

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #423 - Sides A/B

Subject: Jessie Hamilton

Place: Hamilton Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: February 3, 1999

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Helen Davis

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and we're at the home of Jessie Hamilton in Burns, Oregon. And the date is February 3rd, 1999. Okay, Jessie, we'll start by asking you what your name is in full.

JESSIE HAMILTON: Jessie Georgia Hamilton.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And your maiden name was?

JESSIE: Jessie Georgia Tucke. T U C K E.

DOROTHEA: Just one E?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Now then we'll go back to your parents, and what were their names?

JESSIE: My dad's name was John Tucke.

DOROTHEA: Your dad's name was what?

JESSIE: John Tucke.

DOROTHEA: And your mother's name?

JESSIE: Nicolene Patrina Andreson.

DOROTHEA: Okay, we'll have to have you spell that.

JESSIE: A N D R E S O N.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and Nicolene.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: N I C O L E N E.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And Patrina, P A T R I N A. Okay. And do you know when they were married?

JESSIE: (September 10, 1898) See my mother came to the United States at the age of 16 years, settling in Nevada, where there were other German families.

DOROTHEA: So she was of German decent.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: So was my dad.

DOROTHEA: Okay. All right, when they came here, where did they first --- let's say they married, and where did they first settle?

JESSIE: Well I think that was in Nevada.

DOROTHEA: Okay. That's where she came when she was 16, so apparently that's where they met ---

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- and this. What did they do for a living?

JESSIE: Mostly I think we moved. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: So you were kind of a, travelers.

JESSIE: Well, my dad was a farmer at heart.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: But he never could find the right place to settle down, so we moved.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. So did you end up in Harney County, or where did you go

from Nevada? Or where did they go from Nevada?

JESSIE: Quite a few places. There was, they were in Washington for a while. Before that I'm not sure where they were, Dorothea.

DOROTHEA: Well then let's just go on to when you were born.

JESSIE: Yeah, I was born in Sisters, Oregon.

DOROTHEA: And what was the date?

JESSIE: January the 15th, 19--- and I have to ---

DOROTHEA: January 16th, 1915.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Do you have any brothers and sisters?

JESSIE: I have five sisters, and did have three brothers.

DOROTHEA: And can you tell me their names?

JESSIE: Well, that's a long list.

DOROTHEA: Five sisters.

JESSIE: Yes, my oldest brother was William, then there was Henry (corrected to Harry). Then there was Leon, that was the first three. Then the sisters were May, and that's spelled M A Y, not E.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: Ione, Estella, Nevada, Jessie and Freda.

DOROTHEA: Okay. So you are the next to the youngest.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And let's go from there onto kind of, what did you kids do to entertain yourselves?

JESSIE: Probably fought. (Laughter) No, don't put that down. Well, we lived on a, we

lived where we always had animals to take care of for one thing.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: And we lived so far away from anybody that we just entertained ourselves.

DOROTHEA: Well that's the way most large families --- and in our day our families were large. I mean, you know, a lot larger than they were today. I don't know how they survived and supported them, but ---

JESSIE: I don't --- how did my mother stand it!

DOROTHEA: (Laughter) Well, you know I think ---

JESSIE: Six girls.

DOROTHEA: I think that they liked ---

JESSIE: They accepted it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and you know ---

JESSIE: It was the thing --- well like I said to Mom one time, "How come you had so many kids?" She said, "I didn't know any better."

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you know I think that was a lot ---

JESSIE: I didn't know any different.

DOROTHEA: I think that was a lot of the thing in the old times. They didn't know that there was such a thing as birth control, let's call it.

JESSIE: Yeah. They never heard of anything like that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah. So, you had five sisters. Did any of them go to school, all, at one time? Or were you all in the schools at one time?

JESSIE: No. Take this off (microphone) and I'll get a picture.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Okay, we have the picture here.

JESSIE: Either '19 or '20.

DOROTHEA: That is all of the schoolmates at the Narrows, and around 1920. Can you name some of these students, or are half of these your brothers and sisters?

JESSIE: Half of them are. That's my brother.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: That's my sister.

DOROTHEA: Now is this William?

JESSIE: No, that's Leon.

DOROTHEA: That's Leon. And this girl is ---

JESSIE: That's May.

DOROTHEA: May.

JESSIE: And that's lone, and that's Estella.

DOROTHEA: Now is that Stella?

JESSIE: E S.

DOROTHEA: It's E S T.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: That's my sister Nevada. And I was too young.

DOROTHEA: And you were still too young.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So, okay. So that's quite a few.

JESSIE: Do you know that that's "Toots" Arnold?

DOROTHEA: Oh, really.

JESSIE: And that was the Sesena kids that lived right there by us at the Narrows.

DOROTHEA: They look like they're little Indians.

JESSIE: They're Mexicans.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Mexicans. Okay.

HELEN DAVIS: Now that school picture is what year?

DOROTHEA: Around ---

JESSIE: Around 1920. And Bill Newton was the teacher there. You know Harvey knew him.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. He did?

JESSIE: But not from here.

DOROTHEA: I'll be darned.

JESSIE: He had him as a teacher where he lived on the Owyhee, I think.

DOROTHEA: Okay, this is at the Narrows. This picture was taken of the class in school. Apparently they had a, it looks like a larger building, but apparently it was a one room class.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Because they only had one teacher, and you said his name was Bill Newton.

JESSIE: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: N E W T O N. And what, how did they get to school? Did they ride horses, or did you live close?

JESSIE: We lived close.

DOROTHEA: You did.

JESSIE: But some of them did ride horses to school.

DOROTHEA: Did you have classes all year, or did they close during the wintertime when the ---

JESSIE: As far as I know they were all year.

DOROTHEA: Because sometimes they closed when the winters got bad.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you go to school at the Narrows?

JESSIE: No, I didn't.

DOROTHEA: You didn't.

JESSIE: We left that, right after that year.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and where did you go from there?

JESSIE: Oh, to a place called Big Bend, I think it was.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Did you go to school there then? Were you getting old enough ---

JESSIE: ... to school there. No, we went first to a place called, we went --- oh I remember it as calling it the Claypool place. Now whether that's the Claypool I've been reading about in other stories or not, it could be.

HELEN: You see the name.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: I've seen it in the newspaper.

JESSIE: Yeah. But anyway, we lived at the Claypool place. And there was no school, oh for miles. So lone went to the, to the school and got permission and the layout to teach us at home.

DOROTHEA: Now approximately what was her age then?

JESSIE: I would have been 6, and she was 8 years older than me.

DOROTHEA: She was about 14.

JESSIE: She was about 14.

DOROTHEA: So she was teaching you at a young age then.

JESSIE: Yeah. Well, but we had no other way to school, to get to school. And so she, we held school at home.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Well that was good. Because that way you are learning to read and write.

JESSIE: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: And then see there was three of us in school at the time. That's Elf and my two older sisters.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Well what --- how long did you go to school? I mean like you're saying that only three of you were in school. What were the other kids doing?

JESSIE: Well my sister, the oldest girl, was staying with some people and going to school in Vale.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And my brothers were just like boys do when they're ---

DOROTHEA: They had already ---

JESSIE: They had already gone home. You know, out to work.

DOROTHEA: They had quit and gone to work. So ---

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: Probably worked at home a lot too.

JESSIE: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HELEN: If you farmed, they did.

JESSIE: Well we farmed.

DOROTHEA: Then you apparently went somewhere else after that. How many years do

you think you were there?

JESSIE: We couldn't have been there more than one, more than about two years.

DOROTHEA: And then ---

JESSIE: And then we moved to a place called Big Bend.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And then that's where I went to school then, and the older ones.

DOROTHEA: And then ---

HELEN: Where is this Big Bend area at?

JESSIE: Well it's on the Snake River, kind of.

HELEN: Oh well, that's, okay.

JESSIE: It's ---

DOROTHEA: You're getting into the Idaho country then.

JESSIE: Yes. And that's when I rode a horse to school.

HELEN: Well they do have that Big Bend area up there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

HELEN: They speak of that with the wagon trains too.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HELEN: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I should have said that Helen Davis is with me, and I forgot that. So in case you hear another voice, well this is Helen Davis. Also now we're into Big Bend. Did you go on into high school?

JESSIE: Not until we moved from Big Bend. I think our next move was Payette.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And from there ---

JESSIE: We must have been in Big Bend, must have been a couple years probably.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And let's go on then and get you into high school so that we can get you married here pretty quick.

JESSIE: We went to Payette, these Mexican family moved us. And anyway ---

DOROTHEA: Did they move with you, or just ---

JESSIE: No.

DOROTHEA: --- they just moved you.

JESSIE: No, they had already lived in Payette.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: But we had never lost track of them.

DOROTHEA: Lost contact with them.

JESSIE: No.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JESSIE: And then I went --- when I was in Big Bend going to school, I was the only third grader one year, so they put me in the fourth grade. Well that didn't work very good, because I hadn't had enough schooling, and so I took the fourth grade over again. Then I finished my schooling in Payette.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Did you go into high school then?

JESSIE: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And did you graduate?

JESSIE: Oh, what year was it, '35 or something?

DOROTHEA: Okay. That would make you almost 20. Well let's go on. Did you go on to college then from there?

JESSIE: No.

DOROTHEA: What did you do, did you get a job someplace?

JESSIE: Oh, I always worked. I always had a job doing something. Keeping house if nothing else for people.

DOROTHEA: And then ---

JESSIE: And I worked in orchards.

HELEN: When did you live in, up at Catlow, in that area, Tucke Flats or whatever they call it.

JESSIE: Yeah. Well that's where we went to from Sisters.

HELEN: Oh, okay.

DOROTHEA: Right after you were born then, you were just a little

JESSIE: I was just a little ---

DOROTHEA: --- little child then.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: How long were you there?

JESSIE: Well I guess our well went dry at the homestead. We took up a homestead there, is what, is how come my dad moved there. And that's where we got acquainted with Johnny and Georgia Crow, and Taft Miller and Nellie. Nellie, was that her name, yeah, I guess so.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

JESSIE: And a lot of people in that area at that time.

DOROTHEA: Well now Helen said something about Tucke Flat.

JESSIE: Uh huh. That's where our homestead was.

DOROTHEA: That's where your homestead was, in Catlow Valley.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And it, well then we, the kids went to school at Clover Swales, that's right connected there as far as I knew.

