

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #422 - Sides A/B

Subject: Conly Leon Marshall - With Video

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Date: January 14, 1999

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Helen Davis

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and I'm here at the Harney County Library, and Helen Davis is with me. The date is January 14th, 1999. We're going to be talking with Conly Marshall from Drewsey. He is going to tell us about his life, past life, and everything else. So, we'll start out with Conly. Can you tell us your full name?

CONLY LEON MARSHALL: Conly Leon Marshall.

DOROTHEA: And how do you spell that?

CONLY: Conly, C O N L Y, Leon, L E O N, Marshall, M A R S H A L L.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And where were you born?

CONLY: I was born at Burns. I was born in a house directly across from the Center.

DOROTHEA: The Senior Center now?

CONLY: In Burns, November 16th, 1926.

DOROTHEA: And who were your parents?

CONLY: My dad was Culver H. Marshall. My mother, Violet Lees Marshall.

DOROTHEA: And how do you spell her ---

CONLY: Maiden name?

DOROTHEA: --- maiden name?

CONLY: L E E S.

DOROTHEA: Just plain Lees.

CONLY: Her middle name was Winifred. Violet Winifred Lees Marshall.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: I had one brother.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: He was born August the 11th, 1925, at the same locality. It's across from the Senior Center now, approximately.

DOROTHEA: And what was his name?

CONLY: Culver Alvin Marshall, Junior.

DOROTHEA: Junior. Okay. Can you tell us something about --- first I'll ask you is that your only other brother or sister?

CONLY: That's my only brother, there was just two boys, we were just two boys.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Tell us something about your parents. When did they come to the country?

CONLY: My, of course Alfred Marshall, one of the five brothers that settled around the bird refuge, they were the first settlers in 1884. They come from Fort Harney, and they settled, they took up claims there. And Alfred Marshall, my granddad, was the youngest of the five boys that settled there. They all took up homesteads. And then my grandmother Mary C. Stover Marshall was born in Pendleton. There was a number of Stover's in Pendleton, a, quite a number of them.

And they, after, when they got into troubles with the government and such as that -- they'd bought the store from a person by the name of Bottsford (sp.?) that had started the store as a post office. Started it as a post office. Bottsford was a, oh what would you call it, he was the one that named the place Voltage. And the reason for the name of Voltage, according to my grandmother, was that he proposed putting a dam above the P Ranch to make electricity. He surveyed it in there, he was a general contractor. And it

never, the bird refuge come along.

And then when they got in trouble, when the government was taking their property away from them, they decided to run the store. So they run the store for --- I think they got the store in 1916, and they run the store at that time.

DOROTHEA: That was ---

CONLY: From then on, until they quit, until in the '30's when it ceased to exist at that time.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Now at that time it was not called Voltage?

CONLY: It was always called Voltage.

DOROTHEA: It was always called Voltage.

CONLY: Bottsford had named it Voltage, because he was going to produce voltage, electricity, from the dam up above the P Ranch.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: Up above the ---

DOROTHEA: So it was always that name then.

CONLY: So that's --- you can believe it or not, it don't make no difference, you know. Maybe that's true, but maybe it is made up too, because you don't know about those things. But that was it. Because he was an electrician, Bottsford was an electrician and he had settled in there, he took up that homestead.

DOROTHEA: Okay, let's tell something about your dad. Who were his parents?

CONLY: His parents was Alfred Marshall, Mary Marshall, the youngest of the clan.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: And ---

DOROTHEA: Tell us how many brothers and sisters he had.

CONLY: My dad's --- there was an older brother, Ray Marshall, he was older. And then

there was my dad, Culver Marshall. And then there was his sister, Iris Marshall. And there was just the three of them. And that's all --- Ray Marshall had quite a bunch of kids. In fact there was nine in his family. Of course in my family there was only two. And in his sister's family, there was only one girl, and she was killed.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so you had a lot of cousins.

CONLY: I have, I did have. In fact half of the Willamette Valley is my cousins, my relations. (Laughter) We don't all --- okay, never mind. (Laughter) Yeah, yeah, quite a few cousins.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Tell us something about your mother.

CONLY: My mother ---

DOROTHEA: Where they met.

CONLY: My mother, my dad and my mother went to school at Ontario. Graduated in high school at Ontario in 1922. And they both graduated as teachers, they were teachers. My dad, he taught up towards, north of Burns. And my mother she taught out at Silver Creek for a year or two, until I come along and spoiled things, or something like that.

But my Grandmother Lees, she was a blue-blood Englishman. She was disowned by a coat of arms in English because she had married the gardener. This was a no-no, and so they both left England and come --- and they settled in Willow Creek, up, out of Ontario.

She had a sister; my mother had a sister, and a brother. The brother died when he was pretty young.

And my Grandmother Lees down above Harper, and up in there, up out of Silver Creek, she was a midwife. She produced a lot --- produced --- helped a lot of women with ---

DOROTHEA: Birthing and ---

CONLY: --- birthing and stuff like that. And she was, and then she went on down when her husband died in Ontario she worked for Rainwater Jones, which was the first place, clothes, you know washing outfit. I --- you'll have to help me out.

DOROTHEA: Laundromat or something.

CONLY: Laundromat.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, okay.

CONLY: She was a seamstress down there, and that's where she spent her life. Now did I --- I said my mother only had --- she had two sisters.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: She had --- she was the oldest, and then she had another. And one of her sisters went back to Texas, she was a nurse back in Texas, and lived back in Texas. And the other sister stayed in Payette. And a brother had died of meningitis back, when he was young.

DOROTHEA: Wow, they had that then even, huh?

CONLY: Uh huh. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Didn't know what it was, probably.

CONLY: Yeah. And so that kind of covers that. And then they met in Ontario, of course. My dad, he played football, or a type of football and stuff like that.

CONLY: Well now you said your grandmother was an English person that got ousted and came to the United States. How did they end up in Ontario?

CONLY: You know I haven't been able to really track that down. I think that her husband had come across before, and it's just like the Irishmen, the Bascos and so on. I can't really say why --- See up around, oh back up in Silver --- or not Silver Creek, but back above Harper and back up in there, Willow Creek, back up towards Ironside there was quite a settlement of people. Quite a bunch of people had come in, had come across,

and I suppose, you know, maybe that's just the way it was. Maybe she followed him. They got married, and they run him off.

DOROTHEA: Do you know where they got married?

CONLY: In England.

DOROTHEA: They did get married in England. You have got that much.

CONLY: I've got quite a lot of that stuff, you know, but I haven't got it all figured out yet.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Now did she have lots of brothers and sisters herself? Or do you know?

CONLY: No, no.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

CONLY: No, she was pretty much the spoiled brat.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: Blue blood. I mean blue blood; I mean they got a coat-of-arms. And they still got English people over there that are still --- as far as I know.

DOROTHEA: What was her maiden name?

CONLY: On dang, I'd have to look it up.

DOROTHEA: That's too far back.

CONLY: No, I got pictures, I got all of that stuff. I got her grandparents and stuff, you know. But I'm just getting into this stuff.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Oh boy, I'd love to do that.

CONLY: And I've got, you know, and I'm trying to make it all ---

DOROTHEA: We might even find out you and I are related, you know.

