

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #444 – Tape 1 – Side A, Tape 2 – Side A, Tape 3 – Side A,

Tape 4 – Sides A & B

Subject: Wayne Johnson

Place: Hines, Oregon

Date: May 7, 2006

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen, and I'm interviewing Wayne Johnson at his home in Hines on May 7, 2006. And this is a dual-purpose interview. Wayne is going to be the Pioneer President for the Harney Pioneer Day in June, and we're going to talk today, and also do this as an interview for the Oral History Project at the library. And you understand that this tape then will be on file at the library for other people to read the transcript and use it for research and history. So were you born in Harney County Wayne?

WAYNE JOHNSON: No, no, I was born in Omaha, Nebraska.

PAULINE: So when did you come to Harney County?

WAYNE: That was in, probably '34, 1934.

PAULINE: Did you come with your parents?

WAYNE: Yeah. Well yes we come to Idaho first, and then we come on up here. My folks, they went to work at the Alvord Ranch. And I didn't come up until '35, because I had to stay in school in Payette. The school was out, and then I come up for the summer.

PAULINE: And who were your parents?

WAYNE: Oscar Johnson and Josephine Johnson, or well Josephine Armstrong she was then. My dad was a full-blooded Swede.

PAULINE: And his name was Oscar?

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Did he spell is O S C A R ?

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh.

PAULINE: And your mother was Josephine Armstrong?

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Did they call her Josie?

WAYNE: Josie.

PAULILNE: Josie. So did you have brothers and sisters?

WAYNE: Yes.

PAULINE: Were they older than you?

WAYNE: Yeah. I had two that passed away, a girl Berniece. My oldest sister, she, Berniece Johnson, she passed away at age 16 in 1921. And then I had a brother that died at birth. But I don't know, I don't have no memory of the dates of that. And then my sister, no my brother Russell, he died in 1908. And then my sister she passed away in 1913.

PAULINE: What was her name?

WAYNE: Dorothy Carson, Dorothy Johnson Carson, of course Johnson Carson.

PAULINE: Okay she was born in 1913?

WAYNE: Yeah. No, let's see --- September --- she died in 19 --- yeah was borned then, and she died in 1996.

PAULINE: Okay. And your brother Russell was born in 1908?

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: And then he died in ---

WAYNE: 1994.

PAULINE: 1994. Okay. Well I know Dorothy lived here, and I knew Dorothy. But Russell, did he stay in Harney County?

WAYNE: No, no he never got up here at all. He was at Payette with us, and his wife didn't like this, she couldn't leave her dad. So she went back, they went back to Nebraska. What happened during the early '30's when the drought come that --- We come away from there because there wasn't nothing left out there, with the farmers, and we was blowed out!

PAULINE: So when were you born?

WAYNE: February 13, 1922.

PAULINE: And then you --- so you were about 12 when you came to Harney County?

WAYNE: No, I was in --- '36.

PAULINE: About 14.

WAYNE: I was 10.

PAULINE: You were 10 --- well I can't do, add either.

WAYNE: I've got a picture here --- here is 1935 at the Alvord Ranch.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: See that big boy with a cowboy hat?

PAULINE: You were 13 in 1935.

WAYNE: What is that?

PAULINE: Yeah, that says age 13, 1935.

WAYNE: Well thirty --- who wrote that on there? Rose wrote that on there.

PAULINE: Well that sounds about right if you were born in 1922.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: And if you were born in 1922, and that was taken in 1935, you would have been 13. Yeah. What was the name of your horse?

WAYNE: Jim.

PAULINE: Jim.

WAYNE: Yeah. That was about the smallest --- see Dad put sacks in my stirrups to --- he couldn't get them up, tight enough. That old horse was, I don't know, he is 27 years old now. He was the only gentle horse they had there I could ride. After that summer they give me a, before summer was over they give me another horse called Goldy. But I didn't have a saddle then. I don't know what happened to that saddle, had to ride him bareback. And we were working cattle, and boy I had a heck of time hanging on to him, because he was a pretty good cattle horse, you know. But after that I got, they got the saddle back for me, so I done pretty good.

PAULINE: What do you remember about the Alvord Ranch?

WAYNE: Well ---

PAULINE: What was it like to live there?

WAYNE: Oh, it was a wonderful place. There was creeks running, and they had an old flume coming off the hill, and it run down through the milk house, and man, the frogs and everything else ... It was a shady place, you know, it was cool in the summer there. But the old buildings is pretty old. And the deer, man, the deer and quail and stuff was around there. Just oodles of them. You'd go down the field and you just pretty near have to push the deer out of the road because there was lots of willows around, you know, the deer stayed in there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: Hell, I was --- it was really enjoyable. There was quite a few men there, and there was --- I got to go buckarooing quite a bit because Ted Carson he was, finally he wound up being my brother-in-law. So I got around, I knew that ranch pretty well. And of course when I wasn't doing that I was, anybody come around, I knew what they was wanting, and what they was going to do before they did, I think. I was a pretty important person around there, heck 13 years old, big hat and --- But yeah, it was a nice place.

Then they contracted the hay out, and then haying. I used to go down and watch the haying. Mustang Smith, he done the haying down there. He had them little old mustang horses that come off the desert, and it took three of them to pull them mowing machines. And they'd hook three of them up to the mowing machine, and two used to just pull it, you know. And they would have to wrestle them old ponies around. They wasn't broke, they'd just bring them in and hook them up and go with them, you know. Man, there was, that was fun to watch because they'd have them horses down and everything else.

PAULINE: So these were, were these wild horses that he rounded up and brought in?

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: And then he put them on the hay crew, the hay machine to break them.

WAYNE: Yeah. He generally put one in with teams that had been worked, you know. But he was a wild man I'll tell you. That's why they called him Mustang.

PAULINE: Yeah. Now was that a Cactus Smyth, S M Y T H, or was that S M I T H ? Mustang Smith.

WAYNE: It was S M I T H.

PAULINE: So he wasn't related to the, to Cactus and those ---

WAYNE: No. But he had two or three kids, Ervine and Bud and --- there is another one, but I can't think of the name right now.

PAULINE: Well this Mustang Smith is a new name to me. I hadn't heard that, about this fellow.

WAYNE: He lived out by Denio. Yeah.

PAULINE: And he contracted to do haying?

WAYNE: Yeah, they contracted the haying out there to, at the Alvord, McFarland when they owned it, or rented it. And of course Warren McLain he worked in there too one summer. But Mustang was, he seemed to get the job done. But Warren he hit kind of a bad year, he kind of, he didn't make too much money that year, it rained quite a bit. But old Smith he done all right, I guess.

PAULINE: So who owned the Alvord Ranch at that time?

WAYNE: A fellow by the name of, oh I can't --- but anyway McFarland and Gus Davis had it rented. Oh I know that fellow's name just as ---

PAULINE: Well it will come to you, maybe in a minute.

WAYNE: Yeah. But then Gus and McFarland kind of got to, mixed up in their business, and so McFarland bought Gus Davis out. And he kept the ranch on for years after. Oh, let's see, I know that name just as well as ---

PAULINE: It will come; we'll get it later.

WAYNE: Yeah, McFarland kept it running until Pogue bought it. And that's when we had to leave. Well that's when --- I was back and forth from the Roaring Springs to the Alvord. But in the last part, when Alvord did sell out, and Pogue bought it, I helped him move the cattle out of there, and he went into rodeos. And Rankin Crow and Cactus Smyth and I and Red Bursell, we had --- oh we had about 100, what did we have, 125 --- We had about 200 of them big steers that we had to, that they had in the feedlots there. We took them into Huntington and then kept them there until about the 1st of June and then they sent them on in to Long Valley for --- we put them in pastures.

PAULINE: You drove them then from the Alvord?

WAYNE: Yeah they drove them into Crane and loaded them on a train there at Crane and then we shipped them to Huntington and we took them off the train there and then drove them up ---

PAULINE: To Brogan or Long Valley?

WAYNE: No, we went --- it was just about --- it was Kathleen Kibitz (sp.?) place. Probably 8 miles between Brogan and Huntington.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: And we stayed there until the 1st of June, and then we put them in pastures up and down in Long Valley, and shipped them into there. Of course then --- that was the end of our --- Ted was through there, he was the boss down there, and I was working with

him. And so they come back up here to Burns. And so then they wanted me out, get out to the feedlot there at Payette and clean the feedlots out because there was no cattle in there. So I had a Cat there and I pushed all the manure and stuff into the Payette River. Then I'd go back out to the river and bring good gravel back up, put gravel ---

ROSE JOHNSON: In the feedlots.

WAYNE: Feedlots, which they don't do today.

PAULINE: They wouldn't let you do that today. No they wouldn't.

WAYNE: But anyway ---

PAULINE: Probably didn't hurt anything.

WAYNE: No.

PAULINE: But they wouldn't let you do it today.

WAYNE: And I got that, when I got that done then they started coming in with the cattle. So I helped them, they bought cattle and had to weigh them and brand them and stuff, and vaccinate them, and got that pretty well done. And then they were short of help then for feeders, they didn't have any feeders, so they wanted me to stay and help with feed. And so I stayed there in a hotel. It was the first of the year, and I said, "Well," --- oh that fog come in there, cold, miserable, you know. I said, "That's enough of this, I want to come back to Harney County."

PAULINE: That was over on the Snake River.

WAYNE: Yeah. Oh, right on the river.