DOROTHEA: Someplace I've never been.

HELEN: Okay, I want to stop you before you go too far again. Now there was a schoolhouse around the corner there from where you people had lived.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: And do you know what the name, or remember the name of that school?

JESSIE: No, but that is --- then one year they had school there in a tent.

HELEN: At Catlow ---

JESSIE: In Catlow Valley.

HELEN: Margaret Dunbar speaks of it as being a building.

JESSIE: Well there was a building.

HELEN: And that it ... down.

JESSIE: Yeah, there was a building.

HELEN: And they had a school in that building.

JESSIE: Yeah. And Lone and Johnny Crow went to school there.

HELEN: Oh, okay. Lone and Johnny, huh.

JESSIE: Yeah. They went to, oh ---

HELEN: And you don't remember what they called the district, the school?

JESSIE: Oh, we continued on to the homestead the next summer. On the Fourth of July the folks had Sizemore's and the Taft Millers for dinner, and we had a table outdoors.

HELEN: Well, I'm going to just put near Tucke Flats.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: And you said, let's see, lone was --- lone was 14 when she taught you kids to do stuff at home.

JESSIE: Uh huh. Yeah, we went to Vale and ---

HELEN: Because her and Johnny are about the same age then.

JESSIE: Johnny is a little older than lone. See Johnny will be 97 in July, and lone will be 92 this spring.

DOROTHEA: Now is she the one that lives here?

JESSIE: Uh huh. She don't remember nothing.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HELEN: Well Johnny actually, probably didn't get to go to school all the time because ---

JEWSIE: No.

HELEN: During school time they lived with some lady, is the way John tells it. And that in the summertime then they could go where he was working on a ranch.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: And there is that T-7 something.

DOROTHEA: I don't know.

HELEN: What was the name of that ranch? I've got that down --- it's off and near Adel, is that what that is. Adel, just over the hump so to speak, into Warner Valley there. It's where he worked, but they stayed with some lady, I think around Clover Swales, didn't they?

JESSIE: Uh huh. Yeah, lone stayed there with, when Johnny --- see they closed this one school, and the teacher wanted to have a school. I think maybe she might have had a kid, I don't remember that. But anyway, lone and Johnny, if they'd go to school there they

could, she could have a school open.

HELEN: Uh huh.

JESSIE: So they went to school there. I think lone stayed there, but Johnny, I think, rode his horse over the hill.

HELEN: Well during the school years time, ...

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: He and his brother lived with, Rankin, isn't it, Crow --- that they stayed with this lady. And as soon as school was out, hoop-di-la, they went where their dad was.

JESSIE: Yeah, oh yeah.

HELEN: And they got to stay with the cattle and the horses and everything. I wish we could come up with the name of that school, what it could have been. At one time, I can't remember, how many school districts --- I should have buzzed Denny the other day at partners meeting. Said there was a huge amount of school districts at one time.

JESSIE: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JESSIE: There were just little schools all over, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and each one was in their own district.

JESSIE: When my brother was still alive, why we went, Harvey and I and he went out there and looked around.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: And we found pieces of old desks yet, laying around.

HELEN: Yeah, well there was still some stuff when I was up there with Margaret one day, where the school had been and everything.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: In the junk pile. We went over and went through the junk pile.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, getting back to the school in Catlow Valley, do you remember maybe who the teacher was? Did anybody kind of bring that name up?

JESSIE: Well yes, I should have remembered that.

DOROTHEA: Well this book we're reading out of was written as a memoir kind of thing to your sister?

JESSIE: Well, the sister that made this up knew that all the grandkids, and the kids and everything, wouldn't know what went on.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JESSIE: So she got ---

HELEN: What is that sister's name?

JESSIE: Ione.

DOROTHEA: Ione.

HELEN: Ione did it?

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: Oh, okay.

DOROTHEA: Ione lives here in Burns now, and she is in a Foster Home.

JESSIE: Foster Care Home, yeah.

DOROTHEA: And she will be 92?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Do you remember what date?

JESSIE: April the 7th.

DOROTHEA: Okay. So that makes her born in about 1907.

JESSIE: '07, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Let's go on then from there and --- Helen was interested in Catlow Valley and Tucke Flat.

HELEN: Because there is several little rock houses up there that intrigued me while I was ---

JESSIE: Yeah, part of the rocks that was in our house is still there. I took some of them when we were up there. Fred Bailey helped me get mine. And Taft Miller had put my dad's initials on this rock that I got.

HELEN: Oh, well neat.

JESSIE: See ---

HELEN: See their place isn't far from where ---

JESSIE: Oh no, we were ---

HELEN: --- the Millers.

JESSIE: --- close to Taft Miller.

HELEN: Taft and Nellie.

DOROTHEA: Taft and Nellie Miller.

HELEN: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JESSIE: The schoolhouse was ready, and a teacher, Mrs. Smith, was hired. Now I don't know. Mr. Smith came for his wife and moved us all to Sageview in Catlow. Yeah, I remember that, I mean I remember Johnny telling me that too.

DOROTHEA: Where he owned and operated a general store.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. That wouldn't --- his name is spelled S M I T H.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. So he is not any relation to the ---

JESSIE: To the S M Y T H's.

DOROTHEA: Right, right. And it says there that a teacher had to teach a certain number of weeks, and could then be paid for a full term.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Is there anything else on Tucke Flat on there?

JESSIE: The teacher had to be paid, so I went back with her, and we lived in the schoolhouse. Now that was that Smith one.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And Johnny Crow ---

JESSIE: Johnny Crow also attended, coming over the hill. We were the only pupils. At Thanksgiving time Mr. Smith came for his wife, and moved us all to Sageview in Catlow Valley.

DOROTHEA: Where he owned and operated his general store.

JESSIE: The general store.

DOROTHEA: That's where he ---

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HELEN: Sage, what was it?

DOROTHEA: Sageview.

JESSIE: Sageview.

HELEN: View. I've got some bottles from Sageview.

JESSIE: Oh.

HELEN: From the dump there. Linda and I went out one time.

JESSIE: Oh.

HELEN: Miller.

DOROTHEA: Okay, let's go on to you moved into Idaho, and where did you say, Payette, where did you go?

JESSIE: Yeah, we went --- well first I guess we went to Vale, and then we moved to Big Bend, and then we moved to, god, I don't know. I think there was a gypsy in my dad.

HELEN: Payette.

JESSIE: Yeah, then --- yeah, when I was about 10 we moved to Payette.

HELEN: Payette.

DOROTHEA: And that's where you finished your school?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You worked cleaning houses and --- did you get a permanent job then after you graduated from high school?

JESSIE: No. Well yeah, I worked in the drug store there in Payette for years.

DOROTHEA: In Payette. How did you meet Harvey? We're going to go on to getting married now.

JESSIE: Well, let's see, I guess through some friends that he knew, and that I knew. And that's how I met him. Oh, no, I was thinking of my first husband. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Oh well, if you don't mind talking about that, think, talk about that, you first husband, if you don't mind. If you do, then we won't bring it, we won't talk about it.

JESSIE: No. See Ronald is from, is his child, my first husband's child.

HELEN: Oh.

JESSIE: But he has been dead for years now too. But when I, when we moved from Big Bend to Apple Valley, we lived in Apple Valley on a ranch, on a farm, and that's in Idaho,

that's near Parma. And the Hamilton's were our neighbors.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And that's when I was about 10, I guess, there. Yeah, I was 10 there. And we got acquainted with the Hamilton kids, of course, living next door. And we all went to school at the Apple Valley school.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: Now that's in Idaho.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: Okay.

JESSIE: That's near Parma.

HELEN: Okay.

JESSIE: Then the Hamilton's moved away before we did. And then, but we never lost track of them.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: And Harvey and I used to write, you know, for years before ---

DOROTHEA: Okay, so who was your first husband then?

JESSIE: Clifton Lynn, L Y N N.

HELEN: What was the last name?

DOROTHEA: Lynn.

JESSIE: L Y N N.

HELEN: L Y N N.

DOROTHEA: And did you have children then by him?

JESSIE: Just Ronald.

DOROTHEA: Ronald. And so his last name is Lynn.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And he lives in Waldport now.

DOROTHEA: And your husband passed away then, and you ---

JESSIE: No, we divorced.

DOROTHEA: You got a divorce. Okay, so then you wrote back and forth to Harvey, and he decides ---

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: He decides he likes your letters?

JESSIE: He was a cowman here in Burns. And we knew this, Mr. Michaelson quite well there, you know, as kids, because they had a bunch of kids. And anyway one day they were, he was at the ranch where Harvey was, they were branding and doing something, you know, that went on. And Harvey, I guess, asked him if he knew the Tuckes. Oh yeah, he knew Jessie. Said she is divorced now. So it wasn't long until Harvey showed up. (Laughter)

HELEN: Good for Harvey. Good for Harvey.

DOROTHEA: So then, when were you married?

JESSIE: We were married in '53.

DOROTHEA: Where at?

JESSIE: We went to Boise.

DOROTHEA: Boise, and got married.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And then, how did you end up back in Harney County and the ranching business?

JESSIE: Because that's where Harvey was.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he was living here.

JESSIE: Yeah, he was living, and he had his ranch out there at Diamond.

DOROTHEA: So by then he had bought a ranch and ---

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- a little, or big, or whatever, and was building.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And tell us something about Harvey then. His name is Harvey Hamilton, what's his middle name, or first name?

JESSIE: Baker.

DOROTHEA: First name?

JESSIE: Middle name.

DOROTHEA: Middle name, okay. Did he have any brothers or sisters?

JESSIE: Oh yeah.

HELEN: George.

DOROTHEA: Well George was one of them.

JESSIE: Yeah. George, and Jim, and Lee, and ---

HELEN: Oh, wow.

JESSIE: --- and Ray.

HELEN: George is the only one we knew.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did any of them live here also?

JESSIE: George did. And Jim was here for; oh he was here for a while after he got out of the service.

HELEN: Now you say service, which war? Would it be the second, or is it the first?

DOROTHEA: Well it is probably the second.

JESSIE: No, Jim was younger than I was, or about the same age as I was.

DOROTHEA: And if they didn't get married until '53, then it had to have been the Second World War.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Or even Korean.

JESSIE: I don't remember which one it was; I never did like Jim very well. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay. So, okay. Then you and Harvey didn't have any children?

JESSIE: No. Huh?

