

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #432 Sides A/B

Subject: Pat Wheeler

Place: Wheeler Home – Burns, Oregon

Date: June 12, 2002

Interviewer: Christine Stott

CHRISTINE STOTT: It's June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002, this is Christine Stott, and I'm interviewing Pat Wheeler today for the Oral History Project. So you've always lived in the Burns area?

PAT WHEELER: Well yeah. Well went, for a short time we lived in Seneca and Union, then back to Burns. And when my step-dad was with the Forest Service, we transferred around.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay. Did you go to school in Seneca?

PAT: I went to the second grade in Seneca. And the third and the fourth in Union, and the rest in Burns, first and the rest after those three.

CHRISTINE: So was it the Forest Service that brought your family to Harney County?

PAT: No.

CHRISTINE: No.

PAT: My mother came here in a covered wagon from Kansas, and they homesteaded in Catlow Valley. And my step-dad was brought here by the air force during the Second

World War. He was with the fighter squadron that was based in Pendleton, and they had a, they're the ones that made this into the airport here. Because they had B-51, or P-38, excuse me, P-38's, fighter planes based here. Well actually out of Pendleton, but they were, stayed here. That was when I was about three. And I went all through high school here, as well as all five of my kids did.

CHRISTINE: Oh, yeah. Did you do sports in school?

PAT: I did. I did all that was available, football and basketball, and baseball and anything else I could muster. Yeah.

CHRISTINE: You talked about, recently you heard from a coach, a former coach?

PAT: His name was Elvin Williams, or Tom Williams. He was our coach when I was a junior and senior in high school. I hadn't seen him since, which would have been '56, when he left here, when I left out of school. He left at the same time. He turned up here a week or so ago in our motel. He lives in McMinnville. It was the first time I'd seen him since high school.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

PAT: He's either 83 or 84 now.

CHRISTINE: That's great.

PAT: Pretty good shape, actually for a --- I had to laugh because he said he had a hip replaced, and a knee replaced, and two ankles fused, and he had a triple by-pass, and he is a diabetic, but other than that he is in good shape. (Laughter)

CHRISTINE: Oh my goodness, yes. Unusual for a diabetic to live that long. So you graduated in '56?

PAT: 1956.

CHRISTINE: Then what did you do?

PAT: I went to Oregon State University. Well Oregon State College then.

CHRISTINE: Yeah. What did you take?

PAT: Forestry.

CHRISTINE: Did you graduate?

PAT: I did not. I came home and got married. But that's what I spent my whole life doing, is working in the woods. So I might as well of --- the same.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: I came home and went to, like everybody else I worked for Hines. And then I was logging manager for Hines until they left. And logging manager for the new, Snow Mountain Pine until there came a chance for a contract logger. So I bought some equipment and logged for them until they left. And of course now there isn't much of that to do, because that all got stopped.

A few years ago my wife had a wild idea we needed another motel in Burns, so we built the motel. And that is what we do now, 24/7.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh. And which one is that?

PAT: It's the Comfort Inn. The newest one in town, yeah, it's here in Hines. And it keeps us busy. Meet a lot of people. And a lot of people that used to live here that come back that I haven't seen like my coach. That wasn't the only one, there have been several that showed up here. An interesting one was, you know my older brother that passed away --- there was a fellow stopped here two years ago. And he got out, he stayed in the

motel, and I run into him the next morning, and he said, “I’ve never been here before, but I was discharged from the Army in Fort Lewis in 1944.” “And the guy I was discharged with was from here, and I was close to here, so I thought I would come and see if he was still alive, but I can’t find anybody that knows him.” And he said, “His name was George Harris, called him “Buster”.” I said, “Yeah, that was my brother.”

CHRISTINE: Oh my gosh!

PAT: He went home and sent me some pictures of them when they were in the Army. And sure enough, it was my brother.

CHRISTINE: Oh, how wonderful.

PAT: That was quite a --- he said you’re the first one I’ve talked to here about it. He asked me, and that was my brother, so ---

CHRISTINE: Did Buster die fairly young?

PAT: Buster was, when he was discharged from the Army he was sick, he had strep throat and he was pretty sick. But he didn’t want to tell them because he wanted out. He came home and spent several days with rheumatic fever. Then later in years it led to heart problems. And he died during heart surgery. And of course it wasn’t --- I guess as refined as it is now, and they had a machine malfunction and it killed him. Yeah, he was 35 ---

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: --- when he died. He lived up there in Eastern Montana. Married my typing teacher, she was from Montana.

CHRISTINE: Oh. Who was that?

PAT: Her name was Shirley Collins when she was my teacher. That would have been about '55 when she was here.

CHRISTINE: Here at Burns Union High School.

PAT: Yeah. She was typing teacher, along with old Jim Kribs that --- and she taught here a couple more years, and then they got married and moved back to Montana. And he had a brokerage business on the Canadian border there until he died. His son still has it up there. It's been a lot of years since he passed away.

CHRISTINE: Yeah. Did you go into the service?

PAT: Did not. Went to school, went to Oregon State. Luckily no war was on.

CHRISTINE: Right.

PAT: And the closest I got was, I spent two years in ROTC at Oregon State. I got to wear uniforms! No, I didn't, and none of my kids have. They have all been lucky. Timing is right, I guess.

CHRISTINE: They say the worst time to have a son is twenty years before a major war, so I guess that is true.

PAT: Yeah, you're exactly right. We hit her just right, because we didn't have any. When Vietnam was on, the older ones were married, and the youngest ones were still in school. So we lucked out there, none of them had to go. And they're all --- only one is still single. That middle boy is still single.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: The rest of them are married, and we got grandkids.

CHRISTINE: How many?

PAT: Oh, ask those questions now. Kelly married a fellow that had 3 kids, so they've got 2. And so we count them as 5. Jeff has got 2, that's 7. Joe, the youngest one has 3 girls, that's 10. And then Margie just got her baby, so 11. But two of them are less than six months old, two little girls.

CHRISTINE: So some of them live around here?

PAT: Jeff and Patrick, the two boys, that's all. The rest of them are --- Margie lives in Forest Grove, Kelly lives in Newport, and Joe lives in Tumwater, up at Olympia, Washington. We just came back from there last weekend. So, we get to see them quite a bit.

CHRISTINE: All right.

PAT: Not enough with the motel, but they get to come and swim in grandma's swimming pool at the motel all the time.

I logged for, when we worked in the woods some, and the two younger, the two boys; the two older boys are still doing it. They have to go to John Day now to do it, but they're still cutting trees.

CHRISTINE: Oh, wow.

PAT: I tried to convince them they shouldn't be doing that, but they still are. They love it.

CHRISTINE: Well I guess it's in their blood I guess.

PAT: Yeah, I know it is. Of course I'd like to still be doing it too, it's more fun than motels.

CHRISTINE: Is it?

PAT: There ain't anything to do there now, since all the hoopla over cutting trees.

CHRISTINE: Well, sounds a little more hopeful lately, like maybe they're going to start cutting again.

