

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #428 Sides A/B

Subject: Bob Sitz

Place: Sitz Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: April 4, 2002

Interviewer: Christine Stott

CHRISTINE STOTT: It's April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002, this is Christine Stott and I'm interviewing Bob Sitz for the Harney County Oral History Project. Don't be scared, it's painless.

BOB SITZ: Okay. Well, what are we going to do?

CHRISTINE: I can ask you questions, or you can just start in. Were you born in Harney County?

BOB: Yes.

CHRISTINE: At?

BOB: Valley View Hospital, probably where you were born.

CHRISTINE: That's right, up on the hill.

BOB: Yeah. And Dr. Holman was the man that delivered me. And it was July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1929. My father was on the way to the P Ranch to stack hay. And it was sometime before he knew he had a son; he had a daughter previously. But my sister, born two years earlier, then there was another sister born two years later, Marilyn. Allene Sitz Hovland was the older daughter; she has since passed away. My sister Marilyn is married to

Francis Bradach, and they live in Portland, she and her ten kids, and twenty-five or six grandchildren. They don't have any great-grandchildren; Peg and I are the only ones that do that.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BOB: My life, okay. I've got born so far. (Laughter) We lived in Burns nearly all of the time. At six years old I started attending the first grade at Burns Grade School to Mrs. Whitney, who was my teacher. And I really can't remember the second grade teacher, or I can't remember very many more. Well the fourth grade was Wanda West, about all I can remember of the better teachers I think. Anyhow, we got to high school the normal time which was '43.

My father had died in 1942, in June, of a heart attack over by Vale. We were over there at that time, he was working for the, what they called the soil and water service or something. It was a machine branch of the grazing service, or a function of it. And they made water holes around. Prior to his demise we did spend a year in Caldwell where I went to the seventh grade.

CHRISTINE: Who were your parents?

BOB: Allen and Evalin Sitz. Evalin Miller Sitz. She is a sister of the Crane Millers, from Crow Camp, if that means anything to anybody.

CHRISTINE: So are you and I related? Are you related to Taft Miller then?

BOB: No. Well I was, but not through the Miller side.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

BOB: Taft Miller's wife was Nellie Sitz.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

BOB: The mother of, she was the mother of his children.

CHRISTINE: Right.

BOB: And with your Stott name, she was the second wife.

CHRISTINE: Taft is my daughter's step-great-grandfather.

BOB: Well, yeah. I didn't know Nellie for a long time. She wasn't mentioned among the family. Well she was the daughter of John, John Lewis Sitz, the Drewsey Sitz's. And he wouldn't claim her.

CHRISTINE: And why is that?

BOB: I never discussed it with him. (Laughter) I never did have a discussion with him. But later on I got to meet her, and we visited a time or two at the fair. She always loved to come to the fair. Anyhow, I was an adult and had my own children before I really knew who she was. One of her children had jumped me at the bowling alley, wanted to know if I knew Nellie Sitz, earlier on. And I had no recollection of anybody by that name, so I told him that. I don't know which one of the boys it was.

CHRISTINE: Jerry or Joe, you mean?

BOB: Well I don't know whether it was Jerry or Joe, or Gene. I'm sure it wasn't Gene.

CHRISTINE: That's right there were others too, older ones.

BOB: Gene and Don.

CHRISTINE: Don.

BOB: And I think that's all of them, the boys. Then I don't know, there is three or four girls. Oh Franklin's mother was one of them.

Okay, my --- I was raised with my two sisters. And after my father's death in the summertime I bached with Howard and Neil Miller, my mother's brothers, out at Crow Camp. And we put up hay and I, they were going to make a cowboy out of me, but it didn't take.

CHRISTINE: What were their names?

BOB: Howard and Neil.

CHRISTINE: What was their last name?