PAULINE: Right on the river.

WAYNE: Yeah. And I didn't like that. So I come back to Harney County, and Jed and Dorothy had Del's place, ... Hayes place rented there at Lawen and so they was needing

a place to stay. And so they was going to need that, when the haying come, they need their house then. So he said, “Well the Lawen Store is for sale. Why don’t you go in with me and we’ll buy that?” So I did. So I took a third interest, so we bought this. So that’s how come I got into the store business.

PAULINE: About what year was that, that you bought the Lawen Store?

WAYNE: Boy I don’t know, I don’t remember that. But, let’s see I can remember when they sold the Alvord ---

PAULINE: Do you remember who you bought it from? Who had it?

WAYNE: Yeah, Jim Bamberry.

PAULINE: Jim Bamberry had it before. Okay.

WAYNE: Yeah, and Margaret Bamberry, his mother.

PAULINE: Yeah, I should have known that. But that really was a little before my time. I was pretty little yet, at that time.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: No, you were there from the time that I remember.

WAYNE: But see, during this time --- this is --- I missed the time that we --- when the Alvord --- had to come in to Crane to stay there for school too.

PAULINE: Well I was going to ask you about your school days. So you went to school in Crane?

WAYNE: Yeah, I was in the 7th and 8th grades. Mother had to move in there with me. Let’s see, my dad stayed with the Alvord then, and Mother and I and Dorothy come to Crane; and she worked in the Denman Hotel, she cooked there. So then in, when I was in the 7th year of school --- let’s see, I graduated in ’41, and in ’42 we could figure that back

about when I was --- It would probably be about what time it was when I was in the 7th grade, that's when I --- And in the 8th grade she got a job as a postmaster over at, there at H & R Dunlap, they had the mail. So Floyd Presley was running the store then and so they needed somebody to stock shelves. And they didn't have no great big business, but you had somebody maybe, somebody to stock shelves and sweep, and empty trash. So I was in 8th grade so they give me 50 cents, a dollar a day. I worked before school and after school. I worked all through the rest of my 8th grade. And then come spring my folks went out to --- well two months before school was out Joe Fine was out a cook and help out there, so he come into Crane, he got me in the dormitory and I was in the 8th grade. And my mother and my dad, he come in, and they all went out to --- him and her went out to Roaring Springs. And of course then Dorothy and I stayed there and we worked that summer in the store, he give me a raise to sixty dollars a month.

PAULINE: Wow.

WAYNE: So, but when that, the end of that summer I worked for awhile, I think, after school, but it was pretty hard for me to try to keep up with things, so I quit working in the store. And the next summer I went back out to the ranch, I wasn't going to stay in that store through that summer, the next summer, you know. So that is when I went to Roaring Springs, when I was, well I was probably 14, I suppose.

PAULINE: What did, what did Floyd Presley call his store?

WAYNE: The Crane Mercantile.

PAULINE: The Crane Mercantile.

WAYNE: Uh huh. Well at first, let's see, yeah, that's what it was. It was H & R Dunlap that had it first. And then Floyd bought it, they hadn't been making no money, you

know, things was --- the roads were getting better and going to Burns and stuff. And so then Floyd bought it from H & R Dunlap and they called it the Crane Mercantile then.

PAULINE: Well Crane was, had quite a little bit of activity there. There was a theater there, wasn't there?

WAYNE Yeah, there was a garage and a theater and, I've got a picture here of the old garage when it burned, I think. It might be with some other pictures. Yeah, I've got a picture of the garage when it burnt, you remember? Or ---

PAULINE: No, I don't remember. It was already burned when I first knew.

WAYNE: Yeah, I've got a picture of it, it burned. I should get --- they're in that old truck out there. And I should have, probably got out there, and tried to find them. But this here is the only pictures I've got of, well I've got other pictures of --- there is the Alvord when I was --- about the time they sold out. There is a picture of Roaring Springs when I first went there.

PAULINE: Oh yeah, the trees aren't very tall at all.

WAYNE: No. Then they put in the lawn the first year. And they had them old push lawn mower, with reels on, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: The grass got too high and they had to bring a team of horses in there and cut it. (Looking at pictures.) I've got a picture of it, shows here. And yeah, here is, yeah Joe Fine was cutting the grass there.

PAULINE: Oh yeah.

WAYNE: That's how high it got. And that's the lawn that was --- when they was putting it in. So they had this old, this lawn mower, and ... and you couldn't hardly push it, you know. It was above the, what the sickle bar mowers cut, the ... mowers.

PAULINE: Right.

WAYNE: So I put a rope on the mower and I'd pull and he'd push. And that's the way we cut that lawn.

PAULINE: Oh, my gosh.

WAYNE: I wasn't smart enough to go get my horse and have him pull it. But anyway, that's when they was building the road up Echart (?), that was years afterwards. This is a trailer house they had --- And there was a ... down at the P Ranch, we had some --- this was haying down there.

PAULINE: Yeah, a hay crew and the mess tent.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Oh there is the dishpan, the wash pans. I can remember men coming in and washing in the wash pans.

WAYNE: Had the, I don't know if you can see the old, yeah see we had, that's right we had a fire under there. That's where we had our water to wash in and stuff. There is part of the hay crew that is coming into, at Roaring Springs. There is 40 people there that ---

PAULINE: 40 people on the hay crew at Roaring Springs.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: In the 1950's. Well this picture of the Caterpillar tractor, bulldozer, building the road --- where did you say they were building this road?

WAYNE: That was Echart Mountain, going up to Smith Flat. It's all; they've let it wash out and everything. You can't get up it now.

PAULINE: You can't go up there now. It looked like you couldn't hardly go up there then. It looks pretty rugged country.

WAYNE: That's all they had was a grader with a little six-horse ... grader.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: Boy if you didn't watch it, you hit one of them rocks you'd tip it over right now. And I was driving the Cat [Caterpillar tractor] and Harry Meyers and I was, we built a road up there. You'd leave Roaring Springs and go to Smith Flat in 45 minutes in a car. But now it is all washed out and they built a road through, clear around by Skull Creek, up. They come around that way. It's --- it's got to be oh 15 miles or 20 miles going around where that goes up, than what we did.

PAULINE: Well then did you go to high school at Crane?

WAYNE: Yeah. Uh huh, went all four years there.

PAULINE: And what year did you graduate from high school?

WAYNE: '41, '42.

PAULINE: 1941, '42.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: So you lived with your mom, your mom moved there when you were in 7th and 8th grades. Then you went into the dormitory.

WAYNE: Yeah, you see you wasn't supposed to, you just had two months --- [Joe Fine needed Jo (Wayne's mother) out there at Roaring Springs]. He [Joe Fine] got the school board to let me into the dormitory, 8th grade. Of course then they had a big dance there

not too long before school was out, and the boys, I knew them, Gilbert Presley and some of them you know, and they give me a few drinks of whiskey and I got a little drunk. So pretty near got kicked out of the dorm, if it hadn't been for my sister. She was cooking there then at Denman again, and she said, "Oh no, he just didn't understand he shouldn't have been doing this and all this." And she --- that was when Delores (?) Clark was the principal. So I got, finished staying out there that term. (Laughter) Yeah, that was quite a deal.

PAULINE: So what about your family? You married, and I ---

WAYNE: Yeah. Let's see, well I stayed there at Roaring Springs and worked until I was probably 23 or 24, I guess, when I was out there. Gills had just bought the place. And I decided then that, you know, if I don't get out of here I'll never leave. So I worked for them about 3 months after they took over, and then I left out there and I come into, back into Crane, or to Lawen and stayed there at the store. And then I married Stella. I forget what year that was.

PAULINE: Were you married at Lawen?

WAYNE: No, Winnemucca.

PAULINE: You went to Winnemucca.

WAYNE: Uh huh. And I had a few cattle, so I leased Don Otley's place there, that was Fred Otley's place. And so, let's see, we had this house in town --- and then Homer Otley he wanted to ---

PAULINE: And town was Burns?

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh. And so he wanted to, he moved over on the coast so I rented his place out there, and we moved out there, Stell and I did. And we was there for a

couple of years. And he got in trouble there and said he wanted to come back, so he come back. So then I sold my cattle and we come back here and lived in Burns and I worked in the mill for 5 years. And ---

PAULINE: That's Edward Hines.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Sawmill.

WAYNE: So I was getting itchy feet again, so I decided well I'd go out and get me a ranch out --- so I went out and Tommy Jenkins was looking for help so Stella and I went out there and I stayed out there 5 years with him until they retired. And then I come back to Burns and I worked at the Experiment Station out here for a year and a half, I guess it was. And then my brother-in-law Ted Carson he passed away, and Dorothy wanted me to come out there and help her at the store. So Stella and I went back out there and lived there at the store and helped out. I run her cattle and Stella helped her around the store until she could retire out of the post office. And so then a flood come in, so we sold all of her cattle ---

PAULINE: So that was in about '84, '85.

WAYNE: Somewhere in there. And then Stella and I, I lived at, had a place just below the store there. But it was getting flooded too, so we got our house back in town, we had been renting, and we moved back to town. And so that's --- then I had a, my colon busted and I had a big operation. So I was kind of recuperating from that --- and so I started to, had to do a lot of walking and exercise and stuff, so I thought well, I just as well be doing something, if I'm going to die, just as well die doing a little work. So I started mowing lawns. And by golly the first summer I could only mow about two. Oh, I

was in terrible shape. I got my health back, so was about ready to do something else, and then found out Stella had cancer.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: And so we fought that for 13 years. So I was getting too ancient then to go back on the farm, so we just stayed in town and I mowed lawns. Been mowing lawns ever since. And ---

PAULINE: Did you have children?

