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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #43 - Sides A/B

Subject: Dot & Julia Davis, Roy Buchanan & Lilah Olean

Place: Portland, Oregon

Date: January 1973

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

Release Form: No

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PAULINE BRAYMEN: Well Mrs. Davis, when did you and your family come to Harney County?

JULIA DAVIS: Oh, my goodness, honey, my mother's people were there, the Byrds, they had that big brick house right on the corner. And they had the first newspaper, the Times-Herald. But as I say, I never paid any attention to a year.

DOT DAVIS: That would be around '83.

PAULINE: Well, was Julian your brother then?

JULIA: No, my uncle.

DOT: Julian and Charlie were brothers; see they were brothers.

PAULINE: What was your grandfather's name, or your father's name?

JULIA: W. Y. King.

PAULINE: W. I. King.

JULIA: Y.

PAULINE: Y. King

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JULIA: Yeah.

PAULINE: And your mother was a Byrd?

JULIA: Yeah. Dad came from Corvallis, the Corvallis country.

PAULINE: Do you know when he came, about, to Harney County?

DOT: A couple years ahead of that. Must have been right around '80.

JULIA: Yes, he married Mama when they were young, you know.

DOT: That was about '80.

PAULINE: About 1880.

DOT: Yeah. That was when they come to Burns.

PAULINE: And what was your mother's first name?

JULIA: Alice.

PAULINE: Alice.

JULIA: Alice Myriah [Elizabeth – Alice Myriah was the name of her older sister].

PAULINE: How do you spell Myriah?

JULIA: Let's don't do it.

PAULINE: Okay.

JULIA: I very seldom repeat it.

PAULINE: That's unusual.

DOT: Well, I've got a pretty unusual name.

JULIA: Nobody believes him.

DOT: I almost got to get out my birth certificate to prove it. So, when they --- Dottie, Dottie Lee.

PAULINE: Well, I knew that they called you Dot, but I just supposed it was a nickname.

DOT: No, it's just short on my name.

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JULIA: He was the last of seven boys, and I don't think they cared what they called him. Just so they got him in for breakfast.

DOT: Yeah, that's an odd name.

PAULINE: Do you know why? I mean do you know where ---

DOT: I really do. From what they talk, me a being a seventh brother, or it turned out that way, but they named me long before I was born. They were going to have a girl, that was all there was to it. They were going to have one girl. Well, it turned out I was a boy. And my mother said, "We'll still call him Dottie." And then my sister, older sister, she says, "Well we'll hook Lee on to that, it won't be quite so bad."

PAULINE: So, you're Dottie Lee.

DOT: Yeah, so they always just called me Dot.

PAULINE: Well, with a name like Davis, having a name like Dot makes you very special.

DOT: It's all right, yeah. You know, the last couple of years we've got a refund on our taxes. Had to go down to the assessor's office, and oh a hundred girls setting in there writes up everything, and you draw a number when you go in. I set there, told the gal everything that she wanted to know. And the next day she called up, and she said, "Was you a kidding?" Told me who she was --- I'm Dottie Johnson. Well, she had said her name was Dottie when I was setting there. And I said, "Well I'm still Dot Davis." I knew what she was --- she said, "Your real name is Dottie Lee?" And I said, "Yes." Well, she said, "That's what I've got down on this," but she said, "Some of these guys here are a little bit hard to get them to believe." So, she called up to confirm it.

PAULINE: To confirm that she had gotten it down right.

DOT: Yeah. And I guess she probably had the assessors down right the side of her listening in.

PAULINE: Well then when did your family come to Harney County?

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DOT: In '83.

PAULINE: In 1883. And what was your father's name?

DOT: Jasper.

PAULINE: Jasper Davis.

DOT: Yeah.

PAULINE: Do you know why he came? Do you know why?

DOT: They just left Iowa in a wagon train coming west, and it landed at Union, over there by Baker. No, at LaGrande, I'm sorry, LaGrande. And they had just been there a day or two and smallpox broke out, and they pulled right out the next morning, they left and they come to Harney, they stopped there at Harney.

PAULINE: Did your father then take up a homestead, or did he ---

DOT: No, no he went into the grocery business.

JULIA: He was a minister.

DOT: Yeah.

PAULINE: Did he have the grocery business in Harney?

DOT: Yes.

PAULINE: I think I've maybe heard reference to this. I've heard so many things ---

DOT: How could you remember it all?

PAULINE: I can't.

DOT: I know. You know what gets me though is, I used to could remember, I don't care if I --- now like meeting you today, if I saw you ten years from then, I could call you right off. I would walk up and say I can't call your name, but you're so and so, all right, you're from Burns. I would remember that. You know I can't do that anymore. I wonder why?

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PAULINE: Well, I don't know either.

JULIA: Must be ...

PAULINE: Probably better off not knowing.

JULIA: That's right.

DOT: Yeah, old father time doesn't show any favors there. He just takes you.

PAULINE: Well, were you, were some of your brothers and sisters born in Harney County too?

You weren't born in Harney County? You were born ---

DOT: I was born on the old Fort Harney battleground. Right up above Harney there where the Fort was.

PAULINE: And I suppose you went to school then in Harney then?

DOT: At Harney.

PAULINE: Can you remember what it was like to go to school in Harney?

DOT: Yes, there was 41, if you had a lot of time, which I know it wouldn't interest you that much, I'd get you out a picture. There was 41 of us.

PAULINE: 41 in school?

DOT: Yes, and you ought to see us. I've got that picture somewhere.

PAULINE: I knew that there was quite a number of children, but I

DOT: Yeah, there was 41 of us.

PAULINE: Did you just have one teacher?

DOT: Yeah. And finally they, after oh, I don't know, three or four years they split us up. Divided it, had two teachers. That was a big relief.

PAULINE: Did you have far to walk to school?

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DOT: A quarter of a mile that was all. You see, you know how Harney was; you've been there?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

DOT: Well, we lived right straight south, and our land, the end of our farm there --- here's the city, like here's the city here, our land starts right here and went south. We lived down --- the homestead there was, we called it a homestead, we bought it, Dad bought it. That piece of ground was only 30 acres. And he bought that, and we called it a homestead. I don't know why; he didn't homestead it. But because you can't homestead 30 acres. And that was the home there for, oh, I must have been 14 I guess when I run off. My mother died when I was seven, and dad married again. And when I was 14, I run off. Now don't ask me how come, it wasn't home.

PAULINE: Well, I won't do that. But I was wondering where you went, and what you did after you left home.

DOT: Well just like they do today. I went out on the world.

JULIA: There's always ways to making a living when you're young like that.

DOT: My dad was a minister, and I was a jockey. That was quite a wide spread. Now of course this is only a joke! He was wrong all the time. He must have been.

PAULINE: Yeah, things haven't changed a bit.