BOB: Miller.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

BOB: And then when I --- my dad and his brother Earl had had a garage here in town and they lost the lease on the building in '38. So they had to, they went back to custom haying. And they bought one John Deere tractor, John Deere B. And the one machine --- and the two of them in one bed, and the two of them went together and contracted Mrs. Hanley at the Bell A. And one slept, and the other one mowed. And the guy that wasn't mowing ground sickles, his own sickles before he went to sleep. And then when it was time to change shifts, well they put new sickles in. And the guy that got off got to grinding his sickle. Anyhow, they mowed the Bell A and a good share of the Double O, which she owned at that time.

CHRISTINE: Who owned it at the time?

BOB: Mrs. Hanley, Mrs. Clara Hanley.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BOB: It was a year or two after Bill Hanley's death. There was also some land at Harney that they mowed that she owned. Anyhow, I'm getting far afield.

CHRISTINE: That's all right.

BOB: Anyhow, I ended up being a partner with Earl Sitz. In my way of thinking it was only my father's half of the business anyway. Later on we collected a bunch of haying junk, various size tractors, and one thing and another, had twenty-two machines at the maximum time. We went from just mowing to complete loose haying. And the valley was our main point of business, through Mrs. Hanley, she operated several years herself with a manager. And then she leased it to Poteet and --- well how come I can't think of the man's name? Anyhow, Jim Poteet leased the ranch. She wanted to sell it to him, but he couldn't see buying it.

Now this continued until she got fairly old. And then she had a nephew named Cameron Cliff, and she had been a Cliff, her maiden name was Cliff. She --- along about '56 she made a deal that Cameron Cliff couldn't turn down, and he bought the Bell A. And we continued to hay for him then until the year Earl died in '65.

And the last few years we weren't making any money off of the operation, just a lot of work and a lot of headaches. So with Earl's demise I quit that part of the --- we did do some farming on the Bell A too. For the property we had on out in the middle of the valley, that was our source of water, we'd had to come through the Bell A. So they had quite a lever over us.

But anyway, I tried it on my own for fifteen years, I suppose. And I really wasn't making any money, and the bank decided I should make money. And interest rates went

up to nine percent, and I know no way to do any type of agricultural operation in Harney County and pay nine percent interest on it, on your money. So, I sold out.

Well earlier, before I sold out, we had a real drought a year, and I went to the Willamette Valley and baled straw, grass seed straw to bring back here. Because the people were going to be without feed. And I did that without any money, any operating capital, and with the cash strictly business. Anything that I baled and put it on their trucks, they had to pay me for. It got us through the summer. It also opened my eyes to the fact that the Willamette Valley is the real farming country, and the farmers there were just in as much trouble as I was. So if it doesn't work there, it definitely wasn't going to work here. So I immediately came back and listed the place. And luckily some people bought it. Meadowland Ranches actually bought better than half of it.

CHRISTINE: Midland?

BOB: Huh? Meadowland.

CHRISTINE: Oh, Meadowland. Oh, okay.

BOB: It was where Vogler had sold the majority of his land in the valley. At that time this outfit was just brokering land. And, okay, I sold it on time and they were supposed to make, supposed to keep the taxes up and make the payment. And I fought them for three or four years, and they never did keep the taxes up, little own --- well they did make the payments, but they weren't keeping the taxes up. So I sued them for foreclosure. And they had a double hammered, or whatever they do in real estate, and the main person with the paper was a bank in Colorado. And finally they paid me off, which was good.

Bill Cramer Sr. was the lawyer who did most of it. Although I got advise from Henry Vogler the fourth, third. Henry Vogler the third.

CHRISTINE: That's Bob Vogler, right.

BOB: Bob Vogler. Because they definitely had an interest in this Meadowland ranches in a way. And he said sue them, foreclose, don't mess around. So I did. So it worked out, that worked out. Next, the other part of the ranch was, one piece of it was bought by Ray Gates, Ray Beck, who is now, is still out there. And the Gates' bought another piece here. I don't know whatever happened to them. Since then I see it has been divided up by probably about three different owners. Then I understand they have water fights, Voglers --- which is normal in Harney County. Anyhow, that gets me till I was 45, and I quit.

CHRISTINE: Quit what?

