

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #430 Sides A/B

Subject: William J. "Bud" Harris

Place: Harney County Library

Date: April 29, 2002

Interviewer: Christine Stott

CHRISTINE STOTT: It's April 29, 2002, this is an interview with Bud Harris of Hines.

WILLIAM "BUD" HARRIS: Of Burns.

CHRISTINE: Of Burns, excuse me. And this is Christine Stott. Okay, let's find out about you. You were born here in Burns?

BUD: Nope, I was born at The Narrows.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: In The Narrows Hotel.

CHRISTINE: And what's your birth date?

BUD: May 28th, 1926.

CHRISTINE: Oh, you're just a youngster.

BUD: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: And when did you come to Burns?

BUD: Well I was here off an on. My folks moved into town when I was two years old, and then they moved back out to Buena Vista Ranch. And they moved back into Burns

when I started to grade school in 1932, in Burns. And we was in town a year, moved back out to what is now the bird refuge, the other side of the bird refuge. And I went to second grade at the Sod House School, and the third grade at the Voltage School.

CHRISTINE: What is that, what school?

BUD: Voltage.

CHRIS: V O L T A G E.

BUD: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: Where is that?

BUD: Well it was out on the other side of the lake.

CHRISTINE: Which lake?

BUD: Out by the bird refuge.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

BUD: Moved back to town then, and I started in the fourth grade in Burns, and went all the way through and graduated from high school in Burns.

CHRISTINE: Okay. Do you know why they called it the Voltage School?

BUD: Yes, there was a town there at one time. There was a store, and a service station, a post office, school --- and the name Voltage was a man from Nebraska moved out there, and he was an electrician. And that's where he started out, and he called it Voltage.

CHRISTINE: In honor of his profession.

BUD: Uh huh.

CHRISTINE: Well that is pretty clever.

BUD: And they had --- well it was there before I was ever there, because my mother went to school there.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BUD: She came from Blitzen, to Voltage, and finished her schooling at Voltage. And then I came, I graduated from high school in May of 1944, I think it was on the 17th of May and I enlisted in the service on the 18th of May. And I left here and went to the Navy, and in 1944, and was discharged out of the Navy in 1946, after the peace treaty had been signed with Japan. And I came back to Burns and I went to work at the Edward Hines Lumber Company. I worked there until the fall, that fall, and I went to school at the University of Oregon. I left the University of Oregon and came back to Burns and worked once --- about three months and left and went over to Union where my folks was living. And I went to school at the Eastern Oregon College in LaGrande.

CHRISTINE: And what were you majoring in there?

BUD: Just business administration.

CHRISTINE: And you graduated from there?

BUD: No. I left there and I went to work for the U. S. Forest Service, and I worked for the Forest Service. I finished out '46, '47, and I got married in April of 1948 in Union. And I stayed on with the Forest Service, and my wife and I both worked for the Forest Service until that fall of '48. And I went to work for the Mt. Emily Lumber Company, and I worked there until the spring of 1952. And I moved back to Burns and went to work for the Edward Hines Lumber Company. And I worked there until I retired in 1984, or 1982, and I've been here ever since.

CHRISTINE: Okay. Let's see you were just, not quite 18 then when you joined the Navy.

BUD: I joined the Navy, I was 17.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh. And then where did you go with the Navy?

BUD: I left here, and I went, I shipped out and I went to Farragut, Idaho.

CHRISTINE: Farragut?

BUD: Farragut, Idaho, up on Lake Ponderay. I took my boot training, took four weeks of boot training. And I was sent to Bremerton, Washington, Bremerton Naval Base in Bremerton. And I was stationed there until I got my orders to go aboard a ship in Bremerton. And I went aboard the U.S.S. Yorktown, an aircraft carrier. And I stayed there until the war was over. I was discharged off of the Yorktown. And I came back to Burns.

CHRISTINE: So you were basically in Bremerton most of the time then.

BUD: I was at sea most of the time.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: I was at sea from the South Pacific to Japan. I was in quite a few different naval battles. And we, then we was at many different islands in the Pacific. Then to the Philippines, clear north to Tokyo Bay. We escorted General McArthur in Tokyo Bay when he signed the peace treaty. And we stayed at Yokosuka Naval Air Base. Oh, we were there probably two weeks. And we took aboard a couple thousand soldiers and brought them back to the United States. We left the United States and went back to Hawaii and brought back a couple three thousand more soldiers. And left again, and

went to Manila and took aboard about five thousand soldiers and brought them home, brought them back to San Francisco and left them there, and we went to Bremerton and I was discharged.