DOT: ... He was wrong --- well I'll truthful say to my honest thought, it was 75 percent of the time that he was wrong. But naturally we couldn't agree. He was a shouting Baptist, and I didn't take to it.

JULIA: Well, most young people left home in those days anyhow about then.

DOT: Not that young. I weighed 105 pounds.

PAULINE: And you rode racehorses.

DOT: Yeah, for seven years.

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PAULINE: Where all did you ride at? Did you ride in Portland?

DOT: I started at Burns, and we come to Dayville over here, and then we come to Portland. Then we started north, and we went to Helena, Montana. That's a long ways. And then we swung back around to Ontario and come home from there.

PAULINE: That's quite a circuit.

DOT: All summer.

PAULINE: Well people in those days were really interested in horse racing. It was really a big thing then.

DOT: It was a big deal. I know the lecture my dad give me, going on the track. You had to be a crook to go on the track, was his idea. And I come up, finally, the final break, I said, "Now here you are a minister, a preacher of the gospel, and you tell me I've got to be crooked to go on the track." I said, "No, you don't. You can be just as honest being a jockey as you can being a preacher." And of course, that didn't fit too well.

PAULINE: Well, I hope you proved him wrong.

DOT: Well, it took many a year, it took a many a year. It was on his deathbed, but he conceded.

CAROL ?: When were you born?

DOT: '86, September the 7th. That was quite a few days ago too.

PAULINE: Yeah, it was.

DOT: Yeah.

PAULINE: Can you remember, tell me a little bit about what Harney was like, the town of Harney?

DOT: Harney? There was about 150 people there, about 150 of us. And that was a counting like us. Now we was counted in Harney, well we lived a quarter of a mile out. Well, there was another ranch over here that had two or three boys. We were all counted, the neighborhood was counted.

And we all had cattle, and horses. And we would --- now it was --- when it was cold, like in January, like in the fall, and it used to get so much colder out there than it does now, only just once in awhile. I mean the average cold, it stayed cold.

Well, it was our turn to kill a beef, and we'd kill a beef and we'd bring you over a quarter, we'd give another guy. We'd give three quarters of that beef away. Well in a couple of three weeks the boys would go around, we were getting short of meat. If you didn't have meat, you wasn't going to eat, that's all there was to it. That was something you had to have. Well, your folks would kill a beef, and we got a quarter. We had a circle there, and we divided our beef that way. And this is one thing that was always funny to me. Now we could kill a beef that weighed 300, 400 pounds and you got a quarter of it. You could kill one that weighed 500 pounds and I got a quarter. You didn't get anything extra; you just give us a quarter of beef. There wasn't any money, so it didn't matter.

PAULINE: Yeah, just when it was your turn you killed what you had ready and shared it, and the next man did the same.

DOT: That's right. And a funny thing too, we had a cellar, a dirt cellar; we called it a root cellar.

Oh, that thing must have been as long as this house, and that house was 65 feet long. And we had bins this square, about this deep on each side. And that cellar was dug down into the ground, oh this much. And then the house up a little higher, and then a dirt roof on it.

PAULINE: Dug down four or five foot.

DOT: Yeah, anyway that much, so nothing ever froze. But in the fall when cabbage time, we'd pull up dozens of heads of cabbage, and you pull them up, or dig them out, you get the roots. And you take them and put them in that bin upside down, root up, and cover that up with a heavy straw, lots of it. And then you put in another one. When you got the bin full, and a layer of good thick straw on it, then you put an old burlap sack or something over it and cover it over with a little dirt. Well

anytime in the winter you wanted a head of cabbage, you went out there and dug the dirt off and pulled that back and reached down and pulled out a head of cabbage.

PAULINE: And it would be fresh and good and ---

DOT: Just as good as you --- a lot better than you get out of the stores right now. It would keep, that would keep until spring, plumb up till late spring. It was nice and fresh. And we always had a bin of carrots, rutabagas, potatoes. And we'd go over to John Day and we'd get a load of apples.

Maybe it would be two or three families of us, and we'd have them all stored down there. We lived good, we lived good. It was --- well it was a case of survival. If you didn't have it, well you was up against it, although nobody would ever let you starve. Everybody would donate.

PAULINE: But you had, it was so far to go out for food that you had to stock it up.

DOT: That's right, because in the wintertime the snow on the average would be this deep anyway.

PAULINE: That was two or three feet.

DOT: Yeah. Time you went to Ontario for groceries, we'd go out there in the fall and come in with a load of groceries, flour, and sugar, and beans, everything of that kind. And, well we were just stocked up and we just lived good. You just lived through the winter, that's all you done.

JULIA: Would you girls like a cup of coffee?

PAULINE: Please. I never turn down a cup of coffee. Did your dad have freighters working for him, bringing in goods for his store?

DOT: There was always a bunch of people around there that had four horse teams. And they got a cent a pound for bringing that in, going to Ontario. And down there and back took 14 days.

PAULINE: One cent a pound for everything they ---

DOT: Yeah, that they hauled in.

PAULINE: And it took them 14 days to go to Ontario.

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DOT: And back, yeah.

PAULINE: A lot of people have told me about the bells on the freight wagons, and how you could hear them coming for a long ways.

DOT: There is a set of them there at the, there at Burns.

PAULINE: At the museum?

DOT: Yeah. There is a set of bells there. I forget whose they are.

PAULINE: I don't know whose they are either.

DOT: I saw the name on them anyway. Anyway, somebody I knew, had been with. But he donated them. Well, it was a rough life, but a good life, pretty good life.

PAULINE: What kind of shoes did you wear?

DOT: Shoes? We called them plow buckles.

PAULINE: Plow buckles?

DOT: Cow buckles. They were a square heel, and a rough shoe. They were rough, and they had I think two sets of eyes. And then they had a buckle. And they ... just snapped it over and held it. And then we wore boots; we had boots of a summertime. Every kid, man, had boots. Well cow country, you went a horseback.

PAULINE: If you rode, you needed a heel.

DOT: Yeah, and you had your boots. Well in the wintertime we wore, oh for a long time we got a high buckle overshoe, and they were --- anyway that high, come clear up about here. And that was pretty good. Finally, we got a felt boot that went in that, was that thick.

... (Doorbell) (Introduction of Roy Buchanan and Lilah Olean)

PAULINE: Did you used to live in Harney County too?

LILAH OLEAN: Yes, I lived there, and raised there, and lived there for 19 years.

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ROY BUCHANAN: We were both raised there. Both ... raised on the old Buchanan Ranch out the other side of Burns.

DOT: And I worked for their dad, when they was just little kids. And we was stacking hay, and they'd stand out there and watch us. And I was just a kid too, lads myself. And they'd always stand out there and just hold hands and watch everything going on. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Well, let's get just a little background information on the Buchanan family, and then we can just go ahead and visit about things. When did your parents come to Harney County, and what were their names?