CONLY: Very well could be, you know. But that's, you know, that's about what I --- I could lie to you and tell you a lot of things, but ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Oh well --- lots of stories, you know. (Laughter)

CONLY: (Laughter) But that, as far as I know, that's the way it was.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so then let's go on to, you grew up in Voltage yourself, or ---

CONLY: I spent, let's see, I was born --- they took the property completely away from, which was Alvin Marshall's homestead, down at the mouth of the river. They took that away for the bird refuge in '37. They took that part of it away. My grandmother still maintained her property until in the '50's, 1956 I think. Her and the Otleys, ... by Lawen, and they still owe --- before they paid them off. But they had taken it away from them. Drowned them out, and did everything they could to get them out of there. And I've got that all down too.

DOROTHEA: Government kindness.

CONLY: My grandmother, Mary Marshall, wrote everything down. You think you're right; she duplicated every letter she wrote to any-body and everybody. And I put them on tape. I've got a cousin down there that sounds just like my grandmother, and so I had her read --- I've got these readings, some of these readings. And I've got some of them, and we're putting them on tape trying to make it ---

DOROTHEA: Great.

CONLY: And she wrote to Roosevelt, she wrote to everybody, lawyers, I mean lawyers, because she covered everything.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CONLY: And I've got it all in handwriting. But you got to kind of decipher this stuff.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CONLY: And, to get it in line, because she would jump from this and that. But it was all legible. And it is real, real interesting. And I'm real interested in it.

DOROTHEA: If you don't mind --- are these the tapes that you're going ---

CONLY: I've got some of it, just some of it there.

DOROTHEA: And this is on your family?

CONLY: Yeah, see I'm making this up for my family, for my boy at the Double O. He is about the only one that is interested. I wasn't interested in this, what difference did it make?

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Well yeah, but ---

CONLY: You know, but it is real important.

DOROTHEA: As you get older you seem to do this.

CONLY: I've got some things that she wrote down, and it's on file, it's way back in Taft. She got a mineral right from Taft.

DOROTHEA: Well why I was asking this, is because we'd like to have a copy of this, it can just continue on. It's kind of like the Hibbard tapes. And we can put them all under the name of Conly Marshall and his family, and put them in through that way. So if I could copy them and put them on tape, then we could ---

CONLY: Well I'm going to have to show you what I'm doing, so you can tell me if I'm doing things right.

DOROTHEA: Oh well, now I'm not any expert on that.

CONLY: You know, yeah but you see I'm taking a lot of old pictures, little photographs, and having them blowed up and I'm putting them on a tape.

It's like in the 1930's when the lake went dry. See I went through the drought, when they found the buffalo skulls and stuff down --- We as kids, I've even got some pictures, some of them, at the mouth of the river. See I mowed hay all over that when I was just a ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CONLY: --- ornery kid. We mowed hay all over that lakebed.

DOROTHEA: Of course horse mowers.



CONLY: Yeah. And I mean we put up a lot of hay. And I've got a picture of my granddad in a 1935 Ford when the grain is just that much higher than that Ford. And all they did was just go out there and drill around through the patches of tules all over that lake. Clear out, clear to Cole Island, clear to over towards Crane and back in there. In fact I watched, when they had 38 head of horses on a combine out there where Billy Quier lived, right where the railroad tracks went out of Crane and back through there and hit that ---

And then that old steamer that, when Ausmus and them combined grain, thousands --- Do you know, during that time --- I'm getting way off from the train ---

DOROTHEA: That's okay.

CONLY: During that time, according to the records, they put up 80 pounds of grain to the acre, or not to the acre, you know what I'm trying to say.

DOROTHEA: Ton or something. 80 pounds to the --- well it was to the acre.

CONLY: Well, you know, 80 bushels --- oh well, anyway. Tremendous, tremendous, when like up around Pendleton they only get 32 to 30 some on their dry land. But that was --- but that is a thousand feet of tules and duck manure, the finest land in the world. I mean the finest land in the world. We put up hay, thousands of tons of hay.

DOROTHEA: Well let's go back a little bit.

CONLY: Get away from it.

DOROTHEA: Let's go to how old were you when you finally moved out there? Did you, were you still a little boy, or were you ---

CONLY: When I moved?

DOROTHEA: When you and your folks moved out to the Voltage area.

CONLY: Well they were living there at the mouth of the river.

DOROTHEA: Oh, when you were born.

CONLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: I was born when they were ranching at that time. They had bought Alvin's homestead. Or it was Jones; it was --- oh, I can't think of his name. He bought it from Alvin Marshall. And the homestead down there on the lake, and my folks had that, and was buying that. They was running cattle, we run cattle there, up until they took us, they shut us down in '37.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so you were born in Burns, but it was more or less ---

CONLY: Just long enough to be here.

DOROTHEA: In other words, I mean ---

CONLY: My mom come in and I was born.

DOROTHEA: --- they called those maternity homes or something. Is that where it was?

CONLY: Yes. It was apparently, and I can't tell you exactly what it was, but it was where --- they come to have babies.

DOROTHEA: Have their babies. Okay.

CONLY: And I think they even got the doctor, you see his name in the paper pretty regularly back in that time.

DOROTHEA: Morrison?

CONLY: No, no, it was back in --- It's on my birth certificate. I guess I could look that up too, as far as that goes. But no, we was ---

DOROTHEA: You lived in Voltage, but you came to Burns to be born.

CONLY: We was living there, on the ranch below Voltage. Voltage is 2 1/2 miles north of where we lived. We lived right on the river, right at, almost on the mouth of the river where it dumped into the lake.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. But it is still called Voltage though.

CONLY: Not, I don't suppose that was, no. Not, you know, well the area was Voltage.

It's just like Sod House over by Marcus Haines and --- that was the Sod House because of the, there --- but we was down on the river, down where the river, below the spring branch, and down through there.

DOROTHEA: Now are you older than your brother?

CONLY: No, he was, he was in the service and killed in Luzon.

DOROTHEA: Now if I would write all this down, see I'd have the dates down, but I didn't do that. So --- okay, then where did you go to school?

CONLY: I started out at Voltage. And we was trying to figure out whether Wanda Scoznick (sp.?), or whether my aunt --- Wanda Scoznick, from out of The Dalles ---

DOROTHEA: Now you're saying a name that Barbara (Lofgren) is going to have to know how to spell, and you don't either, huh?

CONLY: Just spell it like it sounds. Scoz --- S C O Z --- nick. That's the best I can do for you.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay.

CONLY: And then later on I went to Johnny Crow's wife. She taught me.

DOROTHEA: Georgia.

CONLY: Georgia Crow. See they all lived with us, they stayed with us, and we'd go 2 1/2 miles up to Voltage.

DOROTHEA: Well I think Georgia stayed with you before her and Johnny got married.

CONLY: Oh yes, oh yeah. I dealt her misery that you won't believe.

DOROTHEA: Well, well I kind of believe ---

CONLY: I don't know why she don't hate me.

DOROTHEA: I kind of believe, I kind of believe she has told us some of it.

CONLY: Oh we was the meanest two kids that walked the face of the earth. (Laughter) Oh she says, "Oh you were pretty good kids." And she was lying to herself, I know she

was. But we thought we was Indians, and we dealt her misery. But she was a wonderful teacher. And then from there I went to the Sod House, Marcus Haines' wife (Edna) taught me for I think only one year. And then I went from there to Ontario, and spent two years in Ontario. And then from there I went to Grants Pass, and finished freshman to the senior year in Grants Pass. Because my mother and my dad had divorced in '37.

DOROTHEA: And you were born in '26.

CONLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That would make you about 11 years old, okay.

CONLY: And, well my dad --- and then he kept the cattle, and we moved out --- I worked at Trout Creek for Al Wallace and stuff for 3 years. But my dad then married Witzel, McConnell. She was married to Bob McConnell, Daisy Witzel.