CHRISTINE: You're not talking about five thousand on one ship at one time.

BUD: On one ship.

CHRISTINE: That was the Yorktown?

BUD: It was an aircraft carrier, and they welded --- they put triple deck bunks and welded them to the steel hanger deck.

CHRISTINE: Oh my gosh.

BUD: And we brought back five thousand of them. And they were not only sleeping on the hanger deck; they were sleeping in all the empty compartments. But when we came back the first and second time, we unloaded things out of different compartments and left sailors over here to be discharged, then we used their compartments too.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BUD: And the Yorktown, the old Yorktown, was sunk in the first part of the war. It got hit pretty bad, and it was, well as near as I can find out, and they can tell me, it was scuttled. The U. S. Navy sunk it to keep the Japanese from sinking it. And to this day it is marked on the maps as to where it was scuttled at, because they claim on a clear day when you go sailing out there in the Pacific Ocean that you can see the flight deck down in the water down there.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BUD: Because it is in shallow water. And when they sunk it, there was a carrier on the way from the East Coast, a Seabees style carrier. And just as soon as the Japanese hit the Yorktown and they sunk it, they changed the name of that carrier that was on the way. And it was to be christened the U.S.S. P oh o m m e Richard.

CHRISTINE: Do you know how to spell that?

BUD: Yeah. P O H O M M E, P oh o m m e Richard.

CHRISTINE: Okay.

BUD: And they changed the name of the carrier on the way immediately; they changed it to the Yorktown. And they brought it to the West Coast through the Panama Canal. It was too wide, I mean with the gun mounts on it, it was too wide. So they shipped the guns from the East Coast to the West Coast by rail. And after we got it over here, after they got it over here, they welded the gun mounts, mounted the gun mounts on the sides of it. And it went to sea, and they made one trip in the Pacific Ocean – it went clear down, almost to New Zealand, and Australia and fought with the Japs down there. And then when they come back to the states then, the first time back to the states is when I went aboard.

And the ship --- our boilers, our boilers in the boiler room had nameplates on them, said U.S.S. P oh o m m e Richard, but it was the U.S.S. Yorktown. I've got quite a few pictures of it, when we came home with the hometown banner on it, sailing out behind it. And I have a book, similar to a high school annual of its --- the U.S.S. Yorktown, the Fighting Lady. And maybe you have heard of the movie, the Fighting Lady?

CHRISTINE: I think so.

BUD: That was taken on the Yorktown.

CHRISTINE: Oh, it was filmed there.

BUD: That's the Yorktown.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BUD: The Fighting Lady. I have quite a few things from the ship.

CHRISTINE: Do you.

BUD: And my wife and I went --- we have an association, it's called the U.S.S. Yorktown Association, and it's all over the United States and hundreds of guys belong to it. And we went to San Diego about three, four, five years ago --- six years ago, to what they called the West Coast reunion. And they held it on board the U.S.S. Ticondaroga which was the same class of carrier as we were, down there. And the next year we had another reunion, the East Coast reunion, and it was held in Portsmouth, (Virginia) North Carolina, South Carolina, and my wife and I went back there to that.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BUD: To the reunion. And we have one almost every year, somewhere. The last one they had, they had it in St. Louis. And the next one coming up, I think there is going to be another one on the East Coast, and then there will be another, yeah, and then another one on the West Coast.

CHRISTINE: Do you know some of the people from back in that era?

BUD: Oh yeah. People --- when we go back there, I know quite a few guys that are, that I knew when I was on the ship.

CHRISTINE: Right, good.

BUD: And the secretary of the U.S.S. Yorktown Association lives in Salem.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BUD: And then there is two others that were in the same division I was, one of them lives in Springfield, and where was the other --- I can't remember just where the other one was. I've got their names and addresses; in fact I've got the names of everybody that belongs to the association.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BUD: And we went back, when we went back and had the reunion back on the east coast, we held it right on the ship.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: Held it right on the ship. And there is a few things that have been changed. Now they decommissioned the Yorktown after the war. Then the Korean War broke out, and they put a new flight deck, they put an angle flight deck on it so they could launch faster aircraft off of it. But it's the same ship. I can show you that. (Laughter)

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BUD: And then we came back here, after my wife and I got married, I worked for Mt. Emily Lumber Company in LaGrande until 1952.