ROY: Well, they, my grandfather's name was William Dean, and they came there from the Grande Ronde Valley, LaGrande.

PAULINE: Do you ever remember him telling why they came, how they happened to hear about Harney County, or why they came?

ROY: Oh yes, I've heard. They had a farm in the Grande Ronde Valley, and he wanted ---

LILAH: Near Island City.

ROY: Near Island City, two miles from Island City where my father, where our father was born. And I don't, I never did find out for sure exactly why they left Grande Ronde Valley and come to Burns, but they come out there, they wanted to come out. And he come out there and took up a homestead on Soldier Creek. And you know where Soldier Creek is?

PAULINE: Yes, uh huh, yeah.

ROY: Well, it's the Jameson place now. That's the old Buchanan place.

PAULINE: That's it.

ROY: The old Buchanan place.

PAULINE: What year did they come?

ROY: They came there --- when was Dad born, 1970?

LILAH: He was born in 19 --- or 1870.

ROY: 1886. He was 16 years old.

PAULINE: 1886. And your dad was --- well so then your grandparents came?

ROY: Yeah, grandparents came.

PAULINE: Well, what were their names?

ROY: That was William D. Buchanan and Ellen, Ellen Jane.

PAULINE: Buchanan. And then your dad's name was William?

ROY: George.

PAULINE: Was George too.

DOT: How did they ever come to be ...

ROY: What was it?

DOT: Well, I was going to say Joe, and I was thinking ---

ROY: Well, he was an uncle of mine.

DOT: Well, he was a brother; he and George were brothers, yeah.

PAULINE: And your dad was 16 years old when he came?

ROY: When they came to Harney County.

PAULINE: Okay, did he marry a local girl then?

ROY: He married Gates there.

LILAH: No, they used to live in LaGrande.

ROY: No, they didn't live in LaGrande, they lived here at ...

PAULINE: And their name was Gates?

ROY: Gates.

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PAULINE: What was her first name?

ROY: My mother?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ROY: Alma.

PAULINE: Alma Gates. And they lived in Burns?

ROY: No, they never did live in Burns. Just in Grande Ronde Valley. And her mother and father was William and Eliza. And the Gates family came there two years before the Buchanan family.

PAULINE: So that would have been 1884. Well, this kind of, you know, ties people in. I try to kind of see how they fit in and find out how everybody is related.

DOT: Well, everybody was neighbors, and everybody was friends.

PAULINE: And I think everybody was related.

ROY: That's probably the way it turned out to be. You know where the Buchanan post office is out the other side of Crane? Well, that was named after ---

PAULINE: Well of course it would have been.

ROY: Yeah, that was the old Buchanan; Joe Buchanan Ranch is where that was on. That's the old ...

LILAH: You see Dad and Uncle Joe they were brothers, and brothers married sisters. His wife Aunt Patty when she was ---

ROY: She was a Gates too.

LILAH: She was a sister of our mother's.

PAULINE: And where Buchanan is, was Joe's Ranch.

ROY: Joe Buchanan and my dad's ranch was on up, four miles and a half up. But you don't pass it going on the highway now; it's to the right.

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LILAH: Well as you get on top of the hill, after you get up the canyon, if you've been over that way.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LILAH: Well then, it's down to your right.

ROY: Turn to the right. Right to the top of the hill.

LILAH: Is where our place was.

ROY: Now turn to the right, and that's what they call the old Buchanan stage station.

LILAH: Is that where we lived when you worked for Dad?

DOT: No, you was on Cow Creek.

ROY: We lived up on ---

DOT: It was on Cow Creek.

LILAH: Oh, Cow Creek.

ROY: On Cow Creek before we ever moved over there.

DOT: Oh.

LILAH: Oh, well I wasn't born yet.

DOT: You was sure there on Cow Creek.

LILAH: No, I never was.

ROY: I was born on the old Jim Mahon Ranch on Cow Creek.

LILAH: And I was born at Uncle Joe's old place down below the schoolhouse.

ROY: You know where the little park above Buchanan, past Buchanan, you go up on the hill, a little park. Well right there was Joe's, used to be Joe Buchanan's ranch. That's where we moved there, and that's where she was born, is right there where that spring is.

PAULINE: Oh, what a beautiful place to have been born.

LILAH: Well the house was moved a little bit, right on the bank of the ...

ROY: The house was moved a little bit. ... And I was born on the old Jim Mahon ranch on Cow Creek.

DOT: How long did George have that?

ROY: About three years, three or four years. Then, you know, Uncle Joe was elected assessor and he moved to Burns, and dad and mother come over to run the ranch there and the stage station.

That's how we got over there. Then when he came back from assessors, dad took up that homestead up there on top. Started a stage station there.

DOT: You know there is one thing about it, which has changed an awful lot, your word was law. You told a guy you'd do something, if you couldn't do it you'd go tell him and you settle it out. But to write all --- waste a lot of paper like they do today, no. No, they were honest. And oh after years when the homesteaders come in and took up Harney Valley, we never locked a house, never. Didn't have to. And if you come along and there wasn't anybody home, and it was noon, and you was hungry, you went in. If you could find anything to cook and eat, you did it. All you done was left your name on the table.

ROY: And washed the dishes.

DOT: Yeah, washed the dishes, be sure you done that.

JULIA: Be sure and wash the dishes.

DOT: No, that's the way the country was run. And after the homesteaders come in, I don't care if you put two locks on your barn, you get up and go out there, ... darn near it, a pair of lines was gone off of your harness, or maybe a set of harness. Yes sir, they'd steal you blind. Well pretty soon everybody was --- well got up to where you had to lock your house. That's the way it was.

PAULINE: Well, what was the stage, do you remember the stage station and what it was like at

Buchanan?

ROY: Oh yes.

PAULINE: Tell us about it.

ROY: Well, it was down in a little valley up there. We raised grain hay, wheat and barley. We had a, what would you call it; it was a two story house.

LILAH: We never knew what it was to ever be alone. We'd never spend an evening or a night alone; there was always someone there.

ROY: See that was a freight stop, all the groceries and every-thing, machinery and everything in the world you used in that country had to come in there by freight team.

DOT: And they had to come through Buchanan.

ROY: They either come from Huntington, Ontario or Vale, one of the two. Well, they didn't come from Vale until the railroad got into Vale. Ontario and Huntington is where most of that was freighted from.

Well, that was a freight stop, because there was 16 miles either direction. It was 16 miles from Drewsey, and 16 miles to Harney. Right halfway between, well everybody stopped.

DOT: Yeah, you made 16 miles, you was ready to stop.