DOROTHEA: Was her maiden name?

CONLY: Was her maiden name.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: Her brother, or her dad died just a number of years ago. She was one of the Witzel's.

DOROTHEA: One of the Witzel's. I told you we was going to be related to ---

CONLY: Oh, oh.

DOROTHEA: Clinton (Purdy) is a cousin to the Witzel's.

CONLY: Is that --- but Daisy had married Bob McConnell, which was McConnell's son, famous ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah the, from around here.

CONLY: Yeah, he was one of --- best friends of the Paiutes there ever was. But he married --- and then during the war my mother married Carl Jones.

DOROTHEA: And that was ---

CONLY: And he was from down in Voltage.

DOROTHEA: From down in that area also.

CONLY: That's --- the Joneses, there was Harley, there was ---

DOROTHEA: Katie.

CONLY: Katie, and Denver, and that Jones family. They were living there at Voltage. And some of them went to school there.

DOROTHEA: Okay, then they moved away from here then?

CONLY: The Joneses, yes. They had ---

DOROTHEA: The guy that won your mother?

CONLY: The grandmother --- Carl's mother and --- they had moved to Grants Pass, just like a lot of these people --- like the Dunn's, and a lot of them had moved to Ashland.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CONLY: Because that woman down there, that healer, the one that, the hands on healer, a lot of people from out of Harney County went to Ashland to drink the lithia water and get well.

DOROTHEA: Or whatever.

CONLY: Who knows, you know.

DOROTHEA: That old thing that ---

CONLY: Get the hell out of the snow --- excuse me.

DOROTHEA: Right. Get it out, and get out of this ---

CONLY: So that's kind of the reason, as far as I know, they moved down there and go to school. And then she married Carl Jones, he was in the service, and she married him down there.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: So he was my step-dad.

DOROTHEA: So you're related to Katie Wheeler.

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Step-wise, okay. (Laughter)

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Let's see, now where were we at --- you went to school --- Did you go to college?

CONLY: No.

DOROTHEA: You didn't. Well then how did you get back to Harney County?

CONLY: How did I get back? Oh man, I went around the, I went around the world. How did I get back. You want it right quick? Well, all during ---

DOROTHEA: We've got two 90 minute tapes.

CONLY: --- after '37, after 1937, then I started traveling in the summer to Trout Creek. Al Wallace had the, down below Defenbaugh's, right in there, I spent three summers working for Al Wallace and taking care of my dad's cattle and stuff like that, my brother and I did. And then from there we went over to Disaster Peak, which is right over towards McDermitt, and he bought the Disaster Peak, or leased it, I never know. And I spent a year, summers again, there, and I worked for him and Arch Meyers.

DOROTHEA: Now is this Al Wallace?

CONLY: No.

DOROTHEA: Your dad.

CONLY: My dad. And I worked for my dad there taking care of cattle while him and my brother, and Daisy and them were shearing sheep. They sheared with Dewey Quier for years, all around the Steens Mountains, and up on Riddle Mountain and all over. He was a pretty good sheep shearer, as well as my uncle. But they worked for the Dewey Quier outfit. And they went up in Wyoming and down to Colorado, and back into California and

made the circuit.

So I stayed down there at Disaster Peak riding colts and watching cattle in the spring for Arch Meyers who was next to us. He lived at McDermitt, him and Marvin Meyers were brothers. And then he either sold out, or turned the ranch back, or what it is, and then we went to Duck Valley over on the Shoshone-Paiute Indian Reservation at Duck Valley, Idaho. There, right --- we just started right along the line and just tried to go all the way through I guess, to Duck Valley.

And I spent '45 --- when I graduated in '44 I went back out, because I was deferred, and that's where I had to go, supposed to go. And so I worked the ranch, worked with my dad there in '45.

DOROTHEA: Okay, you say you were deferred. You're deferred from the service?

CONLY: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: You had a farm deferral, and boy when you stepped in to enlist, you better not show them that card, or you are going to go out the door. Because ---

DOROTHEA: You need to work on that farm or else.

CONLY: You was supposed to be, you was supposed to be the most important thing there was, so they said, you know. So back I'd go, you know, and go back out there. And of course I started going with my wife when I was --- in 1941.

DOROTHEA: Okay, where did you meet your wife?

CONLY: Right at Grants Pass.

DOROTHEA: In Grants Pass, okay.

CONLY: She was a --- I played all types of sports, football, basketball, track and tennis. And she was ---

HELEN DAVIS: What is your wife's name?

CONLY: Barbara JoAnn Smith. I'll help you spell that after awhile. And we went together, and I'd go back out and work.

DOROTHEA: So summer time she spent alone.

CONLY: Down there.

DOROTHEA: More or less.

CONLY: Yeah, yeah, and I was out here working. We got back and forth from Grants Pass. My brother and I in '37, '36 and '37 they paid a nickel a set of ears, Harney County paid a nickel a set of ears, for rabbit ears.

DOROTHEA: For rabbit ears.

CONLY: And we shot and snared rabbits. Of course we hunted from the time I was knee high to a grasshopper, we hunted. And we made enough money in '37 to buy a Model-A Ford pickup. We was neither one old enough to run it, but we had the money. Well we worked for 50 cents a day setting nets, and raking, and mowing hay, and that. So all together ---

DOROTHEA: Do you remember how much it cost you?

CONLY: \$75.00 for a good Model-A Ford pickup. And it was a good one, I mean --- well we drove it back and forth every summer to Grants Pass and back. And we was, you know ---

DOROTHEA: Boy you were ritzy, weren't you?

CONLY: We were.

DOROTHEA: Was that a brand new one?

CONLY: No.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

CONLY: No, no, it was used, you know. Somebody went to the service, and I can't tell you exactly who. We bought it out there around Voltage. And we run our snare line and



stuff with that. And I'll tell you a little something too; when we'd come back it would take us two days to come from Grants Pass to Burns. Couldn't go too fast. So it takes about two days. Now here is a couple --- and I think maybe the third year he had his license, I didn't.

But anyway, but we was coming across and we hit the Harney County line out there, coming from Lakeview, and there was a lot of rabbits being, was killed on the road. So we decided we was going to get some rabbit ears. So one of us would walk and trot, just like the Indian. The other one would drive, and we scalped rabbits clear to Silver Creek. (Laughter) Now that helped a lot, let me tell you that helped a lot. We didn't tell them when we come up here and give them to them in Harney County. Well we waited until along in the fall and stuff. So we, that helped pay for gas and a little bit of stuff like that. So we, you know, that's kind of what we done. But we did that.

And of course we worked all during school, because we was in demand, because nobody --- there was no help. If they thought you could work we --- Well we milked cows; we would get up at 4 o'clock in the morning and milk, the dairies, in the mornings. But we couldn't do it in the afternoon because we played sports and that. But we worked any kind of job there was, because we were broke.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CONLY: We didn't never know we was broke. We went through the depressions; I never remember a hungry day. I never remember being bad, or better --- they were better. Now I better not say anything. As far as I was concerned we lived high on the hog. We went bare footed all the time; we could run through the greasewood and stuff just like the Indians.

DOROTHEA: Thought you were an Indian, so why not act like them, huh.

CONLY: Well they couldn't get us to Burns. Once a year maybe we could --- oh boy, oh

man. I think they took a club to get us to Burns. We were worse than Indians, really we was.

DOROTHEA: Well now you moved to Grants Pass and went to school, and that's where you met your wife. Did she think you were an Indian?