PAT: I don't know. It's going to --- there is too many, too much litigation now. There is always somebody to file suit. And everytime they try to sell a tree somebody, somebody somewhere, will file suit to stop it, it seems. I don't know how they'll ever stop that. Everybody is --- all the opponents have lots of money, because they are all tax-exempt outfits. And people like the movie stars, and people with lots of money give them money, so they're very well to do. They don't have any problem with financing their litigation all the time. So I don't know. I think we've fought a long hard war, we've been fighting it for thirty years, but I think we're losing. I'm sure. You could see by the big smokestack sticking up out here, that there is a lot of that around this country, the northwest is full of abandoned sawmills. And the shame is, the real crime is, that if the taxpayers just knew how many million dollars they were losing by trees dying up here that nobody is using.

I took Greg Walden's representative, and the county judge, and a bunch of them to the hills last Friday and showed them. In the two-hour trip we showed them probably ten years of work salvaging trees, and taking care of the woods that isn't getting done now. But I don't know, maybe it will happen some day, I don't know if it will or not. Hopefully it will, or we will all be living in mud huts someday. It's just amazing how --- I've been on a lot of different advisory boards with the Bureau of Land Management and then the Forest Service, and had meetings, attended meetings with lots of the

environmental community, it's just unbelievable the attitude of those people. They don't really care for, tearing up New Zealand and Canada and the Philippines, and everywhere else getting our timber, you know, as long as we're not doing it here. And that's not much of an environmentalist as far as I'm concerned. They're not concerned about the earth, they're concerned about their back yard, and that's about it. And their back yard is going to burn up, you've probably been seeing on television now. We're going to have it in another month, we'll be having it here too, the same thing. It's so over-grown and unattended up there now that, it's just waiting to happen, and it will.

CHRISTINE: Which forests are you speaking of.

PAT: Well I'm primarily speaking of the ones I'm most familiar with. Used to be the Snow Mountain District of the Ochoco here, which is all now Malheur. They've all run together, so primarily the Malheur, and the Ochoco, and the Wallowa Whitman, everything in Eastern Oregon, east of the Cascades. It's got so much dead, bug killed timber, and over-grown with little trees, there's nothing going to stop a fire if it gets started. It used to be managed; it's not managed now. It's just on it's own, and the roads are all grown up in trees, and washed out, and nobody takes care of anything. Yet they've got more employees out here than they've ever had, the forest service and BLM. But I don't know what they do, they don't, they don't do anything up there but study stuff.

It's pretty frustrating, because we started fighting this when I worked for Hines thirty years ago. And they've progressively got more of it. And as you know now, they've got it all stopped primarily over here. There isn't any --- everything with logs



you see, going down the road if you see any now, that's all private, there's not --- So the taxpayers you notice now they're crying about having to pay fees to go hiking, and the government wants to start charging people to go --- that's why, they don't have any income from timber anymore. They don't have any way of supporting all their people, and their vehicles running around.

So we had, Hines alone used to put twenty million dollars a year in the federal pocket, you know, from timber, 20 or 30 million. Now days it would be more, because timber is worth more. And you multiply that times several hundred timber buyers, a lot of money gone out of the federal treasury. And it is still standing out here dying. It is just money that you and I are making up in taxes now, or paying trail fees, or fees to float the creeks, or to fish, or whatever we want to do now.

And the problem is the same, when you live in Harney County it is the same no matter what. There is more voters in a city block in Philadelphia than there is in the whole county. So we can't convince them of anything, there is just not enough of us, we don't make enough noise. And you can go --- I've been in Dallas, Texas, New Orleans, Virginia, Newport Ridge, Virginia. Those people have no idea there is timber left out here. From what they've seen from the propaganda they have been fed, they think it is all gone. And if there is any left, they want to preserve it. But it's ---

CHRISTINE: You ought to show them a few acres of clear cut and ---

PAT: It's education. Well they do, they show them maybe what Georgia Pacific did down around Toledo, to their own land, they just literally demolished it. Because every environmental group in the world has got a video of it, and that's the one they always

show them. It is bad; they did a bad thing down there. And we're all paying for it, and not just that, but they furnished the photographs for everybody. They actually don't think there is trees left. And there is more volume per acre now than there was at the turn of the century here now, still. Now maybe in different, I'm talking wood fiber. It may be overall smaller size, but there is seven or eight thousand stems to the acre on a lot of this ground right here. And when it's that many, they can't grow. It's like having five hundred people stand in this room. They can't grow, and its got to be taken care of, its got to be thinned and --- just like any crop. And so now its just going to burn up, because it is too thick to grow, and it gets twenty feet high and stops, and waits for a fire. And that's what's going to happen to it, if the bugs don't kill it all first. Which they are doing their share too.

Mountain pine beetle, and western pine beetle were always controlled here with salvage logging, cutting the trees that had bugs in them. That hasn't been done for ten years, so they're just hopping from one to the next now. And once they get a patch killed --- and lighting comes in --- when it is all red like that it really burns then. And that's what happened in Colorado. And New Mexico has got a bunch of them going. And like I say, we will have too, in another month.

I could have, I've been on fires and working in the woods around here since I was 18 years old, and we used to have a big fire once in awhile. Now we have big fires every year. Lots of big fires. We had maybe one every five years when it was being taken care of. And now we've got probably two hundred thousand acres out here that the Snow Mountain district alone is just wasteland now, and growing snowbrush and thistles that

burnt up in 1990. And John Day has got even more than that in the Malheur over there, and the Wallowa Whitman. It's going to get it, its just no way to prevent it if they're not going to take care of it, it's going to happen. You can take that to the bank, it will.

I guess I get off on a rant everytime I start talking about it. It is a very frustrating thing to know that there is many, many million dollars in stumpage, plus many, many, many living wage jobs that should be happening. None of it is happening. We got people, well you know what our unemployment rate, what is it the highest in the nation, Oregon. As soon as they started doing away with natural resource work in Oregon our unemployment's gone up steady every year since. And the jobs they're replacing, living wage, \$16, \$18 dollar an hour jobs are \$6.50 hamburger flipping jobs. That don't get it. You know that's why we are having trouble with our schools, and everything else in this state. And we're going to continue to have until they do something --- We always figured the good Lord put that stuff here for us to use, and somebody ought to be taking care of it and using it, instead of letting it all go to waste.

CHRISTINE: Well you have a very articulate point of view, and it needed to be expressed. I'm glad to ---

PAT: I wish it could be expressed more. We've thought of --- it just takes too much money for these, I guess you'd say wood products companies are broke, because they can't buy any trees, to put enough video tapes, television time, to get the word out to the East Coast, or in California, where all the people are. It's education, that's all it is. And that's --- if those people knew their taxes were going to replace money that's going to waste, they would probably vote different. You know a senator from Indiana several

years ago, Indiana, had never set foot in Oregon or Washington, introduced a bill to stop all federal logging. Never been here before, had no idea what he was talking about. It had almost passed then! It might as well have, because they stopped any way, for all practical purposes.

I don't know, it's --- and the ladies from Texas, they're big ones, they're anti-logging. I guess you probably know --- I might as well say it, it's the --- There isn't a --- and I was a registered Democrat for all of my life, there isn't a liberal Democrat in the United States that wants to log, period. There isn't any! I mean I'm talking politicians.

CHRISTINE: Someone that has some power.

PAT: And Wyden, Wyden is terrible. He is just terrible. All of them, Walden wants to, but he ain't swinging a big enough ax. They don't know how to go about changing it. I was just reading the Burns paper today --- I told Walden two years ago when he was going to solve the problems of the Steens Mountain, by making part of it wilderness and hands off on the rest. They won't stop with that part you're going to give them. And you notice the headline in the Burns paper today, they want the rest! And they'll stay with it, and they'll probably get it eventually too. The outfit that is trying to stop the Steens Running Camp which has been going on for 27 years, a historical use, is from Missoula, Montana. They didn't even --- like I told Walden in a letter the other day, they didn't even know there was a Steens Mountain until you brought it to the nation attention. Now they do.