HELEN: I say you were born in '15.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: It would have had to been World War II.

JESSIE: Yeah, I think so.

DOROTHEA: Well how, it depends --- Now see if --- was he in the service when you were married?

JESSIE: Well I think he was. Then ---

DOROTHEA: Because that could have been the Korean War, see.

JESSIE: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: That was in the '50's.

JESSIE: I'm not sure on that. And I didn't like him well enough to ask him much. (Laughter) He was married to Marie Granthom out at Crane.

DOROTHEA: Jim was married to Marie Granthom.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Do you know how to spell that name? G R A N ---

JESSIE: T H O M.

DOROTHEA: O M. Okay, like in mother.

JESSIE: You don't need to put that in your story though.

HELEN: Well we're trying to get people.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Then what did you do then? I mean you moved up here to live with Harvey, and ranched.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: What kind of ranching did you do?

JESSIE: Oh, we had cattle, and we had sheep.

DOROTHEA: And did you run on the Steens (Mountain), or where did you run your cattle? Or were they all on home ground?

JESSIE: Uh huh. We finally wound up with property on Steens. And we had about 5,000 acres altogether, counting the ranch.

HELEN: Now was your stuff near George's, because he is on Jack Mountain.

JESSIE: No. He's on Jack Mountain, no.

HELEN: Okay.

JESSIE: No, we were on Steens.

HELEN: About, whereabouts was, where you at on Steens?

JESSIE: Haven't you ever been up there?

HELEN: ... 25 years, but nobody told me you ever lived up there.

DOROTHEA: Well they didn't live there.

JESSIE: Well, we had ---

HELEN: Well you would in the summertime at your cow camp.

JESSIE: We were at cow camp a lot. But we'd ---

HELEN: Your place was, isn't that what Rex bought?

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: Okay, that's over by Pough's camp, as we call it.

JESSIE: No, you're too far over now.

HELEN: Jenkins', Dorothy and cousin Tom lived up on the hill there, just above the house where Rex lived.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: Because I went up there and dug bottles.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: Where they were, at their sheep camp. And then you guys went on passed that area, didn't you?

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: To go in. Okay. Where Nora and ---

JESSIE: Well Nora and Rye were right down the road a ways from us. We went by their place until we traded some properties up there.

HELEN: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, you guys have mentioned some names, but you're not giving me any last names, and we have to have that in this report.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So, you're saying Norma, or Nora and ---

JESSIE: Rye Smyth.

DOROTHEA: Rye Smyth.

HELEN: That's M Y T H.

DOROTHEA: That's Y T H. Okay. And then the other people were ---

HELEN: Well they was Pough's camp up there, and he was from Mann Lake or something, on the other side.

JESSIE: On the other side.

DOROTHEA: Is it Poge like G, or P O L K ?

HELEN: P ...

JESSIE: P O A G E, wasn't it, or something like that.

HELEN: P O U G H, isn't it?

JESSIE: Oh, maybe.

HELEN: It is spelled kind of funny.

DOROTHEA: Okay, well we'll call it O U G H then. P O U G H, okay.

HELEN: Yeah, I think that actually it is spelled ---

DOROTHEA: Okay. So you did camp on Steens then? I know you lived down in Diamond, but did you, when you took your ---

JESSIE: When we went up to buckaroo and stuff, we had camp up --- we had one camp at the Conley place. Now that was an old bachelor or something. And he, where that rock house was ---

HELEN: Okay, yeah.

JESSIE: Well we owned that field.

HELEN: Oh, okay.

JESSIE: And that was Pete Conley cabin, that rock house. And then you, we went through government land, BLM, and up past the Smyth place that Darrell and Thelma have now.

DOROTHEA: Which is the S M Y T H place.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: Would that be ---

JESSIE: Nora and Rice.

HELEN: Nora and Rice.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And that is Thelma and Darrell ---

JESSIE: ...

DOROTHEA: Otley.

JESSIE: Huh?

DOROTHEA: That is Thelma and Darrell Otley.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And then we went ---

HELEN: Well now then did Rex buy your place up there?

JESSIE: We had traded some property before he came into it.

HELEN: Oh, okay.

JESSIE: So then when Harvey got real sick, well we just sold everything to him. Well of course Rex was dead already then.

HELEN: Oh, was he?

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: It would have been Ethel and the boys then, getting it.

JESSIE: Ethel, uh huh.

HELEN: Ethel Clemens.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, Rex Clemens and Ethel Clemens, that's who those people are.

JESSIE: Well it's, what's it called ---

HELEN: Well they left Rex's name in it, because Ethel said it is such a mess to change a name. So they just called it Rex Clemens place, or ranch, or whatever.

JESSIE: Properties, or something.

HELEN: Yeah.

JESSIE: Because he had a lot of other property too.

HELEN: Well then, and see Davis bought some more.

JESSIE: Yeah, I know it.

HELEN: He bought the McLean place.

JESSIE: McLeans, yeah.

HELEN: Now all they have to do is go up to someplace, open a gate, and they're right there.

JESSIE: Well, that's why Ethel wanted our place.

HELEN: Uh huh.

JESSIE: Our field joined them. And all they had to do is just open the gate and put them up on the hill.

DOROTHEA: Tell us what a normal ranching day was for you.

JESSIE: Don't you know Dorothea?

DOROTHEA: I know, but we want to get this down on tape.

HELEN: Before the sun comes up.

JESSIE: Yes, we would start before the sun come up, and we didn't quit lots of times until way after the sun went down.

DOROTHEA: Did you have hired men?

JESSIE: We didn't always have. We did during the haying seasons, and then we had extra help during brandings and --- just that kind of stuff. But our place wasn't all that big. We finally wound up with more property out there, but ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: We got the Jack Davies place.

HELEN: Uh huh.

JESSIE: Oh, it was Babe Seward's.

HELEN: Oh, okay.

DOROTHEA: To begin with?

JESSIE: She died here just the last couple weeks or so.

HELEN: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well, when you got up in the morning, you cooked breakfast. And then did you go out and help Harvey, or did you do your housework and he went out and did the ranching?

JESSIE: Well, sometimes it depended on what had to be done. But I usually had calves and lambs to feed. A lot of times my housework didn't get done very early in the morning.

DOROTHEA: If it got done at all.

JESSIE: If it got done at all.

DOROTHEA: Okay, let's go on then to a winter's season in calving. What was that like, lambing and calving?

JESSIE: Well when one of us wasn't there to take care of the things, the other one was. And I usually drove for him while he fed. And even the horses, I used to --- I was sure glad when we used the tractor. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Tell us about some of the things that went on during this time. Did you

have good weather all the time? And how did you get around when it wasn't good?

JESSIE: Well with horses you can get around better than you can with a tractor.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: But, when the snow got too deep Harvey would start up the Caterpillar and plow us out some place to either feed, or so we could get around.

DOROTHEA: Was this a, more common occurrence than it is today?

JESSIE: Well, it seemed like it.

DOROTHEA: Because that's my ---

JESSIE: Seems like we had ---

DOROTHEA: --- that's my thoughts. Now whether I'm just getting younger as I get older, or what. But it seems like to me that the winters are not as severe.

JESSIE: Are not as severe, are they?

DOROTHEA: No, it doesn't seem like it. When I was a kid we had to plow to the haystack every year, and use the same trail. And we always, my family, we fed our cattle kind of in a corral-like, close to the house. But I couldn't remember doing that but maybe twice since I've been married. And one of them was just in, I think it was '96 or so, when we had that last deep, deep snow.

JESSIE: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: And we, maybe it was '94. When was it when we had the last deep snow? I don't remember things.

JESSIE: The last time that Chuck come in and plowed me out here was in about '93 or '94, something like that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, something like that. My brother retired that year, and I don't remember what year that was. But I know it was January, and through February we were

dropping baby calves in two feet of snow. And if you didn't catch them when they dropped, they were dead.

JESSIE: They froze right into the ice.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

JESSIE: We had it.

DOROTHEA: So that's what I mean, you know, I remember when we were kids, when I was a kid, that we had to plow every year to get to our haystack. Now you don't. Just like with this winter, we fed mostly on the snow or ice.

JESSIE: I know it.

DOROTHEA: Not a lot in the, you know, in the wet. Because you don't like to feed in the wet.

JESSIE: No.

DOROTHEA: But we have had good weather to feed in.

JESSIE: Yeah, it has been --- oh, I used to just hate it when it got muddy, and no place to put the hay but in a mud hole.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: Oh, I used to hate that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HELEN: Cows probably hated it too.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: They don't eat ---

JESSIE: They didn't get the good of the feed.

DOROTHEA: No, they don't eat good that time of the year.

HELEN: I'm going to ask a question now; we'll probably be backing up a little bit. But

since we have been here, Harvey has always had a limp, and what caused that? Hip trouble, or did ---

JESSIE: His hips. You know he finally had them both replaced.

HELEN: Uh huh. But was it from riding, or did he get hurt some time or other?

JESSIE: Well just --- no, huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Just like osteoporosis, or just poor bone?

JESSIE: They said that his hips were just completely worn out. It wasn't even arthritis that did it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. So, let's stop now and go to the next page, or the next side.

SIDE B

JESSIE: ... an awful lot of people there at one time.

HELEN: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: We're talking about the Narrows, and how many people at once lived there. And Helen was mentioning that there is a lot; there were a lot of people at the Narrows. Can you, yeah, can name some of the families that lived there? This is in 1920 again, looking at the school picture. Can you name some of the families that lived there at that time? Besides the Tuckes, there were the ---

JESSIE: There was Sesena.

DOROTHEA: Sesena ...

JESSIE: S E S E N A.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And ---

HELEN: Is that a last name or a first name?

JESSIE: Last.

DOROTHEA: Last name.

JESSIE: They were Mexican.

HELEN: Well there were several Mexican names or Spanish names.

JESSIE: He was on the, had something to do with the railroad, worked on the railroad
someway. Now I think that Marcus Haines is in this picture someplace.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: But I wouldn't know which one.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. So I know the Haines' were there, and also ---

JESSIE: There was ---

HELEN: They were over around Voltage, weren't they?

DOROTHEA: Well at the one time the Haines, Charlie Haines was there.

HELEN: Right at the Narrows.

DOROTHEA: Right at, there.

JESSIE: Right at the Narrows, yeah.

HELEN: Yeah, he had the store.

DOROTHEA: And Marcus did work for Charlie, so he probably attended school there
also.