CHRISTINE: Mt. Emily?

BUD: Mt. Emily. Yeah. And they went on strike, and we came over here to visit my folks, and Hines hired me, and paid me more money.

CHRISTINE: Wow, can't beat that.

BUD: Moved back to Burns, and I've been here ever since.

CHRISTINE: Okay.

BUD: I was raised right here in Harney County. You might as well say I've been here all my life. Most of the old timers are gone.

CHRISTINE: Like whom?

BUD: Oh, like a lot of them, like Johnny Crow, and Les Griffin and all those guys. People that I knew when I was little.

CHRISTINE: Oh, yeah.

BUD: And I lived around here. My dad run a ranch, he run a ranch for the Company. And we lived --- when I was born we was living at Three Mile in Catlow Valley. I lived there.

CHRISTINE: It's okay. No, you can hold it if you want ---

BUD: My folks lived there. And Jinks Harris that used to own the hardware store here in Burns, him and Ethel, my uncle and aunt, they lived at the Roaring Springs --- no the Home Creek Ranch. And we lived down there. And moved back to Burns, moved back to the Buena Vista Ranch. And moved back into town and then moved back out --- my dad bought a ranch out there. That's when I went to school at Sod House and Voltage. And, just like you, many many people around the country never heard of Voltage.

CHRISTINE: Yeah that's interesting.

BUD: And there is nothing there now, nothing. I was out there here a couple years ago and there is nothing. Just like The Narrows, there is nothing there but that one ranch, and there used to be a hotel, and store, and service station, and dance hall and schoolhouse.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, things change.

BUD: Oh they change, they change considerably. Now I'm got some pictures of Voltage schoolhouse, and the Sod House schoolhouse that the library over here would like to have a copy of to put in their schoolhouse, Harney County schoolhouse collection of pictures.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, yeah.

BUD: And I told them that I would get, bring them up and they can get pictures made off of them.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh, they would be valuable.

BUD: And I have pictures of my brother and I horseback, and Conly Marshall out to Drewsey ---

CHRISTINE: Oh, Conly Marshall.

BUD: Uh huh. Him on one horse, my brother and I on one horse, and our schoolteacher on another horse. We don't know who took the picture, unless Junior Marshall did, Conly's older brother. Because he is not on the horse. Then I have another picture of the Voltage schoolhouse, and there is three little kids playing out on the playground. And the boy is Don Miller, out at the Double O, and two of his sisters.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: When they went to school there.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BUD: And I don't have any pictures of anybody that went to school at the Sod House. There is people still living around that --- they are scattered all over the country. Some of

the ones that went to school when I did are there, or dead and gone. Mavis Oard out at Buchanan, her and I was in the same grade.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: And we went to school to Edna Haines, Marcus Haines' widow. But she wasn't Edna Haines then, it was Edna Dougall.

CHRISTINE: Dougall.

BUD: She was from Crane, Princeton.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: And the schoolhouse, or schoolhouse, the schoolteacher we had when I went to school at Voltage, her name was Wanda Sasnick (sp.?).

CHRISTINE: Sasnick?

BUD: Sasnick. And she was a young gal from the big city, out of Portland. She had never been out in the boon docks before, and she was living out at Marshall's. And the last I heard of her she was living in Hawaii. And that's the last I, anybody around here ever heard of her.

CHRISTINE: How long did she teach there?

BUD: She taught just that one-year.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BUD: Then another lady that lives here in Burns, that taught out there was Georgia Crow, she taught out there.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: But I never did go to school to her. I knew her; I knew her and Johnny before they were ever married. And I've known Edna for many, many years before she ever married Marcus Haines.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BUD: I can't think of what Georgia's maiden name was.

CHRISTINE: Was that Crow with an E, or just C R O W ?

BUD: C R O W. Johnny Crow, he died here just a few years ago, a couple years ago, he was almost 100 years old.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, I think I remember that.

BUD: And my mother, she lives out at the Aspens. She is 96 years old today.

CHRISTINE: Oh, how about that. What's her name?

BUD: Katie Wheeler.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

BUD: She is Frank Wheeler's widow. My dad left here, my dad come --- when we moved back into Burns my dad bought the bakery. And he run the bakery for awhile. Then he went into business with Pluribus Tiller when they had the grocery store down here on Main street years ago.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BUD: And my dad worked there, and he left here and went to Klamath Falls and bought a restaurant, and he stayed in that restaurant for a couple three years. And then he went to work; during the war he went to Portland and worked in the shipyards. I went down

there one summer, summer between my sophomore and junior year --- no my junior and senior year. I worked in the shipyards with him down there in Portland during the war.