CHRISTINE: Pauline had the headline on that story, as Montana group is no show.

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: And she changed it at the last minute.

PAT: I wish she would have left it.

CHRISTINE: Too harsh.

PAT: It was, they didn't show. But they give them a chance to interview on the telephone I guess. Yeah, I had an opportunity last fall to drive to, we drove to South Dakota pheasant hunting. We drove through a good share of Montana. We drove through a 300,000 acres fire up there. 300,000 acres that hasn't --- the timber all burnt up, and Montana hasn't touched it. It is just standing there going to waste. Enough to run a mill the size of the Hines Mill for five years. And it hasn't been touched. And they better take care of Montana before they worry about what's going on in the Steens.

I don't know, it's a very frustrating deal that's going on with --- and it's not just logging, that's the one I've been primarily interested in, because that's what I did. But it's any natural resource, I don't care whether it's mining, gathering mushrooms, I don't care what you want to do, if it's a natural resource they don't want to use it. And that's just, that's the view of the, I don't care if it's the Oregon natural desert outfit from Bend, or if it's the Sierra Club, or if it's the Oregon Natural, or Oregon, ONRC. Any of these environmental groups have all got the same attitude towards natural resources, and grass is another thing. They don't want to use that; they don't want those cows out there at all. And they've got them off of part of the Steens, and they won't stop there. They'll keep going until they get some more out of there. And what they did with the trees ---

CHRISTINE: You're not very optimistic that ---

PAT: No. Not until they change all the ---

CHRISTINE: Who will prevail.

PAT: The only thing that could change it is different field court judges. Yeah, I'm getting into politics, but they are all sympathetic, and a good part of the judges is, ninth circuit court of appeals all belong to the Sierra Club, so what's that tell you, you know. What chance have we got, they're not going to find in our favor. And that's where all the cases go. All you got to do is look at the track record. We lose every one that they take to --- And did you see what the BLM did in the Burns Times-Herald? If they take it to court on the Steens Running Camps, we'll lose. So they're saying they are going to lose before it even happens. And now it's guiding all their decisions. And I wouldn't want to do that, because they'll sue us. So they're not selling, they're not even trying to sell any timber, or running camps, or anything else up there, because they figure they're going to get sued, so why do it. I don't know the answer. The only thing I can see is the difference in the status of tax-free status, and the judges. And of course you know the appeals court judges are appointed for life. So there is not much --- there is not much reason to be optimistic, we'll put it that way.

And the county has got a little dab of money that --- well it's not a little dab, it's a half a million dollars a year which is a drop in the bucket compared to what they used to get from timber receipts. But it's supposed to be spent on forest health in the national forest. They've had that money available since February, and they can't make a --- it's not the county, it's not their fault, the forest service can't make a decision where they want them to use it. I said just throw a dart at your map, you could spend that much anywhere out there taking care of what needs to be taken care of. And that's what we

were doing last Friday when we went out, you know, quick trip there. In two hours I showed them probably ten years worth of work. But half a million dollars a year we could --- Off of that, when, like when Hines or Snow Mountain was running and cutting 80 to 100 million board feet a year, the county got 25% of that. That's what they run their schools and road department on. They don't get that anymore, because there isn't any being cut. So they're giving them these little pittance which is --- a half a million dollars isn't a little amount of money, but it's a little amount of money when you consider what they lost getting there.

They used to, the county used to get even in the olden days when things weren't worth much money; they still got enough money to run their entire road crew. And we got a lot of county roads in this county, probably a couple thousand miles or more. They were able to build and maintain them, plus give a good chunk to the school districts every year. The school district don't get any now. And these counties down there that --- like in the metropolitan area in Eugene, they all got 25% of the stumpage money too, and they were cutting more timber down there than we were. They don't have that anymore either. And that's a big reason why you're reading all the headlines about them closing the schools, that's a major reason why.

Plus Oregon is having a tough time attracting any new industry just because of the restrictions they place on everybody in this state. Even some of the high tech outfits are leaving now, in Portland. That's the only thing that made up for a lot of what Oregon lost in natural resources jobs, was the high tech industry come into Portland by the thousands. Now they're starting to lose them.

CHRISTINE: Who do you know that is leaving the Portland area?

PAT: My son-in-law, Pete Hoag, Margie's husband, works for --- it's called Morgan Machinery, and they specialize in moving heavy things. That's all they do, and they've got a ten-year contract with Intel. And he works most of the time around Intel. But they package up and move these big laser machines that they make, silicone wafers for computers. And these are 30 and 40 ton machines. And they got a ten-year contract, and all they have been doing is packing them up and moving them out of Portland. Not just Intel, but they work for every --- all the big ones.

But there is a big one in Gresham that's --- that building must be 20 acres. They're taking everything out of it, shipping it back to Japan. It employed several thousand. Intel has laid off a lot of people. There is so many different ones out there in that Beaverton --- it's all high tech plants and there is a whole lot of vacant ones now. He packaged up, one outfit there in Portland, him and four or five other guys loaded, take the stuff out of --- Fujitsu is one. They took these big machines out and loaded them on a barge, shipped them to Venezuela, and then went to Venezuela, unpackaged the barge and installed them down there. Fujitsu moved, got out of Portland, Oregon. They can't afford to pay the taxes, that Oregon charges. And I bet part of that is because of the revenue they lost from their natural resources. So it's getting to everybody.

This lady that, and she is a lady, that is one of the biggies on the Sierra Club, Jill Workman, you may or may not have heard the name. She is in all --- she is mentioned in the Burns paper today. I was on an advisory board with her for several years. Well it was RAC, Resource Advisory Council for the Department of Interior. I said, "What do



you do for a living, Jill?” She said I work for a bank. And she got all red faced. She said, “I administer timber trust funds.” (Laughter) I said, “What are you trying to do, put yourself out of work?” But that’s how she makes her living. And it’s all timber trust. Yeah, she is making her living on natural resources, and fighting tooth and nail to stop the harvesting of it. She is a very smart girl. I suppose she was aiming a different direction is all, but ---

I just can’t, in fact I mentioned this in my letter to Walden, some kids can go up there on the Steens and run, a hundred and some of them, for a trip. Running up through the rock, there isn’t enough dirt on the Steens to hurt it in the first place, it’s all rock. And the Sierra Club takes 40 people up there and stay for two weeks. Evidently they don’t hurt it any. And the BLM fellow that I know well, and I won’t mention his name, says it’s the messiest camp to clean up that they have on the Steens, any year, is the Sierra Club camp. They litter, and garbage that they leave.

CHRISTINE: Interesting.

PAT: So now I’ll get off my soapbox on these environmentalists. I consider myself an environmentalist. I’ve spent; I don’t know how many hours I’ve spent of my own time picking up garbage up here. That really rubs me to see --- not only is it the out-of-town hunters, it’s a lot of locals that go up there and leave crap, and garbage, and junk all over the hills. I educated my own kids with that, but there is a lot of them that didn’t get educated.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: I kind of like, I kind of like it around here. I guess you know, because I've been here forever. But I can't, I just don't understand how they think we're going to go out there and rip up our own backyard. The people around here that worked up there, and made their living there, took care of it. Because they knew that's where they made their living. Out-of-towners don't so much, but --- I guess they know better than us how to care of it. And the way they're taking care of it is no action, and it don't work. It's just like if I didn't mow my lawn today.