HELEN: But Voltage is where they lived first. Voltage is where her first husband was
killed, before she married --- what was Marcus' dad's name?

JESSIE: Oh. Oh, I don't remember, and I should know.

DOROTHEA: It's not Fred, it was ---

HELEN: Because they were at Voltage, and he went to school at Voltage, Marcus did.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: And then also Conly Marshall out here, they lived at Voltage.

JESSIE: Uh huh. There was an awful lot of homesteaders settled in out there at one time, in that part of the country.

DOROTHEA: Of course this is when you're smaller. Because you're not even in school here, so you're only like 5 years old, so you're not in school yet.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But do you remember any of the kids' last names to where it might ---

JESSIE: Well, just off hand --- well I know that this was Toots Arnold.

DOROTHEA: Arnold. So you don't ---

JESSIE: Now what was her dad?

HELEN: Anderson. Toots Arnold, okay.

JESSIE: Well yeah, she was an Anderson, that's right.

HELEN: Uh huh, yeah.

JESSIE: Yeah. So she was there I know, the Andersons.

DOROTHEA: Do you know what Toots' real first name is?

JESSIE: Leona.

DOROTHEA: Leona. Now is she still alive?

JESSIE: No. No, this is her nephew that lives right up here by me.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: But I can't think of any of the others names, and I should be able to.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: I can't remember.

DOROTHEA: Let's go back to Diamond. And how many years did you ranch and live out in that area?

JESSIE: Oh, I moved there in the last, in December of '53. And we left there in '88, 1988.

DOROTHEA: So you lived there about 35 years.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How did you, how often did you come to town? Probably not as often as I did, because I got married in '56. But I know that we only got groceries once a month.

JESSIE: Well if Harvey needed something on the ranch I'd go to town for him. And I think --- we probably made it twice a month, sometime. Maybe, you know, maybe some months we didn't. Depended too a lot on the road, but --- I wouldn't say that we, we probably didn't average any more than a couple times a month.

DOROTHEA: So how did you, did you grow a garden?

JESSIE: Tried to.

DOROTHEA: How did you keep ---

JESSIE: In Harney County! (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well I know what that is like too, I lived in Silvies Valley, so I know what that's like.

JESSIE: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: How did you keep your groceries supplied, and your medical supplies? Did someone deliver it with the mail, or did you have your mail delivered right to your road?

JESSIE: Right to the highway.

DOROTHEA: To the highway.

JESSIE: Yeah, up by Jenkins'.

DOROTHEA: So you had to drive out to get your mail?

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: Yeah, to get to their place you drove through Jenkins' barnyard or something to get down in there.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Right through, by their house.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Was that the only road that you could get to your house by?

JESSIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: That was it, huh.

JESSIE: That was it.

DOROTHEA: So that's what I want to know, is how you got in and out when the roads got bad.

JESSIE: Well we always had 4-wheel drives around.

DOROTHEA: Did you?

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Or horses.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. How often did Harvey have to go to the mountain to move his cows, or whatever, and when did you do this?

JESSIE: Well we'd move up about the first of April to turn, we had a turnout on about the first of April.

DOROTHEA: And where were you bringing your cows from, home?

JESSIE: Home.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And it was just a short distance to the first turnout. But you had to ride, oh fairly

often. He'd go up quite often. And he'd go up and stay a lot of times at camp because of the fences to be fixed, and upkeep on everything. And then I would stay home and do the chores.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And this is when you spent a lot of time by yourself then.

JESSIE: Oh yeah, I spent quite a bit of time.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Is somebody living in your ranch, or the house now? And who did you sell to?

JESSIE: We sold to Clemens, Rex Clemens.

DOROTHEA: The house too?

JESSIE: Everything.

HELEN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Everything.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: ...

JESSIE: Dan, I couldn't say who.

DOROTHEA: Because I know that --- oh he lives in your house?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's nice. I knew that you lived right behind the Otleys, and I didn't know whether they had bought you out or

JESSIE: No, we tried to get them to, but they thought it was too big, too much to take on. And things weren't --- at that time they were beginning to look a little shabby.

DOROTHEA: Ranching was looking a little shabby, period.

JESSIE: Yeah, yeah ranching.

DOROTHEA: Cattle ranching was not ---

HELEN: Cows went down, they lowered the price.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: It was nip and tuck.

DOROTHEA: And I would say that probably a rancher has still got a lot of rows to hoe.

JESSIE: Yes, and hard ones.

DOROTHEA: Today.

JESSIE: Uh huh, yes. It isn't fun anymore. You can't enjoy it anymore.

DOROTHEA: No, it's a lot of hard work, and a lot of fight, and not any ---

JESSIE: As much as I hated to give it up out there, I'm glad we did. Of course we wouldn't have if Harvey hadn't gotten so terribly ill. But ---

DOROTHEA: So what year did you move to town, you said '88?

JESSIE: '88.

DOROTHEA: And what time of the year?

JESSIE: August.

DOROTHEA: In August. So what do you do now? I know for a while Harvey was here with you.

JESSIE: He died in May of --- we moved into here in August of '88, and he died May of '89.

DOROTHEA: Just a year, almost a year.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So now do you belong to organizations? What do you do in all your free time?

JESSIE: Free? Well I had a lot of work to do on this place, and I'd spend day in and day

out in this yard.

DOROTHEA: Let's say where this place is. It is right outside of Burns, almost to the Indian village. And it belonged originally to ---

JESSIE: It belonged to ---

DOROTHEA: Trent.

JESSIE: Trent.

DOROTHEA: Tiller. Now is he the one that built the house?

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. But I don't know who it belonged to before he had it.

JESSIE: Well all this property around here was Tillers, I guess, for a while.

DOROTHEA: Oh was it?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HELEN: It was whose?

JESSIE: Tillers.

HELEN: Oh, Tillers had all this.

JESSIE: The older Tillers had it, and then it got handed down.

DOROTHEA: Now I know that LeRoy is your nephew, and he lives over here a little bit behind you, about an eighth of a mile or so?

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: How is he related to you? This is LeRoy Castles, with an S.

JESSIE: Uh huh. My sister, my youngest sister's boy.

HELEN: Freda?

DOROTHEA: Freda.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: That's her boy?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: And then she has the girl, Freda, is that it?

JESSIE: Betty.

HELEN: Huh?

JESSIE: Betty, Betty Lou is the girl.

HELEN: Well there was a Freda that always come out and rode with you when ...

JESSIE: No, that was Betty. Freda never rode.

HELEN: Was her name Betty?

JESSIE: Yeah, Freda never rode horseback.

HELEN: Oh. How did I get Freda? I always had her as ---

DOROTHEA: Freda was the mother.

JESSIE: She was Betty's mother, my sister. But ---

HELEN: Well that's one name that sticks with me.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: And then Ronald's name.

DOROTHEA: And Freda was married to Paul Castles.

JESSIE: Uh huh, LeRoy's dad.

DOROTHEA: And Freda's children were ---

JESSIE: Were Castles.

DOROTHEA: LeRoy ---

JESSIE: Mike, LeRoy, and Betty Lou.

DOROTHEA: And Mike, and Betty Lou. And Mike is married to ---

JESSIE: Patty.

DOROTHEA: Which was, her maiden name was? We'll get these books out and we'll look at the books.

HELEN: It helps.

DOROTHEA: I know what her maiden name was, but you can't tell me, I can't think.

JESSIE: Well I know what --- Boydston.

DOROTHEA: B O Y D S T ---

JESSIE: O N.

DOROTHEA: O N. Okay. And Betty Lou's name is ---

JESSIE: Hillman now.

DOROTHEA: Hillman, yeah. Okay. Helen you come up with some more questions, because we got half a tape here.

HELEN: When did you move from Catlow area, your family? Maybe we should start with when did you move to Catlow up there, the homestead?

DOROTHEA: She was about 2, so it would be about 1917.

JESSIE: We moved there, it must have been early '17, because Freda was born there in '17, in July, so ---

HELEN: Okay, then when did you leave Catlow Valley, the area?

And that was where Lone and Johnny Crow went to school together.

JESSIE: Yeah, and that was, oh when was that. It would have had to been about 1917 or 1918 probably.

HELEN: You was up there just about a year.

JESSIE: Yeah, I imagine.

HELEN: When you think of that area, what I think of is when you came down into it, and

here were these rock houses. And then we went on around the corner, only I didn't know that was where the school was until Margaret and I went up. And they had those old time inkwells and stuff at the junk ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, did you get some of those? You didn't? Oh, I would have loved to had one of those inkwells. You didn't want those ink wells?

HELEN: Well I seen them when I was a kid.

DOROTHEA: Well so did I, but I would love to have one. (Laughter)

HELEN: And I'm a little older than you.

DOROTHEA: A little. But I still saw them.

HELEN: Well I probably did get, picked up one, I don't remember. I think I've got one, but I don't think it came from there.

DOROTHEA: I see in that book someplace where you got sick. What did you get sick from?

JESSIE: Unless that was when I had a bad leg, and they didn't know whether it was a scorpion sting or just what, but it swelled way up on my ankle. And for a long time it had a little dip in it from that. And I guess that's the only thing I could think of that ---

DOROTHEA: Now is that in Catlow ---

JESSIE: When I read that in here I was surprised.

DOROTHEA: Was that in Catlow Valley, or where was that?

JESSIE: Yeah, yeah. And my dad put bread and milk poultices on that and drew it out, you know, to ---

DOROTHEA: Draw the poison out of it.

JESSIE: Yeah. But that's what they thought that maybe it was a scorpion that ---

HELEN: Bit you and you didn't pay that much attention what had did it.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well let's kind of just skip around in here. And it said you were sick and didn't eat. Tell us about the doctors, and were you born in a hospital?

JESSIE: No.

DOROTHEA: Where did you ---

JESSIE: Well I was born in Sisters, and it wasn't a hospital, it was some midwife that took care of me or something.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. So a doctor didn't deliver you.

JESSIE: No. And when Rita was born we were out on the homestead, and it took the doctor three days to get there. Leon said he stopped at the moonshiners on the way in.

HELEN: Oh great. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: So did he get there in time to deliver her?

JESSIE: Oh no.

DOROTHEA: She was already born.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What did they do about --- now they put this silver nitrate or whatever it is in the eyes, did they do that when your babies were born?

JESSIE: Well apparently not.

DOROTHEA: So how did we ever survive?