LILAH: You know, there was so many --- well they called them drummers in those days, they didn't call them salesmen, they were always drummers. And they were always some on the stages, it seemed like. And, you know, when they would come Mama did put out a good meal. She always had pie and cake and pudding and fruit and things like that on the table all in one meal. They would say, "We've heard of this place ever since we left Ontario, the Buchanan stage station." They said, "You want to stop there, you'll get a good meal."

ROY: Now here is what they charged for meals in those days. They set a meal ... then. Now the

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stage passengers paid 50 cents for a meal. But if you had a team of horses, or were there traveling with buggy or a freight team or anything, your meal only cost you 35 cents.

DOT: And you got something to eat.

PAULINE: Sounds like you got all you could use.

LILAH: And it set on the table family style.

ROY: And it was 25 cents a head for horse, your horses too.

LILAH: And we'd have so many emigrants.

ROY: If you ever get up ... I'll tell you we had a big barn. We had the biggest barn in the country outside of the Round Barn. And that barn is still standing. So, if you're ever out there ---

PAULINE: I'll look for that.

DOT: If you're around there, you won't have to look for it, you'll see it.

PAULINE: Well, I think I know, I think I've seen it.

ROY: Well, that's the old Buchanan station. But the house burned down.

LILAH: When you get up on top of the hill, there are, wasn't there three stakes on this side of the road, something like that there, on the highway? That's what I went by. And then if you look close, there is a road that turns off of that, but it comes right back ...

ROY: It comes right through ... but you come right back down the other way, until you get on the other road that comes down ...

LILAH: And there is a wire gate there that you can go through and get down there.

ROY: See the --- Jap Temple, you know Temple?

PAULINE: Yes, uh huh.

ROY: Well Jap Temple owns that whole country in there, the Buchanan ... He has all that. Uncle Joe's, well I can tell you the ranches that he owns there. He owns Uncle Joe's, my dad's, Harry ...

Joe ... and Charlie Davis' place, and the other Davis's ... and the George Gates place ... he owns all of it.

DOT: That's quite a spread.

PAULINE: Yes, it is.

DOT: What was he running in there?

ROY: Cattle.

DOT: Cattle. I was wondering whether it was sheep.

PAULINE: What kind of things did the drummers sell?

ROY: Anything that you found in the store. They'd come in there and sell. All your clothing, and there'd be shoe peddlers, and dry goods. ... seven or eight big trunks. When they'd get into Burns up there, they'd rent a room someplace there and put their wares all out just like a store. And then everybody would come and bought ----

JULIA: Hardin, Hardin ---

ROY: Anything, machinery, or anything in the world. They had to have salesmen in there. And most of that stuff come out of Boise.

LILAH: There was a fellow that came through there, you remember him, Farmer Green they called him.

ROY: Oh yeah.

LILAH: Farmer Green, he'd bring his wife. And he was a big fat fellow, and she was a little bitty thing, and she'd come along. And they would travel through there with a buggy and a team. And what was he selling?

ROY: Anything. Anything from buttonholes to teacups. And there was ... Bliss too. You remember Bliss' don't you?

DOT: Yeah.

ROY: Used to travel through the country there, selling, peddling.

DOT: You remember old Cohn that bought hides and ... He come out of Portland here. Cohn and --- I don't know.

PAULINE: That would be K A H N, C O H N?

ROY: It's C O H N.

PAULINE: C O H N.

DOT: K O H N. Well, they come in there and they had two big horses, and just an averaged size, three-eighths wagon, and a 14-foot bed on it.

LILAH: ...

DOT: And we'd, he'd just open that up and if you wanted socks, he'd dig around down there and up he'd come with a sack of socks. And you wanted dresses, anything, overalls, shoes, he had them. And these old big red bandanna handkerchiefs, I don't know whether there is any of them left. These old big red bandanna handkerchiefs.

PAULINE: Oh yeah, big red bandanna handkerchiefs.

DOT: He would have a bunch of them, they were a dime.

PAULINE: Ten cents for a red bandanna handkerchiefs.

DOT: Yeah. And everybody had two or three of them.

PAULINE: I imagine.

DOT: Every buckaroo had one tied around his neck. Well, they were just a ---

JULIA: I had two or three of them red bandanna handkerchiefs, and you know they make the cutest blouses. You just bring them up here, you know, and sew them up here, and down this way, and slip them over your head.

...

PAULINE: Where did you go to school, the Buchanan children?

ROY: Right there where that little park is. There was a schoolhouse right across the road from that.

...

PAULINE: Well, I didn't know that.

ROY: That's where the schoolhouse used --- They called it the Adobe Hills Schoolhouse.

PAULINE: Adobe?

DOT: Doby Hill.

PAULINE: D O B, or A D O B ---

ROY: D O B Y.

PAULINE: Now say that again.

ROY: It should be A D O B E, but they always wrote it D O B Y.

PAULINE: Doby, D O B Y.

ROY: That's where the schoolhouse was. Later that schoolhouse was moved from there down about four miles south of Joe Buchanan's place. And after they moved it they never had school in there. Jess Vickers bought it and moved it back up to the place down there just below Buchanan's, and built onto it and made a house out of it. Yeah, that's the old schoolhouse.

PAULINE: Vickers live in it. There are several cases of that in Harney County. I've found where they have remodeled the schoolhouses. How many children were going to school there?

ROY: I think about nine or ten was the most we ever had. ... I've got a picture that's got nine of us.

LILAH: I know the Davis kids, and Cole, Little Joe, and us.

ROY: This lady that was buried in our cemetery, I don't know, two or three years ago, or something like that. Did you know Catherine Rogers? (This is Claire McGill Luce's mother, but Pauline is

referring to Claire.)

PAULINE: Well, this is the reason I'm here, is because of Catherine Rogers. And if you ---

ROY: Well, she went to school in the same schoolhouse. Well, her place was right there, we knew her well. We went to school with her and her sister, Marjorie.

PAULINE: The reason that I'm doing this is because she remembered her life in Harney County with so much love and, you know, it was really special to her. She gave a grant to the Library.

ROY: Yeah, I know she did.

PAULINE: And to do this. And then when she died, her family set up a memorial fund with this specific purpose in mind, that they hire someone to go out and talk to people and get this down on tape and on paper, the memories of people that actually lived there.

ROY: Well, we knew her just about as well as anybody. We went to school with her about three years.

LILAH: And Marjorie.

ROY: Marjorie and Catherine both.

PAULINE: Well now I didn't realize she had a sister.

LILAH: Oh yeah, Marjorie.

PAULINE: Marjorie.

ROY: Younger sister.

LILAH: She was younger.

DOT: You're learning something every day.

PAULINE: Well yes. I learn something every time I talk to ---

...

PAULINE: Well they stayed with her grandfather, didn't they?

ROY: Yeah, in Harney City.

PAULINE: Well, what was his name?

ROY: Alex, A L E X.