CHRISTINE: You keep looking out there.

PAT: Yeah, it's tall.

CHRISTINE: Is it growing as we speak?

PAT: Yeah, yeah. She put lots of fertilizer on it this year, she's kept me busy between here and the motel, mowing is about all I do. What else do you want to know about me? Is that enough?

CHRISTINE: No that's not enough. Let's talk about --- if you remember any anecdotes from your childhood, something that happened that was especially ---

PAT: Oh yeah, we were talking about it the other night. We were, of course the war was on. My mother worked at Tiller's Market, which was downtown, by your dad's place. You know where all of them hung out down there. In fact where, I think it's, what the heck is it now, a used furniture store I think, by Ranch Supply. That was Tiller's Market.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, it's Trent's ---

PAT: Yeah, Trent ---

CHRISTINE: Trent Tiller's Carpeting.

PAT: She worked there. So my brother and I, I had older brothers so I got in lots of trouble. (Laughter) We were talking the other night about some missing kid or something, and she said, you know, she had missing kids almost everyday because she was working fulltime. We run off with the old fellow that was an Indian guy --- and I can remember this, what I really remember is the endings of all of these, because it was usually with a big switch. We ran off with the old Indian garbage man, when I was about four.

CHRISTINE: Where did you go?

PAT: Back and forth to the dump. He had a wagon with a horse. We rode, sitting there --- She caught us up towards the dump that night. My brother and I were setting up on the springboard seat on the wagon with this old boy. I can't even; I don't even know what his name was. It wasn't pretty.

CHRISTINE: You were how old?

PAT: About four.

CHRISTINE: Oh my.

PAT: My brother was seven, Jerry (Harris) he was only three years older. We had a good time growing up in Burns and Seneca and Union, and back to Burns.

Burns and Hines were a lot different then. They were thriving, and people were making good money. There is always going to be the graffiti of people, but it isn't that way now. It really disturbs me to drive around Burns and Hines now to see the places that are overgrown and vacant. I don't know how many vacant businesses and stores we have. But I think I counted, I drove main street this year, this winter, and counted 28

empty businesses, all the way through. And I even counted the mill, that was a pretty big one there.

And some realtor told me last fall that they had 250 houses for sale. That's a whole bunch in this little town. That house right behind me has been vacant all year. It's just going to fall down, an old Hines house.

I babysit two wienie dogs, they're my youngest boys and his wife. My grandkids are out at Cargills. She is a Cargill, Joe's wife. They're out there right now, but we get the dogs because we've got a fenced yard.

CHRISTINE: What else did you used to do when you were a boy?

PAT: Well when I was 12, I started going to the woods with my dad marking trees. When he worked for the --- he showed me how when I was 12. We used to mark them with an ax. So I didn't spend a lot of time goofing off in the summer. In fact I was younger than 12, because at 12, I went to work for Jack Fine in Paisley.

CHRISTINE: Doing what?

PAT: Jack Fine contracted the hay on the ZX Ranch, the big ranch over at Paisley. And I remember we had 17 mowing machines, which is a whole bunch. And I never had a day off in 57 days. We mowed hay with 17 mowers. You can figure, you could cover half of Eastern Oregon in that length of time.

CHRISTINE: Got out of school and went to haying.

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: Then back to school, that was it.

PAT: Yeah, then go back to school. And I was 12 then, and now you can't hire a kid to work as a kid. Didn't hurt me a bit either. Probably kept me out of trouble. We can't even hire a kid to run a weed eater at the motel unless he is 18. You know that a kid can't run a vacuum cleaner unless they're 18.

CHRISTINE: What's the logic there?

PAT: Don't want to get them hurt, I guess.

CHRISTINE: (Laughter)

PAT: But so when the kids get to be 18 they don't know how to do anything, because --- There is a lot of kids that want to work, but --- And we did. But I had, I didn't work all the time. We had plenty of time to play. We lived out in the, a cabin out in the woods when I was, part of the time when I come back here from Union. We spent the summers out there, a great place. But I was on a --- that's where I learned to hunt. Because my old man bought us 22-short for 25 cents a box, and he'd give us a dollar each a week, so we'd buy four boxes. That would last all week, so you --- You were careful when you shot a rat, you wanted to make sure you get it. Oh, we trapped, and we fished, and we chased rattlesnakes, we did everything that boys do, I guess.

But it was fun times living in the hills all the time. We had all the neighbor kids wanting to spend a week at a time with us out there. But then we started working summers and when we got to be about 12, 14 years old, it was haying in those days. Can't do that anymore, but ---

CHRISTINE: Why?

PAT: Because of the age, they won't let them hay, they won't let them run tractors. And of course haying is a lot different now. They've got all this different fancy machinery where three guys can put up as much hay as 25 used to, you know, when they used the old type equipment. They didn't have the one ton bailers and all that stuff that we handled all the hay loose. The ZX, I don't know how many, how many thousand acres it was but I know that some of those fields we'd start in at the crack of daylight, and get back around to where we started at noon. That's how big the field was, it took that long to go around.

CHRISTINE: Oh, just to go around it once.

PAT: Yeah, once. And of course the second, it was smaller the second time, when 17 mowers would take a pretty good swath out of it, but --- The old boys said when they hayed it with horses they had to take their lunch, because it would take a whole day to make a round in the field.

My mother and all of her brothers, she had all brothers, they grew up in Catlow, so they herded sheep on the Steens and everything else. We --- but she had moved to town --- Bud (Harris) was born at The Narrows, my oldest brother, on their way to Burns to have a baby. They didn't make it. And then the rest of us were born here in town. But none of us in a hospital, all of us at home. And she probably, she worked for old Plurb Tiller at Tiller's Market for a long, long time. So that's --- she worked there until we left and went to Union, Seneca and then Union. And then of course when we come back she didn't.

We lived down by the, where it's the city park in Burns now when we were growing up. I think Monte Siegner owns the house down there now, the rancher. Still owns their old house.

CHRISTINE: What street was that on?

PAT: I don't know.

CHRISTINE: Washington or something like that?

PAT: Yeah, it's the next one back from Washington, but I can't think of the name of it now.

CHRISTINE: Adams, or A.

PAT: Probably was A. It goes right by Washington Park on this side of the park.

CHRISTINE: Well that would be Adams.

PAT: Okay that's where it was. Oltman's Truck Company was down there on the same street; they had a whole bunch of trucks.

CHRISTINE: Hmm, I don't remember that.

PAT: Oh yeah.

CHRISTINE: Dalton's was just this side of the other side.

PAT: Yeah. They did that --- well they were the predecessor I guess of what's now Eastern Oregon Freight, it was Bend-Portland Truck Lines, and then, what the heck did they call it --- they had another name for it for awhile, then old Bill Oltman had it. He hauled all the fuel, and ---

(Pause - Telephone Rings)

CHRISTINE: I am going to turn the tape over now, Side B coming up.

SIDE B

CHRISTINE: Now what were you saying?

PAT: I don't know where we were at.