JESSIE: I don't know.

HELEN: Tougher, that was all.

DOROTHEA: I guess we had to be awfully tough.

JESSIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Of course I come from a big city, so I was born in a hospital.

JESSIE: Oh yeah. But you know anymore there are too many people, and that's where we are getting all our illnesses and --- it's just the people, mostly.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and we know about birth control, but boy that's not stopping the population.

JESSIE: Huh uh. Well it is all these other countries moving in. HELEN: They keeping bringing more people, more people.

JESSIE: That's where; I was listening to that deal on TV about the chimpanzees, that's where your AIDS start.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

HELEN: Yeah, I seen that last night, in Africa.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: Well they always said it came from Africa, but we always figured it was just the people. But now they are saying it is from those darn animals spread it someway or other.

JESSIE: Yeah, after I moved back up here to Diamond, Taft and Harvey and I were visiting there on the street one-day, and he says, "I wish I had a dollar for every time I had to trot you on my foot!" (Laughter) He said you constantly wanted me to horsey-back, horsey-back.

HELEN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, it says in the spring of 1919, they moved to the railroad house, from the railroad house, out of Vale. So you didn't live at the Narrows, or at Catlow very long then.

JESSIE: No, we didn't live any place very long.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. So it could have been, you went from Catlow to the Narrows then

maybe? Because it says ---

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Because it said we went to the railroad house, and moved out of there ---

JESSIE: Yeah, and then we moved into Vale. You know I don't ---

DOROTHEA: He worked on the, or your dad and Leon went to work on the Warm Springs Canal out of Vale.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So apparently you went on to Vale then from there.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So you did a lot of traveling. Do you remember any of the houses?

JESSIE: No. Well, I won't say no. I remember one in Vale, and it was a big house and my mother had people, you know, roomers and boarders there. But I don't have any idea where it was.

DOROTHEA: She must have liked kids. (Laughter) You said she had roomers and boarders. She must have liked people.

JESSIE: Yeah, she did. She didn't talk very good English. Harvey said he never could understand her.

HELEN: ... that she just loved to cook, and she always wanted people to come and eat.

JESSIE: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you learn, did you do many household chores when you were growing up, helping your mother?

JESSIE: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Of course you are almost the youngest of the family, so I imagine ---

JESSIE: Yeah, but the older kids were gone. The one next to me is four years older than

I am. So Freda and I did most of the --- when Mom worked why we kept the house. God one year --- she always insisted on a great big garden, you know, so we had all that canning to do, but we did it.

HELEN: That helped during the depression to eat.

JESSIE: Oh boy.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember anything about the depression? Were your folks; was it hard on your folks?

JESSIE: Well my dad died when I was 10.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And ---

HELEN: What year did he die?

JESSIE: Well ---

DOROTHEA: In 1925.

JESSIE: '25, yeah.

HELEN: 1925.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: Yeah, he missed ---

DOROTHEA: What did he die of?

JESSIE: Bright's disease. That's a kidney ---

DOROTHEA: Kidney disease.

HELEN: Where did you live when he died?

JESSIE: Apple Valley.

HELEN: I saw Apple Valley, I think, listed in here.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So how many children were at home then still?

JESSIE: Well there was Freda and I. Ione worked in town, so she would be home in the evenings. But my oldest sister she was married and gone.

HELEN: How about Estele, Estella?

JESSIE: She was married and gone.

HELEN: She was married and gone.

DOROTHEA: Well then ---

HELEN: Nevada, I like that name.

JESSIE: Nevada.

HELEN: Yeah. You haven't ever said a word about Nevada.

DOROTHEA: How many of your brothers and sisters are alive yet? Just you and ---

JESSIE: Nevada and myself and Ione.

DOROTHEA: And Nevada lives where?

JESSIE: She is in California, paralyzed with a stroke.

DOROTHEA: And she is just four years older than you are?

JESSIE: Uh huh. I call her every Sunday. It didn't hurt her mind much, but two years now she hasn't moved hardly.

HELEN: Whereabouts in California?

JESSIE: She is at --- oh, what did you ask me for, I could have told you.

HELEN: Where do you call when you visit?

DOROTHEA: She just pushes that button like I do.

JESSIE: Oh, well ---

HELEN: On the coast or inland?

JESSIE: No, she is --- well why can't I say it. Isn't that stupid?

HELEN: What is it near? Then we might guess.

JESSIE: Paradise.

HELEN: Paradise.

JESSIE: That's where she lives.

DOROTHEA: Paradise, California.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So is she still married, or is she alone?

JESSIE: She is alone now, her husband died, I think a year ago probably, maybe --- But I can't talk to lone, because she don't know. And I can call Nevada and talk to her. Her mind is still pretty good, she is 88 now. But, she can't move. And she always come, made her trip through here every summer, even on her crutches until she had the stroke. Now she can't come.

HELEN: Oh, kitty says what are all these strangers. That means danger, strangers.

JESSIE: You want your breakfast now?

HELEN: He hasn't been in to eat yet?

DOROTHEA: The cat is looking in the window at us, saying it is time to eat. But this sister, you and lone are the only three surviving, and there was nine children to begin with.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well when your father died, is that when your mother went into the boarding house?

JESSIE: Oh no.

DOROTHEA: She was already doing that?

JESSIE: She was doing that when he was living. Because he just worked out, in jobs out

of Vale there.

DOROTHEA: Odd jobs.

JESSIE: And then he was quite ill for a while. He took those hot baths because of his kidney condition. But he had Bright's disease.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about --- now your one sister Freda died of Parkinson's.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Your older sister, lone, has Alzheimer's.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So you have quite a lot of illnesses in your family.

JESSIE: Well ---

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about ---

JESSIE: We thought we were all a pretty healthy bunch. My oldest brother had Parkinson's also.

DOROTHEA: Oh, did he?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Now is this a disease that is inherited?

JESSIE: It is not supposed to be. And I asked the doctor one time, you know, if it was inherited.

DOROTHEA: Do you know what causes it? We are getting into the medical theme.

JESSIE: Brain.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it's something that happens in the brain.

JESSIE: It's a brain disorder.

DOROTHEA: Brain, okay.

JESSIE: And so is Alzheimer's.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JESSIE: And a lot of Parkinson patients go into Alzheimer's too.

DOROTHEA: Do they?

JESSIE: Uh huh. Kind of runs on the same ---

DOROTHEA: Kind of a slope, in the same blood stream, or I mean area.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: One of the areas that controls it.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay Helen, you're looking at this other book that's named all the cousins.

Is there anything else that we have missed, or Jessie can you tell us anything more that --

-

JESSIE: Well, now see I said we lived on the Claypool place.

HELEN: Uh huh.

JESSIE: Well you know that house at the Narrows was an old Claypool house.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so that was at the Narrows then, rather than the Catlow.

JESSIE: Yeah, when we lived there at the Narrows.

HELEN: We should have done this about two years ago, because I've been into this Narrows stuff, I don't know how much, for different things. See Marcus would have still been alive too.

JESSIE: Yeah. Oh yeah. Well ---

DOROTHEA: No, Marcus has been gone longer than that. He has been gone almost five years now.

HELEN: Don't seem like it. Why it was only yesterday!

JESSIE: Well, see he went to school with my brothers and sisters too.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

JESSIE: And one time he ---

HELEN: Okay, were you guys living there at the time when they had the rabies deal?

JESSIE: No.

HELEN: Because he was going to school at that time, him and Mildred.

JESSIE: Oh, huh uh.

HELEN: And he told about a cow that chased them, and they figured it had rabies.

JESSIE: Oh well, when we lived on this Claypool place there was a rabid coyote come through, and we lost a cow.

HELEN: See ---

JESSIE: And, was it one? And then the coyote bit our dog over the, right here on the nose.

HELEN: I'll bet there was more than one coyote with that stuff, as bad as it was.

JESSIE: Oh well I'm sure.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah, I imagine ---

JESSIE: Because this one was --- And my dad killed our dog, he was afraid of it, you know, with it having that.

HELEN: You bet.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: And the vet told him though, later he talked to a veterinary and he said that the dog's nose is always cold, the germs don't live.

DOROTHEA: Oh really. That's nice to know even yet. I mean, you know, because ---

JESSIE: Because that's what the vet told him at that time, that the dog wouldn't probably have ever gone mad. The neighbor's dog went mad.

DOROTHEA: It depends on whether it got into the blood stream or not.

JESSIE: Yeah. But he said where that bite was.

DOROTHEA: And the nose is always cold.

JESSIE: And that nose is cold.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: Huh.

JESSIE: But you know, a dog's nose is always cold.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. So ---

HELEN: I guess, don't know. Never paid any attention, just ---

JESSIE: Well yeah. Well I always remembered that, you know, that --- And my dad was after that coyote, he was out in the yard with a lantern, because that was all our light in those days, you know, and a pitchfork. And then he lost track of the dog, and come up behind him. (Laughter)

HELEN: His dog, you're saying?

JESSIE: The coyote.

HELEN: Oh, the coyote come up behind him.

JESSIE: Yeah. No, the dog come in the house.

HELEN: Oh. Well then what happened?

JESSIE: Well, my dad used the pitchfork.

DOROTHEA: On the coyote?

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: Got rid of him.

JESSIE: And he finally left. But oh my, how those cattle did bawl that night. I can remember that. And that's when I was in the first grade.

DOROTHEA: Bawl from fear like they always do when a dog gets in and they yawl, or whatever, they beller.

JESSIE: But they knew. Knew it wasn't our dog, I think. They knew it was a coyote.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JESSIE: But we had it, we did lose one or two cattle.

DOROTHEA: From rabies?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: ... said they ran like heck to get to a fence. They were taking a shortcut that they shouldn't have been doing.

DOROTHEA: Conly was telling us about that the other day, about the rabid --- And I didn't realize that cows got rabid, and horses. You know if they are bit they get rabid, and I didn't know that.

JESSIE: Oh yes, yeah they do.

DOROTHEA: Apparently we never had any of that.

JESSIE: But our neighbors, they wouldn't --- oh they had an only child, and she was so fond of that dog. They moved away, anyway the mother did as near as I can remember, moved away to Vale so her girl could go to school there. But my dad got my sister the books and stuff and taught, my sister taught at home. That's when we had ---

We had a turkey on that place, just one I think, and Freda and I wore little jumper suits, you know, and that turkey would bite us. We'd go out there with something else on and he wouldn't bother us.