CHRISTINE: This is your dad you're speaking of?

BUD: Huh?

CHRISTINE: I'm sorry, who are you speaking of?

BUD: My dad.

CHRISTINE: Your dad. And what's his name?

BUD: His name was Bill Harris.

CHRISTINE: So your parents were divorced then?

BUD: My parents were divorced, yes.

CHRITINE: Oh, okay.

BUD: And then he worked in the shipyards until the war was over, then he went to work for the Oregon State Liquor Commission, and he worked for the Liquor Commission until he retired. And after, right shortly after he retired he died.

And Frank Wheeler, my stepfather, he came here during the war with the U. S. Air Force when they were stationed out here at the airport. That's when he met my mother. And after he got discharged out of the service --- he was a forestry major at Oregon State College before the war. He went to work for the Forest Service, and he stayed with the Forest Service (BLM) until he died. He died of cancer.

CHRISTINE: How long ago was that?

BUD: He died in 19 --- I believe it was 1977.

CHRISTINE: That's close enough.

BUD: I believe that's when it was. Because I think he died in '77, my father he died in 1977, and Julio Urizar, one of my best friends, he died in 1977.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, yeah, I sure remember him.

BUD: We grew up together.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, had some adventures, huh.

BUD: We grew up together. After, well you might say after I joined the Elks down here in Burns in 1952, Julio and I was tending bar in there and we worked there for a long time. Julio became manager, and him and his wife Josephine Urizar and my wife and I we went to all the conventions, and we traveled together all the time. We used to have some gay old times.

And since I've retired in 1982, my wife and I have traveled --- we have been to Hawaii, we have been to Alaska, we've made three trips to the East Coast. And we have, let's see where else, oh we have made two trips to Mexico, two cruises. Left the East Coast and come back around to the West Coast. I mean, yeah left the West Coast and come back around to the East Coast.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: Oh one trip we didn't come to the coast, we flew from Puerto Rico back to Oregon.

CHRISTINE: Okay. Can we back up just a bit now and talk about when you met your wife.

BUD: I met my wife when I was going to college in LaGrande. And she was going; she was a senior in high school. She was going to high school in Union, and I was going to

college in LaGrande. I was living in Union with my folks, and she lived in the house right behind my folks.

CHRISTINE: And what was her name then?

BUD: Her name was Donna Kersey, K E R S E Y. And we went together that fall, or that winter, and got married in April. And she graduated out of high school in May.

CHRISTINE: Oh, she was still in high school, wow.

BUD: And then we went --- she went to work for the Forest Service. And we went together on a primary lookout on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest out of LaGrande, and that's where we spent our first summer was on that lookout together. It was thirteen miles from LaGrande. You go up in the tower and you could look right down into the valley and see LaGrande, and Union, and Elgin, and all of them down there. We was thirteen miles out of town. On nice days, when there wasn't a fire, and danger was low, and there wasn't any storms or anything, we could --- I could call down on the telephone and get permission and we'd go to town and go to the movie and then go back to work. (Laughter) Buy our groceries, and go back up on the hill again.

CHRISTINE: My parents did the lookout at Calamity years before I was born, down in Oakland, you know. And so what about your children?

BUD: We have four children. Let's see Sherrie was born in 1949 in LaGrande. She is married, and lives in Idaho, in Boise, and has one daughter. Steve, he was born here in Burns on July the 1st, after we moved back here. We moved back here in April, and he was born on July the 1st.

CHRISTINE: Of?

BUD: 1950 --- or yeah, 1952. And he has been married, he is not married now, but he has two children, a boy and a girl. They live in Eugene. He's got the two kids there; they both go to school in Eugene. And let's see, Steve works for some super market chain, I don't know what the name of it is.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BUD: Sherrie works for a Catholic School in Boise. She is a secretary and treasurer, and councilor for a Catholic School. And her husband Alan, Sherrie's husband, he worked, he was the vice president of First Security Bank of Idaho, and he is retired.

CHRISTINE: Oh, what's her last name then?

BUD: Their last name is Vaterlaus, V A T E R L A U S. Alan and Sheryl Vaterlaus, and then there is Steve Harris, and then there is David. Let's see, David was born in 19 ---

CHRISTINE: Wasn't he born right after Sherrie?

BUD: Huh?