WAYNE: No children.

PAULINE: No children. What about nieces and nephews?

WAYNE: Yeah, I've got Earl and Nancy out; Earl is out at Diamond, Earl Carson. And Nancy Dowell she is in Redmond now.

PAULINE: Those are Dorothy's kids?

WAYNE: Yeah. Then my brother, and he had two girls and a boy. Ronny Johnson, and of course [they are in the mid-west, Nebraska]... But they [Earl and Nancy] are here, at least Nancy is in Redmond, and Earl is out at Diamond.

PAULINE: Are they going to be able to come to Pioneer Days?

WAYNE: ... Oh Nancy is for sure, her and her son Gary. But I don't know about Earl, he might be able to make it. Can't tell anything about him. So then Stella passed away in '99, then Rose and I got married in 2000, I guess it was.

PAULINE: Well that's great that you two got together.

WAYNE: Yeah. I think most of her kids is going to be here. Yeah, they are more relations than I ever ---

PAULINE: Yeah, you've got an extended family now.

WAYNE: Told her, I said, said yes this time, and I had 45 grandkids.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: All of a sudden.

PAULINE: Well you were telling about some of the people you knew when you were a kid that were kind of interesting characters, at least you thought they were interesting characters at the time.

WAYNE: Yeah, they were old, but they was old people then too, you know. And they --- I don't know what that Tom Heany lived on. He got his, the stage would bring out stuff he ordered, you know.

PAULINE: This is the fellow that lived in the tent?

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: And what was his name?

WAYNE: Tom Heany.

PAULINE: Tom Heany.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: Yeah he lived, he got this little spring just above the Alvord Ranch up there, oh it was probably a mile up on the hillside, just above the ranch. That's where he had his --- he had an old mowing, this old team, and just enough acreage there that he got enough hay to winter them old horses on. That's all he done was put up that hay for them old horses. And I --- he never did work around the Alvord, or nowhere. He never worked while I was out there. But he didn't --- I guess, maybe he couldn't get along with the men or something. I don't know why, but I don't know.

PAULINE: And do you remember when Archie Goodman got shot? Can you tell me about that?

[Please see interviewer's note at Page 31]

WAYNE: Well I was just a kid then, you know. But yeah he just --- Toby Skeins was the one that shot him, Toby Skeins. And so Austin Goodman ---

PAULINE: Austin Goodman, yeah.

WAYNE: And Toby, he left, he got on his horse and he got out on Steens Mountain. And it was fairly early in the spring I guess when --- no it wasn't early in the spring, it was probably May, you know. And he roamed around on that mountain and they couldn't find him up there until fall. He finally come off and they got him. But I don't know what they ever done with him, or anything like that, because I didn't --- But I was, I was kind of worried he might come in the Alvord, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: I asked Ted, I said, "What will I do, who will I tell, or what will I do? And run him off, what will I do?" He said, "You don't say nothing to him," he said, "You just tell him come on in and have dinner." He said, "That's the law's job, they'll do it." Of course they knew it was murder. Max, it wasn't Max, the Pollock that got, Tom Pollock, he got killed, you know that --- oh Rogers --- wasn't Ray Rogers, his name was Rogers, that killed him. They caught him at Quinn River, that was the first --- But I don't know what happened to him either.

PAULINE: What was Pollock's first name?

WAYNE: Tom.

PAULINE: Tom Pollock.

WAYNE: Yeah, no, yeah. Let's see, there was Fred and Max and Tom --- yeah, Tom. He shot him and stole his car and --- he was running the, Pollock run the store then.

PAULINE: Rogers was, or Pollock was?

WAYNE: Pollock was.

PAULINE: Pollock was running the Folly Farm Store.

WAYNE: Yeah, and Rogers was working, he was working for the Pollock's up on the ranch. And he come down there and I guess he --- he had been to Winnemucca somewhere, and he got a disease or something and he wanted to go and take care of it. And they hem hawed around, and he just shot him and took his pickup and away he went.

PAULINE: So Rogers shot Pollock?

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: They had a manhunt around there for --- they stopped him I guess there at, around the Albertson Station or something, and got by them. And then they caught him at Quinn River when they got some news ahead to him, sent down there. But that was all that summer too. It was a pretty busy man ...

PAULINE: And you were 13?

WAYNE: Yeah, I was protecting the Alvord, you know. (Laughter)

PAULINE: That's, you know that's pretty Wild West to have two shootings in one summer. Well Austin Goodman was the Harney County Sheriff.

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh.

PAULINE: And the history of that shooting is pretty well documented, a piece of Harney County history. But I didn't know about Tom Pollock.

WAYNE: Yeah, he ---

TAPE 2 – SIDE A

PAULINE: Well did you get into Fields very often?

WAYNE: Oh, not too often. Doanes had that when --- it was Patty Catterson, you know.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

WAYNE: Her folks had that. And then when we went down there ---

PAULINE: Well do you remember when that airplane crashed out there, the --- I can't remember whether it was a B-28 or --- it was a war plane that, they were on a training mission or something and they crashed out there by Fields. Do you remember that?

WAYNE: No, I don't. I think it was more back in the Denio side wasn't it?

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: Yeah. I remember about it, but I don't remember --- I know they picked up the pieces out there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: But I don't, I don't remember when that was really. But there was a plane went down right out here at Lawen, when we was out there too.

PAULINE: Was there?

WAYNE: Yeah. And it, you know, just right along the highway there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: I don't remember what that was all about either. I think it was an army plane, wasn't it?

PAULINE: I think so.

WAYNE: Yeah. I know they left it there for a week; they had guards out there.

PAULINE: Well we did a story I think on that in the Burns Times-Herald here about three years ago, there was a story about that plane. They had to make a forced landing, yeah.

WAYNE: I think it was either right after that radar train was in the middle of that. It was there at Lawen.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: It was right after that, I think.

PAULINE: Do you remember your first car?

WAYNE: Yeah. Well we come out here in an old '30 --- what was it, a '29 Chevrolet. And we got hit in November, in Denver, and it buckled it a little bit, but it still run to come on in. It had a, nose went up like a scooter, you know, but we come on with it. And so Mother she, oh and my dad he left and went back to Nebraska too. He didn't stay. So we had the car. So we was living at Crane then. Of course pretty proud, it cost us 25 cents a month; I think it was, for us to store it in the garage. So we had it in the garage, and the doggone garage burned up, that's when the garage caught fire. Burned the car up! And oh, I was sick about that. So after we got the fire, they got the fire out, why I went over there looking through it and I touched this old car, because oh I loved that old car, you know, because I could drive it, you know. And boy I burnt my hand, that metal was still hot. Oh man, that hurt. But anyway that car was there so --- We was out of a car, so I was working there at the store one afternoon and Dorothy was working so we decided we would go partners and we would buy us another car, because we didn't have the money for a down payment. Well there was a fellow that worked for Lloyd Hill,

Bud Utah, he knew Ray Weeks pretty well so he went in and told Ray, he said, “That goddamn people need a car,” he said. “They’re sure honest good people.” So Ray pumped him a little bit, and Bud he, you know, he drank quite a bit, and so Ray said, “Well I got a car here, send them in and I’ll let them have the car and they can pay me so much a month.” So boy we jumped right in, and it was an old ’36 Ford. Somebody had it up here in Silvie Valley, some loggers. It was a pretty good little old car. So boy we was working, we had it, I think we did pay it off before she got married. But anyway she got married and said, “I’m going to give you my part of it.” So I kept the car, and I had that, oh gosh it was, it was before I was married I think. And I had it when I was coming in from Roaring Springs. My brother come out here, went in to see me, and the radiator broke and it burnt the motor up in it. So I fooled around and got another motor and put in it. And then it finally got, just wore completely out. So I done pretty good. Then so I bought me a new pickup. I bought me a new Ford pickup after that. But that was my first car, that old ---

PAULINE: What color was it?

WAYNE: It was an old gray.

PAULINE: Gray.

WAYNE: Yeah. The body of it still was back of the Lawen Store there for a long time.

PAULINE: Oh really.

WAYNE: Yeah. And --- but it --- probably got some pictures of it if I could find it.

PAULINE: Well let’s go back to when your folks decided to leave Nebraska. You said it was pretty tough times in the ‘30’s in Nebraska.

WAYNE: Oh yeah.

PAULINE: And did they, had they lived there all their lives?

WAYNE: Pretty much, yeah. Well ---

PAULINE: You say your dad was from Sweden. Did he come from Sweden?

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh. Him and his brothers, there was five more of them, they all come over. And he got a place that, well a place at Valparaiso, Nebraska. And he had a farm there, it was a little irrigated and stuff. But he couldn't stand it, his brothers was all up here in Western Nebraska. You know they had big dry land farms up there. Boy, they was making pretty good money, you know, the yield was pretty good. So he give this place up, and he got a place up here, right next to them so they would all be together. Well he got a hillside and there wasn't, it wasn't the best of stuff either. Well you know but he was happy, because he was next to his brothers. He was doing all right, really, there until them '30's come. I mean it was a drought. Man there was nothing but tumbleweeds. So there was nothing else for us to do. So Mother had a brother at Payette --- Armstrong, Tom Armstrong --- so he said, "Come out here, there is lots of work; there is apples, orchards to pick, and canneries to work in." So they come out.