DOROTHEA: Oh, just when you wore the jumpers.

JESSIE: When we ... those jumper suits. And why, we never could figure out what the, how the turkey knew what we had on. And one time we, we had a lot of rattlesnakes

there on that place. And one time the turkey was making a fuss out in the yard, and we looked out and he was after a rattlesnake. And it's really interesting to watch them, they'll just circle that snake. And pretty soon wham; he'd come with his wing. Then he'd get a little closer, and hit him again.

DOROTHEA: In other words he beat him.

JESSIE: He beat him to death.

DOROTHEA: Well they say if you have turkeys, or guinea hens, or something like that, that you can keep the rattlesnakes away, or geese.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Keep the rattlesnakes ---

HELEN: Well Tom Miller and, I can't say her name, they had pigs. And they had the yard fixed, and then that way she didn't have to worry about Gary when he was little. She would put him outside, and the pigs kept the rattlesnakes on the outside, they didn't come in where those pigs were in the yard. And Estella and I was over there, and Estella was getting lambs from them, you know, the bummers.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: And I couldn't figure out why they had pigs around the house. And she said that's to keep the rattlesnakes away.

JESSIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Well that's what George and Mary had, guinea hens and geese.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they make such a mess.

JESSIE: I know.

DOROTHEA: And pigs too. But they had all those. And cross my fingers, but knock on

wood or something, you know since we've lived there I have never had a rattlesnake in the yard, which, thank goodness for that.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: Surprise.

JESSIE: I know when we moved out there to Diamond; Bernie Hutchinson lived over there where the Bailey's place is. But anyway he wouldn't get on the haystack, he would not stack hay.

HELEN: Who was this?

JESSIE: Bernie Hutchinson.

HELEN: Oh.

JESSIE: Colleen's ---

HELEN: Husband.

JESSIE: --- husband. And boy, Harvey put it up there, and he could direct him, but he said no way would he get on that haystack.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I guess ---

HELEN: Afraid of a darned old snake being in the hay ---

JESSIE: Well it was just across the road from the hill.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HELEN: Yeah. If you could gather up that hay, and it was loose hay anyway, and you could have a snake easily in it.

JESSIE: Well sure. Oh yes.

HELEN: It would be in the darn shock where they ---

JESSIE: Well sure.

HELEN: --- then you come to get it.

DOROTHEA: And us kids used to run and play in the hay.

JESSIE: Yeah, and think nothing of it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

HELEN: Well you probably made enough racket a yelling and a whooping and a hollering that it scared the rattlesnakes, they want to get out and get away.

DOROTHEA: There was six of us kids, I should say, six, there was really seven, but one of them didn't partake in any of the fun.

JESSIE: Oh.

DOROTHEA: He is too old for that, I guess. Well we are running down to the place where it's about time to close off. And I can't think, and I didn't read that book, and I meant to do that before we came so that I would be all prepared ---

JESSIE: Well why don't you read it and then ---

DOROTHEA: Add on to it.

JESSIE: Add on or take away.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JESSIE: Whatever.

DOROTHEA: What I miss most, I think, is Barbara (Lofgren). She did a lot of this research, you know, and so --- She had all kinds of questions to ask and --- I don't do that.

JESSIE: Oh.

HELEN: Why don't you take it up, and when you send your tape in, why don't you take it up to the library and do like this so she can get two sheets at one deal, and send it all to her, copy.

DOROTHEA: I was just going to send my book and let her send it back to me.

HELEN: You got a book?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, Jessie gave me one.

JESSIE: Yeah, I gave you, gave somebody a book.

DOROTHEA: Give me a book.

HELEN: Well it must be her.

JESSIE: I thought you took it.

DOROTHEA: I thought you took one.

JESSIE: You took it at first.

DOROTHEA: Well I think you gave us each one, because I have one that I stuck in my history thing there. And I think Helen already had one. So I think we each have one. You should have one some-place.

HELEN: Do you want to come and find it?

JESSIE: Well Helen ---

HELEN: I got boxes of stuff.

JESSIE: If it is like my stuff, I got it stacked so high --- because I don't, I'm afraid to throw anything away. And I've been sitting in there hour after hour putting stuff through the shredder. I thought, "Boy I'm not going to fuss with it anymore."

... Unrelated conversation

DOROTHEA: Let's end this up here.

JESSIE: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Let's close off for now and, I didn't know whether or not you wanted to do a video, but we usually do a little short video afterwards so that when people listen to this they know what you look like and sound like, so that's why we do it. But, we always have to ask permission. So if you give permission we'll do that. Otherwise, we're going to say

thank you for visiting with us today. And if you want us to come back sometime, and you can tell us more we'll do that also.

JESSIE: Okay.

DOROTHEA: So, we thank you a lot, and we appreciate your time.

(END OF TAPE)

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LOOKING BACK FAMILY HISTORY

BY IONE TUCKE RABY

FREDERICK TUCKE

Still living in 1875.

Name of wife unknown.

Residence unknown.

Children:

John Tucke, born 1835 in Prussia, died May 9, 1872, in Ormsby County, Nevada, unmarried. (From Probate Court records)

Henry Tucke, date of birth 1840, in Prussia, died about 1879, in Nevada. Married Mary Katherine (also appears as Cathern Mary) Hografe. She died in Payette, Idaho, October 8, 1933, buried in cemetery at Parma, Idaho.

Casper Tucke, born in Germany, 1845, died February 1913, in Nevada. Married to Marguerita Hografe (sister of Mary Katherine Hografe) no children.

Anna Marie Tucke, born 1856 in Iowa. Married Richard Gerberding. They had three children, Anna and Lizzie, dates not known, and Frederick, born March 12, 1877, died May 9, 1956, at Payette, Idaho. Wife's name Ora Lena, died April 10, 1951, buried in Riverside Cemetery, Payette.

Children: Pearl, Frederica, Lanora and Richard.

The Decree of Distribution of the Estate of John Tucke, deceased, dated June 5, 1875, and recorded in Book F of Deeds, page 39 to 45, inclusive, Records of Douglas County, Nevada, sets out facts as follows:

That John Tucke died in Ormsby County, Nevada, on May 9th, 1872, a resident of Douglas County:

That he had never been married;

That he was survived by his father, Frederick Tucke, a sister and two brothers. (These would be Anna Marie, Henry and Casper).

Henry Tucke was Administrator of the estate, which consisted of real property, livestock and farm machinery in Douglas County, Nevada. All was distributed to his father, Frederick Tucke. (Address not given but may appear on County tax records).

Notes sent to me by Dorothy Ruse (Granddaughter of William Stock) who checked records in Iowa show the following:

Frederick Tucke - born in Prussia about 1800.

Children: John Tucke born 1835 in Prussia

Henry Tucke born in 1840 in Prussia

Casper Tucke born 1845 in Hanover (Germany)

Anna Marie Tucke born in 1856 in Iowa

Henry Tucke married Cathern Mary Hografe (many different spellings) our grandparents;

Casper married Marguerita Hografe (sister of Cathern Mary) no children;

Anna Marie married Richard Gerberding, three children including Fred Gerberding.

NICOLENE PATRINA ANDRESON:

Born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, formerly of Denmark, being Danish. Born March 2, 1878.

Father's name was Nels Peter Andreson, who emigrated to Australia and possibly died soon after, was never heard from again. Probably buried under an assumed name as he and others left Germany to avoid military service in the German army, being Danes.

Mother's name was Elene Andreson; she later married Hans Christian Nielsen. She died February 19, 1929.

Nicolene Patrina Andreson emigrated to the United States at the age of 16 years, settling in Nevada where there were several German families. She worked as a housekeeper before marriage. Came to the United States in the year 1894.

Her mother and stepfather later adopted a daughter, Sophia. Haven't heard anything from there since World War Two.

MARY KATRINA TUCKE

Mary Katrina Hograff was born in Hanover, Germany on the 7th day of November 1848.

She came to America with her parents as a young girl and first lived in the State of Iowa. Many years later they moved to Nevada to make their home. It was here that she met Henry Tucke and in 1868 they were united in marriage. To this union four boys were born, only one of who survives her.

Her husband preceded her in death over 50 years ago.

For the last 33 years she has lived with the family of her youngest son John G. Tucke.

Mrs. Tucke came to Payette about 8 years ago and has lived here since that time.

She passed away Sunday evening, October 8th at 8 o'clock P.M. at the age of 84 years, 11 months and 1 day.

Mrs. Tucke became a member of the Lutheran Church in Germany and remained in that faith throughout the remaining years of her life. She is survived by one son, Earnest A. Tucke, of Janesville, California, two sisters known to be living, ten grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and a nephew, Fred Gerberding of Payette.

Funeral services were held from the Landon funeral home Tuesday, October 10, at 1 P.M. Rev. J. Raymond Fite, minister of the Payette Church of Christ officiating. Mrs. Kathryn Kreitz and Mrs. Mattie Lathrop sang. Internment was made at the Parma cemetery.

(From the published obituary)
(October 1933)

Her name also appears on papers, and signed by her, as Cathern Mary.

CHILDREN OF HENRY TUCKE AND MARY K. (also appears as Cathern Mary)
HOGRAFE TUCKE:

William Ernest Tucke, born in Nevada, 1874 to 1938.
Wife's name Pearl.
One son, Irwin Tucke, born about 1907, never married.

William Henry Tucke, born February 1875, died August 30, 1914, drowned in boating accident off Grays Harbor, Washington, while fishing with a group. Owned a clothing store there. Wife, Lucille, had two sons by a prior marriage, one died as a child, the other, Raymond. No information about him.

William Frederick Tucke, born about 1876, drowned as a young man; buried October 31, 1894, in San Lorenzo Cemetery, California. Never married.

John G. Tucke, born August 12, 1878, in Douglas County, Nevada. Died May 14, 1925, near Parma, Idaho. Buried in Parma Cemetery.
Wife, Nicolene Patrina Andreson. Married September 10, 1898. She was born March 2, 1878, in Schleswig-Holstein, German, of Danish parents.
Died July 20, 1932, at Payette, Idaho, buried in Parma, Idaho Cemetery. Eight children.