BOB: I quit being a farmer. And I had a little money left over after I paid all of my debts, and I put it in the stock market and money market funds. And they were paying upwards toward twenty percent, and there is no way to farm with --- you can't use that money and earn any better money any other way.

And Peg was Librarian, which is a very important part of our life. Because what money I had really began to make money. And she then was putting just the minimal required amount in PERS, and we never did really get over the minimum with it. But we found out a couple three years ago that it did real well. And I'd advise almost anyone to take a county job.

Of course we have a daughter in Corvallis that is financial director of Benton County, and she says that PERS will either break the counties, or the counties will break PERS. I mean there is no way to keep feeding that much money into that. So, we'll see.

CHRISTINE: I have money in PERS, so I'm hoping it will hold out another ten years anyway.

BOB: Well yeah, probably will. Okay, and here we are in Burns ---

CHRISTINE: Okay, hold on.

BOB: Okay, we had three children, beginning --- we have three children. In 1952 our son Larry was born, '54 our daughter Mary was born, and '56 our daughter Diane was born. And they have all done real well. With their help, and really not much family money, because there wasn't any, Larry and Mary got through college. Diane went to college about three years, and decided she wanted to get married, so she got married. And she still continues her education.

And Larry got a degree at Oregon State and is an engineering tech. The owner of a, or a third owner of a construction company. Owner of one-third of a construction company. However you want to ---

CHRISTINE: Where does he live?

BOB: He lives in Portland. And Mary is married to Harry Otley and they live in Corvallis. And she is financial director of Benton County.

CHRISTINE: Another Mary and Harold Otley?

BOB: Huh?

CHRISTINE: Another Mary and Harold Otley?



BOB: Harry.

CHRISTINE: Harry, not quite Harold.

BOB: Well, sometimes Harold goes by Harry.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BOB: The old Harold. Yeah, you've got a --- there is, well you realize there is a third, another generation of Mary's, Otley.

CHRISTINE: Oh, no.

BOB: There was Mary Poujade Otley, who was married to old Henry, who was the father of Harold, and Charlie and Howard. Anyway, so it was Grandmother Mary at that time, and then mother Mary who was Harry's mother, and then there is Harry's wife, Mary Otley. So it, just calling someone Mary Otley was ---

CHRISTINE: Right. So is Harry Otley, Sherrie's brother?

BOB: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BOB: Fred's brother.

CHRISTINE: Okay. So see we are related in another way too.

BOB: You won't --- well yeah.

CHRISTINE: Sherrie Otley is married to Fred Stott.

BOB: Okay. Then we get to Diane. She married Jim Woelfel from Salem.

CHRISTINE: How do you spell that?

BOB: W O E L F E L.

CHRISTINE: W O E L F E L.

BOB: Yeah. Anyway, they --- he had worked in Alaska, well they had been up there in the service. He always wanted to go back. So they built a house, built a home down south of Salem that I helped with quite a lot. And they decided that they would sell this home and take it and go to Alaska and live there. So this is what they started to do. And there was a lull in houses selling, so they just --- Jim decided they'd go anyway and leave the house in a realtor's hands, and go on and get started with what they wanted to do. He had done a lot of janitorial work on the side in Anchorage, and he was sure he could get work. So away they went. Well first of all we took a trip up there. Jim and Diane and I in a camper on the back of a pickup one summer. And he did some checking around. Anyhow he checked the possibilities of getting on with the company he had been at, and found out it really didn't exist, things keep moving fast. But he still wanted to go.

CHRISTINE: To Alaska.

BOB: To Alaska. And so he came back and he built his own camper on his pickup. It was his father's camper we had taken up on the trip. And away they went. And he got on with a Navy maintenance outfit out on the islands. And Diane got a job with Pay N Pak. So they got, he was building, and she was learning all about hardware and stuff. Well she had worked for Pay N Pak in Salem prior to going.