Well my dad couldn't really stand to be away from his brothers, but he stood it for two or three years. And then Mother, well even I did, I'd crawl up in a tree and pick the hard, you know in the tree, picked out the fruit. And we picked fruit. And in the winter why Mother, and Dorothy was there too, and they worked in the canneries. Canning this fruit up, you know. So then, well my dad was working down in the feedlot there where I was telling you ... he had worked for them down there. And that's where they, it was connected to the Alvord Ranch, the [owner]. He had a big ... plant in Salt Lake. That's

where --- they sent word down that they needed more help up there. So he decided he'd go to the ranch.

PAULINE: So that's how the connection was made. He was working in the feedlot that was connected with the Alvord Ranch.

WAYNE: Uh huh. So then he come up there, and then they finally needed a cook, and then Mother and Dorothy come up there too. And then after, well Dorothy, I think Dorothy went up first and then cooked until school was out down there, and then I come up here, and then I went to Crane to school.

PAULINE: Well did your dad stay around then in Harney County until he died?

WAYNE: No, no.

PAULINE: Did he go back to ---

WAYNE: He went back.

PAULINE: He went back to Nebraska.

WAYNE: He went with us to Roaring Springs for probably, he might have been out there two summers. But he just, he couldn't stand to be away from his brothers. And then he was a chore boy, and he didn't like that.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: Because he was actually a farmer back there, and run his own business, you know. So he just give up. Well Mother and I said, "We're not a going with you. We're going to stay." And so we did. She died here.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: We took her back there to bury her. So we survived anyway.

PAULINE: Well then, so you saw the drought in Nebraska, and then you came to Harney County and you saw the flood we had in the '80's.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Had you, what did you think when you saw that water coming up in the '80's, after living here most of your life?

WAYNE: Well, I didn't know. I couldn't believe it, but I just wondered how far it was going to go, you know. I couldn't understand why they wouldn't try to do something with it, dig a channel, or get rid of it. But it come right back up here at the stores, in the ditch there.

PAULINE: Well yeah, it ran across the highway between the store in Crane.

WAYNE: Oh yeah.

PAULINE: And ---

WAYNE: And I owned that little house down below there, and that's what really caused us to move to Burns. Stell and I was living in there, after we sold the store. And I put a dike up around the house so the water was, it subbed under. It had, that house had a basement in it, it was a dug basement you know, and so I opened the trap door and I looked down in there and there was --- I seen the light bulb from the --- and the wiring down there, they was all loose and floating around on the water. I said, "Stell this is the time for us to get out of here." So Dorothy had bought her house and she was living in it alone, you know, and I said, "Well Dorothy we got to get out of down there." I said, "I can't get in my house, it was rented for a month." And so I come in there and I stayed with her a month and finally got my house back [in Burns]. So that's where we stayed.

PAULINE: Well that was quite an experience for all of us that had watched the water come up every year, but nothing like that. We got so used to living with it, we really didn't think it would get too bad.

WAYNE: No, no used to be up to the edge of the road and all around the spring, and it would go down, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: But boy it didn't go ---

PAULINE: It didn't go down, and it come up again the next year. Well we have a lot of water this year.

WAYNE: Well yeah, I see that.

PAULINE: But it's not anything like that was.

WAYNE: You know them people who bought the Lawen Store, they was from Brothers --- and that gas tank out in front, it ain't got enough pressure in it, that it forced it to leak. Then the gas is on top of the water down underneath the store, that basement filled too.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: So his kid went there and he lit a match to --- you know, and boy it just blew up down there. It didn't --- it went out before it started to --- but it just blackened everything underneath it.

PAULINE: Oh, it could have burnt the store down.

WAYNE: Yeah, yeah, but it didn't.

PAULINE: But it didn't.

WAYNE: No. But it sure blackened things in there. But that was terrible out, the way that --- but it ruined the gas tanks and everything, just broke them.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well is there anything else that you can think of that we didn't talk about that we should have talked about?

WAYNE: Well I probably got ahead of a lot of stuff, my school days and stuff. And when I was there at Roaring Springs I was ... before I started working there that was, oh it was probably about --- Louie Swift that owned it.

PAULINE: Louie Swift.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: He come in there, and he brought, there was Judge Farmer and I forget what the other fellow's name was, ... anyway, and they never had seen an antelope. So out in the north field there was probably 300 of these antelope out there, and so Joe asked me if I wouldn't go catch a couple, get old gentle saddle horses down there and saddle them up for them. They didn't know how to saddle or nothing, and one of them I don't think had ever been on a horse. And take them out there and show them those antelope. He said, "You're probably going to have to get off and open the gates and all that stuff." Well he give me a little extra what I should do for them. Because --- So I said, "Okay." So I went down and I got a couple old horses in there, and one was an old wrangle pony and an old pull-back horse from the haying. I cinched them up just as tight as I could for that one. He was pretty fat, and he wasn't too tall. So he stuck his foot up there, you know, and he got a hold of the saddle horn, and by god he turned the saddle on that old horse.

(Laughter)

PAULINE: Oh!

WAYNE: Oh my god. I didn't know what the hell I was going to do now. So we got him back down, off the side, because he fell, he fell back to me. I tried to cinch it up again and I don't know whether I got him back tighter that time but then the next time I pushed on him. Got him a block of wood so he wouldn't have to pull so hard on the saddle, and I pushed him on in there. And so he made it all right. Oh, he was getting tired, and he had never been on a horse before, and he was big and ---

PAULINE: Was this the judge?

WAYNE: Yeah. So anyhow I got them out there and showed them the antelope, and I got them back. And so I helped him off so he didn't fall off. And Roy, he said, "Well here kid," he said, "we'll give you some money for showing us, you know." They each give me 50 cents apiece. (Laughter) Oh, you cheap old farts, you know. God. But anyway, I got 50 cents a piece. It took me half a day to take them out there and show them. (Laughter) But that was funny, that old fellow --- I remember I was just --- I pushed on him.

PAULINE: I can just see him when the saddle slipped. And he would fall right back on top of you.

WAYNE: Yeah, I was standing there holding the horse. He got a hold of the saddle horn, and he got his foot in the stirrup all right, but he just leaned over like this trying to come up, you know. Didn't have no, didn't know how to get any balance to get to the horse. Here come the saddle, empty. The other fellow, he got on his all right.

PAULINE: Do you remember what Louie Swift looked like?

WAYNE: Yeah, you know I've got pictures of him.

PAULINE: You just tell me what he looked like.

WAYNE: He was tall.

PAULINE: He was a tall man.

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh. I don't think that ... he would know, but I should, doggone it. But I lost a lot of my pictures that I had. Here is me on the horse at Alvord Ranch, about the time I started, left out there.

PAULINE: This is old Bud?

WAYNE: Yeah, old Bud. I bought that horse from them, Alvord when we left. There is a hay-stacking picture at the P Ranch. Here is Burns in 1931.

PAULINE: Oh, look at the old cars.

WAYNE: Yeah. I'll have to dig them out. I've got to get that stuff, get rid of it anyway, and get rid of the truck and all of it. ... find them.

PAULINE: Well I'd like to sit down with you, with the pictures and maybe we can copy some of them to go with your, with the transcript of your talk here someday if you have time and are willing.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: I've got a scanner and I can just scan them into my computer. And then, it doesn't hurt the picture, and I can bring the scanner ---

WAYNE: Well I can bring them out there.

PAULINE: Or you could bring them out to the house, yeah.

WAYNE: But I know, them old rudder bucks that we used to run, and stuff. I think Earl has got away with them, because I lost them at Lawen when --- And Dorothy had a lot of her pictures, and he said, "I'll take these and put them in albums for you."

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: And I think that's where my pictures went to, some of them.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well some of these pictures you've got are really priceless. I like that one of the bulldozer out there on the mountain.

WAYNE: Yeah, that's ---

PAULINE: Did Mr. Swift, or did Louie Swift come around very often?

WAYNE: No, that's the only time I ever seen him.

PAULINE: The only time you ever saw him.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: That was Swift and Company.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Was it based in California?

WAYNE: No, back east.

PAULINE: Back east.

WAYNE: Uh huh. But he had, the judge and the bookkeeper I think was in California. There was two of them, I don't remember what --- I remember the judge, but I can't, I don't remember what the other one was. I think he was --- I don't know whether he was a lawyer or a secretary, or you know, the financial end of it or something. But there was Louie and his two buddies. But I never got over the fat judge. He called him --- I don't know what --- whether he was just a buddy or what he was.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well let me put this together and see what we've got, and then maybe we can get together again with the pictures.

WAYNE: I'm going to start; I'll have to write up a bunch of stuff here.

PAULINE: Well this will get you kind of thinking ---

ROSE JOHNSON: You want a cup of tea?

PAULINE: Sure. This will get you kind of started thinking about what kind of things that ---

WAYNE: Yeah, I'll have you at least --- your questions, write them on a sheet of paper for you, and then I'll go from there.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: Maybe I can kind of pick up on it, you know. Because all the stuff that I'll remember when it comes, you know, more about things.

PAULINE: Yeah. Okie dokie, well I'm going to turn this off now.