CHRISTINE: I was thinking David was the second oldest.

BUD: He was the third oldest.

CHRISTINE: Oh, was he? Oh, okay.

BUD: Steve was the second oldest.

CHRISTINE: Huh, I, seem to me I remember David, but I don't know why I would because I was born in '47.

BUD: Well I was going to say, that's when Steve was born.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BUD: No, he wasn't born in '47, he was born in '52 -- '57. And he is married ---

CHRISTINE: This is David now you're talking about?

BUD: Huh?

CHRISTINE: This is David now you're talking about?

BUD: Yeah, this is David now I'm talking about, my third child.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay, right.

BUD: Him and Paula they graduated from school here in Burns High School. And they live in, well it is Seal Rock, down on the coast, it is just out of Waldport. And then there is Jill; she is the youngest girl. And she, her and her husband Doug, their name is Harrie, H A R R I E. They live in Boise, and Jill works for Albertson's in the main office, in the head office for Albertson food. And her husband is an auditor for the State of Idaho. And they live in Boise, and they have one daughter.

CHRISTINE: So you must have grandchildren.

BUD: I have one step-grandchild. Paula, David's wife, had two boys when he married her. David raised those two boys, and one of them is married and has a little girl.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh. Well I don't have any yet.

BUD: All the rest of the kids --- Sherrie's daughter, and Steve's two kids, and ---

CHRISTINE: Jill's.

BUD: Jill's daughter, they are all still in school.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay. So there is time yet.

BUD: Oh, yeah. And we spend most of our time driving to Boise, or driving to the coast.

CHRISTINE: Well that's good that you are in touch with them. Are you Catholic?

BUD: Huh?

CHRISTINE: Are you Catholic?

BUD: Yes. Yes, Donna and I both belong to the Catholic Church.

CHRISTINE: You have been awfully active in the Elks over the years too.

BUD: Well I've been an Elk since 1952.

CHRISTINE: You were exalted ---

BUD: I was Exalted Ruler here in Burns. I was District Deputy for the Oregon Southeast District, I've held two state offices, I was a trustee of this lodge here in Burns for fourteen years. I tended bar down here in this lodge for seventeen years. And yes, I'm a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge. I have done quite a bit of traveling for the Elks too. I have attended four national conventions, one in Reno, one in Chicago, one in Dallas, and one in Miami. And I have been all district coach twice, I've been, or state --- I have been an all state coach twice, and I've been an all American coach once.

CHRISTINE: And that's coaching for what?

BUD: The ritual team in the lodge.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BUD: And we went to one, we took the team to one national convention in Reno, and we didn't place down there because one of our officers collapsed on the floor.

CHRISTINE: Oh my.

BUD: But we placed in --- we went to Chicago, took the team to Chicago and I don't remember just where we did place there, but we was All-American. We had two, we had two, three All-American coaches --- All-American officers for the west. And I was, two

of us placed All-American coaches. We really had a good team that year. We won the state, we won the West Coast, and ---

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BUD: But --- I'm thinking pretty hard about selling my house. It's getting too much upkeep on it.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, the yard work and all that.

BUD: Oh that yard work is --- I don't mind the house, but the yard work is so bad. I like to do things, I like to --- I've got a lot of tools, I like to make --- oh, woodwork.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BUD: I got scroll saws so I can cut out animals and everything like that. I do that all the time.

CHRISTINE: What do you do with your work?

BUD: Well most of it, the kids has got.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BUD: What Donna doesn't have. I've got two or three other things in mind now to start building, but I don't know whether I will or not.

CHRISTINE: So you are kind of thinking you need to have more time to do what you want to do.

BUD: Oh yeah. I get started on one, and I come up with another one and here sets this one over here, not finished yet. And I did finish up one of my projects yesterday. I had a windmill that the kids bought years and years ago, and it needed an overhauling, and needed a paint job. So I took what windmill all apart, the blades and the tail and

everything. Put it all back together again and glued it, and give it two coats of paint and a coat of sealer, and I put it back up last night.

CHRISTINE: It's in your yard then?

BUD: It's in the yard, yeah.

CHRISTINE: It's a full-sized windmill?

BUD: No, it's only about six, seven feet tall.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh. Well I'll have to come and see it sometime.

BUD: And different things like that. I'm going to have to take Donna's wishing well out in the back yard again. Water run on it so much this past year --- got an automatic sprinkler system, and water run on it and it's starting to fade, so I'm going to have to ---

CHRISTINE: So what's your next trip you guys have planned?