CONLY: I think --- well we were hicks from he sticks, you know. But, we got along good. And we got so they was the Marshall brothers, you know, come in. And we did good in sports. And pretty soon we had more friends, you know. We have always had millions of friends. That's the biggest thing in the world is friends.

DOROTHEA: What kind of a family was your, or JoAnn's wife, or family, what was she like? And so how did you meet, just going to school?

CONLY: Just going to school. She was a cheerleader, and I was running up and down the field acting like I was a football player, you know. (Laughter) You know how that is, you know, yeah.

DOROTHEA: She was a cheerleader, so that's more or less --- she went along with your sports.

CONLY: Yeah, she hollered for me, and I hollered at her I suppose, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CONLY: And, yeah, and she had a sister and three brothers, and they were Smiths.

DOROTHEA: Okay they are Smiths, S M I T H.

CONLY: S M I T H, Smith. And they were pretty well known down there. Well her brothers, one of her brothers that is the same age as I am, he was the principal at Ashland High School up until he retired. And her other brother taught down in Oakland, California.

DOROTHEA: So they went into the school, education system.

CONLY: Yeah two of them did, yeah two of them, and then some of the others.

DOROTHEA: Did your wife go to college then?

CONLY: No, no.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: She was working too, I put her to work. Well we got married, see ---

DOROTHEA: When did you get married?

CONLY: We got married in February. I left the ranch over there. I decided I was tough, and I knew more than anybody else did.

DOROTHEA: Most kids do.

CONLY: We got married February 15th, 1946. And she has put up with me ever since, and I don't know why.

DOROTHEA: Wow, you've been married over 50 years then.

CONLY: 52 years. And then ---

DOROTHEA: Almost to 53.

CONLY: Yeah. And I'm proud of my kids, and stuff like that. But anyway, I'll go back to, I went to Duck Valley, Idaho, and I spent until '46, '44, '45, '46, spring there, working on the ranch. And then I trailed horses across --- an Indian and I trailed horses from there back to Voltage over there, when my dad sold out over there. We come across by the 45, across both the Owyhees and drove them horses, about 300 and some miles back to, over here to Voltage.

And then my dad, when he sold out, he was in partnership with John Smead and they sold out. Then he went up towards LaGrande, he bought a store up there. I went back and got married in February. And I worked for a sawmill piling lumber and stuff like that for a while.

DOROTHEA: In Grants Pass. Where did you get married?

CONLY: Right at Grants Pass, we was married at Grants Pass, and we lived there. And

then he got a hold of us, said come to LaGrande, I want you to go in partners with me up in a grocery store.

DOROTHEA: Now who is this?

CONLY: My dad.

DOROTHEA: Your dad, okay.

CONLY: He bought a grocery store, and we had 1600 lockers and a meat-cutting outfit, and stuff like that. So I went up there. And I'd become a butcher, I was a butcher for three years, I cut meat and stuff for the store. Meat, and cured hogs and pigs and stuff for people in Pendleton and LaGrande and stuff like that. It was a good business. But being the knot head I was, I couldn't stand it inside any longer. We was there until 1949. My oldest boy was born, Craig Marshall, he was born in LaGrande.

But we left there in --- he was born in 1948, and we left there in the spring of '48. On the way through, on the way back through, coming back through, I looked at a place, the Robbins place over here ... Drewsey. But the mud was about that deep, and my wife was a screaming and a hollering and --- (Laughter)

We went back to Grants Pass and I went to work for the power company. I worked for the power company for four years. I dug holes, pole holes. And I was a truck driver, and then I was just starting to climb poles when I heard of a ranch at Beulah. So I went and looked at that ranch, I always wanted to get back to Harney County. So I went and looked at that ranch, and I liked the ranch. So, I went back and I leased it. I went back --- mind you, when we left LaGrande we went back down there and I bought a brand new house, I bought a brand spanking new house.

DOROTHEA: In Grants Pass?

CONLY: In Grants Pass. We lived in that. Then I come back out here and looked at this place at Beulah, it was right below the Beulah Dam. And I went back and told her I had

leased the place, we was going to move. We did! Why she didn't leave me right there, now I'll kid you not, she had never seen it, and I took her over there, loaded everything up, milk cow and everything, and went over there. And this house was nothing but boards. We had no studs in it or anything else.

DOROTHEA: Now Beulah, we want to get into this. This is pretty close to Juntura.

CONLY: Yeah. It's just below the Beulah Dam, just below the reservoir. It was the second place below the reservoir.

DOROTHEA: We have to put this all down, so 50 years from now when people listen to these well they'll say where was that.

CONLY: I pulled up there, and this was a shack. There is a few of them still around.

DOROTHEA: And just left a brand new house.

CONLY: There is a few of them still around. And we had two kids, three kids. We had three kids.

DOROTHEA: Oh, by then.

CONLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and so you have Fred and ---

CONLY: My oldest boy was born in LaGrande in '48. And then Gary was born in Grants Pass, the one that's at Double O. Don't ask me the dates now. Then I had another boy, Conly Lee that was born in Grants Pass when we moved back, we moved over there.

And if it hadn't have been for a neighbor coming up just as we got there, come up to my wife and says --- she was named Marg Currey, the Currey's lived down there, they were there. You have heard of Currey's all over. She come up and she says, "Jesus Christ kid, come down let's have supper." Otherwise, I don't think my wife would --- I think she would have left me right there. You can imagine what it was like.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I imagine, yeah.

CONLY: From the green of Grants Pass --- she had never been out of Grants Pass except in LaGrande, and LaGrande wasn't much difference. Out of the timber --- out there.

DOROTHEA: And to no land, no man's land.

CONLY: And she put up with that. And now when I say let's move back, let's retire and get back --- where do you think she wants to stay?

DOROTHEA: In Harney County.

CONLY: Right here! To me that's amazing that anybody could like, you know --- But we had the finest, you know, where we lost a boy at 18 months, Conly Lee died when we was over there, from cancer. And then I lost my oldest boy here about 7 years ago, in Portland, from cancer.

DOROTHEA: Did you know it was cancer when Conly Lee was, when he died?

CONLY: We didn't know it until he was pretty near dead. We took him to Boise --- he went down, and he had, of the thymus gland, and it was hid behind. Otherwise they might have saved him, we don't know. You know, you don't have --- He was 18 months old, and he, you know, he couldn't tell you --- he could talk to you.

DOROTHEA: Probably in, what was that, about '49, '50.

CONLY: Might have been about '51 or '52, or '53 or something.

DOROTHEA: And they didn't know too much about cancer then.

CONLY: No, no. No, we had a good doctor from down in Nyssa, and that was the reason we went over to Boise. And they never found it until he was almost gone.

DOROTHEA: And then more or less then it was just called a tumor.

CONLY: Yeah, that was it, you know, it was a tumor. You know they knew it was a tumor, you know.

DOROTHEA: Just a tumor.

CONLY: But it growed --- oh hell, that happened in about 3 to 4 weeks, you know something like that. And the same way with Craig, it only took about a month with Craig. You know, it hit him hard. It went straight through him, up there in Portland.

But my family, my dad died of cancer. And I had cancer, that's the reason I ain't got a ear, because I had cancer in that a number of years ago. But what are we talking about now?

DOROTHEA: Well let's stop here for a moment; I've got to turn the tape over.

HELEN: When does Colleen come into the picture?

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: How your wife accepted this building as her home, did you rebuild it?

CONLY: No, we had it only, leased, we lived in it for three years. We stayed there. I had a three-year lease on it, and we stayed there. The reason she did, and the reason we did, we had friends coming and a going at all times. We was going to dances, we were --- come up for dinner. Every family, even though they might have hated each other, you was part of all of Beulah. They, you know, any --- you weren't just ---

DOROTHEA: Right.