----- *[Interviewer's note: Austin Goodman was killed much earlier than the incident he remembers. Wayne may have mixed details from stories he heard about the shooting of Sheriff Austin Goodman with the shootings that occurred when he was a youngster. Further research is needed to pinpoint the names involved. However, his reactions as a child to the murders are important cues to life in a frontier country.]*

After the tape recorder was turned off, Wayne continued to tell stories, so the recorder was turned back on. We enter the discussion of the development of "swamp" lands into productive grain and alfalfa fields in the 1940s and 1950s. The Verdo included about 3,000 acres owned by Ormand and Standley Ausmus, west and south of Lawen and between Lawen and the Island Ranch.

WAYNE: ... down there one summer, one spring, helping to put in the drain ... Oh that peat stuff, I got so sore I had to --- oh god I couldn't stand that. Gene was down there, Gene Mc...[McVicker]

PAULINE: Yeah, Gene and Eileen are here right now, did you know that?

WAYNE: No, I didn't know they were here. Well I see them every once in awhile.

PAULINE: Yeah. They bought a little house down on Pierce Street.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: And Eileen got tired of the wet weather, over in the valley. They live on Sauvie's Island in Portland. And they bought this little house, and they come over here where she can see the sun.

WAYNE: Yeah. Yeah he told me he said, "Well when it gets so I can't drive I'm going to move over here. Sell out over there."

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: Yeah, I guess their kids are there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: He said that's kind of holding them there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: But if it wasn't for that I think he would be back.

PAULINE: Yeah. So you worked there when Uncle Ormand and Uncle Standly first bought the Verdo?

WAYNE: Pretty much.

PAULINE: We called it the swamp.

WAYNE: Yeah. Well part of it was a swamp. And then the Verdo, yeah, and --- Well we had the store then, and they were needing help and I went down and helped them put the grain in, ... And then I helped them take it out too, once, I think. Oh god, I couldn't stand that stuff. My skin would just ---

PAULINE: Oh, the chaff from the grain dust?

WAYNE: No, and the dirt ---

PAULINE: The dust, the alkali dust.

WAYNE: --- when you're farming, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: That peat soil. Oh god, I couldn't ... I put Bag Balm on and everything. ...
Oh God ...

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sakes. Well they used to put the boxcars out there on the
train track.

WAYNE: Yeah, and haul the grain up there.

PAULINE: Hauled the grain up there and put it in.

WAYNE: And one year I helped them, well one year we hauled it to town there. I think
that was about the last year they done much farming. They had that big old, Herbie, they
called it, the big old Herbie truck.

PAULINE: Uh huh. I remember Herbie.

WAYNE: Yeah. And then they had the, that new little truck, a little, I think it was an
International or something that they had, they bought. I drove it. And Jim, he drove the
old Herbie. That thing hauled a lot of grain. It had so many gears on it, you had 40 gears
ahead.

PAULINE: That's a lot of gears.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Is that usual for a truck?

WAYNE: No, they hauled the big machinery on it and stuff for the county, you know.
They had quite a few different transmissions in it. And you could work it down; you had

40 gears in it ahead. I forget how many, 16 back or something. It would just, you could come down in low gear and it would just creep, just, you couldn't hardly see it go. You had to be awful careful with it, you could twist an axle off right, they had so much power, you know, give much power. And ---

PAULINE: So you had a transmission that would handle the load, whatever, however heavy it was.

WAYNE: Oh yeah. Beautiful, only thing you had to watch them axles because if you let the clutch out a little bit too much, you know, or something, you'd just twist an axle off ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: No, I didn't like to drive that because I just knew I'd twist an axle. But that, your Uncle Standly was the best mechanic, and weld, he could do anything like that.

PAULINE: That's what we always thought. That he could of walked on water if he had wanted to.

WAYNE: Yeah, oh yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: He was the nicest fellow. He never got excited about nothing, or never got mad. Everything was all right. He'd give you all his money, he still wouldn't, it wouldn't worry him any.

ROSE: Who was that?

WAYNE: That's her uncle.

PAULINE: My Uncle Standly. I think he probably died before you --- he died in 1957.

ROSE: Oh yeah, he ...

PAULINE: Yeah, and ---

ROSE: What was his last name?

PAULINE: Ausmus.

ROSE: Ausmus, oh I see.

PAULINE: Yeah. And he --- when I was just a little girl I got some new shoes and I went out to show Uncle Standly the new shoes, and you know how the back lots were always just mud when it was wet, and it was muddy. And I walked out there and I got stuck in the mud in my new shoes. And he come and pulled me out.

ROSE: Oh.

PAULINE: And so I was Puddle Duck from them on, I was Puddle Duck. And so Allan and I decided to get married that summer of 1957, and Uncle Standly was just so pleased, and he said I'm going to dance at Puddle Duck's wedding. And he died in, oh September I guess, we were married in November. But he died not too long after we announced our engagement.

ROSE: Oh, he didn't make it to the wedding.

PAULINE: And he didn't make it to Puddle Duck's wedding.

ROSE: Oh.

WAYNE: Yeah, he was probably the best fellow --- and he'd help anybody do anything. He had something broke down; he'd fix it for you. He never offered to --- he'd never take no pay for it, nothing, he'd just fix it. Electricity, anything, he was just a genius.

PAULINE: Well he was very --- well he and Uncle Ormand engineered that irrigation system down there.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: You know, figured out how to do the canals and everything to drain that land so they could farm it.

ROSE: Oh, for heavens sake.

PAULINE: And --- yeah I ---

WAYNE: They had it pretty rough there for a while. They bought that Cat, that D-6 and it started around the mountain ... this AC ---

PAULINE: ACS, yeah, ACS. [Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service]

WAYNE: ACS.

PAULINE: ACS.

WAYNE: Put in levies and stuff for people, you know. And they paid for that Cat when they come back around. Had it paid for.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: But --- A lot of times you'd see them, one would be a sleeping in the seat --- the other one was a working it. And they'd change and the other one would sleep. Then they had a little old camp trailer and when they got real tired I guess they'd crawl up in that thing and sleep.

ROSE: Were they brothers?

WAYNE: Yeah.

ROSE: Oh, brothers, oh.

PAULINE: They were my uncles.

ROSE: Uncles, oh for heavens sakes.

WAYNE: Yeah, I'll tell you, they were the nicest fellows. You bet.

ROSE: What years were these?

PAULINE: Oh, they ---

WAYNE: That was in the '50's.

PAULINE: Yeah, late 40's and '50's, early 60's.

ROSE: Oh, uh huh.

WAYNE: And then bawling me out because I wouldn't stay and help him because I'd been, you know, I was driving Cat and stuff you know. So, just can't stand that itching, you know, oh I was just raw.

PAULINE: There was something in that soil that didn't agree with you.

WAYNE: Yeah. And so I was buckarooing for Fine up there in Stringer, they was, I helped them. He says, "How much do they pay you?" "Oh," I said, "I don't remember now, it wasn't very much, you know." He said, "I'll give you eight dollars a day." That was big money, you know. I said, "Well Ormand," I said, "I'd love to, but I just can't stand that itching, that just drives me crazy." But he couldn't quite figure that out, because it didn't bother them guys.

PAULINE: Well I know, those men they were just --- they'd come in off of the tractors and they would just be covered with it, I mean, their faces, their necks, their clothes, they just looked like ---

ROSE: Outer space?

PAULINE: Yeah, really. My dad did that work too, and you know he'd just come in and he'd just be coated with dust.

ROSE: With alkali dust?

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

WAYNE: But I couldn't take it, man! Nick Cline was the cook, they had a --- you remember Old Nick?

PAULINE: I remember Old Nick Cline. Tell me about Nick.

WAYNE: Oh god, he was something else. He lived over at Dog Mountain. He was a cook. He cooked about everything in one pot. You had to like everything, you know. So anyway he had tin plates, and he cooked with quite a bit of grease. Cold mornings, you wasn't ... you had to eat outside. You had your egg and stuff there --- stuck to the pan the grease would --- he cooked with quite a bit of grease, you know.

PAULINE: And the grease would get cold.

WAYNE: Yeah, and then your egg in that ---

PAULINE: Oh.

WAYNE: But he was --- he wasn't too clean a fellow. I don't think he changed clothes all the time he was there. (Laughter)

PAULINE: And he was the cook.

WAYNE: He was the cook. Yeah. He was something else. But he certainly made up a stew. His hotcakes and eggs would sure stick to the pan before you get them ate because of that tin. It wouldn't have been so bad if he hadn't of used so much grease, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: Used it because he didn't want to burn them or something, I don't know.

PAULINE: Well I remember lots of stories, the fellows kind of liked to give him a bad time, and tease him. And he'd get mad and take off.

WAYNE: Yeah, he went --- you didn't bother him too much because he --- he kind of had a disposition of his own. (Laughter) I tried that farm with that Lockett, you know,

he bought them big old roto tillers, them army roto tillers. I tried that with them. He had a Cat and he pulled them, and he had these big motors behind him. I was running night shift, trying to get that land worked so he could farm it. But I just couldn't take the dirt again, and even inside that Cat. He had a house on that.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: God, the thing would break down at night, and there you was out there in the middle of nowhere and wonder where you was because you'd lose your --- oh you just kept going in a circle, you know. Yeah, I didn't like that either, but I couldn't stand that dirt again so I --- That didn't last. But he didn't last too long either, he went belly-up.

PAULINE: Now who was that?