BUD: Next trip? We got to go to Boise Memorial Day. One of my granddaughters is having a dance recital.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BUD: So we've got to go over there. Well the next trip, we been talking and working with Donna's brother, he lives in Connecticut. Don't get to see him too much.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BUD: Unless we go somewhere and meet. Like when we went to --- they went on the cruises with us. They flew out from the East Coast. And then we met Raymond --- the last trip when we met him, we met him in Las Vegas. Now his wife passed away a couple years ago. And he is an avid golfer, and my wife loves to play golf. They was raised in a golfing family.

CHRISTINE: Oh. Was that in Oregon?

BUD: Yeah, down in Portland. And he's retired out of the Navy now, and he plays golf all the time. And we went to Las Vegas, and he met us in Las Vegas, and him and Donna went to golfing school. They got a deal down there to play golf. And they went to golfing school while I played the slot machines. (Laughter)

And then when we went back to the convention, Yorktown Convention, he drove down and met us down there in South Carolina, and then we went back with him to Connecticut, then we flew home from Connecticut.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: And then this coming year they're working on a trip now to Dawson , Missouri, and he will meet us down there. And they will play golf, and we'll go to the, all the shows down there.

CHRISTINE: In Dawson you say?

BUD: Uh huh.

CHRISTINE: Not Branson?

BUD: I think it was Branson.

CHRISTINE: Okay.

BUD: It's Branson, right. Yeah, that's where it will be, it will be in Branson. And he will meet us down there.

CHRISTINE: And what is his name?

BUD: His name is Raymond Kersey.

CHRISTINE: Okay. That's her only sibling then? Donna's only brother?

BUD: That's her only brother, yeah. And her mother is dead, and her father is dead. She has lots of relatives down in the valley, down in Portland, and down there. She's got lots of uncles and aunts all around down there. We go to see them, there is one in Portland, and one is in McMinnville, and different places like that, and we see them when we go down. And every once in awhile one or two of them will come through here traveling, and stop to see us.

CHRISTINE: Good. How about brothers and sisters for you?

BUD: I had three brothers. Buster, he died many years ago, he had heart problems. And his wife and all their kids, they lived in Montana, and they still do, they all live up in Montana. His kids are all married. And then there is Jerry Harris out here in Hines, he is my brother. His kids are all grown and married. And then there is Pat Wheeler. You probably know Pat.

CHRISTINE: I'm supposed to have an interview with him soon.

BUD: Are you?

CHRISTINE: Yeah. He is a big husky ---

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CHRISTINE: Now, start speaking again.

BUD: When Mother and Frank got married, Pat and Jerry were little, and Frank was raising them, and they just automatically took the name of Wheeler.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

BUD: Well when Jerry went to the service he had to change his name back to Harris, because he wasn't a --- but Pat he got the papers and everything, and he took Frank's --- he took the name of Wheeler, he was adopted then.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: And he officially took the name of Wheeler, and he kept that all the rest of his life.

CHRISTINE: I see. But your mom and Frank didn't have children.

BUD: They didn't have any children, no. No all of us was Harris's.

CHRISTINE: Yeah. Four boys. And were you the oldest?

BUD: I'm the oldest. Yeah, the rest of them were all born here in town.

CHRISTINE: Anything else you would like to share?

BUD: Well --- after I leave here and go out to Aspens and see Grandma for her birthday.

CHRISTINE: Oh yes that would be nice. Yesterday would have been my dad's 88th birthday.

BUD: Grandma told me the other day, she says, "We've been around a long time Bud." And I said, "I know it." And she said, "You know what next Saturday will be?" And I says, "No, I don't know what Saturday will be." I says, " I know Monday will be your birthday Grandma." She says, "Yeah a hundred years is a long time." She's got the idea she will be one hundred years old. She is only going to be 96.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BUD: And she swears up and down that I went to school out at Voltage and Blitzen the same time she did.

CHRISTINE: Oh, yeah.

BUD: Since she was a little girl. She went to school at Blitzen. Let's see she started school at Goose Lake, down below Lakeview. And then my granddad and them they moved to Blitzen, and she went to school at Blitzen out there when they built the new schoolhouse. She went to school there for, I forget how many years. Then they moved to Voltage, and she finished grade school at Voltage, and one year of high school at Voltage.

CHRISTINE: Oh, they had a high school there.