PAULINE: Alex Rogers. Well did he have a cattle spread, or ---

ROY: No, not there. He finally moved back and run that ranch, you remember the old school section there at Harney?

DOT: Yeah.

ROY: He moved back on to that. Was it Fred Haines that got a hold of that?

DOT: Yes.

ROY: Fred Haines got a hold of that. And he went back and run that for him there.

DOT: Yeah.

ROY: Afterwards.

DOT: This Fred Haines that we're talking about, he owned the store and saloon and about everything in Harney.

PAULINE: In Harney, yeah.

LILAH: Everybody ...

ROY: I don't know where the Rogers came from to Harney.

DOT: I don't know either. I don't know where they come from.

ROY: These was his --- let's see they were granddaughters of his. And then there was a, I suppose you've heard of the boy. What was Tuffy's name?

LILAH: Tuffy Rogers, that's all I ...

ROY: I bet you've heard that name.

PAULINE: No, I haven't.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #43 - DOT & JULIA DAVIS, BUCHANAN, OLEAN

ROY: That was his ... Rogers' son.

DOT: He wasn't ... Haines, I want to tell you.

PAULINE: So he would have been ---

ROY: Now Alex Rogers had a sister that came there with him, and her name was ... (clock chimes)
And she married ... Lewis there at Harney.

DOT: And this ... married Pete Demaris.

ROY: Pete Demaris.

PAULINE: Okay, I've heard that name before.

ROY: Now that was all ... Rogers family.

PAULINE: Now let me start and get this straight. Because, you know if I get it straight in my mind
--- there was Alex Rogers. Now he was Claire Rogers grandfather.

ROY: Grandfather. No, he was a grandfather to --- no he was an uncle to ---

LILAH: To who?

ROY: To the Rogers ...

LILAH: No, he was their grandfather.

PAULINE: I'm sure he was their grandfather. And so he had --- Catherine Rogers was his
daughter, and Tuffy Rogers was his son.

LILAH: No, did you say Catherine Rogers was his daughter.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LILAH: She was a granddaughter.

ROY: Granddaughter.

LILAH: Catherine Rogers would be a granddaughter of Alex Rogers.

PAULINE: Was this the same as Claire?

LILAH: Now Claire, is that what you called her, Claire?

PAULINE: Claire.

ROY: That's the one that is buried up here?

PAULINE: Yes.

LILAH: That's the one that, what we know as Catherine.

ROY: She is Catherine Rogers's daughter.

PAULINE: Yes.

ROY: Her name was McGill.

PAULINE: Yes.

LILAH: Oh, well we never knew her.

PAULINE: Yeah, this is Claire McGill.

ROY: Claire McGill.

PAULINE: Catherine Rogers, yeah, okay, now I'm getting it.

LILAH: Oh, I see.

PAULINE: I was thinking when you said Catherine Rogers, it was her, it was Claire's mother. It was Claire McGill that left the money to do this.

LILAH: Now did she die, Claire McGill?

PAULINE: Yes.

ROY: Yeah, she is buried in that Harney ---

PAULINE: Catherine and Tuffy were Alex Rogers's children. Then Claire McGill was Catherine's daughter.

ROY: Was Catherine's daughter.

PAULINE: Okay.

ROY: And her father was Fred McGill.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LILAH: Now you have that, Catherine as we say, Catherine and Marjorie that was their grandfather.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LILAH: Alex Rogers was their grandfather.

PAULINE: Well he would have been --- He would have been Claire's great-grandfather.

ROY: Uh huh, that's right.

LILAH: ...

ROY: They always called him Grandpa, I know.

PAULINE: Well that's interesting. Because I thought he was Claire's grandfather, and he would have been her great-grandfather.

ROY: Her great-grandfather.

PAULINE: Well how long did they live there then? Did they ---

ROY: Oh they lived in that country for a long time.

DOT: A long time, I don't know just ---

ROY: The girls were just little girls when they was going to school there, they both was ---

SIDE B

...

PAULINE: Well now let's get back to Lady Fair, who was she, tell me who she was again, because I ---

ROY: She was a sister to Alex Rogers.

PAULINE: She was a sister. Lady Fair, isn't that romantic. And she married Pete Demaris.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #43 - DOT & JULIA DAVIS, BUCHANAN, OLEAN

ROY: Pete Demaris. She had a daughter by her first husband, but she didn't have a husband when she first came to the country though. They was here, but she didn't have a husband. She had this one daughter, what's her name?

LILAH: Nellie.

ROY: Nellie Fair. And she married, the girl married, Sylva Lewis there.

PAULINE: Lady Fair's daughter.

ROY: Uh huh. Lady Fair's daughter. But Sylva never lived very long after they were married.

And he died there and she came to Portland. And she came to Portland, and I've seen her several times.

... (Unrelated conversation)

PAULINE: Well, I think you got me enough, thoroughly confused there. That will keep me going for a while.

ROY: And we're kind of a mixed-up bunch.

PAULINE: Well, and when I talked to Ida Cross and Alvon Baker they mentioned Demarises.

They are related some way to the Demaris family. I don't know just; I haven't figured out just how yet.

ROY: Well, you knew Jess Vickers.

PAULINE: Yeah.

ROY: His first wife was a Demaris, Mary Demaris. Cal Demaris was her father.

PAULINE: Well, that's interesting. I hadn't talked to anyone, really there --- well just one other person that actually knew Catherine Rogers. And of course, where the project is because of her I was really hoping to find out.

ROY: Well even a little bit more history on Catherine. Catherine married Fred McGill, they

separated, and he married Maisie Hill.

PAULINE: Yeah, I knew that.

LILAH: Well, I thought you said Claire's name was McGill.

PAULINE: It is.

ROY: Catherine married Fred McGill first and they had this, Claire.

PAULINE: And Claire was born down at Andrews.

LILAH: Oh, her name was McGill.

PAULINE: And her name was McGill.

LILAH: Oh, I thought you meant she married a McGill.

ROY: And then they separated, and he married Maisie Hill. That's ... the one that got killed in ...

PAULINE: Yeah, and Maisie Osborn, and they have a son. I can't remember his first name, but Maisie had a son named McGill.

... (Discussion of Maisie Hill Osborn's death and Orlin Osborn's death.)

PAULINE: Well after you had been out riding racehorses for seven years, then you came back to Burns?

DOT: Yes. That's where I got caught.

PAULINE: And you caught him.

DOT: That's where I got the ball and chain.

PAULINE: Were you married in Burns?

DOT: Yes.

PAULINE: Where?

DOT: Right there near where the Times-Herald is printed, that little brick house. I don't know whether they've changed it or anything since we've been there.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #43 - DOT & JULIA DAVIS, BUCHANAN, OLEAN

LILAH: That brick house where the Times-Herald was printed was my grandfather's house.