CONLY: We don't watch the boob tube, excuse me, did I knock it down or something.

DOROTHEA: Just a minute. Okay.

CONLY: And that's the reason. And then she was able to raise a good garden, we raised a garden, we had pigs, chickens. I milked cows for a living. We lived on \$50 a month. We run, we had the ranch leased and it had a 100 head of cattle, or a 100 head permit. But \$50 a month. Now we did get by some, because my dad still had an interest in that store at Grants Pass, so we was able to buy groceries ---

DOROTHEA: At LaGrande?

CONLY: Groceries at LaGrande. What did I say, Grants Pass, at LaGrande. We was able to buy stuff by the case. And we had a nice big cellar and we could go down to Ontario and you could buy a case of lettuce for a dollar. And shipped cream twice a week. The mail carrier picked your cream up.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, in those days they did that, yeah.

CONLY: We was ---

DOROTHEA: Like you said, you know, you didn't go away from a meal hungry, because you managed.

CONLY: Yeah, we ate good. That was one thing. I always swear up and down, if I had nothing else, I'd eat. Butcher a beef, butcher hogs, chickens, turkeys, we had it all. And we had the water running right there. And her and Marg Currey they'd go fishing.

DOROTHEA: Okay, this Marg, is this M A R G?

CONLY: Yeah. M A R --- we called her Marg. Marguerite, Marguerite Currey. She was one of the Currey's.

DOROTHEA: I wonder if the Currey is C U R R E Y, like Fred Currey.

CONLY: It was strait, like Fred Currey, that's Fred Currey's mother.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay, so that's E Y.

CONLY: That's Fred Currey's mother.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay.

CONLY: Now you know. And she was, you know, they were the finest of neighbors. Of course Murphy's, McDonalds, Robertson's, everybody. Finest place. But we had friends come from Grants Pass, that I worked with down there.

DOROTHEA: Well what kind of a building was this? You said it was just boards.

CONLY: It was a ---

DOROTHEA: Did it have, did it have a kitchen?



CONLY: A kitchen, with an old Home Comfort stove, with a big boiler on the side. Had a little bit of hot water and stuff like that. And then it had a bedroom in the middle, and then a front room, about like this. Just like that. And then there was a stairway, and there was one little room up above. That's the way it was. And ---

DOROTHEA: So ---

CONLY: We didn't suffer, but we thought we would suffer. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: It was kind of cold in the wintertime probably.

CONLY: Oh man, Jesus God. Yes. Yeah, the wind could blow right through the cracks, you know, like that.

DOROTHEA: Well now apparently, this is apparently --- '51.

CONLY: About ---

DOROTHEA: Well this is about when Colleen was born.

CONLY: Colleen, Kevin, Colleen ---

DOROTHEA: Okay, Kevin comes first.

CONLY: Kevin comes next. Kevin was born in Ontario. Colleen was born in Ontario, and Carla was born in Ontario. Kevin and Colleen born when we was at Beulah, Carla after we had moved to Drewsey. I might be wrong about Colleen and Carla.

DOROTHEA: Okay, but anyway you did have one more child then after the baby, or the little boy Conly passed away.

CONLY: We had, well Kevin was born before he passed away.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he was, okay.

CONLY: But, you know, before. See he was 18 months old when he passed away, when he died. So Kevin was born ---

DOROTHEA: And Kevin was born in between.

CONLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Then when and how did you get to Drewsey?

CONLY: I actually, the Joneses --- we called this, everybody called this the dirty shirt Jones place. Now don't ask why. I got the idea why, but --- It was the dirty shirt Jones place, not a relation to Denny Jones.

DOROTHEA: No, I know.

CONLY: Not these relations.

DOROTHEA: The other Joneses.

CONLY: It was another Jones.

DOROTHEA: See I'm going to tell you about this, I know we are going to be related, because that is my brother-in-law.

CONLY: Okay. But he wanted to sell --- he decided he wanted to sell it, he didn't want me to, you know, no. I had a three-year lease on it, and wanted to sell it. And he wanted \$25,000 for it. I had no money, hell, no way. But old John Murphy, of the Murphy clan up there, he come down and said, "Kid you want this ranch?" I said, "Well, yeah, yeah." "Well, I'll give you the money, I'll buy it, you know, you can have it." I said, "No." And I liked John real good, you know. I didn't want no, beholdin' to nobody, you know, that type of deal. No, we'll go on, we'll go and do something else.

And so during the time we was there they had square dances down at Juntura. Denny Jones, and Whites, and McDonalds, and the guy from out of Vale was the caller. We went, half of Otis Valley was there, Edmunson's, and Altnow's, and we square danced. And we square danced once or twice a month down there, and been doing it for quite awhile. So Everett Edmunson and Harvey Hatt said well we got a place over there at Drewsey, come on over. I said, "Well I'm looking for something else." So I come over there, that was just a stop over, and we've been there for what, 50 years. I guess we stopped when we got there.

And then I bought; I bought Harvey Hatt's holdings, and Percy Davis' ranch. And then I bought a place down to the, the Wilkey place down past Princeton.

DOROTHEA: Okay. So you're saying you more or less moved just from the place in Beulah to Drewsey.

CONLY: Ten miles.

DOROTHEA: Ten miles away.

CONLY: Straight over the mountain.

DOROTHEA: What kind of house did you run into?

CONLY: It wasn't, it was a little bit better. But Everett Edmunson decided it was going to be better. And he was a pretty good ... They owned it, and so they fixed it up. It not, it only had one more room. And we had that many kids, we packed them one on top of each other and that type of thing. And there again ---

DOROTHEA: Well Colleen must have been born there if you had five kids. Because I think I've only counted four so far.

CONLY: Well Carla is my youngest one.

HELEN: Who?

CONLY: Carla.

DOROTHEA: Carla is the youngest one.

HELEN: Carla.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she was born after Colleen.

CONLY: Yeah.

HELEN: I wrote Colleen's name up here before I got to this other stuff.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: Now can I tell you something about my kids?

HELEN: Which ones?

CONLY: All of them.

HELEN: Okay.

CONLY: My oldest boy, Craig, was married for 20 years before he died.

DOROTHEA: Who did he marry?

CONLY: A girl from Seattle. He had two girls.

HELEN: Okay.

CONLY: Gary married 28 years.

DOROTHEA: Okay, you're going to spell ---

CONLY: He has a boy ---

DOROTHEA: He married Georgia Menkenmaier.

CONLY: He married Georgia Menkenmaier when she was queen of the Harney County Rodeo.

DOROTHEA: That's two kids.

CONLY: Kevin is married 22 years. He married a girl from Boise.

DOROTHEA: He has ---

CONLY: Colleen was married 15 years. She married Speed Perkins.

DOROTHEA: Colleen has been married ---

CONLY: She's got three girls.

DOROTHEA: Colleen has been married longer than that, hasn't she?

CONLY: I think so now. (Laughter) Carla was married 18 years. And she lives in Yuma, Arizona. And she has got two girls and a boy. Yeah, you don't want to believe exactly what I'm telling you! DOROTHEA: Well ---

CONLY: Because I don't even remember when the birthdays are, so I leave that all up to my wife.

HELEN: I don't blame you.

DOROTHEA: (Laughter)

CONLY: And ---

DOROTHEA: Get back to Colleen, has how many kids?

CONLY: She has got three girls.

DOROTHEA: Three girls.

HELEN: Yeah.