CHRISTINE: Talking about the Bend-Portland trucking ---

PAT: Oh yeah, that was the Oltman Truck Lines. Then it was Bend-Portland, and what the heck was the name of it after that. They had --- anyway, I think Eastern Oregon Freight ended up with it nowadays, is the only freight hauler in here. Old Oltman hauled all the cows, and all the gas and oil, and just about everything that come in from out of Burns in those days, that didn't come in on the train. The railroad of course was running then too. That's where Ray Weeks got his gas and oil, was on the train.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: Actually Edward Hines Lumber Company was the Standard Oil Distributor at that time. And Ray got his from Hines, and then later he became the distributor. But it all came in on rail cars then. I remember when, it wasn't so many years ago, when Hines was buying gasoline for 13 cents a gallon. If you could do that now in train fairs you wouldn't have to get too many of them, they would ... get money. Yeah, that's why Hines was, Hines run gasoline log trucks for years, because they could buy gasoline cheaper than they could buy diesel. Which you can nowadays, nowadays too, but in those days you couldn't.

I don't know, of course this Burns and Hines were really two different towns then. I mean there was a strip of sagebrush there two miles long between them. That's where



we used to shoot rabbits, about where the ... Lions Inn is, and my place. They were ... because we used to walk from our house down by Washington School to the swimming pool. Do you remember where it was?

CHRISTINE: Oh yes. That was a silver painted swimming pool. The paint came off every year.

PAT: Yeah, yeah. Oh yeah.

CHRISTINE: Waited until the last minute to paint it.

PAT: No filter system. I don't know any kid that ever got sick from swimming in it though. They finally shut it down because of the filter system.

CHRISTINE: Oh, is that why?

PAT: Yeah. And now I have a swimming pool, and I'll tell you they are a real pain to comply with, all the state regulations. They're tough to take care of.

CHRISTINE: Well how many wooden swimming pools do you see anymore?

PAT: I don't remember ever seeing any other wooden swimming pool except Seneca. Well Seneca had part concrete, and part wood when we lived there. So Hines built a swimming pool there too for the kids. It was over by the shop. But it was really cold. This one was warm, because it was natural warm, pretty warm. And Seneca was just well water.

CHRISTINE: Oh, because I always thought ours was pretty cold.

PAT: It was --- we liked it. Oh yeah, but I guess it was by today's standards. But it had to be, probably 70 something degrees. I would keep our pool at the motel at 84, and people complain about that. It's like a bathtub! Seneca was probably in the

neighborhood of 50 degrees I suppose. You could swim in the river or it, it didn't matter, they were about the same temperature. Of course we spent a lot of time in the river.

CHRISTINE: What did you do while you went to college? Did you have a job then?

PAT: I did. We worked at, well of course in the summers I worked for Hines here; they had what they called a survey crew. None of these main line roads were built then, so they had, Hines had to do their own engineering on them. And I would come home in the summer and work on the engineering crew, every summer. And down at school I worked wherever I could, whenever I could, on weekends and everything else to ---

CHRISTINE: I can't imagine you just being a full-time student. It doesn't seem like it was your style.

PAT: No, no, we worked --- At college at that time, I don't know if they do anymore or not, they had almost like an employment agency. People in Corvallis area would call, want something dug up, or a fence built, or --- they would call the college. And then you would just call in on Friday and work all weekend doing something for --- We ran all over the Willamette Valley doing that kind of stuff in spare time. But ordinarily during the week I mostly went to school. We had classes from eight in the morning on then. I did my share of dopping off like any college kid. We had lots of, seemed like we had lots of things to do.

CHRISTINE: Lots of card games, that's what we did a lot.

PAT: Yeah, we did that. I lived in a fraternity, so there was several things going on there. We used to, every big function --- I did, I worked for the Oregon State newspaper, the Barometer. And the main reason I did I got field passes to all the football games.

(Laughter) I took pictures for the football, or the football game. I've still got some. Pretty good pictures for --- Not that I didn't even know which button to push, anyway. There was another guy from Burns that was working for me, got me started, and we developed them and everything, had a dark room.

CHRISTINE: Who was that?

PAT: His name was Arnold Taylor. His dad used to run the Burns Department store for Ereno's.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: And his name was Arnold Taylor too, but this was his kid, Arnold. And I saw him last summer for the first time since then. He lives down on the coast at Yachats. Retired school teacher now. We did lots of racing around too, working for the newspaper. We had quite a few social things going on. There was a lot of kids at Oregon State from Burns then. Heck, I had four or five classmates that were there.

CHRISTINE: Being an Ag school and all that.

PAT: Yeah, I guess, yeah. Delores Clark, and Glenda Hughet were there, and Cawlfeld, Gaylen Cawlfeld, Tom Williams, there was a bunch of Burns kids there. Which didn't really keep me out of trouble either, because we kind of --- (Laughter) That's what got me into the fraternity. That was probably a pretty bad stroke looking back at it, to start right in at a fraternity house, because there was too much social stuff going on there. Didn't lend itself to studying very good. I made her. I was doing fine until I came home one time and didn't go back, the third year. Should have finished, although I don't know why. I lucked out, did just as well as any of them anyway, working here.

You know, it would have been a little tougher if it hadn't have been for --- I had a pretty good track record with Hines and went right on working for them when I got out of school. I always had good jobs. I was the logging forman for them, and then the logging manager, and then road builder and logger, until the mill sold out. Then I did that for Snow Mountain.

CHRISTINE: Did you know Joyce in high school?

PAT: Yeah. We were king and queen of the prom when we were seniors. She went to, I think she didn't start here until she was a sophomore. I met her at the Pine Room, her grandmother. She worked there most of the time when we was going to school. But she went to St. Joseph's Academy, Catholic School, in Pendleton, eighth grade and freshman, I think.

CHRISTINE: Hattie Schroeder, was that her grandma?

PAT: Yeah, yeah.

CHRISTINE: I remember Hattie.

PAT: A hell of a cook.

CHRISTINE: Oh yes.

PAT: Well all of them are, all of them are.

CHRISTINE: Primo.

PAT: Yeah. And Marge cooked after --- Gigi is what they all called Hattie. That was, well my kids all called her Gigi, great-grandma. And then Butch, her brother, he was as good as any of them. Except Butch and Marge --- Hattie Schroeder could take an empty refrigerator and make a gourmet meal in two hours. I don't know how she did it. Butch

and Marge were, they are really good cooks, but they are expensive cooks. They use the cream, and the butter, and nothing second class. But she could do it with nothing. I have taken ducks that I shot out here into her and --- I never tasted things like that before, that she could do with a duck, or a piece of deer meat or anything else, it doesn't matter. She was an artist.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: And a heck of a nice lady too. I got a big kick out of going --- Joyce's dad was a supervisor for an outfit called Montage Calverson, and they primarily built most of the dams on the Columbia River. That's how she was at Pendleton, because he was working on McNary. And he got killed on The Dalles dam. So she ended up here with her, her stepmother was Marge Kinder. She came back here; well she was back here before her dad got killed. She was going to school here then.

CHRISTINE: Oh she was her stepdaughter. I thought she was ---

PAT: Yeah. No, she was stepdaughter.

CHRISTINE: So she is a half sister to Butch then?