Anyhow they decided, they finally bought a lot and then we decided to build a house. And I spent quite a, the next year helping on that house. It was a house where there wasn't any water. They drilled a 600 and some foot well, and couldn't get enough water to drink. So it looked like they were going to be stuck with the house. So they put it up for sale for a period of time, and it never did move. And she was pregnant about

that time. Well in the interim she had applied at the fire department at Anchorage. Anyhow she was well into her pregnancy when they called her up and told her that she was on the accepted list. And she told them, well I'm seven, eight months pregnant and I really can't go to the fire department at this time, but my husband really isn't doing anything at the moment, why don't you, or how about getting him up. And actually that's how Jim got on the fire, Anchorage Fire Department.

So they got, had a house, they were about ready to just settle into it. And a woman come to the house and said she was going to buy it. And they didn't treat her very nice, they said well the listings with the realtor is good for two weeks. Now either you get it closed in this two-week period or we're staying here, it will come off the list. Well she got it listed and got everything --- and they got the money out of that house. And then they moved into town and rented a house.

Then they got a lot on, Jim always wanted to be around an airport, he had dreams of an airplane. So they bought a place on an airport out near a town of Wasilla, which is about fifty miles north of Anchorage. And we spent a year there building that house, which was a monster house. And then in another year or two we built a big shop and a hanger on the runway. As yet, there was no airplane.

But --- and then they got on each other's nerves. Well in the meantime they had four children, at the same time. Well not --- pretty quickly. (Laughter) So Diane worked with the, belonged to the fire department in Wasilla. And she kept her application in, in Anchorage. In the meantime the method of hiring changed a lot, they have to go to school, and have to pass so much physical tests, and it was really a bias against women

firemen at that time. So she really got herself in shape and she passed the physical tests and got on the list of hiring, but they seemed to always change the lists just before her name come up. So she went to the, what is it, the women's thing, equal rights people.

CHRISTINE: National Organization for Women, I think they are.

BOB: No, I don't know. No, it was the fed; there is a federal agency that handles that.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

BOB: They investigate whether they are really biased against women.

CHRISTINE: Right. Equal employment opportunities.

BOB: Yeah, or something or other. But it took a year or two for them to really act. In the meantime she got hired. And then they, Jim and she had a falling out, and each went their separate ways. Diane with the kids, and he came back down here. His folks were in Salem, and he worked around there some. He got a job at Yosemite National Park, maintenance crew, and one thing and another. He worked for, well he worked for the BLM in Southern Oregon for awhile, then he went to Yosemite. And he worked his way back around. Then he ended up back in Alaska for the FHA to begin with, and now he is with the BLM. They have BLM in Alaska.

Anyhow, Diane is raising the kids alone, and she has worked herself to being a captain in the Anchorage Fire Department. She has her own station in Eagle River, and she is doing real well.

CHRISTINE: And her kids are grown up now, or almost?

BOB: One daughter is at Willamette, she is a sophomore this year. The second daughter is probably going to go to one of the Montana schools because tuition is cheaper for

Alaska students there. Oregon is, really jumped things up. They used to have, or they allowed Alaskans in, just in state, but they don't do it anymore.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BOB: And then the two boys, they come later. One is --- the second girl graduates this spring. We'll go up for that. And then Mike graduates the next year. Isn't that right Peg?

PEGGY SITZ: ... (Too far from the microphone to pick up what she is saying.)

BOB: See I knew she was listening.

CHRISTINE: I wasn't sure she was even in there.

BOB: Yeah. How far off am I?

PEGGY: ...

BOB: Oh, okay. Anyhow we are very proud of our kids. Harry and Mary are doing well in Corvallis. Harry started with Safeway here when he was in high school. And he is with Safeway yet in Corvallis. Only he is down to about 32 hours a month. And he is back at the ranch quite a lot trying to help them get this new change over all worked out.

CHRISTINE: Change over for what?

BOB: The wilderness thing that happened last year.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

BOB: The trading of a lot of property and, which is supposedly to close finally this week, the deal with the Otley Brothers Ranch, which is Harold and Mary, and Fred and Sherrie, and Harry.

But anyway, Mary is a great --- tough time of year; she works nights all the time doing other people's income tax, because she has her CPA. And she is hardly home at all, enough to feed the cat. Well they have a dog too. The dog sometimes comes up to Harry. And Harry should be up here now.