CONLY: Now I got to put in a few more words. Georgia Menkenmaier was a queen. Colleen was a queen. Carla was a queen of Harney County. Georgia's daughter was on the court.

DOROTHEA: She was a princess.

CONLY: Of Harney County. Colleen's one girl was a junior queen in Oklahoma. Carla's two girls were both junior queens at Yuma, Arizona. That's royalty! (Laughter)

HELEN: I guess so.

CONLY: I'm damn proud of it too.

HELEN: That ... being a blue blood, wouldn't it. ...

DOROTHEA: Carla has how many children?

CONLY: She has got a boy and a girl that were twins. The boy and the girl, youngest, were twins. And then she has got an older daughter, two years older.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so she has three, three kids.

CONLY: ...

DOROTHEA: I knew she had the twins.

CONLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: But I didn't know she had another one.

CONLY: Yeah, she had the ---

HELEN: How many boys did you have?

CONLY: Did I have? I had Craig, Conly Lee, Gary, ... (static interruption on tape)

HELEN: Colleen and Carla.

CONLY: Yeah. ...

DOROTHEA: Okay, something is going on here, what's going on, we don't have any sound? ...

CONLY: All right?

DOROTHEA: Well, it's not good, but let's go ahead.

CONLY: Well I got that far, I guess.

DOROTHEA: Okay, you got, how many grandkids all together?

CONLY: 13.

DOROTHEA: 13.

CONLY: My daughters moved away and don't let me see my grandkids, so I'm going to retire and go and see them myself. How is that?

HELEN: You'll have to get with Fran Davis, when she gets one of these trips going.

CONLY: I've already got it, you know. I don't know why, but they said I could get out here and ride down the street acting like a person or something, and I told them by god if I did that I wanted every one of my kids holding me up. So I left it up to Fran to get them all here. I'll furnish the horses and stuff. I'm afraid she'd ...

HELEN: She'll get them here, don't worry.

CONLY: I'm afraid she will.

DOROTHEA: And that's in September. We're talking about Conly, Conly just got chosen as the grand marshal of the Harney County Fair. So we have to put that in there.

CONLY: Yeah, did you see this.

DOROTHEA: I see a weed ... But they put, Russian, is that Russian?

CONLY: I don't know. See I chop all the weeds down. I won't spray them, I chop them.

DOROTHEA: Chop them.

CONLY: So they call me ---

DOROTHEA: Sometimes that makes them come back ---

CONLY: It does. I cultivated them pretty good. (Laughter) But I did kill some of them.

DOROTHEA: Looks like a Russian thistle.

CONLY: Boy I've got that Scotch thistle, that stuff that grows that high, lots of it out there.

DOROTHEA: Okay, where are we at Helen? I think this is time for you to start asking some of your questions.

HELEN: Well most of mine had to do with down at Grants Pass.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HELEN: When he was there, and that type of thing.

CONLY: Well I was in Grants Pass during the war. You can say during World War II. But then I did go back in '48, after I had left, and worked for the power company. I did do that for four years.

HELEN: In Grants Pass?

CONLY: Yeah, in Grants Pass. Copco, they called it Copco ... And I worked for the power company.

DOROTHEA: Do any of your boys ranch with you?

CONLY: No. It's possible that Gary and I, now that I'm trying to sell out, wanting to sell out, and that's not an easy deal.

DOROTHEA: Tell me about it.

CONLY: It's tough, it's a no go really.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you want to lease it.

CONLY: We got to do something, because we've worked all this time for years and years, and it looks like most of it is going to go to Uncle Sam. And I went through, well my

mother and my dad and my step-dad, going through these hospitals and stuff like --- and I don't think we can make enough money to live on, stuff like that. I don't care, but ---

HELEN: The beginning, where you and I was, that William Marshall, and I don't know it kind of stumps me, how come he was the first one to get land?

CONLY: I have no idea. Because George, George and William was the ones that come across from Fort Harney. They built a boat at Fort Harney and brought it across on a wagon.

DOROTHEA: A boat?

CONLY: They built a boat. They were the first, as far as they know, the first boat to be on the Blitzen River and down through it. They built a boat at Fort Harney, because they both had property over at Fort Harney.

HELEN: Okay, but how did they get that boat at Fort Harney to ---

CONLY: They brought it across, apparently --- You see at that time there was only 15,000 acres of lake. See the lake only, the lake always used to lay back towards Cole Island and back towards Crane. All of this back towards the Narrows and back in there, that was high ground. That was out of the --- you've heard of the meander line ---

DOROTHEA: Un huh.

CONLY: See half of that, that's one of the big problems was the meander line was up quite a ways. And these settlers settled it in below the meander line, which was dry ground. See it used to be that you could go from Voltage, or from the mouth of the river you could go straight across to Lawen. We drove across there, cattle and everything, off in that area. And it was all dry back towards Mud Lake, or back in the Narrows.

HELEN: Whose the mother and father of these, different people we've got here that are brothers?

CONLY: Susie was the mother.



HELEN: The mother, okay.

CONLY: And the grandfather is buried at Fort Harney. Why would you ask me that when I can't think of it? Got a great big head stone there.

HELEN: Okay, what is his first name?

CONLY: Oh goddamn. Ain't that something?

DOROTHEA: Now what all these brothers are you talking about?

HELEN: Well there is a dozen of them.

CONLY: Well there was George, William, Alvin, John, and Alfred, five of them. Ain't that right, did I say five? George was the oldest. William ---

HELEN: And Culver tells about ---

CONLY: Alvin.

HELEN: --- grandparents. And they came from Arkansas out here, across the plains, and they settled up around LaGrande, only it wasn't LaGrande then, they called it something else. And then Uncle John was born at Island City.

CONLY: Okay, he is one of the brothers.

HELEN: And that's, I know where Island City is up there; you're going towards Enterprise.

CONLY: Joseph, Enterprise, Cove.

HELEN: Then let's see ---

DOROTHEA: Cove?

CONLY: Cove is straight across the valley from LaGrande. It's straight west.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I didn't know where Cove was. Now I know.

HELEN: Okay, well let's see, I was listening and lost my train of thought --- where my grandfather Edwin G., and his wife Susan.

CONLY: Okay, Edwin. Okay. See you said Sarah. And Susan ---

HELEN: I've got another Susan ---

CONLY: Susan had the Hill place. She had filed on, where the Hill place was at. Lloyd and Lyle Hill place.

HELEN: Oh, okay.

DOROTHEA: Out at Crane?

CONLY: No, out at ---

HELEN: ...

CONLY: Who did I tell you last had it? McEwen bought it from them, when they quit.

DOROTHEA: Riverside area?

... (Static on tape again)

CONLY: Edwin, he is buried at Fort Harney, in the cemetery at Fort Harney. And she ---

DOROTHEA: Now are these all Marshall's?

CONLY: Yeah.

HELEN: Yeah, we're talking Marshall all the time.

CONLY: And Susan is buried over at, in Idaho, where one of her daughters, a Robertson or something.

HELEN: Okay. Culver's dad was Alfred.

CONLY: Right.

HELEN: And then these people --- John Marshall homesteaded a portion of land that now belongs to the Hill brothers that we were just talking about.

CONLY: Okay, that's just portions, you know. They had something going there. She apparently filed, she never lived there, the mother never did as far as I know.

HELEN: Well then he speaks here, says Uncle Alvin disappeared, and pretty soon they never heard from him again.

CONLY: Well he went back to LaGrande when his wife died, and daughter died. He went back up to LaGrande.

HELEN: Do you know what the name of that daughter was?

CONLY: No, not without looking it up. I've got them all; I've got all of these down.