PAT: Uh-huh. Her mother had five kids all in all, and she just took off and left them all with dad. And he was --- I never met him, but he married Marge. And Marge --- well the older ones were gone, you know, they were off doing their own thing. But Joyce and Claudette, her sister, Marge raised them. And then Marge and her dad had Butch, so they are half brother and sister. Then Joe, the older one, I don't know if you ever met Joe ---

CHRISTINE: Oh yes, that's right.

PAT: He was Marge's boy. So they had yours, mine, and ours, is what they had. His dad was killed in a --- he was a bush pilot in Alaska. Got killed in a plane wreck up there. That's when she came back here. She was in Alaska then when Joe was born. Joyce never knew any other mother though, that was her mother. Because she never even knew --- and Claudette didn't either. They didn't know her, because they were just teeny when she bugged out. I said you must have drove her nuts, because she left you all.

CHRISTINE: And how my great uncle, Will Hirsch, that had the flowers, his wife left him with, well Bertha and Frank, you know, when they were tiny. And he kept them, and boy it was unusual back in those days for a man to keep their kids.

PAT: Well so did her dad. Except after he married Marge, and of course he continued to work on, he had to be on the river. He continued to work on dams, and he would come home like on weekends. But they lived here with Marge, because she was working at the Pine Room by then.

CHRISTINE: Right.

PAT: And then he got killed there. So they ended up living with Marge until they all went off and got married.

CHRISTINE: Was Hattie Schroder living here already then?

PAT: Yeah, uh-huh. She was cooking at the Pine Room, and Marge was at that time, Marge was primarily running the restaurant, waiting tables, or running the restaurant. And George Tilley and her were partners on the bar. So George did most all of the bartending, old grumpy George. But the Pine Room was just half of the building there, or the restaurant was. The other half was the old Westside Market grocery store.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: The side that's now the restaurant was the grocery store.

CHRISTINE: Oh. I've heard people talk about the Westside Market.

PAT: In fact they've got some old pictures in the Pine Room Café of the old Pine Room.

CHRISTINE: I didn't know where it was.

PAT: And the whole back end, which is now the banquet room, that was the bar.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: It was all in the back.

CHRISTINE: Okay. I remember Fenley's Market, but I don't remember the Westside.

PAT: The Westside Market was Duane Mundy and --- can't think of his name.

CHRISTINE: Don't say Lee McClendon.

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: Really?

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: They were partners in the Westside Market.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, maybe I did know about that one, I just didn't remember that name.

PAT: It was originally ---

CHRISTINE: Is that where they had the lockers, the freezers.

PAT: No that was Fenley's.

CHRISTINE: That was Fenley's.

PAT: Yeah. The whole back end of it was, people didn't have deep freezes then, they had lockers.

CHRISTINE: Oh yeah, and that was where Napa Auto Parts ---

PAT: Right.

CHRISTINE: Right. Oh, I remember going into that locker ---

PAT: That is one of the abandoned buildings.

CHRISTINE: I had nightmares about being locked in there.

PAT: Yeah. Yeah, we used to keep one there too before we had a deep freeze. I think the Westside Market, originally was called the Red and White Market or something like that. Then when Mundy and McClendon got it --- then it burned. After we were married it burned.

CHRISTINE: I remember when Ritchey's Market burned.

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: It was Ritchey's after Tiller's.

PAT: Yeah, yeah. I remember that, old Ritchey.

CHRISTINE: I will never forget that smell. It was January, and that smell of burned up groceries was terrible. We used to run down there in the summertime, run in the back door and buy Popsicle's.

PAT: Yeah. Well there was Jones and Wenzels.

CHRISTINE: Oh yes, Wenzels.

PAT: And Fenleys and the Westside Market, and then the little --- let's see, it's where the ... is. That little corner there. It was Bradford's Market.



CHRISTINE: Oh, that was before my time.

PAT: And we had some cabins in there.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: There was a string of cabins, and an old guy --- Because I remember --- remember

Brownie the old guy that had the restaurant there across the street from ---

CHRISTINE: Yes, I do, Brownie. Uh-huh.

PAT: He used to motion at us when we was walking home from school, to come over and he would get us to go over to Bradfords and buy ice cream for him. His wife wouldn't let him have it, but --- He had all them old wrecked cars, he'd be setting out there in a car --- come here kids. He'd give us a nickel if we would go get him a quart of ice cream. We'd go into Bradfords and get him ice cream. That house is still there, Brownie's house, and it still isn't finished. I remember when I was a little kid it had, it has got rock on the outside.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: And there was a spot or two that didn't have all the rocks on it.

CHRISTINE: Kitty-corner from Windmill Pizza.

PAT: Yeah, yeah.

CHRISTINE: Okay.

PAT: It's right across, I think it's, it was ACW or right across the street from ACW on the right. That was Brownie's house. And that was all wrecking yard, in fact it was like, you know, Roe Davis' it was all wrecked cars. Great place to play if Brownie didn't catch you.

CHRISTINE: Mr. Browning.

PAT: Yeah, Earl Browning. He was about as big around as this table. Near Bradford Market and --- But anyway, they had a, I think at the --- when they had the Pine Room first, I think Joe Abasola owned the building. They didn't own the building until, hell I think they bought the building after it burned.

CHRISTINE: Joe Abasola?

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: That Basque fellow, right?

PAT: Yeah, he owned the Pine Room, big Joe. They bought the, they owned the business and all the stuff inside, the grills and all that stuff, the bar. And when it burned, the Westside Market didn't rebuild and they made it all into the Pine Room then. That's when Margie, Marge bought the, Marge and George bought the building. And she bought out George in later years.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: And Butch bought her out, or gave it to him. But Butch had, got MS and he just couldn't do it, he just couldn't stand there and cook. So he sold it to Oltmans.

CHRISTINE: And now he has moved to Portland, right?

PAT: Washougal.

CHRISTINE: Oh, Washougal.

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: Be near the grandkids I guess. Marcia ---

PAT: Yeah, well Marcia kind of nannys them, but we were at their house last Sunday. Shelley and her husband, that's the girl, are both pharmacists and they both worked in Camas. There wasn't much, really much sense of them living in Gresham or --- they lived clear out there by Beaverton.

CHRISTINE: Oh yeah.

PAT: And Toby is a chemist, and he worked in Camas. His wife is a teacher, and she was teaching. She got a job teaching over there, so they all moved over there to Camas or Washougal, right beside each other.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh. My cousin Paul Sunderlin is a good buddy with Butch for years and years.

PAT: Uh-huh, oh yeah. Is Paul still in Bend?

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: He worked for the city or something didn't he?

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh. In the water.

PAT: I haven't seen him in quite awhile. Yeah, they were always; Paul used to come over here quite a bit when Butch was here. I haven't seen him in a long time. Butch was in town yesterday.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: Him and Joe. Joe got his pickup stolen last week. He was fishing down on the Willamette and they stole his pickup. He had to rip over here to go to the bank, and everywhere else, because all of his credit cards and everything was in the pickup in his

wallet. Anyway it really broke his heart, because he had a whole bunch of fishing tackle and then they got all that.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: They recovered the pickup he said, probably not worth anything now. But they didn't find any of the contents. I guess they threw them in the river. So he had to come home, at least they still own Marge and Grandma Schroeder's houses.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: Down there on Egan. Joe has got some renter in there that is trashing Grandma Schroeder's house. I don't even know who Butch has got living in Marge's house, but somebody. But they're, they've got quite a history around this country too, actually.

CHRISTINE: Who does?