WAYNE: Gene Lockett.

PAULINE: Lockett. I don't, I don't remember that name.

WAYNE: Yeah, he had the swamp, he bought the Square Wells.

PAULINE: Okay, I know where Square Wells is.

WAYNE: And he bought that piece clear down to the road.

PAULINE: Then Vogler wound up with it.

WAYNE: Yeah, Vogler got it.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well I've probably taken enough of your time today.

The Caterpillar work he did on a road on the Steens Mountain ---

The following interview was done on May 29, 2006 at the home of Pauline Braymen.

TAPE 3 – SIDE A

PAULINE: This is Pauline Braymen and I'm visiting with Wayne Johnson, and we're going to talk about the Caterpillar work he did on a road on the Steen Mountain.

WAYNE: Yeah, it was on Echart, going up Echart Grade.

PAULINE: Okay, where is Echart Grade?

WAYNE: It's between Roaring Springs and Long Hollow, probably, built it to make a shortcut to Smyth Flat. Smyth Flat is up on Steens Mountain where they had their cow camp. And it's not existing now I guess, they let it wash out and it is impassable, but it was a road then, when we finished it. He'd go up there in a touring car, Joe --- it belonged to --- he was working for Eastern Oregon Livestock Company. And Joe Fine used to, as a manager he'd go from Warm Springs to Smyth Flat in 45 minutes.

PAULINE: Using the Echart Grade?

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh. Now he just had a little touring car. It was really a nice road.

Photo #1 Wayne Johnson On Caterpillar Pulling Grader

PAULINE: So what kind of a Caterpillar is this, what model is this?

WAYNE: That's a D-7 Cat, army surplus.

PAULINE: And the year was?

WAYNE: Probably around ---

PAULINE: 19 --- you don't have a year on the back of the picture.

WAYNE: It was probably around '46, '47.

PAULINE: 1946 or 1947.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Okay. In this picture it looks like you're just going pretty much straight up and down here. It was pretty steep.

WAYNE: Yeah, it was a steep road for a ways, and then it kind of leveled out a little. But you had to be up around Vee Lake and in there before it started really leveling off.

PAULINE: The Lake was Vee Lake?

WAYNE: Vee Lake, V, they called it Vee Lake.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: It's on up at the head here. Head of Echart.

PAULINE: Okay. Was Echart the name of a pioneer or rancher in the area?

WAYNE: You know I really don't know whether --- It was just --- I've never heard of anybody being, the mountain --- Echart Grade. There is no cabins around there that I knew of, or anything that would remind you of any place there, to be named after a person. But we just had that little 6-horse grader, for a grader.

PAULINE: Now this is the machine that you're pulling behind the Caterpillar?

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Is a 6-horse grader.

WAYNE: Yeah, grader that you graded roads with, you know. It was all manual, manual ...big wheels that you had to turn.

PAULINE: So who was riding on the grader?

WAYNE: Harry Meyers.

PAULINE: Harry Meyers.

WAYNE: Uh huh. He was a CC boy come in. He was really a good Cat man and he came, and loads and stuff. They hired him; they got him from the CC boys to help us. And him and I done this roadwork.

PAULINE: Do you know where he was from?

WAYNE: Yeah he was back in North Dakota I think, or somewhere, where he come from. He went back there.

PAULINE: And he went back to North Dakota.

WAYNE: Somewhere back there.

PAULINE: Do you know how he spelled his name? Was it M E Y E R S ?

WAYNE: Yeah, I think it was.

PAULINE: So how many miles of this grade was there?

WAYNE: There must have been, oh probably four miles from the bottom to the top of Echart, ended up ... It was probably 15 miles from the bottom of the grade to Smyth Flat.

PAULINE: How long did it take you?

WAYNE: Oh, it was quite a few, we was there probably 2 months on this grade it was so rocky, and then with the equipment we had. And then we went on up into, clear into Smyth Flat with this load, you know. And we worked up there quite a bit. Well probably 2 months on the whole thing. Going clear into Smyth Flat, and then it was 2 months on the grade.

PAULINE: Was Smith Flat named for the --- Cactus Smyth's family? S M Y T H ? Or was it S M I T H ?

WAYNE: You know I don't know. Never did see it spelled. That's all it was ever called is Smith Flat. I don't know who ---

PAULINE: Well we should be able to see it on the map.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Or do some research. [Smith spelling confirmed by interviewer.]

WAYNE: It was just a cabin up there on the flat, Eastern Oregon had. But there is a lot of little, other places around up there that they bought out too that they had names when they bought them. But this Smith place, I don't know, Smith Flat, I don't know who ---

PAULINE: I'll ask Cactus when I go to the Aspens, next time I see him out there.

WAYNE: Yeah, I don't think it belonged to anything of theirs. I think maybe it is S M I T H. That's what's written on the back of the ---

WAYNE: Well I think Rose probably wrote that on.

PAULINE: So this is the road to, for the Roaring Springs Ranch to use. And Joe Fine was the manager at that time.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And you and your dad were working --- was your dad still working there then?

WAYNE: No.

PAULINE: Or had he gone back.

WAYNE: He had gone back to Nebraska then. That was after I was out of school that I was working on this road.

PAULINE: Okay. What time of year did you do this? Was this in the fall?

WAYNE: No, it was in the spring of the year.

PAULINE: It was in the spring of the year.

WAYNE: Uh huh, oh probably, we probably started in April and I think we was still working on it in June up in there. We had a trailer house we pulled with us and made ...

PAULINE: So you worked on the road and live in the trailer, pull it ahead and then work on the road.

WAYNE: Yeah, we camped in the trailer.

PAULINE: Camped in the trailer.

WAYNE: Yeah. On the lower end of it we stayed at the HL Ranch. That was probably two miles and so north of that Echart Grade, and we started up it.

PAULINE: What was the name of the ranch again?

WAYNE: H L.

PAULINE: H L.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Was that part of Roaring Springs?

WAYNE: Yeah, they owned all of that.

PAULINE: They owned all of that.

WAYNE: That side of the mountain. HL, Three Mile, Home Creek, and Roaring Springs right on up. And after you go on, they even owned Skull Creek Ranch, ... go up Skull Creek. As I understand now this new outfit has put a road up Skull Creek and up back that way instead of re-building the HL grade.

PAULINE: Did you have any experiences while you were building the road that were kind of scary?

WAYNE: That grading was something else. If you didn't watch it when you hit a rock it kind ... you just flip it. Turn it right over.

PAULINE: Did you ever turn it over?

WAYNE: No, I don't think we did. But we come close. But we were very careful, I mean we --- all you had to do is get on that thing once in awhile, and whoever was driving the Cat why --- we changed off and then we knew enough to stop that Cat immediately. Because it could flip ---

PAULINE: Well if it had flipped with the driver on, or the rider on there it could have hurt him pretty bad.

WAYNE: Oh yeah.

PAULINE: Killed him

WAYNE: Oh yeah, yeah, it could. ... would get you.

PAULINE: Well I thank you for telling me about that. And we'll turn the tape recorder off now.

Photo #2 Wayne Johnson And Old Jim At Alvord Ranch 1935

PAULINE: Okay, this is Pauline and I'm talking to Wayne about a picture of him that was taken when he was about 13 years old. Wayne, can you tell me about this picture?

WAYNE: Yeah, this is an old horse called Jim that had been turned out to pasture, he was too old for cowboy work anymore. So I needed a horse just to ride around the ranch on, and get the milk cows in and stuff. I was just ... with my dad and something just to keep me out of mischief really. So anyway we got this old horse in and ... mine to ride.

PAULINE: And his name was Old Jim.

WAYNE: Old Jim, yeah. And he had been a good old horse, but his days was numbered, you know.

PAULINE: So tell me about your hat.

WAYNE: Well when I got out in the sun I had to have a hat. I was getting sun burned so Mother she looked in the Monkey Ward catalog and found this big hat. It was \$10.50 at that time, I remember that. And so they bought it for me to --- and boy I was proud of that hat. I had it pushed down like a Tex Ritter hat. (Laughter) And the hat was really bigger than I was.

PAULINE: That was kind of a case of, “Hat where are you going with that boy?”

WAYNE: That’s kind of the same thing, right. But anyway the hat wasn’t too good a quality and it got wet a time or two during a rainstorm and it kind of dilapidated on me. But anyway I stayed with it until summer was over. Yeah.

PAULINE: Well I see you are wearing blue jeans and a short-sleeved shirt, or else a shirt with the sleeves rolled up, and boots. You were pretty well outfitted to be a real cowboy.

WAYNE: Yeah. Oh I thought I was a big boy at that time. Had a horse and a big hat, that’s what done it.

PAULINE: And this was taken at the Alvord Ranch.

WAYNE: Uh huh, yeah.

PAULINE: Which is on the east side of the Steens Mountain.

WAYNE: That’s in front of the Alvord barn right there.

PAULINE: The Alvord barn in the background.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: I thought this was somebody walking back here, but it isn't, it's some gear hanging on the wall I guess. Okay. Well okay, I'm going to turn the recorder off again now. -----

Photo # 3 Wayne Johnson And Old Buck At Alvord Ranch Circa 1945

PAULINE: Okay this is Wayne Johnson, a picture of Wayne Johnson on Old Buck in about 1945. Can you tell me where that is at?