PAULINE: Now that is where it is now?

LILAH: Yes.

PAULINE: This is right across from the post office?

LILAH: Yes, that's right. And my grandfather owned that and Uncle Julian ran a ... he had the first printing press, the newspaper. That's been a long time ago. Grandma and Grandpa Byrd lived there.

DOT: We've only been married 60 years.

PAULINE: Oh my, that's not long at all.

DOT: No, no.

JULIA: Haven't hardly got broken in yet.

PAULINE: No.

DOT: I've been broke several times.

PAULINE: Just newlyweds. Did you have a special dress for your wedding? A special wedding dress?

DOT: I don't think she had a coat. No, she had a jacket suit.

JULIA: A linen, a linen suit. It was warm weather. It was a cream colored. And we married up at Grandma's house. See Uncle Julian --- my family ... You get started on the Byrds, you'll never will get through.

DOT: No, don't start that!

JULIA: But Uncle Julian, my mother's brother, had the first newspaper and printing press.

PAULINE: I spent a lot of time with Julian.

JULIA: Oh did you?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #43 - DOT & JULIA DAVIS, BUCHANAN, OLEAN

PAULINE: Yeah. He told me lots of things.

JULIA: Oh, I'll bet he did all right.

PAULINE: I wish he had written a book. He's the one that should, to put this down. All he'd had to do, he knew everything about everybody, and who everybody was.

DOT: Well, he lived right there right on the start of it, you might say, started to come out. Lived right in the middle of it, you're bound to know it.

PAULINE: Did you go to school then at that schoolhouse up on the hill?

JULIA: Oh yes.

PAULINE: Do you remember anything about a hotel in Burns that had a parrot hanging on the porch?

JULIA: Yes.

PAULINE: Tell me about the parrot.

JULIA: It was just; it was that old French Hotel.

PAULINE: The French Hotel.

JULIA: The old French Hotel, yeah. Oh, that parrot was the sassiest thing there ever was, you know. He just call you all kinds of names if you were trying to go right straight by him. If you stopped to talk to him for a minute or two, why he was happy. But if you tried to get by him, why he called you everything in the world.

ROY: Do you know where the French Hotel was located?

PAULINE: Yeah, it was approximately where the Arrowhead Hotel is now.

ROY: Yeah.

JULIA: I suppose everybody ... was teaching him all that.

DOT: I was on the volunteer fire department when the French Hotel and all that burnt down.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #43 - DOT & JULIA DAVIS, BUCHANAN, OLEAN

PAULINE: Oh, well tell me about that.

JULIA: Boy oh boy.

DOT: Well Bob McKinnon run the livery stable, and the French Hotel there, then the alley, and then facing the other way was the livery stable. And it was about, it must have been around 9 o'clock, just about 9 or 10 o'clock, and somebody hit that fire bell. Well, I was up. We hadn't went to bed yet. I was hauling wood; I had two wagons and was hauling cordwood out of the hills. And I had unloaded my outfit. I lived right down, about four blocks. Well, you go for the fire station. Well, we got to the fire station and got out our equipment, and we had a 14-way engine.

PAULINE: 14-way engine?

DOT: Engine. And it had valves on it, must have been eight of them, seven or eight of them.

JULIA: Well, we put four men on each corner.

DOT: You know how many could get on there?

ROY: Oh, about a dozen.

DOT: Dozen? Twenty-two on that arm! You could work 11 men on a side. And we could shoot water from here, down to, right over this house here, on to the next house on the next block.

ROY: Do you remember the wells that used to be in the middle of the street on every intersection?

PAULINE: No.

DOT: What did they do with them?

ROY: They just filled them up and paved over them.

PAULINE: I didn't even know that there were wells on every ---

ROY: Every intersection. In the middle of every intersection there was a well.

JULIA: Now that's the way they fought fires.

DOT: And we had a hose that must have been a six-inch hose and it was, you know, wire lined so it

wouldn't collapse. And we'd run up and put it into the well, and start that pump, that hand pump.

Well finally we advanced and we got this 14 way engine, and of course it was a good deal the same way, on the dropping our hose. But it was gasoline, and it had terrific power. You could shoot shingles right off the house with it, stand out there and just knock them off.

PAULINE: Well, I never gave it a thought as to where they got the water. I just supposed they filled it in the tankers and carried it around.

DOT: No, no.

ROY: No, there was a well in every intersection. In fact, there was six of them.

JULIA: Well, that, and there was a well in everybody's back yard.

PAULINE: Well, I knew that.

DOT: Well now I bet that, there ought to be, there should be a government survey.

PAULINE: Oh, I'm sure they're listed.

DOT: Well, it ought to be right --- if I remember right it was pretty awful close out, it is in the middle of the street, it used to be the old Harney County Bank, Brown Bank. And the elevation there is 4100 feet ... oh this big around. But they wouldn't cover that up.

PAULINE: No, I think that's there.

DOT: It must be because that's government survey. But I just wondered about that.

PAULINE: I'll look.

DOT: And on these wells, that used to be a sad thing for us. We'd be working, all of us, and we'd just suck the bottom of the well out and just ---

ROY: Run dry, have to change wells.

DOT: Have to change wells. Go down to the next one.

PAULINE: They probably weren't very deep wells.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #43 - DOT & JULIA DAVIS, BUCHANAN, OLEAN

DOT: Well, I think they was 40 some feet. In times of the year the water was up close to the top, you didn't ever pump them dry. But along late in the fall, you see, the water level went down and we'd pump them dry then.

PAULINE: What year was it now, I've forgotten, that the French Hotel burned? Was it 1914, is that right, or was it earlier?

ROY: No, I think it was later.

JULIA: It was later than that.

DOT: About '16.

ROY: About '16 I think.

DOT: About '16, because when the barn started, it was dry, it was in August I believe when it burned down. And it was just as dry as a powder house, everything was. Well, boy them flames went in the air 200 or 300 feet, and they make a little bit of wind. And it laid over, and boy when it laid over it hit that French Hotel, and it was a great big barn thing. I guess it burned down in 10 minutes, or 15 minutes.

PAULINE: Oh wow, that's fast. I've heard people say that they were just afraid that the whole town was going to go.

DOT: Then the wind changed and went east, thank God for that. If it had went on across Main Street there it would have taken the whole town, if that wind had of stayed down. I saw one thing there in the fire that always, I guess, fascinated me, I don't know. But down there at Voegtly's, the Voegtly building, he had a warehouse right to the side of the old brick store there, and it had roofing.

ROY: Rolled roofing.

DOT: Rolled roofing.

JULIA: And there was tons of that in there.