HELEN: And he says that my father married this Mary C., and they've got just Stove in here.

CONLY: Stover, it's Stover. S T O V E R. They were quite a prominent family, along with the Todevays (sp.?) and stuff up there in Pendleton.

HELEN: And then Ray Marshall.

CONLY: That's my dad's brother. That's Alfred and Mary's oldest son.

HELEN: I've got Ray, and I've got Culver and oh, Iris was the girl.

CONLY: Iris, that's the daughter.

HELEN: That would be the sister to Culver.

CONLY: Yes.

HELEN: Okay.

DOROTHEA: And there was only the three kids in that family?

CONLY: That one there, yeah.

HELEN: ... Then he tells that Mother became the postmaster. See, and they had a fire, but they never could figure out how it started. So it had to be a sleeper fire, because this is when the store and the post office burns at Voltage, and that's 1924. And they used just A. L., and you gave me the name for it.

CONLY: A. L. is Alfred Marshall.

HELEN: And his wife Mary.

CONLY: Uh huh, Mary. Right.

DOROTHEA: And that's Conly's grandparents.

CONLY: That's my grandparents.

HELEN: That's your grandparents. They were in their place eating. The store and their

living quarters were separate.

CONLY: Yeah.

HELEN: And by the time they discovered, or somebody discovered the fire going, it was too late to get stuff out anyway, and everything burned.

CONLY: Yeah. They rebuilt that store. Then my mother and dad run it for a year or two, later on.

HELEN: And she was, always had the post office in it. And that post office controlled the mail that went on up to Blitzen and Burdugo, and all the rest of that.

CONLY: Yes. There is a picture in here, in that, those tapes, of Jones, the Joneses that sold to my --- that owned the Alvin Marshall place, that sold to my folks down on the lake. That confuses the things real good. But they run the stage to the Blitzen out there.

HELEN: Uh huh. Let's see, what else --- but something, something that I just have where it tells about, she controlled the mail and dispensed it out to all these places.

CONLY: Yeah.

HELEN: And even at one time she sent the mail to Diamond also.

CONLY: Yes.

HELEN: Where did I read that? Oh I had ---

CONLY: She used to send it to Coon Town, to Diamond, dispersed it there, even though the Narrows, the Narrows was the oldest post office when Haines had it, and way back then.

HELEN: You know there was another guy before Haines that had that ...

CONLY: Oh yes, oh yeah. There was a ---

HELEN: And in 1889, that he was out there. And I use that in the tours, I always tell people that. Because so many think from the way they write stuff now, Charlie Haines is the one that developed all that, he wasn't.

CONLY: No, no he bought it out, and he ---

HELEN: I've got the name of the house, because I use it when I --- we do that Sunday morning tour. Because it's getting so when you pick up something now and read it, Charlie Haines is the one, and that ...

CONLY: Yeah, but he wasn't. I mean he was ---

DOROTHEA: Well I think that more or less got started through Marcus (Haines).

CONLY: Well Charlie Haines, you know, yeah --- but he did, Charlie Haines financed an awful lot of the --- it was like Harvey Hatt's folks out there in Adobe Flat, he financed them, and freighting out of Vale, and stuff like that. Apparently he had quite a little bit of money maybe, or money for that time.

HELEN: Well Marcus had a picture, and I don't know what has ever happened to it, he had it on the wall. And they speak of the Narrows in 1893, and started the store. See that's where he gets some of this. But this came from your dad.

CONLY: Well you know even Rankin Crow had that store for a while.

DOROTHEA: At the Narrows?

CONLY: Yeah.

HELEN: Uh huh.

CONLY: That was after Charlie Haines, but hell, I even remember that, believe it or not.

DOROTHEA: And now you're talking about she, at the Voltage post office, was that your grandmother Mary?

CONLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: Yeah, she was postmaster there. She was postmaster, not my granddad, not Alfred, but she was postmaster.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CONLY: Mistress.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think it is postmistress now. I don't know what it was then; it's probably the postmaster. I don't know if they distinguished between the two.

CONLY: I don't know either, for sure.

HELEN: Now they just called it the bridge, but that was a 300-foot span bridge. And where that dead tree is, that bridge was on the other side. And then when the CC's came in here, they put in, I don't know if it --- Marcus told me whether it was one big culvert, or it was two, but it wasn't enough to control the water. But the span had brought it out probably by then. And, because this is in 1893. I think I just quoted it here someplace.

CONLY: The bridge across the Blitzen right there at the, right there by Springer.

HELEN: No, I'm back, I'm down at the Narrows, as I'm telling about the ---

CONLY: Oh the bridge across there, yeah.

HELEN: So then the CC's put in these culverts. Well every time the water got up enough it poofed up the road and everything, and floated the culverts. So then they put in this wooden bridge that we knew, when we came.

CONLY: But all during my lifetime, there was never no water, really across there.

HELEN: In ---

CONLY: There was a little bit of water under the bridge. But all it seemed --- well I went through the droughts from '30.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Not like it is now?

CONLY: No, no. See the bridge set south, the one that went across there; there was an old tree set out there.

HELEN: Yeah.

CONLY: The bridge used to go straight west, then it cut back around, back towards Dog Mountain where the road comes now. That's the way it used to be. And the road went

right directly from where the post office and stuff, right there below the fill, right there ... there was no hot springs.

HELEN: Well that's probably what Marcus had the picture of --- I was hoping that Marcus would get a copy of it sometime. But then Marcus died, and that took care of that. Now then they had to, they was able to use that little bridge that we crossed on --- the first time they raised the road. Then the next time the road was so much higher that ---

CONLY: Flooding the road.

HELEN: --- they had to make a new bridge. And so we got a longer bridge in there. Now they are worrying about the water coming up and being worse this time than it was the other time.

DOROTHEA: In '84.

HELEN: So we're ---

CONLY: What else ---

HELEN: Well, let's see.

CONLY: Did we get through all the brothers?

HELEN: Yeah, I think we pretty well ---

DOROTHEA: You named them. I think we talked a little bit about them at the first of the tape. Well Helen, if you can't find anything else, let's close this off and do the video and get that done.

HELEN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And then ---

HELEN: I think we've got --- the thing is, sometime now in March

--- I don't know, I think it might be a good time if we have good weather to go out there and have you tell --- and I'll show you where Marcus and I walked on that hillside where ... family. And he said its just people from this family that is buried there someplace. And I

told Dorothea; I've got all this stuff wrote down. But, like you see my boxes and ---

CONLY: Well you see I didn't, I didn't even know when we was kids, we hunted jackrabbits and stuff all over there. There was a burial site there, but I never knew that it was even any relation to mine, up until just a few years ago. And then ...

HELEN: Did you ---

CONLY: And I didn't know, but see George Marshall, George and Viola has got two kids buried there.

HELEN: I don't know, one of these days I'm going to have to try and find that stuff, and then I'll know what the names were of this family. But the way you speak of where some of these people are buried does not seem to me like where Marcus had me across this dang fence.

CONLY: That could be, that could be. You know what I'm saying, I'm not too sure where you might be, as compared to where I might be, you know.

HELEN: Yeah, that's right.

CONLY: You know, from that.

HELEN: It might be the same spot, if we get out there and see it.

CONLY: Yeah. But ---

DOROTHEA: Well I'll go through ---

HELEN: I was going to ask you, about the time that they had that deal with the coyotes on, what did they call it, rabies. Where were you living then?

CONLY: On the lake.

HELEN: You was out there then?

CONLY: ...

HELEN: Huh?