But also they bought a little 8-acre place at the edge of Corvallis, between Corvallis and Philomath. And we planted Christmas trees; it's a Christmas tree farm. That's really not the way to make any money, but it does give you a tax deferral arrangement. And it's kind of fun being there when everybody comes for a Christmas tree. So I spent quite a lot of time there too.

The only one I haven't really spent too much time with is my son. But he usually comes up every hunting season, but with this new method of hunting, it's kind of hit or miss.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BOB: Because you must be drawn, and must take care of all these things. And some years you don't get any licenses or tags. I'm so old anymore; I've got a lifetime hunting license. But it really --- we used to have a group we hunted with, and it's kind of dispersed. Because for one thing they got old, Larry will be 50 come September. And his friends, the main ones we hunted with, they're 50 too, they are 50 years old also. And I'm getting quite a lot older too.

CHRISTINE: Oh, you are?

BOB: Yeah. But anyway, that brings us up to here, I think. We have ten grandchildren.

CHRISTINE: And you say you have great grandchildren too?

BOB: One.

CHRISTINE: One.

BOB: Well there is another one in the works, supposedly. They announce, usually, at Easter time. And we were down there at Easter and it came out that the girl that has the one, she is pregnant again.

CHRISTINE: And that's whose daughter?

BOB: Larry's daughter, his older daughter. She graduated from Western Oregon State College, which used to be Monmouth.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BOB: And she has a job as a caseworker for family and something or other. She took psychology. She didn't get any education courses particularly, but she got on with the, whatever it is. It's rather tough; they handle the arrested people and their families.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

BOB: And so, and the druggies, and it puts you in a very tough situations I'd think.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BOB: But she seems to enjoy it. She married a guy that works for Target Stores. And he was just a clerk, but I think he's got more skill than that. I think sooner or later he will work in a better position. Anyhow, in a little over a year's time, going on two year's time, they worked theirselves out of an apartment, and they have bought a home. We haven't seen it yet, in Salem. So somebody thinks they are worthy of a loan. So, that's a big help.

CHRISTINE: What's her name?

BOB: Erin, Erin Sitz. Well Erin Fisher. He's a nephew of the Catholic priest.

CHRISTINE: Oh, for heaven's sake.

BOB: Yeah, we thought that was rather strange.

CHRISTINE: Yes.

BOB: Their family is really out of Ontario. Well they have had ties to Salem. In his --- Rick Fisher, he is named after the priest.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BOB: His father and the priest were raised in Ontario some. And then they went to school at Mount Angel. Oh, let's see where are we now?

CHRISTINE: Well, let's go back a little bit if you don't mind.

BOB: Okay.

CHRISTINE: Okay, where and how and when did you meet Peggy?

BOB: Oh, we got to get to that? (Laughter) This is back in the time when I was baching with Howard and Neil Miller. We can jump clear back to there.

CHRISTINE: Okay.

BOB: And it was 1945. And I'd only get to town maybe two or three times in the summertime, just for overnight. And I came to town; they allowed me to come to town one weekend. I couldn't drive, I wasn't old enough. Anyhow, we had an old player piano; well my sister has it in Portland now. And I came home and there was a bunch of girls, because that was all that lived in that house was my mother and her two daughters, and their friends. And Peg was sitting on the piano stool swinging her legs. She was a cute little girl. That's how I met her. (Laughter)



CHRISTINE: Peg's later.

BOB: Yeah, Peg's later.

CHRISTINE: So you were only about 15 at the time, huh?

BOB: Yeah. Well I may have been 16 shortly after. No, I was only 15, I was a sophomore.

CHRISTINE: If you weren't driving, you were probably only 15.

BOB: Well I was driving, but I didn't, wasn't allowed to have a license.

CHRISTINE: Everyone in the country drives.

BOB: Well that winter I did get a job at Burns Garage. And I got a special driving permit to drive down to work. Cyc Presley has his house, that was a vacant lot, and they hauled slab wood. Do you remember slab wood?

CHRISTINE: No.