WAYNE: That's at the Alvord Ranch. You can see that Alvord Mountain back in the back. And oh, was helping buckaroo then. There is --- everything was in the, they run their cattle in the field there and they never had too many buckaroos around. They had to ride mostly for sick cattle, because there had been a lot of feedlot work there. So anyway this little --- this was one of the Alvord horses and ... to go down and cut the big steers out of the feedlot. They got locked up down there awful bad, and we had to bring them up and put them in the chutes and run, put them through blue vitriol. We had troughs that oh probably ... with water and mix it with blue vitriol. And we'd run them through there and kill that infection that they get between their toes; it makes big sores there. And then if it got too bad we'd have to throw them down and clean them out and they'd put stuff, blue vitriol right up there and put a, bandage them up. And just like a cast on their leg, you know, to hold that blue vitriol in there.

PAULINE: And the blue vitriol was a medication?

WAYNE: Yeah, yeah. It kind of eat the inflammation right out of there.

PAULINE: What color was this horse?

WAYNE: He was a gray horse.

PAULINE: Gray horse.

WAYNE: Yeah, kind of a dirty gray. Yeah.

PAULINE: Would that be what they call a dapple gray?

WAYNE: No, no.

PAULINE: He wasn't a dapple gray.

WAYNE: No he wasn't a dapple. He was just gray.

PAULINE: He was just gray.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: What is this building back here? Do you remember what this was?

WAYNE: What's that?

PAULINE: What was this building right here on the right hand side?

WAYNE: Yeah, that's the granary where they stored all their grain. They raised a lot of grain out there, and feed the cattle.

PAULINE: Was it barley or oats?

WAYNE: Well yeah, they raised barley, mostly oats. And Mr. Glider had a --- of course in my spare time I had a little D-2 Cat there and had a bulldozer on it and I run it. And I'd grind grain down in that granary. They had an old granary where they had a big old grinder and I had a belt put on this Cat, and back up there and I would grind this grain for this feedlot. Done that quite a bit in the granary, wasn't using my Cat too much. Of course we cleaned, cleaned a lot of land, just dozed the brush off of it, clean it ... Cleared land that way too. But ---

PAULINE: There is a couple of, maybe a mowing machine right here, or a rake.

WAYNE: Yeah it is an old mowing machine.

PAULINE: This is a mowing machine here.

WAYNE: A horse-mowing machine.

PAULINE: Between --- there is a horse and the mowing machine, and then the granary on the right hand side of the picture as you look at it. And you call these the Alvord Mountains in the back?

WAYNE: That's --- see the Alvord pocket ... from the back there.

PAULINE: But this is what we call the east face of the Steens.

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh.

PAULINE: So this is a pocket here?

WAYNE: No, it's up high, right on top. After you come --- the other side of the mountain they call it the rifle sites.

PAULINE: Oh, the gun sites.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: Well that's the Alvord pocket; actually it's right below there.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: I don't know when the "gun sight" come into it.

PAULINE: Well if you're standing at Kiger Gorge and looking through that notch people call that a gun site, gun site ...

WAYNE: Yeah. I never heard of that gun site in my days, it's the Alvord. It's always the Alvord pocket right under that, just a big hole in the ground, right under this ---

PAULINE: On the east side.

WAYNE: Yeah, and that's the Alvord pocket. And that's where these hunters ... used to go up there and they'd take their sleeping bags up there and get their deer out of there. It's a great deer country out in there. Red Purcell ... he was a great walker, and he'd go up by Mesquite Creek and walk up there and ... that Alvord pocket. Used to take him a hour and a half from the time he'd leave there until he would be shining a, took a mirror and he'd shine that light down to us. Just an hour and a half from the time he left the ranch until he was up there on top.

PAULINE: That was Red Purcell.

WAYNE: Yeah, he was walking; he'd walk up there.

PAULINE: Probably P U R C E L L.

WAYNE: Uh huh. ... Purcell.

PAULINE: And then he'd walk down and scare the deer down towards you. Or he would start ---

WAYNE: No he didn't, he just walk up there just to enjoy the trip up there.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: But then in hunting season ... hunters took their ... sleeping bags and they'd walk up through there to get to be ... Yeah.

PAULINE: How long did you work for the Alvord?

WAYNE: Well I was there at different times. See my brother-in-law was the foreman there, and when I first got out of school ---

PAULINE: And what was his name?

WAYNE: Ted Carson.

PAULINE: Ted Carson.

WAYNE: Yeah, Dorothy's husband, you know. Then they got married there in 19 --- I think it was 1940, they got married. See I graduated in 1941. Well I come down there, and they wanted me to go to work down there, so I did for a while. That's when I got to running the Cat. I don't know, I was probably there a couple years before we moved back to Crane. Mother and I, see, yeah we lived there in Crane and then finally Dorothy she come in, her and my dad come in, Crane. They went to Roaring Springs to work. And so then Dorothy come back to Crane and she got a job in the Denman Hotel working as a cook in there. And they bought, was getting no business, and so they couldn't ... so she got the postmaster job in the Crane Mercantile Store. So then they hired me too as a flunkie for --- when I was going to school --- before school and after school. They give me a dollar a day to stock shelves, sweep floors, and help wait on people. So then I worked there all that one, next summer, stayed there. But I was hating every day of it, because I wanted to get back to that ranch out there. So I worked there about oh, part of the next winter and then Joe Fine come in and wanted my mother to go out there and cook for him, because he was out of cooks again. So he got me in the dormitory, I was in the 8th grade then, and I think I got myself mixed up there. But I got two months in the dormitory when I was in the 8th grade, and then when that school was out I went out there with her. Then I started working for Roaring Springs. And then I, then I worked there a couple years. And then I went back to the Alvord and was helping them. And then Ted quit there and went down on a ranch; it was on the Whitehorse Ranch. And he leased that. So he wanted me to help him put up the hay there, and I did. And I stayed and helped him put up that hay that summer. And then he, the Alvord wasn't satisfied with

what they had so they give him a big deal and he didn't have to work so hard, and took him back down there to run the Alvord ... And I went back to Roaring Springs. Well, I don't remember now just what did take place, but they was about to sell out and Alvord was ... if he'd sell it to Pogue. Sold the ranch to Pogue and so the ... had to get off and he had three years, I think on his contract. So at the end of that, Ted wanted me to come help him ship out the cattle that they had and then I --- They shipped everything out but about 200 steers, so they went to Brogan. And we drove them out, Cactus Smyth and I, and Rankin Crow and we drove them steers out to Crane and put them on --- Then I went and stayed at Brogan. But the steers were --- that summer --- about the first of July they shipped them steers into Long Valley ... pasture. So they wanted to come back down to the feedlot and stay in that feedlot. I pushed the manure out with the Cat mover and then I'd go out to ... and get rye and push that back up in the feedlots, you know. That was quite an experience. So I got that pretty well done and the cattle started coming in so I offered to sort the cattle and we put ear tags in them ... Got mixed up, you'd know where they was at, you know. We got that all done and then they were short of feeders so they wanted me to help feed. Boy I didn't like that. Oh the weather got snakey down there, foggy and cold. Doggone that ... was right on the Payette River where the feedlot was. I said, "I'm going back to Burns." And so I went back up to Burns.

We bought the Lawen Store ... Ted he'd leased it ... didn't have no place to live, so he said, "Why don't you help me with buying the Lawen Store." So I bought a third interest in it. And I stayed there that winter, and Gus Davis come in there with a bunch of cows, and we took care of them that winter. Had a heck of a mess there, he used, he had more cattle than hay we had.

PAULINE: That's a tough situation when you have more cows than you have hay to feed them.

WAYNE: Yeah. So Jim Catterson and I was helping him and he had a lot of them little old calves, he was buying them as cheap as you could get them. They was about half dead when they shipped them in. So then, Jim was up in the feedlot up here, they had enough feed for about ten days, ... hay and turn them out down in there ... Then we'd have to pick up the weak ones and bring them back. We finally wintered them, but it was tough going. We were just rotating out of the same bunch of calves about every 10 days. Yeah, it was quite an experience.

PAULINE: Okay, we'll turn the recorder off again now.

Photo #4 Joe Fine At Roaring Springs Circa 1937

PAULINE: Okay, this is Pauline talking to Wayne Johnson again about a picture. It was taken at the Roaring Springs Ranch when they first put in the lawn. And Joe Fine is mowing the lawn here, and Wayne is going to tell us about it. So how long had the lawn been in?

WAYNE: Well they had planted it the year before, and this is the second year on the lawn. But it got out of hand.

PAULINE: This is about 1937.

WAYNE: Somewhere in that area. And so Joe got his, he didn't want nobody else in there with any machinery, or running them horses in there with the mowing --- But he wanted, they had them trees planted and he was afraid they'd cut them off, so he done it

himself. They had the old gentle team down there, but you can see how young them trees are. They just are sprouting up through the, not too much higher than the weeds is, about that much higher than the --- Damn near as high as the grass.

PAULINE: Okay, now are these the trees with these white things around them?

WAYNE: No.

PAULINE: Or is that the fence?

WAYNE: That's the fence.

PAULINE: Okay. And so the trees are ---

WAYNE: You can see the trees right --- see this little tree right here?

PAULINE: Okay, right here on the right hand side of the picture as you look at it.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: That bush right there is a tree.

WAYNE: You see that ---

PAULINE: And one over here, closer to the mower, kind of in a line. Okay. And now those trees are like 60 foot tall.