BUD: She went to school, the high school, in the grade school.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

BUD: She was the only one. She went one year there, and that's all. And her brothers, her younger brothers, they all went to school at Voltage.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

BUD: And she, all of her brothers have passed away now, except one. Harley lives in Ontario.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh, what's his last name?

BUD: Jones. Their last name was Jones. And they came to --- she was born in Kansas, Athena, Kansas. They came to Twin Falls, Idaho on a train. They came from Twin Falls, Idaho to Lakeview in a covered wagon, and back to Harney County in a wagon.

CHRISTINE: All while she was real little, huh?

BUD: All while she was little, yeah.

CHRISTINE: Wow. I need to get your service dates on here. Let's see, U. S. Navy.

BUD: U. S. Navy.

CHRISTINE: May of ---

BUD: 1944.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BUD: I was born --- born (Laughter) I was discharged from the U. S. Navy in March of 1946.

CHRISTINE: What was your rank when you were discharged?

BUD: When I first started? I was an apprentice seaman, and when I was discharged I was a coxswain, 3rd class boatswain.

CHRISTINE: Is that B O S U N ? How do they spell that?

BUD: Boatswains mate?

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BUD: B O A T ---

CHRISTINE: Are you going to spell it the whole way?

BUD: Boatswains mate.

CHRISTINE: W A I N, okay.

BUD: Boatswains mate.

CHRISTINE: Okay. And your first job was where?

BUD: After I got out of --- oh, my first job?

CHRISTINE: Uh huh. Is that when you went to Portland to work with your Dad?

BUD: Let's see. Yeah, I worked in the hay fields out here a couple three times in the summer before that. But my first real job was in the shipyards in Portland. And then when I came back here and started my senior year in high school I went to work for

Tiller. I worked for Tiller all during my senior year. I went to school a half a day and worked a half a day.

CHRISTINE: At Tiller's Market?

BUD: At Tiller's Grocery Store, yeah.

CHRISTINE: Is that where Trent currently has?

BUD: That is where Trent is at now.

CHRISTINE: And it was Richey's then after that.

BUD: It was Richey's after that. But I worked with Tiller for --- working for Pluribus Tiller.

CHRISTINE: Then you worked at the mill next, or was it the Forest Service?

BUD: Well I worked for Hines, out here at the mill for awhile. And then I worked up at Seneca for Hines. I worked up there for about three months before I went to school.

CHRISTINE: Then the Forest Service.

BUD: Yeah. After I got out of school I went to work for the Forest Service, and worked there until the fall of 1959 --- wait a minute --- fall of 1948. Then I went to work for Mt. Emily Lumber Company. I was in the sawmill business ever since.

CHRISTINE: What was your position at Hines when you retired?

BUD: I was factory sales manager.

CHRISTINE: Principal activities and interests other than livelihood. Well I know you like woodworking.

BUD: Yeah. I like hunting, I elk hunt and deer hunt.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh. Travel.

BUD: We do a lot of traveling. Donna and I do a lot of traveling.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh. Donna, K E R S E Y.

BUD: K E R S E Y.

CHRISTINE: And you were married ---

BUD: April the 18th, 1948.

CHRISTINE: In?

BUD: Union, Oregon.

CHRISTINE: Okay. And when is her birthdate?

BUD: When is her birthday?

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BUD: 10-20-30 (Laughter).

CHRISTINE: Oh that's easy to remember. October 20, 1930.

BUD: Uh huh.

CHRISTINE: And she was born where?

BUD: She was born in Portland.

CHRISTINE: Portland. Second spouse, not applicable. And Sherrie was your first child. Is it C H E R Y L ?

BUD: S H E R Y L.

CHRISTINE: I'm going to try to remember what you told me her name was.

BUD: Vaterlaus.

CHRISTINE: V A T E R ---

BUD: V A T E R --- V A U T E R --- What --- V A T E R --- (Laughter)

CHRISTINE: L A U S.

BUD: L A U S. She lives in Boise.

CHRISTINE: Do you know her birth date, or thereabouts? The year anyway.

BUD: She was born in 1949.

CHRISTINE: Okay. And was she born in Burns? They all were I guess.

BUD: No, she was born in LaGrande.

CHRISTINE: Oh that's right.

BUD: The next three was born in Burns. Steven.

CHRISTINE: With a V?

BUD: S T E V E N.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

BUD: He was born in Burns.

CHRISTINE: And it was in '52, is that right?

BUD: Steven, yeah, '52.

CHRISTINE: 1952, okay.