BOB: Oh, when the mill was on they sold the edges of the logs.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay, yeah.

BOB: They cut it up so you could burn it.

CHRISTINE: Uh, we used that in our furnace.

BOB: And then they had barrel type stoves strung around in Burns Garage. And one of my main chores was to make sure that the wood was there for every night. They had a night watchman that tended the fires. Then I got to clean sumps, and then I got to get up early in the morning and go down and --- sometimes I got to pump gas.

CHRISTINE: Oh. Gas on Broadway, right?

BOB: Yep. Also it is where I learned about automatic transmission cars. I didn't know anything at all about it. Some guy brought in a Cadillac and part of --- there was another boy and I that had these duties. We worked apart and filled the, the garage is full of cars as we could possibly --- because they were renting warm space for the winter. And I got in this car, and I couldn't make it go. It was real tight quarters, and I was just trying to creep around, and this thing wouldn't go. You had to rev up the engine a little to make the automatic transmission work, and I wasn't going to do that. So they taught me about automatic transmissions.

Anyhow, come summertime I had been working in the hay fields for the Miller brothers every year. And they, help was really short, still at that time. So I went back to the hay fields.

CHRISTINE: So when did you get married?

BOB: Got married ---

CHRISTINE: Oh, anniversary.

BOB: Six days after I graduated from college. I graduated evidently on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1951, and we got married on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1951.

CHRISTINE: Here in town?

BOB: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: At the what, Presbyterian?

BOB: No, the Catholic Church.

CHRISTINE: Catholic, oh.

BOB: Peg was Catholic.

CHRISTINE: I didn't know that.

BOB: Hank was a Catholic, her father. And Gen was the Presbyterian. And my mother and aunt were quite staunch Presbyterians. They actually leaned on me a little hard I thought, and I hit my rebellion stage and wouldn't have hardly anything to do with them. Well it is not bitter or anything, but also in our lessons for matrimony at the Catholic Church, well Father Egan convinced me that this is a better way to go.

CHRISTINE: He was a pretty amazing guy.

BOB: Yeah. Well it was sometime, years after I took all the lessons that I did become a Catholic. So that's where we are today. And our children are all --- they're not as practicing as I would like to see them, but they are Catholics.

CHRISTINE: Do you remember the elder Mr. and Mrs. Schallenkamp, used to keep house for the priest.

BOB: Oh yeah.

CHRISTINE: Yeah. They lived in the other half of our duplex, and they were like our surrogate grandparents since we didn't have any here.

BOB: What was his name?

CHRISTINE: Hmm.

BOB: Ted.

CHRISTINE: Fred, wasn't it?

BOB: Ted.

CHRISTINE: Was it Ted?

BOB: Wasn't it Ted Schallenkamp.

CHRISTINE: I don't think so. Fred, I think, Frederick. Oh boy, I don't know. They were from Germany.

BOB: Uh huh.

CHRISTINE: Hmm. That's funny, I don't remember. But their grandkids lived a block away, and they didn't see that much of their grandparents. But we had a great time with them.

BOB: The Erenos?

CHRISTINE: No, with the Schallenkamps.

BOB: Well, the Schallenkamp's grandkids.

CHRISTINE: Oh, I mean Ralph's kids, the Schallenkamp kids.

BOB: Oh, Ralph Schallenkamp's kids. Yeah. Well then also the Erenos ---

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BOB: --- were halfway Schallenkamps.

CHRISTINE: That's true too.

BOB: Actually we had a real nodding acquaintance at church.

CHRISTINE: What do you like to do now that you are retired? Do you have hobbies?

BOB: I have a bunch of junk that I'm supposed to get all cleaned up before I die.

CHRISTINE: That's no fun.

BOB: Well, it is at times if I can get into it.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

BOB: But I have been fleeing in and out of Harney County so much that I'm, really don't get into it like I should.

CHRISTINE: You travel a lot, what you're saying?

BOB: Well I go to these children's places and I --- I'm really just playing. And they feed me, and then when they get to bossy I leave. But that's ---

CHRISTINE: You must enjoy your grandchildren then.

