people here I had noticed were here a while ago, and sitting back in the chair I could look around and see a few more. Agness Brown who has been a big part of this association, but also a big part of the community. Ethel Oard Harris Wickizer, whom we all love, and are always glad to see every year. I've mentioned Katie. There was someone else, goodness gracious, who was it? There was one other person here that I really especially wanted to --- well I guess since I can't remember, you'll all have to think that it's you. (Laughter) Welcome, and thank you all for coming.

Remember the dance tonight at 7:00. And I think that the Pioneer President has a few words to say to us. And I'm going to hand you the mike, Carroll, so you won't have to get up.

CARROLL BENNETT: She really knows I'm feeble. (Laughter) It will be just a few words. I wanted to mention something about my partner. I think if it wasn't for her, or one of her sons, I would have lost my wife a long time ago. I see some heads nodded out there, they know the story. I'll just quickly tell the story about Roy. You know the story?

My wife, as some of you know, was a skydiver, parachute jumper, and she went out to Roaring Springs to jump in the reservoir, and she had another lady with her that wanted to jump also. So I flew one plane, and took my wife up to jump out, and the other girl jumped out of another plane then it landed. We made one mistake; we didn't have two boats to pick up the two people that came into the water. So the first boat picked up the other girl first, and here is my wife over here floating with her parachute not too far from the land, but the parachute and the little reserve chute would usually make a person jumping in the water, will make them float for awhile.

Well I was in the plane circling, I could see that the parachute was sinking and it was taking my wife down with it, right into the reservoir. So I circled and landed probably the quickest landing I've ever made in my life, and got out of the airplane, went down to

the beach and here is a little rowboat. And I get in the rowboat, and I happened to look over at the side and I noticed about 5 or 6 people, they were just standing there. Nobody went out, rowed out. But anyway Roy and his wife --- I don't think either one of them could swim. ... swim alone. But they had a couple little life preservers, and they both took off their clothes, almost, and jumped in the reservoir and swam out and saved my wife. So they actually saved my wife's life. I got in the rowboat a little while after that, and rowed out there, and all of them hung onto the rowboat and we came back. And you can think about things that you don't really see when it happens. Well this is one of those times. Roy's wife and Roy had on shorts when they went out in the lake and came back, and I didn't even realize it. Thank you. (Laughter) (Applause)

PAULINE: Norma said Carroll said it all. I expected that. Norma is not known for her talkativeness, but we love you anyway. I'd like to introduce now --- is there anything else before I do though, that I have forgotten?

JEFF: My son is here, Carroll Bennett's grandson Anthony, would you stand up. He wasn't mentioned in the program. (Applause)

PAULINE: Thank you Jeff, I'm glad you corrected that oversight, because we would hate to miss anyone on this really very important day. If that is everything, I would have you again give a big hand to our Pioneer President and Queen Mother.

MARY AUSMUS: I have one thing I wanted to say. Thank you. I did this on the spur of the moment when Henry was Pioneer President. And one of my favorite people, Nel Bosch is sitting back there and she liked a little poem that I told at the end of Henry's, and it goes something like this:

 Their meeting, it was sudden,
 Their meeting it was sad.
 She gave sweet young life,

It was all the life she had.
They laid beneath the willows,
She is resting there now.
There is always something doing,
When a freight train meets a cow.

(Laughter) (Applause)

PAULINE: And on that cheerful note --- I would like to introduce Ruel Teague and the High Desert Fiddlers; they're going to entertain. Two special requests from the Pioneer President and Queen Mother, the Missouri Waltz, and the Blue Skirt Waltz, and then I think they are going to do some other things too. So thank you.

RUEL TEAGUE: You haven't got by yet; so don't be sitting there grinning. As probably most all of you know, Carroll and I have been friends for many, many years. And I wanted to say something, and Ed Davis telling all about what a great guy he was, and what, everything he done. I asked him earlier, I said, "How come you don't wear a hat?" And he said, "Well you wait, just wait and you'll see why I don't wear a hat." See how big his head has got listening to all these big stories he is telling. (Laughter)

And I might tell you something else too. Those three boys of Mrs. Bennett had a problem. You heard about the old board sidewalks? Mrs. Bennett seemed to have a problem with these three kids that she had. Oh, they was nice kids. But she'd go out --- and the city had a problem, they kept having to replace these boards out in front of where Caroline lived. So somebody went down and checked to see what it was, and she said that's the only way I can take care of these boys. She'd go out and tear a board off of there and work them over, and that's --- right in front of the --- (Laughter) That was Jack and Cleve and Carroll here, you know, real good kids, real nice.

And I might have to tell you something else too. Carroll and I we had --- he might

have forgot this --- but it was funny to me. And of course Carroll has got hours and hours and hours flying. I've got quite a few, but not like Carroll has got. So one time, of course he has flown four-engines, big as you ever flew I guess, and so I just figured old Carroll knew everything about everything. So we were flying down, heading for California, and old Carroll he was sitting there, and I put him in the pilot's side, and I was just setting over there snoozing. We had to take a charter down somewhere in Fresno, California, I guess it was. So we were going along, and old Carroll, you know, with so much experience, I knew he couldn't do something wrong. And so we broke off of that mountains, going out of, over Reno and down, we started dropping down. And I noticed Carroll reaching over, turning this control. And you have controls, you have a mixture control, and you have a throttle, and then you have, of course your throttle is over here, but your ... is your prop control. And so I see Carroll reach over and he turns that prop. And I thought, what's he doing? And he kept ... and ... he was getting that down, you usually running about 2300, 2500 rpms, and it got plumb down to about 1400, 1500. And old Carroll finally looked over at me and reached over and turned that again and he looked at me and he said, "What did you let me do that for?" He said, "I got that plumb down to 1700 and I thought I had the throttle control." (Laughter)

Anyway I thought that was funny for a guy with lots of experience, you know. So we got to talking, and he wasn't even paying any attention then. He knew that ---

CARROLL: I was just seeing if you were paying attention. (Laughter)

RUEL: I did when my old motor on my engine was running about 1600, 1700. Supposed to be running about 2300, 2400.

Okay, we're going to do a number here first, I guess we better do this one for the lady first, called Blue Skirt Waltz, beautiful waltz. And I suppose if somebody wanted to get up here and dance, I mean right there is a nice place to dance, it wouldn't bother me a

bit. But of course we're going to dance tonight, so you can save all your energy for tonight if you want to.

... High Desert Fiddlers play music.

Thank you, and my helpers here is Walt Cooper. And this other little lady back here, see what's her name? She don't have her name on, I guess it is Julia Milleson. She is always our sidekick for helping us whenever, wherever. And we're going to do now one for, this is Carroll's favorite, and it's called Missouri Waltz.

... Music

Okay, we're going to do one more here while everybody is getting ready to go, I guess, they said you was going to be dismissed. So we want to dismiss you with a pretty good hot tune so as you can feel like coming back tonight and dance. So you get back here at 7 o'clock tonight and we'll see if we can play a little music for you.

CARROLL: Yeah, you know we're so used to playing to a rowdy crowd, this is different. Everybody sitting up here being quiet, it don't sound right.

RUEL: But they're smiling, that's where it's at. We're going to do one, just punk music I wrote. If you like it smile, if you don't, smile anyway. It's kind of a hoedown.

... Music

(END OF TAPE)

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