DOT: And that thing got on fire, of course, someway. I'm telling you, hot! We couldn't get up hardly close enough to shoot water to it, let alone --- And we turned the water, I was on the number one hose, I and Frank Bennett. And those nozzles, they've got a, they're about this long, back about here, there is a curved handle, brass, and you run up, and you shove your arm down through that. There is a hole on each side, and there's a handle to hold. And when they turned that water on, be darned sure your feet's on the ground and set, because ... it will pull; it will knock you to that back door.

JULIAN: And ... just tickled to death to get behind some old lady that couldn't hardly walk ...

DOT: But this roof I was telling about, it was just like a furnace, it was a roaring. And Frank and I was the first ones up with the hose, and we turned the hose, that water on to that. We was way back on the street because we was pretty well educated, we knew that could break out. And when the roof fell in, the minute we turned the water on it, it just collapsed. And when that collapsed, it broke apart. And every little bit, one of those rolls, they was that big around, was just a cannon ball. Up they'd go, on fire, way over 200 or 300 yards. And where the old Sweek barn used to be down there, one of them hit there. And, what was his name, anyway a guy lived there, he was out there, he was trying to protect himself. He wasn't fighting the fire; he was out there for that reason, to take care of his own. And this thing, he lived right across from the Sweek barn, and it hit just about half way between the barn and him. Well, if that barn went up it would take Bart Silers, it would take his home out because it was too close together, and the barn was big and a shell.

Well, them things kept, every little bit, exploding and away they'd go, one of them. And you'd never know what. I said to Frank, I said, "God, Frank, I hope they don't get one pointed at us." I said, "What'll we do?" And he said, "Oh, we'll just drop our hose and run." If ever one come

out of there, they'd be there before you got started.

Used to be a fellow there, Charlie Johnson, you know, old Broady Johnson.

PAULINE: I've heard the name.

DOT: He run the saloon over there. Well, when there was a fire, old Broady would --- he was a great big fellow, and a big front on him. And here he'd come, and he had a basket on his arm, big basket, and it'd be oh, 12, 15 quarts of liquor. Liquor was nothing in those days, come in quart bottles. I can remember the first fifth I ever saw. I can remember when they cut them to a fifth. And he would come around and take a drink, take your pick. All kinds, all different, good liquor, all of it.

Well finally they, this one particular time, the Locher Hall, you've heard that?

PAULINE: Yeah.

DOT: When that burned down, it was just another shell. They were all shells, you know, that pine lumber and then dry. Well, we was a fighting that for god sake, and it started about 11 o'clock at night, and this was about four in the morning. We was just, all we was trying to do was to keep it from taking the rest of the town. And Bob Davies [Davey] --- Frank Davies [Davey] run the newspaper, he had a little newspaper there. And Bob was his son, and he was a great big ruffian, and he and I was on the hose. Frank was out catting around or something, and we was standing there and there was a telephone pole, and it was on fire. Well, we turned the water on it, and put it out. Be out, but you know, it was still a burning. Well, something happened and I said, "Look at that thing, Bob." We was standing there and we looked up, and the cross arm on that, and it come up there. Now, I don't believe we were drunk, it dazed us.

JULIA: You weren't drunk that time.

DOT: That cross arm, no use --- no, fighting fires, you don't get drunk. But that thing come down

right at our ... and a pole between us.

PAULINE: Now that's close.

DOT: It was too close.

PAULINE: That's too close.

DOT: And I said to Bob, I said, "Well Bob, too late now, but we shouldn't have backed up." Well, they'd had to back up six or eight feet to be past the end of the pole. And we both stood right there and saw it come, and it cut right square between us and the cross arm right at our feet.

PAULINE: Did you holler for them to pass the basket?

DOT: I believe old Bob, he was a foul-mouthed guy, and I believe he did holler, "Where's Broady?"

... (Unrelated conversation)

PAULINE: The Buchanan orchestra. Who else played with you?

ROY: Well, my wife. I played the accordion, my wife played the piano, our oldest son played the drums. Hibbard, what's his given name, you tell me his given name. I always called him Hib, and he played the guitar. And they were all Grange dances, the Grange sponsored the dances. Arthur Hahn during all that time was the master of the Grange, and I knew all those people, Huggards, and Wells, and all of those. ... had about four different husbands during that time.

PAULINE: Yeah, I knew that she had been married several times.

ROY: I can't remember all the names.

PAULINE: Well, who was your wife?

ROY: Laura Thornburg.

PAULINE: Laura Thornburg. Now there is a question I've been asking, I ask people why they came to Harney County, but I also ask them why they left. Why did you leave?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #43 - DOT & JULIA DAVIS, BUCHANAN, OLEAN

ROY: I left there mainly on account of my wife's health.

PAULINE: About what date did you leave?

ROY: Well, I can tell you exactly. ... 1941.

PAULINE: And you came down to Portland?

ROY: I brought her to the hospital in Portland at that time. ... she was in the hospital. And at that time we owned the Burns Bottling Works. I really started that.

PAULINE: The Burns Bonding Works?

DOT: Bottling.

PAULINE: Bottling, oh. Oh, Coca Cola.

ROY: I was the one that built it. ...

PAULINE: When did you start that, what date did you start it?

ROY: 1936, July 1936. There was a fellow by the name of Biehl, he had a little hand plant there, bottling by hand.

PAULINE: Neil?

ROY: Yeah, Arthur Biehl.

PAULINE: Biehl.

ROY: B I E H L. And I bought the place from him, renovated it, put in machinery, and started the Burns Bottling Plant.

PAULINE: Well, that's interesting. And then why did you (Dot) leave? You up and left in about 19 ---

DOT: '18.

PAULINE: 1918. How come?

DOT: Well, went to Yakima. I was drafted in the army, and I was shearing sheep, I stopped in

Yakima. And well, we got up to November, that year, and I got --- Austin Goodman was sheriff. They were the guys that sent your notices, and telegraphs. I think I got about five or six different telegraphs. Austin and I, I was deputy sheriff under Austin, I was field deputy. And he'd send me a telegram and say be in at Fort, up here at the Fort on a certain date. Well before --- let me put up a tray.

PAULINE: Oh, this is all right.

... (Unrelated conversation)

PAULINE: Well then did you go into the service, or did they get the war over before ---

DOT: No, the last 500,000 men that was drafted, I was in that draft. Well I'd get notice to appear. Well, oh three days or something, and the next morning or next day I'd get one, sit tight till further notice. Well, we all knew it was coming. Well, I never made it.

PAULINE: So, you went up to Yakima. Did you live up there then for a while?

DOT: Lived there 8 years, yeah. It was a good country, good place. We liked it, so I just stayed there.

PAULINE: You just stayed.

DOT: Well ---

... (Unrelated conversation)

DOT: So, we was up there and I had a heart attack, and I was only 37.

PAULINE: Well, that's young.