BOB: Yeah, the trouble is they're getting older.

CHRISTINE: They're growing up too, yeah.

BOB: The eldest grandson will be, will he be 28 Peg?

PEGGY: ...

BOB: And he is a story all to himself. He's Henry Otley, named after his great grandfather. But anyhow he graduated from the University of Oregon, and I'm not sure what he graduated in. But anyway he went to one of these job fair things and interviewed with quite a number of companies. And then one called him. And the thing that caught their eyes, he had taken some courses that they used the electronic microscope. And he really wasn't into the science, particularly science particularly, but he had experience with an electronic microscope. And it was one of the main parts; they build the machine that corrects computer chips. And you do everything through TV and electronic microscope to see these things. So they hired him.

SIDE B

CHRISTINE: They gave him a couple thousand dollars to do what?

BOB: To move from Eugene to Portland, and he said wow that's --- he could load everything he had in his Dad's pickup, and boy that was --- But then the company found

out that his contract was a couple three thousand dollars lower than what they were having to pay for like people. So actually before he even went to work he got a raise. So he went to work for them. And he got into the place where they put the machine together in a clean room and everything. They build the machines and put it together. But he was just the put it together part, deal. And then they ran out of help that would take the machines to wherever they were going and, into foreign countries and put up the machines. So he got to doing that. And he got to Germany, we got to go to Germany and visit him. What was it, three years ago Peg?

PEGGY: ...

BOB: Two years ago. And he gave us a grand tour of Europe. And we rode the unirail, and we rode the unirail and we spent --- in strange hotels and things. But it was quite a learning experience. Anyway, I don't know just --- he spent a lot of time in Ireland, I think they were trying to make the Irish into, to do the machines. And one of his last trips was into China, and he really enjoyed it. He went to where they have all those porcelain people buried in the tombs.

CHRISTINE: Oh yeah.

BOB: Tombs. So then he came back, and last summer he decided that he wasn't having any fun. So he quit that job. He had stock options that they are allowed to buy company stock at ungodly low prices, and the company has done well, and the stocks keep selling about six times for what the options went. But he won't sell those, because he didn't want any income quickly. But anyway, he decided that he was a people person, so he got

a job as a concierge for Huntley, you know Chet Huntley? They have a condo type thing in Montana, in the Big Sky, it's called the Big Sky. And he is the concierge.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BOB: This winter he's been over there. And the main thing he wanted to go for, because he could, wouldn't have to pay tow charges on his, he's a snowboarder. And he can ride the, anytime he gets, he can ride their tows for nothing, although he's been going to quite a lot of other ski runs.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BOB: Anyhow, I guess he is having a great time.

CHRISTINE: Well that's wonderful. He's still in --- 28?

BOB: Yeah, he'll be 28. And his brother is coming 22. He is now in Spain, out of the University of Oregon on a student thing. He'd spent a year earlier in Argentina.

PEGGY: ...

BOB: Brazil, I keep mixing them up. Where they speak Portuguese. So he learned quite a lot of Portuguese, and now he is in Spain learning Spanish. And he plans on graduating in romance languages out of the University of Oregon with a minor anyway in business or, with the idea that he would be able to sell for U. S. companies outside the United States.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, that's quite a gift.

BOB: And let's see, Larry's second daughter is --- Mandy a junior?

PEGGY: ...

BOB: At Linfield. And she over Christmas break went to China and she saw the things that Henry saw. They'll have a lot to talk about when they get back.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BOB: Although they do some, supposedly they are hooked up to e-mail, but their e-mail isn't working all that great.

CHRISTINE: Huh.

BOB: We really haven't, Henry sent us, trying to send us some things on the e-mail and they haven't come through.

CHRISTINE: Huh.

BOB: Although his folks have got, we keep the --- the folks get his letters and then we get copies.

CHRISTINE: Well that's good.

BOB: And he writes to everybody.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BOB: Okay, that's ---

CHRISTINE: Were you in the military? Did I ask you that?