CHILDREN OF JOHN G. TUCKE AND NICOLENE PATRINA ANDRESON TUCKE:

William Henry Tucke, born November 17, 1899, died February 15, 1967;

Harry Casper Tucke, born July 20, 1901, died December 9, 1903;

Leon Earnest Tucke, born March 10, 1903, died August 15, 1983;

May Ellen Tucke, born March 15, 1905;

Ione Mary Tucke, born April 7, 1907;

Estella Clara Tucke, born January 14, 1909;

Nevada Mildred Tucke, born January 22, 1911;

Jessie Georgia Tucke, born January 16, 1915;

Freda Joanne Tucke (also known as Elfreda), born July 6, 1917, died October 29,

1985.

John G. Tucke and Nicolene Patrina Andreson were married September 10, 1898.

They lived and farmed in Nevada near Sheridan and Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada, until the spring of 1911.

William Henry was born there November 17, 1899;

Harry Casper was born there July 20, 1901, drowned while he and William were playing on the ice December 9, 1903;

Leon earnest was born there March 10, 1903;

May Ellen born there March 15, 1905;

Ione Mary born there April 7, 1907;

Estella Clara born there January 14, 1909;

Nevada Mildred born there January 22, 1911;

One memory we have while living there was the fire, which destroyed a store building owned by our grandmother, Mary Tucke. The front of the building was rented by two fellows who operated it and also ran the post office. Our grandmother lived in the rear part of the building. One night the fellows had been out and when they came home built a fire and the building caught fire. We lived in a house across the road from it and, of course, we were all up, it was completely destroyed. I don't believe any part of the store was saved, but some of Grandma's things were. With the help of neighbors they carried out her china closet with dishes and ran into the clothesline and smashed it. I always remembered seeing one of the men sitting on a pile of wood crying afterwards. Such disasters are hard to take.

Another thing I remember while living there was a well in the backyard, which had been filled in. One day a heifer walked through the yard and broke through the cover and the ground just disappeared. The folks started filling it in with anything they could find including some large pieces of old machinery. My Dad then got up on it and bounced up and down and stepped off and immediately the whole pile disappeared. I do not know how it was ever filled.

In the spring of 1911 we moved by train to the State of Washington; lived in a large two-story house on a farm with a small orchard. Uncle Henry Tucke had a store in Aberdeen, Washington. That must have been beautiful country, as I remember fish from the nearby stream, also wild strawberries and blackberries. (Among the family pictures is a picture of the house and yard and Papa with a horse and buggy in front. Also, a picture of we six children alongside the house.)

While living there we were close to a creek and one day Leon, May and I, with Nevada in her buggy, went for a walk along the creek and were throwing bottles on the rocks in the creek. Leon tripped and fell, cutting his palm on a piece of glass. This never fully healed and he had the scar, which bothered him the rest of his life. One doctor told him that there probably was a small piece of glass still in the cut.

In the spring of 1913 we moved to Redmond, Oregon, again by train, and lived in a house owned by a Mr. Harris and also the Hank place. I went to school in Redmond my first year, along with the others, going to school with horse and buggy. We also acquired a riding pony, always just called "Pony". We had her until we left the homestead in Harney County, Oregon, many years later. We heard afterward that the homesteaders killed her because they couldn't corral their own horses with her in the bunch, she was too wily.

The next spring we moved to the Cloverdale area near Sisters, Oregon, lived on the Johnson place in 1914, and then on the Hodson place in 1915. While on the Johnson place we heard of the death of Uncle Henry by drowning.

Jessie Georgia was born on the Hodson place January 16, 1915.

We kids went to the Cloverdale School. William had an argument with the teacher and quit school. Estella started to school there.

In early April 1916, when I was 9 years old, we moved by wagon to a homestead near Catlow Valley in Harney County, Oregon. We had a main wagon, pulled by four horses, George and Bill, the old gray team, and a bay team, one of which was Leon's mare named Babe. The buggy was towed behind this and Grandma, Cathern Mary (or Mary Kathern) Tucke rode in it. The second wagon was smaller and pulled by two Arabian mares, Bird and Nellie. Also, there were ten head of dairy stock, mostly heifers, and including the Holstein bull, Benjamin. The evening before setting out the neighbors gave us a big farewell party. (There are pictures of our outfit among the family pictures.)

My day-to-day recollection of the trip is not good. I remember camping the first night near Bend, Oregon, and our white cat ran away. Going across the High Desert Dad had to buy water for the livestock. Many times the horse, even though hobbled, wanted to go back, and would have to be brought back, which was a delay. Mama cooked over a campfire using a Dutch oven a lot. She cooked our morning cereal in it and also baked biscuits in it. I remember one night when it rained and we girls sleeping in the big wagon got wet and had to move into the tents with the others. When nearing the Narrows, Pony kicked Nevada breaking her leg above the knee. Some people came along in an automobile and took her into the Narrows hotel. Leon says that was the only auto we saw

on the whole trip, although there were trucks going back and forth across the desert at the time, and the trucks had hard rubber tires. Nevada says that wasn't much of a hotel as she remembers it, evidently they put her in a storeroom or something.

At the Narrows a Doctor came out from Burns to set Nevada's leg and put it in a cast. Some of the heifers went to pay for that. The next day we were on the move again. When we got to the "P" Ranch, now Frenchglen, we had to have extra teams to get us up the then famous "P" Ranch Hill to Catlow Valley.

We camped at the top of the hill and that night it snowed and was real cold and a lamb given to Nevada died. The next day we went on. Mr. and Mrs. Otis Sizemore and a young man named Clarence (Taft) Miller helped us get into the Valley where the homestead was, there was no road. They hooked a team to the back of the wagons to hold them from going down hill too fast. Later Papa made a road up out of the valley on a grade. In the winter we built a big fire at night and coasted down the road, cold, but lots of fun. This trip took 21 days.

We set up camp near a spring; there were three tents, a large one for cooking, eating and sleeping, another for beds and one for Grandma.

One day a whirlwind turned our big tent over and ruined it, so Papa, with the help of Taft Miller, dug back into the hillside for a big room, rocked up the sides and front, using mud to hold the rocks together and put a roof over it. The mud made such good mortar that we kids made marbles out of it and they were hard. In the house there were double bunks at the back; the dining table in the middle, the cook stove on the right near the door and various other cupboards, etc. We mostly sat on benches by the table.

Elfreda (Freda) Joanne was born there July 6, 1917.

So we went to work clearing the land, grubbing and pulling the sagebrush, which grew very large. May stood up on the back of old George or Bill and it was as high as her head. We kids all worked at the clearing job. We piled the brush in a great stack for use for winter wood, and by spring it was all used up.

Papa built fences and planted alfalfa.

There were several little stores and post offices in Catlow Valley. Our address was Beckley. Another one was named Harney, also Blitzen.

There were lots of Jackrabbits. When the alfalfa and garden vegetables that Papa planted came up, the rabbits ate it. We set snares in their paths under the fences to catch

them, and we also had a 22 rifle. The government paid 5 cents for a pair of ears and we strung them on large wire hoops and turned them in to the stores as they do food stamps today. They went a long way toward paying for our groceries.

School was a problem. There were schools in Catlow Valley but too far for us to attend. People lived far apart. In our area there were the Maces with boys over a hill in one direction and Dave Crow with Rankin and Johnny over the hill in the other direction. Mr. Mace, Dave Crow and Papa got together and formed a school district. In order to have the schoolhouse an equal distance from each of the families, as nearly as possible, they tied a cloth to the back wheels of a buggy, one driving and the other two counting the rotations. The schoolhouse was to be in a small canyon several miles from where we lived and in between the above mentioned hills. The first schoolhouse was a tent located at the spot where we started to school. Our teacher was Mrs. Allen; she had one son about Leon's age. The building of the schoolhouse was started by two men who lived in the school tent at night. One was very afraid of rattlesnakes and he would plug up the holes in the floor every night, the next day the kids would pull it out.

This school went on until the teacher and Mrs. Mace, where she was living, had a falling out, then she came to our place and as we were then the only pupils, with the teacher's son, the school tent was moved to our place and we continued in school to the end of the term. After dinner in the evenings the teacher would read stories to us, we like that.

We continued living on the homestead the next summer. On the Fourth of July the folks had the Sizemore's and Taft Miller for dinner. We had a table outdoors and it was a great day, but no fireworks. Two days later Freda was born. During the summer Papa and Bill went down to the Narrows to work in the hayfields, there was no income from the Homestead.

The spring by the house went dry and we took the horses to water at Mud Lake, which as I remember was up on a hill. We had a well 30 feet deep on our place but drawing water in a bucket was quite a job. One day Stella and I took the horses to water and there was a rattlesnake. I got off my horse and picked up a rock and threw at it and cut its head off. I couldn't believe it, I never could throw straight. May had a similar instance, upon seeing a snake she got the 22 rifle, the snake stuck its head through the branch of a sagebrush and she shot its head off. There were a lot of rattlesnakes there and you were supposed to kill one if you saw it, I don't know who made the rule. One day while running down a slope on the hill behind the house, I saw a rattler lying on a rock just ahead of me. I couldn't stop so I jumped over it, and when I turned to look it was only a skin. Scorpions were also a problem, if you wanted to pick up a rock to kill a rattlesnake you had to be careful not to pick up a scorpion.

Prohibition, the Volstead Act, went into effect while living on the homestead. I remember that Papa and the boys went into Beckley the day the Sheriff came out to empty out the whiskey. I guess he poured it out a bottle at a time and on occasion would distract the audience by seeing someone coming down the road, and a bottle would go behind a sagebrush. My dad came home with a couple of bottles, for "medicinal purposes".

In the summer or early fall Jessie got very sick, would not eat and just lay there. So my mother would take a tablespoon of liquor and light it with a match to burn the alcohol off and then feed that to Jessie. Also, she would make eggnogs for her, since we had cream and milk and at times all she ate of it was the foam, but finally recovered. Doctors were a two-day trip away in Burns.

The next fall the schoolhouse was ready and a teacher, Mrs. Smith was hired. Then Papa decided to leave the homestead for the winter and moved to Burns. However, the teacher had to be paid, so I went back with her and we lived in the schoolhouse. Johnny Crow also attended, coming over the hill. We were the only pupils. At Thanksgiving time Mr. Smith came for his wife and moved us all to Sageview in Catlow Valley where he owned and operated a general store. Johnny Crow also went there to go to school. A teacher had to teach a certain number of weeks and could then be paid for a full term. At Christmas time the folks sent for me to come to Burns, and I went the rest of the term there with the others.