PAT: Grandma Schroeder and her husband, you know. He was a butcher, is what he was when he came. In fact he owned the Westside, it was the Red and White --- Bob Schroeder was in there, Grandma Schroeder's husband. And he was, he run the, he owned the Red and White Market before McClendon and Mundy. And when he died, Grandma spent the rest of her life cooking in the Pine Room. But they had Armond, you know the Schroeder boys?

CHRISTINE: Yeah, Armond Schroeder that sounds very familiar.

PAT: That was Marge's brother's boys.

CHRISTINE: In fact I think he was one of my babysitters.

PAT: I'm sure, yeah. ... and Armond, I don't know how many of them there are. She (Katherine Schroeder) married Sam Woyak.

CHRISTINE: I was going to say that was her kids, yeah.

PAT: Yeah, after Charlie died.

(Pause – Telephone Rings)

PAT: Motel --- we got a fiberglass repair guy down there, and he is going to fix a couple of tubs for us. Going to stick him in one of the rooms that's got a cracked tub, then he'll have to fix it.

CHRISTINE: (Laughter) Good idea.

PAT: What else do you want to know about? I can think of more things in Harney County than I care to remember. It has been a long haul here.

CHRISTINE: Well that is always fun for me, because I get to think back in my memory bank.

PAT: Yeah, yeah. We graduated here in 1956 from Burns, from the old school up on the hill, which is now what, Lincoln.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh, which was just south of my house.

PAT: Yeah, yeah, I remember where your house was.

CHRISTINE: Football players used to run across the corner, and Dad could never get the grass to grow there, because those guys in their cleats.

PAT: We would run all the way to Memorial Field, you know, practice and all.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, yeah. Bud Garland, I remember him.

PAT: Yeah, yeah, he was a year ahead, a year or two ahead of us. Scott Maitland was in there --- let's see he was, I think he was two years ahead of us. I talk to him about once a week. He lives; he lives over at The Dalles

CHRISTINE: Oh he does?

PAT: His dad was logging there for Hines for years. Yeah, he married Annie Gress.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: Not married to her anymore.

CHRISTINE: Right.

PAT: But they're still good friends.

CHRISTINE: Oh, good. I had his kids in bible school; I remember when I was a teenager.

PAT: Oh did you? Scott's kids?

CHRISTINE: Yeah, no, yeah Scott. Maggie and Robin ---

PAT: Maggie and Robin and Judy. And then Patrick, the boy, he had a rough go, rough life, Patrick did. I don't know if it was drugs or what, but when they moved back to Chicago he went from --- been that way all his life. He was in Damasche down there until they closed it.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: He was not very functional. He had been that way forever. I don't know, really know what did it.

CHRISTINE: That's too bad.

PAT: Scott lives in Mosier, up out of The Dalles.

CHRISTINE: Wasn't he born on February 29<sup>th</sup>?

PAT: Yeah, yeah.

CHRISTINE: I remember hearing that.

PAT: He was. He don't have many birthdays. (Laughter) He just hasn't changed a bit, except he got old like the rest of us. He retired this last year, still selling lumber.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

PAT: And for the last five years he hasn't even been to town. He sells it from his house for an outfit in Portland. And he is so full of BS, he was a great lumber salesman, because he had a line a mile long, you know. And I can well imagine he was a good salesman. He comes over a couple times a year. In fact we were talking the other day about some of his classmates. Some of these old bent-over guys come and check in the motel and low and behold they know Maitland. They were in his class. I can't believe that Maitland --- Maitland never even had a dog when he was in school. He just was the kind of guy that didn't have a dog, cat, horse, gun, he didn't hunt, nothing. Now he has got a gun collection, he has got five horses, and seven dogs. He lives up in the hills out of Mosier like a hermit, never goes to town.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: His wife is the chief of nurses at The Dalles.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

PAT: Yeah, he is a character, my god. Changed --- 180 degrees.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, I guess.

PAT: We got to be pretty good friends when we --- him and I both worked for --- I ran the log yard when we built the log yard out at the mill. And he was down there with me. That's when we got to be best friends. And then of course he moved away and went to Chicago for Hines and sold lumber the rest of his career. So we keep in touch. A lot of

my classmates --- we had a class reunion last year, and my god we had a good turnout. We must have had 90%; you know that is forty some years, that's pretty good.

CHRISTINE: That is.

PAT: I guess the ones that didn't show were dead, pretty much you know. We had a good turnout. I got to see just about everybody that's left. Of course Joyce and I were in the same class, so we were the only couple I think out of that class. We were both in the same class. Some of them live on the East Coast, some of them live in Phoenix, they're scattered out over --- But Dee Dickenson was probably my best friend in high school and college, and he lives in Ontario, and I don't see him as often as I see some of the ones that live back east.

CHRISTINE: Huh.

PAT: But Olson, remember they used to have the mortuary. Harold Olson ran the mortuary for years. His son was in our class. He lives in Phoenix, Arizona. I think he is on his fifth wife.

CHRISTINE: What was his name?

PAT: Phil, stuttered real bad. I know if you ever remember --- he still does.

CHRISTINE: I don't remember him. Yeah.

PAT: He still does. But he said he got a good wife this time. She owns about thirty condos in Phoenix. So he said he is going to try to be good now. (Laughter) We went, you know, just like any small town; you went to grade school and high school with the same kids pretty much. Like my son-in-law graduated from Aloha High School. He



don't go to class reunions. He said there was 600 kids in his class. He don't know any of them anyway, you know. There is advantages to living in Burns, I'll tell you what.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, I know. That's why I came back.

PAT: It's the best place to raise kids, small towns. We did a lot of it. Now we just kind of rattle around here. Still got a high chair for grandkids.

CHRISTINE: Oh and it's the old type.

PAT: Yeah that's what she wanted, one of the old --- We got that one in an oak store in Portland.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh-huh.

PAT: It isn't old, but it's the old style.

CHRISTINE: Right. So did you raise your kids in this house?

PAT: We bought this house from Hines, Hines Lumber Company owned it. And we bought it when they were all still in school. And I think Joe was born when we lived here, and he is 28. So, we built this onto the back of it.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: That was Wrens that lived across the street all those years.

PAT: Yeah, Hugo and ---

CHRISTINE: Ingaborg and Hugo.

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: I never knew this was your house. Go to Colleens all the time down the block.

PAT: Yeah, down here, wasn't it?

CHRISTINE: Yeah, it was, the end of ---

PAT: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: --- whatever that is. Quincy? Roanoke?

PAT: This is Quincy right beside of us here.

CHRISTINE: Down at the end, they live on that big old two-story ---

PAT: That was --- they lived on Roanoke, didn't they?

CHRISTINE: Well they ---

PAT: I can't remember.

CHRISTINE: Next door to Faye and Lyle Gunderson.

PAT: Okay, that's Quincy, that's Quincy.

CHRISTINE: At first, yeah. Then they moved, built the house back a ways. I still call her Colleen Sunderland. She will always be Colleen Sunderland to me.

PAT: Colleen and John --- When we built --- I'm talking about Johnny Norton. When we built the log yard we had those great big log stackers. Big, great big log handlers could pick up a whole load of logs. There was traffic, and we had scrapers running, and they were filling in the old millpond, and one of the big log stackers met a scraper on that corner right there by the old burner at the mill. And it was either get killed or dive off. And the scraper went off and ran over Johnny's car. I mean it was about this tall, the car, and the wheels were out --- And John come out on the catwalk at the sawmill, somebody told him, and he looked down at his car and of course the big log stacker was driving by,

and he immediately --- that's, right there is the one that did it, he said. It wasn't, it was the scraper. I had never saw a car demolished --- and was Johnny ever excited.