BOB: No, I never was, I was deferred. I was on the top of the list of the selective service until I was 35.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BOB: And then they quit sending me questionnaires.

CHRISTINE: Well you were born late enough that you could miss World War II.



BOB: Yeah, I had a chance in college, my senior year, I could have --- the Korean thing was going real good. They would allow a year back --- you were required to take two years of ROTC at Oregon State at that time. So I had taken my freshman and sophomore year. And then I, the junior year I hadn't, but the senior they would have let me back in, and some of my classmates did that. And they got some real cushy jobs like PX people and one thing and another to do their time. And then they got the, all the loan benefits like you were a vet. But I didn't have that. I thought that it might have been a good thing. But the trouble is, it would only got me in worse than I was, and I probably wouldn't have got out. I just ---

CHRISTINE: What do you mean it got you in worse than you was ---

BOB: Farming.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BOB: That's one thing a farm can do, it can eat up all your money.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BOB: In this country it can turn its back on you at any minute, and there is hardly any salvage, immediate salvage.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BOB: And the way the loaning agencies are, they want you, or the banks did, they want you to keep turning the money every year. And if you can do that, well then you're in good shape with them. Actually I never did get into the government farm loan thing, which is just as well.

CHRISTINE: Who do we have here?

BOB: Those are our grandchildren, I think. Yeah.

CHRISTINE: A wonderful portrait of eleven children.

BOB: Ten.

CHRISTINE: Ten. Oh yeah, I counted one too many.

BOB: Yeah. I was wondering who the extra one was.

CHRISTINE: I don't have my glasses on. Youngest one looks about what, eight or so?

BOB: Yeah it was what, three years ago Peg?

PEGGY: ...

CHRISTINE: Oh. It's probably not very often that they all get together, huh?

PEGGY: ...

BOB: They will probably never get back together.

CHRISTINE: Never happen again, huh.

BOB: Oh that's our great-grandchild over there.

CHRISTINE: What's that, an elephant?

BOB: Huh, the elephant?

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BOB: No that's a bear.

CHRISTINE: I should put my glasses on. See I'm looking at it like this ...

BOB: I could tell Diane that you thought it was a bear.

CHRISTINE: ... being a city girl. Now this is your granddaughter?

BOB: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: She has the little one and another on the way.

BOB: Well, she doesn't really know, she had just ran the test.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BOB: And she got a positive reaction.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BOB: But she reacted wrong --- Peg, we need you to tell that story.

PEGGY: ...

BOB: Well about Erin's announcement at Easter.

PEGGY: ...

BOB: Well yeah, but they were discussing something in the kitchen.

PEGGY: ...

BOB: You weren't in the kitchen.

PEGGY: ...

CHRISTINE: Did she say that her, at her first one it was wrong or something, with her first child.

BOB: Wrong, no.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay. I mean the test was ---

PEGGY: ...

BOB: No. It just, somehow in their conversation of, Rick's mother has been the babysitter so they both can work. She lived fairly close to where they lived in Salem.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BOB: And since they have changed houses it's further, it's more inconvenient. And then Erin is working in Albany rather than Salem.

CHRISTINE: Oh, wow.

BOB: So she has to commute some.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BOB: But anyhow Mrs. Fisher made a statement evidently sometime during Easter that she didn't think that she would take care of any more children, and Erin's face evidently gave her away. (Laughter) And the same thing happened down at the Otleys; they came down there later.

Gets hot, that's quite a --- saves a lot on fuel, but it does get quite hot.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, you get the windows down ---

BOB: Well, is this enough interview?

CHRISTINE: Well would you like to sing karaoke or anything?

BOB: No thanks.

CHRISTINE: No, okay.

BOB: I'll have to have, I practiced singing with the choir at the church several years. I have to have a lot of background noise, because once in awhile I do hit a note, but ---

CHRISTINE: Can't count on it being the right one?

BOB: No. And if there is enough people there, and then when the parts that I really don't know I'd just kind of go through the, and hum.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, I'm the same way about singing.

BOB: You want to punch that thing?

CHRISTINE: Sure thing.

(END OF TAPE) bl