DOT: And the doctor told me finally, he said, "Well there is one thing you have got to do, and that's get to Tacoma or on the ocean right now. The lowest temperature you can get." Well, we went to Tacoma, we was up there 8 years.

JULIA: I liked Tacoma awful well.

DOT: I didn't.

PAULINE: You didn't.

DOT: Then the hard times come on, and the banks closed. And I was running a big market for a fellow, and living on the fat of the land, getting good wages, and everything was fine. And when that crash come in the market, well you couldn't buy a job, you couldn't get a job.

I had \$4,000 in endowment, \$16,000 in endowment and they was dried up. Almost, oh just another year or two on them. So, we just set, and hoping something would break and get started. We had \$120 left. I said to Mom, I said, "Well Mom, I'm going back on my old stomping ground." I'd been here in Portland in 1907, a long time. I said, "We'll break this even, in two." I said, "I'll take the \$100, you take the \$20." She had a job and I was going out alone. So, I come down here and got a beer on Greeley Avenue. There was a guy there, and he had a little old market. Well, I'm not the smartest guy in the meat business, but there is a lot I think I know. I knew there wasn't any money to be made there, but I was sure I could eat. You know, that's the big end of it, ... to eat. Well, I bought the market for \$400, so you know it was just a pretty small market in a store.

I didn't have \$400. And the guy said, "Well, if you can dig up \$200," he said, "I'll turn the market over, then \$25 a month." Well, I sat down and I wrote Ellis Bennett, Darrell Howser, ---

ROY: Oh god.

PAULINE: Everybody ---

DOT: And here's what I said. "I need the money; I've got to have it. If you've got \$10 you can get along without, send it. If you've got a \$100 you can get along without, send that." I think I got \$400, \$500. I got enough I could buy the market and get it started. Well, I set there just a year to the day.

And a guy went broke over here on Williams Avenue. And I could see there was a lot of

business there. There was five markets, but I always figured I could get my share. So, by golly he moved out Friday, I moved in Saturday. Monday morning, I'll never forget, I took in \$68 Monday, which was in them days a lot of money. That was a good day. And that is the only market I think I ever bought in my life that from the first day I started up, it was a good one. We were there 10 years. And the war comes on, and just a while before the war I sold the market. I think I sold it for either \$1,600 or \$2,600, and the equipment. And I rented a market out at Multnomah, and it was a good one, it was a good one.

PAULINE: So, you've been a grocery man all your life then?

DOT: Meat.

PAULINE: Meat.

DOT: Yeah, and groceries.

ROY: Well, there's something that you didn't tell her.

DOT: Huh?

ROY: There is something that you didn't tell her, I noticed that ...

DOT: What?

ROY: It's when you got married, they took off for Portland, and he went down here to go to a barber college.

PAULINE: Well, no, he didn't tell me.

DOT: Yeah, that's what I done.

JULIA: His brother was a barber. ...

ROY: He got to be a barber, and went to work, didn't like the barbering and quit.

PAULINE: Did you barber in Burns then for a while?

DOT: A year.

ROY: Oh, not very much.

DOT: About a year, I think. I'll tell you what I didn't like about it. Old Fred Lunaburg, Jim Dalton, all them old timers in business around there, and on Saturday they always got shaved or needed a haircut or something. Walk back and forth --- we'd close at 6 o'clock, on Saturday we closed at nine. Walked back and forth, up and back, and around, all day long, not doing a thing, none of them. Just about fifteen minutes to nine, we had a bench about as long as from there, there'd be all that bunch. We'd get out of there at 11 o'clock. Close at nine and get out at eleven. Two hours ---

PAULINE: Well, I've heard other people tell about the barbershop on Saturday night was a real swinging place. Everybody, the buckaroos were taking baths in the bathhouse out back and getting a shave and a haircut.

DOT: And you know what, we had a bathhouse. And we had a tank, and that tank was oh as high as that ... over there. I forget how many gallons; hold a lot of water though. Had a little heater with coils in it, and throw in --- it was where you could shut it up to keep the heat out of the shop if you didn't want it in. And you put about three or four pieces of coal in it, or hardwood, mahogany wood we used there. And that's the way we heated the water. Well, we always had lots of hot water, plenty of it. The only thing it was my job to pump that damn tank full all the time. Outside of working on them ---

PAULINE: Keep the tank full.

DOT: That ---

ROY: And clean up the bathtub.

DOT: Yeah. Every time a guy took a bath, run in and clean up the bathtub. You know how you come by all those good jobs? Have a brother or have relation that's the boss.

PAULINE: That's the way to do it.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #43 - DOT & JULIA DAVIS, BUCHANAN, OLEAN

DOT: And one day Charlie, what was that guy's name that got the snake bite down there? Charlie -- worked for Ira there. Anyway, I worked on the third chair.

ROY: I know who you mean, but I can't ---

DOT: Ira on the first, and this guy on the second. This guy and I were getting the same amount of money, only I was running the damn pump. And I didn't like it! I was just too ---

PAULINE: So, you changed jobs?

DOT: I had been down here, and I'd worked at the butcher business before. And George Young, Clarence Young's dad, right down the street ---

PAULINE: He had a butcher shop, didn't he?

DOT: He had a butcher shop. And I went, the day I quit, it was in January, it was snowing. And I was standing there looking out the window, and just nerved up. You carried your, all of your razors, and always had four or five razors, your comb, and clippers, and all that junk. I've got the case downstairs yet, that same darn case. And I set it up right in front of you, a little stand there, and I set it up on there. And I --- no I set it back on the bench and walked up ... stuff on little towels, they're all scattered out. ... How disgusted I was about that, and pretty soon Ira said, "Are you crazy?" And I said, "Yes, I've been crazy ever since the day I went to work here." I said, "That's the biggest insanity I ever had." I said, "I really quit."

Well, I went down the street, it was about 11 o'clock. And old George was standing in the, just inside, and he stepped out. He could just read it, me carrying that little satchel, I'd quit.

"Where you going?" I said, "I'm going home." "You want a job?" Well, I said, "Well I wouldn't walk around one." I said, "I'd take it." He said, "Okay, go home and eat your dinner, come back and go to work." So, I was out of work about 15 or 20 minutes.

PAULINE: Well, that's pretty good.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #43 - DOT & JULIA DAVIS, BUCHANAN, OLEAN

DOT: I went back and I worked for George there. Oh, I guess must have been the next summer sometime, then I went to work for Butch Hansen, Al Hansen's dad. He, I worked for him ---

... (Unrelated conversation)

DOT: I don't know how long I did work for Butch, but I worked for him a long time there. I worked in the slaughterhouse. ... I was pretty lucky. The meat we used --- \$90 a month.

PAULINE: That's not work. For those days that was good wages.

DOT: When everybody else was getting \$35.

PAULINE: Yeah, you bet.

DOT: I was ---

(END OF TAPE)

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