CONLY: We was warned, we was warned to watch for coyotes, and watch for the bulls



off of the old, the company bulls. By god I'll tell you, they laid it into us, and you see a slobbering coyote you got the hell out of there.

HELEN: Well he was telling about one time when he and his sister was walking home from school, and this old cow all of a sudden just come a rearing at them. He said, "Boy we ran." And said, "I don't know how we got across the fence, but we did." And the cow then, the fence stopped her. And he said, "We just ran for home as fast as we could." "And that was one time," he said, "they were scared."

DOROTHEA: What happened? I'm not familiar with this.

CONLY: Back in the '30's, well during the drought and stuff like that, when we were ... coyotes got real rabid. They were rabid.

HELEN: Oh, horrible I guess.

CONLY: And up in the --- I've got it on Katie's tape about her mother killing, tying the dog up, and having to kill the dog. And Raz Lewis, you know --- get bit, a number of people turned rabid.

HELEN: Well now he didn't speak so much of people, he was just telling about all the ---

CONLY: She was telling about up in, you know, in Catlow Valley. I don't know if she named them, and I think she did. But it was real bad.

DOROTHEA: What was it, what caused the ---

CONLY: It just, it was passed down from bats. And when they would go to slobbering, and they would get thin ---

DOROTHEA: Just before they died, in other words?

CONLY: They were rabid. They was stark raving mad.

DOROTHEA: Well did they --- you were talking about bulls and cows ---

CONLY: Well the bulls was, that the company and all of them, they raised the great big old Durham bulls, big old horned bulls. And they were cranky, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CONLY: No more so than a cranky bull is now. But when you have kids about so high, on horseback and stuff like that, that ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, right.

CONLY: They said be careful of the bulls, don't go wandering out through the cows. And of course the cows are cranky, and they, well they never seen anybody very often.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

CONLY: So they, you know, they were, they were cranky. Those old bulls were ---

DOROTHEA: Well if this cow, could she have got bit by a coyote?

CONLY: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: And so it gives them rabies also.

CONLY: You know dogs are real prevalent, they would attack the coyote and everything like that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I didn't realize that cows and things --- I knew that dogs did, but I didn't realize cows and horses ---

CONLY: Well I don't know that very many of them did, you know. I don't know, maybe --- but I do know some.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

CONLY: And Katie had one on there about the bull trying to tear into their house there at, oh what the devil, you called it a little bit ago.

HELEN: Now I've got permission for us to take Katie Wheeler's oral history and pick out the parts that we want to use, and use it in a newsletter.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

HELEN: I think it is really --- I like her tape. I learned a lot, and I could visualize a lot of what it was like.

DOROTHEA: And they lived in ---

HELEN: And they were living at that time out ---

DOROTHEA: --- Albertson.

HELEN: --- they were ---

CONLY: Now you've got pretty near --- There was four places out there, four --- They actually lived right at the mouth of Home Creek there.

DOROTHEA: Harriman, Albertson, Blitzen ---

CONLY: Spangleburg.

HELEN: Blitzen, you got ---

CONLY: Hell, I've got a picture of that when there was ---

HELEN: Sageview was one.

CONLY: --- when there was --- Johnny Crow went to high school out there.

HELEN: Oh, did he?

CONLY: You bet he did. And I've got a picture of them and the kids and everything. They had a big high school out there at ... lake.

HELEN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And that was where?

CONLY: Oh, you said it a while ago. Where did Joneses take the mail to?

HELEN: Oh, Burdugo?

CONLY: No.

HELEN: Sageview. Where did Joneses take the mail?

CONLY: From ...

DOROTHEA: Not ---

CONLY: You said it.

HELEN: Well they went to, out to the Blitzen area in Catlow Valley, all those places.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, but this is not where they --- Where did Katie go to school? But anyway --- Let's go ahead and, yeah, we're about to the end of the tape anyway. So let's go ahead and finish this off. And Conly, we are proud of you for being chosen as Grand Marshal, and we can't wait for you, your whole family to go down that main street.

CONLY: I hope I can get them there.

DOROTHEA: They can push him down Main Street.

CONLY: They got to push, they've got to ... I want a bunch of them on each side holding me.

DOROTHEA: All of them on horses.

CONLY: They got to get a bucket for me to get on that horse.

HELEN: You know what I did? As soon as that paper came out, I clipped it out and brought it up here and made two copies and sent one to Elmo and one to Helen.

CONLY: I hope I can walk in them other people's footsteps, I'll tell you that much.

DOROTHEA: Well I'll tell you, I think that you're pretty --- I'm pretty proud of you, since I've known you for years and years. Worked with you for all these years.

HELEN: Learning all these things.

DOROTHEA: And learning all these things. So I'm really, I'm really proud of you. So, and I'll tell you on the tape, because it is no body's business, but it is okay to put on here, if it wasn't for Don Opie and I, your name wouldn't of even of been on there.

CONLY: Was you the one that introduced this?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CONLY: Don told me, he said he was thinking about that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CONLY: He said god I was glad to see someone ...

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I said, you know ---

CONLY: How come you done that?

DOROTHEA: There is not a name on here.

CONLY: You know I could have refused that.

DOROTHEA: Oh no.

CONLY: Yeah, Don called me up and said don't you dare. And my kids called me up, said Gary knew it all the time, before I did. And I said, well god, there is so many other people ---

DOROTHEA: Well, not on our list. (Laughter)

CONLY: Been on the list ... (Laughter) Yeah, I hope I can do a good job.

DOROTHEA: All it really requires, and you get a free pass to come into the rodeo.

HELEN: You're going to have to go through all this stuff that we've been through --- I don't know how much --- when somebody interviews you to do the write-up in the paper, they don't have, this is our stuff. This doesn't have nothing to do with the newspaper.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, but this --- they can use this. But Don will interview you also so he can write it up for the paper, but for the book. So probably Don will come and talk to you.

CONLY: Don Sloan. ...

DOROTHEA: Well he will probably just use that too. You know, I don't know what they'll do, because I'm not involved with that. But yeah, it was kind of funny because I went and I said, "Well there is a name on here that I don't --- or there is not a name on here that I feel should be on here." And they said, "Well who is that?" And I said, "Conly Marshall." And they said, Don says, "Well I'm glad you said that, because I was going to."

CONLY: But what is funny, he said, "I'm glad she did." I'm glad they did, he didn't say who.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, well I did. Because I said, you know, "He really belongs on here." Well they had me on there, and I said ---

CONLY: Oh did they?

DOROTHEA: I'm not ---

CONLY: Did you refuse?

DOROTHEA: No, we go through this list.

CONLY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And they said my name is on there. And I said, "What am I on here for? I think Conly Marshall should be on here."

CONLY: At least she got out of it, didn't she?

HELEN: Well I keep belly-aching at her, you know, ...

CONLY: Her time will come, her time will come.

HELEN: And I try to get her to do something in the newsletter on her family, and I haven't got her yet.

DOROTHEA: I haven't got that done either. I've got to do one of these first. Well, we'll thank you again, and we want to do a little video. I don't have a video primed like I usually do, so we'll have to do that. Since Barbara Lofgren has left, well I haven't done too many videos. But I will get this done.

CONLY: What do you put on the video? Maybe I've already got it.

DOROTHEA: You know if --- is any of it a picture of you on the video?

CONLY: Oh there is two of the god awfulest pictures --- (Laughter)

HELEN: Just what we need.

CONLY: You got that thing shut off?

DOROTHEA: No, not yet.

CONLY: Shut it off.

DOROTHEA: (Laughter)

(End of tape)

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