BUD: And there is David. He was born in Burns.

CHRISTINE: And the year?

BUD: (Laughter)

CHRISTINE: Was he '57, or was that Jill?

BUD: Jill. Or Steven was born in '57

CHRISTINE: Steven was?

BUD: Let's see, Steven was born in '52, David was born in '57.

CHRISTINE: H A R R I E.

BUD: Huh?

CHRISTINE: Jill's name?

BUD: Yeah. She was born in '59.

CHRISTINE: Okay.

BUD: In Burns.

CHRISTINE: And let's see, your father's name was --- you told me that.

BUD: Bill Harris.

CHRISTINE: Do you know his date of birth, roughly?

BUD: No I don't. He was born in --- let's see, he was --- I think he was born in 1899, I'm not sure. Somewhere back then, in 1888, someplace.

CHRISTINE: Okay. Do you know where he was born?

BUD: He was --- Montrose, Colorado.

CHRISTINE: Montrose? And he died in 1977?

BUD: '77.

CHRISTINE: And where was that?

BUD: In Portland.

CHRISTINE: He lived there after your folks broke up?

BUD: Oh yeah.

CHRISTINE: Yeah. Do you know if his ancestors came from another country, or go back that far?

BUD: I can't tell you how --- just where they ---

CHRISTINE: Okay.

BUD: No, I know they --- his dad didn't, I know Granddad Harris didn't, and I know my Grandmother Harris was --- Well I don't remember right off hand. No, I'm not sure. And my Granddad Jones was born in Wales, my mother's dad; he was born in Wales. But my Grandmother Jones, I don't know where she was born, don't have any idea.

CHRISTINE: That's Katie's ---

BUD: I could probably go back --- One time I, I started one time years ago to make a study, and somewhere in my records someplace I've got a lot of that stuff written down, but I don't --- I can't tell you where it is at, or anything now, I don't know.

CHRISTINE: That's Katie's dad was born in Wales?

BUD: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: And your dad was a shipyard worker, is that right?

BUD: When he died?

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

BUD: He worked for the Oregon State Liquor Commission.

CHRISTINE: Oh, right. And your mother's maiden name, Katie Jones.

BUD: Katie Jones.

CHRISTINE: April 29 ---

BUD: She was born in 19 --- she will be 96 today.

CHRISTINE: '06 then, huh?

BUD: She was born in '06, or '07, somewhere.

CHRISTINE: It must be '06. That's four years away. And she was born where?

BUD: Athena, Kansas.

CHRISTINE: My mom is from Kansas too. Date of death, that's not applicable, isn't that nice. And she was married twice then.

BUD: Uh huh.

CHRISTINE: You have one brother, is that right. Oh, you have four, four of you.

BUD: I had three brothers.

CHRISTINE: Three brother, yeah. The first was Buster.

BUD: Buster, except they knew him by his, his name was George. But they --- I can't tell you just exactly what year he did die.

CHRISTINE: It was before your dad died, was it?

BUD: Huh?

CHRISTINE: Was it before your dad died?

BUD: No, I can't tell you just exactly what year he did die.

CHRISTINE: Would it be around 1980 or so?

BUD: I could find out for you awful quick.

CHRISTINE: Okay. I'll probably call you --- And the next, let's see, he was born about when, do you know, Buster? A year or two after you?

BUD: He was born 1928.

CHRISTINE: And the next born was?

BUD: Steve.

CHRISTINE: Do you know when he was born?

BUD: Well his birthday is December the 14th. I don't know what year --- I'll have to look these up and find out.

CHRISTINE: Okay. And then the last one was ---

BUD: Pat, Pat Wheeler. Let's see he celebrated his birthday not too long ago. So I'll have to find out just exactly when.

CHRISTINE: Okay, all right. I'll call you about that. Are you needing to get going here?

BUD: Nope. If I go home I'm going to have to go to work and dig holes.

CHRISTINE: Oh. When is the birthday celebration?

BUD: Well that's it, I got to go out there to Grandmas this afternoon.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh. Well if you think of anything else in the meantime, jot it down. And then when I get these dates from you ---

BUD: Okay.

CHRISTINE: Put the rest of them on tape.

BUD: I got a --- let's see, what else --- I got to get down to Wagner's Furniture and get the chairs for Pioneer Day. That's coming up in June.

CHRISTINE: That's right.

BUD: I've been on that Pioneer Board now for fifteen years. (Laughter)

(END OF TAPE)

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