CHRISTINE: That's funny.

PAT: He had a pretty nice car, and it was squished! Yeah. That was quite a year when we built that log yard out there.

CHRISTINE: About when was that?

PAT: In '64. We filled in the old millpond. Took five hundred thousand yards of cinders in there, we filled it. We had a hundred and some log trucks a day, big log stackers, and all those scrapers; I don't know why we didn't kill somebody. But we didn't. We killed a couple of cars, but we didn't get anybody. It was a quite an ordeal going from a millpond to dry handling logs while we were working, while we were still delivering logs. It was a project. We had it so we could put; we stacked 50 million feet of logs in there on the ground. That was a whole bunch, about a half a year for the mill.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

PAT: We learned, we learned a lot about log handling that year, the next few years there. Learned the hard way. They were also building the plywood mill at the same time, so we had all that traffic. That mill used to --- they would take a hundred log trucks and sixty train cars every day, just to keep them going.

CHRISTINE: Wow. Wasn't it like the thirteenth largest in the world?

PAT: Well it was the biggest pine sawmill under cover. Biggest pine sawmill, that sawed pine --- well they sawed what fir they had. Then once the plywood mill was built, the mill didn't saw any fir; it just sawed pine. Then the fir all went to the plywood plant.

It was --- well I think there was a thousand people working in it, counting the logging crews and everything. And to go from that to 90 people working in an RV plant out here, quite a little blow to this town.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

PAT: They used to cut, not in log scale, but in lumber scale which is somewhat higher than log scale, close to a million feet a day in three shifts. That's a lot of houses, when you figure ten thousand feet to build a house. And they were shipping it just as fast as they could saw it too. You didn't see big inventories. Bookkeepers wouldn't let us anyway. Wouldn't let us have big inventories of stuff. It was quite an operation. It was well done enough that we had people from all over the world come here to look at it, watch it run, and --- They were pretty amazed. But those days are gone. There is not that much timber left. And there is a lot of timber --- but to have a mill that size it would take all they could muster to run it. But there is plenty of room for a smaller one, and there should be one. We don't want to get back on that soapbox.

It has been interesting living here. I can't, I've never had really any desire, I've had opportunities, job offers, over the years to move other places. But I never really did care about leaving, as long as there was something to do here. It has been a good place to live. Good people, and a good town. I guess that is why you came back, huh?

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

PAT: Where were you?

CHRISTINE: Oh, I lived all over. I lived in Massachusetts, and Oklahoma, and Germany, and Southern California, and Northern California, and Portland.

PAT: Well if you lived in Southern California, you should have had a medal.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, that was the last place before I came back to Oregon. Someone stole my purse from my apartment while I was there.

PAT: Oh, really.

CHRISTINE: And then some man got shot in the street out, you know near where my daughter would have been playing. And I said, okay, that's it.

PAT: I don't blame you. Joe, my youngest one, played a lot of baseball in college, and his senior year we made a point --- we went to 46 baseball games.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

PAT: All of them when he was a senior. Including, they played 10 or 12 games in Los Angeles.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

PAT: And we went down there two or three times while he was playing. But we stayed down there when they played all of those. I talked to a lot of people, just people at the games and stuff. And there was a big coach from down at Cal-Fullerton, one of the colleges they were playing. He was a big black guy, and he lived in Compton, and he would almost get tears in his eyes telling me how bad he wanted to move, you know. He said his wife and kids were down there, and he said we eat our dinner laying on the floor a lot just because of the shooting.

CHRISTINE: Compton.

PAT: And he said every time I leave in the morning, I don't know if there is going to be anything when I get back or not. Said we really, really want out of there. I felt so sorry

for him. Because when I'd start telling about living in Burns, Oregon and all the freedoms, don't even lock our doors. Couldn't even fathom that, he didn't even understand that. He said he was going to take a trip for his vacation, they were going to come to the northwest and look around. He said I've got to move. I always, often wondered if he ever got out of there.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: Gunshots, and robberies, and --- The night we left Pasadena, and was heading for LAX, we went, the freeway that we were on, I don't know the name of it, we went right over, kind of over Compton. Where you turn off, where the exits were all going --- there was a California state trooper parked at every off ramp, telling you no, don't go down there. You don't want to go down there.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

PAT: It's just --- to think that's in this country, you just can't --- What a way to live.

CHRISTINE: Uh-huh.

PAT: An old cabby, he was telling me, he said, "I moved to a lot better area," he said, "well I don't hear ten gunshots a month now." And he said, "I used to hear more than that every night."

CHRISTINE: Oh, gee.

PAT: It's pretty bad when you got to measure how many gunshots you hear a night.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

PAT: You might hear that in Burns, but it's somebody shooting at a deer usually, you know.

CHRISTINE: The transcriptionist is going to think she heard one on there, when I dropped the tape recorder. (Laughter)

PAT: I always ask my mother, and when my grandparents were alive, I said, “When you guys homesteaded here from Kansas, why didn’t you homestead at Call Meadows instead of Catlow Valley?” You know, I guess that looked the most like Kansas to them.

CHRISTINE: I used to say that to my folks too. When you moved out west, why didn’t you go somewhere like Santa Monica where the real estate would be worth something someday?

PAT: Yeah, right. I know what their words --- I think one of the most interesting stories, old Jack Drinkwater who you probably know, he was telling me there is a field up here Bob Smith owns up the river quite a ways called the Hanley field, 640 acres. And he said when him and Betty Drinkwater were first married, he said Clara Hanley came to him and said, “I’d like you to have that, I’ll sell you that 640 acres for a thousand dollars.” Of course he said a thousand dollars sounded like a million in those days, you know. He said, “I made one of my most monumental decisions.” He said we thought about it for a week, and I called Clara and I said, “If it wasn’t for all those damn trees on it I would buy it.” And he said the latest, him and I sat down one day and figured they would have taken \$275,000 worth of timber off of it, and its still got trees on it. He said, “That was one of my better decisions!” (Laughter) He was thinking of cows and grass.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, right.

PAT: But you know when I was in high school you could buy sagebrush here for \$5 an acre. You can’t do that anymore.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

PAT: My mother always said you should buy some of that. What do you want that old sagebrush ground for? But it's still cheap compared to other places, but it isn't cheap like it used to be. I'm amazed every time I go to the --- I was on a planning commission for twenty years, and every time we have to --- somebody want a land use permit for something, you have to notify the surrounding land owners. There is a whole lot of people own ground in Harney County that don't live here. There is people in Pennsylvania, and Florida, and they own a section here, and forty acres there. There is a lot of that in this county that I never even dreamed until I was --- and that's what they did; they bought some of that cheap ground back when.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

PAT: Still in their family.

CHRISTINE: I see that the tape is just about out, so I'm going to need to turn it off or ---

PAT: Oh my.

CHRISTINE: Do you have anything else you want to say?

PAT: No, I'm done.

CHRISTINE: You're done?

PAT: Yeah, I'm done.

CHRISTINE: Okay. I can always come back later and start another tape.

PAT: No, that's fine.

(END OF TAPE)

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