Also, living in Burns at the time was the folks' old friends Mr. and Mrs. William Stock and their children Hazel, Mabel, Ethel and William.

Bill was working on a ranch and Papa too. Papa took sick and went to Vale, Oregon, for hot bath treatments. There was a Sanitarium there at that time using the natural hot water. Leon had gone to Ontario earlier with a fruit peddler who left him without work or money. He then went to Vale and stayed with Papa.

Later in the spring, Bill and the rest of us went to Vale by wagon, going through Agency Valley, which is now a reservoir. We then lived in a little house across the road from the Sanitarium. Papa was not getting any better, he was terribly bloated. He then went to Hot Lakes Sanitarium located between Baker and LaGrande, Oregon, for treatments. He got help there.

In the meantime, Bill got a job on the railroad and we moved into a house in the railroad "Y". Leon also worked on the railroad, but not for long. May had a job helping a woman who kept boarders. Mama cooked for the railroad crew. Papa got better and

came home. In the winter we all took the Influenza, schools closed. When May got better she went to the Sizemore's, near the Narrows, to go to school, but their school, the Sod House, did not re-open that year.

In the spring of 1919 we moved from the railroad house. Bill went back to Harney County. Papa and Leon went to work on the Warm Springs canal out of Vale. Later we started back to the homestead to do required work and residency.

We stopped at the Hot Springs in the Bully Creek area above Vale, and the fellow there hired us to put up his hay. We lived in the large house there, which had been used for stops in stagecoach days.

We then went on to Burns, visited with the William Stock family and on to the Narrows, to the Sizemore's, May was already there. I got a job with a family out in the meadows by the name of Dillman. The folks went on to the homestead for a while, then returned to the town of the Narrows and rented a two-storied house (now the only house there, 1986). At the time we lived there, there was a store building with post office, a hotel, blacksmith shop, dance hall and jail, also other residences. We went to school there that winter, our teacher was Bill Newton. Papa and Leon did roadwork. We lived next to the family of Bill Sesena; they had three children at that time, Dave, Stella and Charley. We became life-long friends, each ending up in Payette, Idaho. Bill Sesena was an amateur photographer and we still have pictures, which he took and developed himself.

In the spring, Leon, May, Stella, Nevada, Jessie and Grandma all went to Vale, and Papa, Mama, Freda and I, went back to the homestead to do final "proving up". Then we left for Vale. When we got to Crane the folks put Freda and me on the train and we got to Vale that day, they came with the wagon and team, Bird and Nellie.

At Vale, Papa took up selling groceries to cafes and hotels. Bill and Leon got jobs with the farmers. We went to school at Vale that winter. I finished the Eighth Grade.

The next year, Papa rented the Claypool place up the Bully Creek Way (which was later owned by Tom McElroy). Bill and I were working for the Roy DeArmonds and May for others.

Bill decided to go out to the Narrows to hay for the Frank Dunn's, so May and I decided to go along and work in the haying. Bill had a couple of horses and also a stallion that belonged to Roy DeArmond. So we each had a horse to ride. And as it would take several days to make the trip, we packed some bread and other things on a flour sack to take along. We were going to ride at night while it was cool and sleep in the

daytime. The first night went okay, but trying to find shade to sleep in the next day was something else. There was mostly sagebrush and the shade kept moving, so we didn't sleep much. The next night as we rode, I lost my hat, which I had tied on the saddle, and we continued to ride all the next day, I got terribly sunburned. Our food was dried up and we had not much to eat. In the evening we came to Crane and Bill rode into town to get us some groceries and we spent the night in an old shack there by the road. That night it got down to freezing and we only had our saddle blankets, so we huddled together and tried to keep warm but we were so tired we did sleep. We all worked for the Dunn's during haying, and after it was over May and I went home. She got a place to stay and go to school. I didn't, so stayed at home and helped Stella, Nevada and Jessie, as there was no school they could attend. We were still on the Claypool place.

While living there, we had one of the eeriest nights I ever remember. We were awakened in the night by a commotion in the barn, the horses were squealing and excited. Papa went out to see what the matter was and discovered a mad coyote; he took after him with a pitchfork and also our dog. The coyote bit the dog and ran under the house, and while Papa was trying to get him out, he came out of another hole and up behind him and he was saved from being bitten only by the dog again attacking the coyote. Then the coyote took off through the field to the neighbor's house and had a fight with their dog. There were no telephones so we could not alert the neighbors. Within the next few days we moved to Big Bend and we left our dog behind. Leon went back later and put him to death because we did not know what would happen. The neighbors had to kill their dog also.

That was our first experience with a mad animal even though there were many stories about them in Harney valley. Leon remembered an experience with a coyote he shot and carried him home over his shoulder and when he got there it was still alive.

Then we moved to the Big Bend area, near Adrian, Oregon, and that summer May and I again went to the Dunn's and worked through haying. (As the Malheur Lake water receded, the ranchers moved the wild hay; the work being done mostly with horses, except the stacking and Bill did that.) That fall we both had places to stay in Vale and went to high school.

The next year the folks moved to Apple Valley, near Parma, Idaho, so May and I then worked in the orchards during the summer and went back to school at Vale the following term. May graduated in the spring, 1924, and then married Thomas E. Beeson, June 1, 1924.

I stayed at home the next summer and helped on the place, and in the fall enrolled at Baker Business College in Baker, Oregon. Dad's health got worse and the folks moved

into the hotel at Apple Valley where he died May 14, 1925. The folks, Mama, Grandma, Leon, Stella, Nevada, Jessie and Freda, then moved to Payette. I finished school and came to Payette. We worked in the McMillan orchards being operated by William Sesena. Also, worked in packinghouses and dryer. In 1928 I got office work from which I retired January 1, 1973.

William was still in Harney County and married Clara Daisy Springer October 27, 1925. He died February 15, 1967 and is buried in cemetery at Vale, Oregon.

Mother bought a two-storied house by the Payette canal, where we lived until her death, and for a time thereafter. She died July 23, 1932. She is buried in cemetery near Parma, Idaho, where Papa is also buried.

While living there, Estella married Robert Paul Fulton October 8, 1926. Nevada married Cuthbert A. Ingram August 1927, later divorced. She is now married to Walter Pierce, Jr., date January 26, 1955.

Leon married Mabel Grace Keifer December 20, 1928.

Ione married Gordon Wallace Raby April 9, 1933.

Jessie married Clifton Francis Lynn November 28, 1934, later divorced, one son Ronald F. Lynn.

Freda married Paul Alexander Castles January 22, 1937.

Jessie married Harvey Baker Hamilton, December 28, 1953.

John and Lena (Nocolene) Tucke celebrated their Twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary while living in Apple Valley, September 10, 1923. Most of the above took place during their 25 years of marriage. All of us were still at home except Bill. There is a snapshot among my pictures.

As we were all quite young when our Dad decided to take up a homestead. We don't know the reason except to own a place of his own. I remember hearing talk of Land Agents, they were probably pushing it.

The valley in which the homestead was located is too high to grow alfalfa hay or garden crops. He was at heart a dairyman, had always had cows and sold milk and

cream. The homestead was a two-day drive with horse and wagon from Burns, and there were no other towns, just a one-building store and post office combination, such as Catlow and Beckley. There was nowhere a market for products of a dairy farm.

The homestead is now Government owned and operated by the BLM and used for grazing and known as Tucke Valley.

Our Dad was an outgoing and sociable person. He liked to have company, and when we were old enough to go to dances we had dancing parties and he taught us to square dance.

He was also a great curer of pork, and a sausage maker supreme. Nothing compares with his product now.

Our Mother was a quiet uncomplaining woman, devoted to her family and liked nothing better than to have friends for dinner.

Theirs was a tough row but they managed to raise a fine family. I am proud of all of you.

Ione Tucke Raby

William Henry Tucke
Born November 17, 1899
Died February 15, 1967

Clara Daisy Springer - wife
Born August 14, 1907

Married: October 27, 1925, at Burns, Oregon

Children:
Annabell Harriett, born July 20, 1927
John George, born January 28, 1931
Wilber Leon, born October 13, 1936

Leon Earnest Tucke
Born March 10, 1903

Died August 15, 1983

Mabel Grace Keifer - wife

Born June 2, 1911

Died August 24, 1981

Married: December 20, 1928, at Payette, Idaho

Children:

Jeanne Charlotte, born April 10, 1930

Lois Naomi, born August 10, 1935

Leona Grace, born November 22, 1940

May Ellen Tucke

Born March 15, 1905

Thomas E. Beeson - Husband

Born July 1, 1899

Died October 30, 1943

Married: June 1, 1924, at Vale, Oregon

Children:

Velva Elaine, born March 5, 1925

John Harrison, born January 18, 1927

Christine May, born May 10, 1929

June Ella, born June 13, 1934

Melvin Harry, born August 30, 1937

Marvin Howard, born August 30, 1937

Thomas Franklin, born August 23, 1941

Ione Mary Tucke

Born April 7, 1907

Gordon Wallace Rady - Husband

Born October 1903

Died July 7, 1983

Married: April 9, 1933, at Ontario, Oregon

Children: None

Estella Clara Tucke

Born January 14, 1909

Robert Paul Fulton - Husband

Born September 9, 1904

Died July 9, 1975

Married: October 8, 1926, at Payette, Idaho

Children:

Robert John, born October 20, 1927 - Died March 14, 1985

Grace Clara, born November 21, 1929

William Paul, born May 3, 1931

Lena Jane, born September 29, 1933

Nevada Mildred Tucke

Born January 22, 1911

Walter Pierce - Husband

Born September 7, 1909

Married: January 26, 1955, in California

Children: None (he has children by former marriage)

Jessie Georgia Tucke

Born January 16, 1915

Clifton Francis Lynn - Husband

Born September 14, 1907

Married: November 28, 1934

Children:

Ronald Francis, born July 11, 1935

Divorced: October 6, 1952

Harvey Baker Hamilton - Husband

Born -

Married: December 28, 1953, at Boise, Idaho

Freda Joanne Tucke - Also sometimes Elfreda Joanne Tucke

Born July 6, 1917

Died October 29, 1985

Paul Alexander Castles - Husband

Born October 19, 1912

Died November 6, 1982

Married: January 22, 1937, at Payette, Idaho

Children:

Paul Michael, born September 9, 1938

LeRoy Alexander, born June 20, 1941

Betty Louise, born April 6, 1946