WAYNE: Oh yeah, they are terrible tall now.

PAULINE: They're Carolina poplars, I think, or Lombardi poplars; I'm not sure which. And this is the house back here. Was this the headquarters house, or was this the cookhouse?

WAYNE: No, that was Joe's private house.

PAULINE: This is Joe's house.

WAYNE: Yeah, is a rock house. Tony Motovich made that house. He'd done the rockwork in it.

PAULINE: Tony Motovich.

WAYNE: Motovich. He was an old Swede, lived there at Crane.

PAULINE: Do you have any idea how to spell his name?

WAYNE: No. It's M O T O V I C H, I think.

PAULINE: Yeah, Motovich. You see the rim, the rim rocks up here. This is all springs up, coming down from up in here, isn't it?

WAYNE: Pretty much. There is a big spring right up in --- see right here. That's the one that fed the water to the house. Come down here and there is a turbine, in this little shed here, water turbine. And it created electricity, it run them, was a DC generator that supplied the electricity for all these buildings. Everything here.

PAULINE: So the spring was up here in the upper right hand corner?

WAYNE: Yeah, they piped it down.

PAULINE: And the turbine was moved to the white building then?

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh. Yeah, that's where the turbine was.

PAULINE: Well this is just fascinating, Wayne.

WAYNE: They're not quite far enough, there is more springs --- there is springs all along there, but this was a big spring, they cemented it in and ... it run down, it turned out a lot of water. You had to bypass a lot of the water. There was water for all the buildings and shops and everything around. Got lawn, and everything was watered by this spring. You can't really see it, but over in this area is where them caves are.

PAULINE: Okay, in the extreme left-hand corner of the picture as you look at it. Above the house, and over to the left.

WAYNE: Yeah, there is a big cave in the rim rock up there.

PAULINE: You can sort of see it, I think, in this bigger --- here on the computer. I think right here?

WAYNE: Yeah, the Indians used to camp up in there. And we'd go up there and fool around. We'd get a lot of arrowheads, and Indian baskets and stuff. Finally somebody found out that they was up there, and then here come the --- well then people are digging.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: Archeologists.

PAULINE: The archeologists.

WAYNE: Yeah. And they say you couldn't go back up there anymore. They closed it up for future study. But anyway we got a lot of it out of it before they ever knew anything about it. Yeah.

PAULINE: I think that's, is that where they found the sagebrush sandals?

WAYNE: I don't know, could have.

PAULINE: I'm not sure.

WAYNE: There is a lot of them, we've got a lot baskets they'd weaved, and stuff up there.

PAULINE: Do you know what happened to that stuff?

WAYNE: No, I don't.

PAULINE: Okay, we'll turn off the recorder and ---

**Photo #5 Wayne Johnson With Older Brother Russell And
Sister Dorothy**

PAULINE: Okay, Wayne, this is a picture of your mother and sister and you in Nebraska in 1925. Can you tell me about the car?

WAYNE: Yeah, it was an old Model-A coupe. I guess they called them coupe at that time, my brother had.

PAULINE: And your brother's name was Russell.

WAYNE: Uh huh, yeah, Russell.

PAULINE: And your sister Dorothy.

WAYNE: Dorothy.

PAULINE: And she married Ted Carson.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: How old were you when this picture ---

WAYNE: Well in '25, I was born in '22, so I'd be 3 years old.

PAULINE: Is this the car that you came to Oregon in?

WAYNE: No, this is my brother's car, a personal car. And no, we come to --- my folks had a '29 Chevrolet, and that's when they come to Oregon. And then we got to Sydney and somebody hit us and dented the frame on the thing. So it kind of looked like a prairie schooner a little bit, but it didn't hurt the driving of it, so we kept coming. And some came to Oregon, and he had it at Crane when the garage burned, it was in the garage there at Crane, we stored it. It cost us 50 cents a month to put it in there. But my mother put it in the garage then, it burnt, and a '29 Chevrolet burned up too.

PAULINE: Well did your brother Russell come to Oregon with you?

WAYNE: No, he come to Payette [Idaho]. He was there a couple of years before he come on up to --- but his wife didn't like it here, because her folks was all back there and

she was lonesome, so she packed up and left, and he had to follow her. So he went back there. He wasn't out here only a couple of years. But Dorothy and mother and my dad we stayed. And then my dad was working in the feedlot and the women, Dorothy and my mother was working in the garage there. Picked apples and stuff through the summer. But then they needed a cook up at the Alvord and the chore man, so Dad he thought that would be a better job than working in that feedlot. It was all for the same outfit, Alvord's outfit then, feedlot there. So Dorothy and my dad went up there, and my mother stayed with me, because I was in school. Kept me in school there at Payette until school was out and then we went up. But, yeah them days in old high wheels was pretty good in the mud, because you didn't high center so bad. I don't remember too much about that. I know my brother was quite a man for automobiles. He was always trading cars.

Photo #6 Stacking Hay At P Ranch

PAULINE: Okay. Okay this is haying at the P Ranch, and they are stacking hay with the slide and the horse and team. And the year was about --- do you know about what year it was?

WAYNE: Oh ---

PAULINE: It was owned by Eastern Oregon Livestock Company at that time.

WAYNE: Yeah, they had the P Ranch leased. They had sold it, and, but they had it leased. They paid so much a head, a month for the cattle in there. He had to put up the hay.

PAULINE: So this is the wagon that brought the ---

WAYNE: That's a Jim wagon, that's called a Jim wagon.

PAULINE: The haying was called the Jim wagon.

WAYNE: Uh huh. They was moving the slide away. Just finished, just finished the stack and they was taking the Jim wagon, or the Jim wagon was pulling the slide away from the stack.

PAULINE: And you said they called that a beaver slide.

WAYNE: That's what, yeah, uh huh, beaver slides. This here is a dame horse buck they had for the teams on each side of it. They had rudder bucks too; see it's got two wheels on it. The rudder buck has just got one wheel.

PAULINE: That's on the left hand side of the picture. You can see the back end of the two horses and then the buck. And what did you call that again?

WAYNE: That's what they called the old dame buck.

PAULINE: The dame buck.

WAYNE: Uh huh, dame buncher. Just had one of them. The other, they run three of the other bucks, and this dame buck.

PAULINE: That's what gathered the hay up and brought it into the stack. And you brought the hay in on the buck, and then they put it on the net, and the net pulled it up to slide onto the stack.

WAYNE: Yeah, this Jim team was on this other end, and they pulled that net up. And the old horse standing there, he was the pullback horse. Brought the net back off the stack.

PAULINE: Do you know, let's see, we didn't decide what year this was about? Probably, maybe in the '40's.

WAYNE: Well no, it's later than that.

PAULINE: Was it later than that?

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: It was into the '50's?

WAYNE: I'd say yeah, I'd say early '50's. But we hayed it every year. This picture probably was in the early '50's. Later years we used all mules on this. There was one or two mules in there that, but the mules was, they was better on the --- they were slower to pulling the hay up than the horses. The horses they'd get excited to get it going, and then --- but these old mules they'd just stand along, and go along pretty slow, which is a lot better than speed up there. Yeah.

PAULINE: Okay. Turn this off again.

TAPE 4 – SIDE A

Photo #7 Going In For Grub Roaring Springs

PAULINE: Okay, this is the hay crew coming in for dinner. You said there was a 40-man hay crew.

WAYNE: Hay crew, uh huh.

PAULINE: And they couldn't all eat at, in one shift. So they came in shifts?

WAYNE: Yeah, about 15 to the shift.

PAULINE: And this man right out here leading the pack you said you thought was ---

WAYNE: Paul Howard.

PAULINE: Paul Howard. He was a manager?

WAYNE: No, no he was just working there. But he was a manager, he was working for Swift then but he went to Rex Clemens after that.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: But Joe Fine was a ---

PAULINE: Joe Fine was the manager.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: There is quite a line of them coming ---- what was this house back here?

WAYNE: That's the bunkhouse that they're coming from.

PAULINE: The bunkhouse. They're coming from the bunkhouse.

WAYNE: Two of them, two bunkhouses back there. And the cookhouse, I don't know where that picture ...

PAULINE: This is at Roaring Springs, and around 1950, going for grub. Okay, let's stop here.

PAULINE: So this was a garden.

WAYNE: Yeah, that was a garden spot ... It was quite a garden in there.

PAULINE: And tell me again how you and your dad mowed the lawn.

WAYNE: Well we had that old push reel mower, you know, and put a rope on the front and I'd be the horse, and he was behind there pushing. And that's the way we --- we'd get a lot done that way.

PAULINE: A little extra power there.

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh. But I wasn't smart enough I could have got my saddle horse and pulled it with the saddle horse, you know. But I didn't.

PAULINE: Okay, we want to go --- Let's see, well this --- I think this will go better; this third one will go better.

Photo #8 The Fly Tent

WAYNE: Is that this one? Well this one is close enough.

PAULINE: Yeah, this is --- right here.

WAYNE: Well that's probably close enough. That's the chuck wagon box that's in there.

PAULINE: And you called it the fly?

WAYNE: Yeah that's, the tent is a fly, just something to eat under, and keep the rain off of you. But it didn't stop the mosquitoes from biting, or the plates getting cold, and the grease would stick to the --- turn you know just kind of back to lard.

PAULINE: Yeah, when it cooled off.

WAYNE: Yeah. Early mornings especially, you know. But you can see the cook wagon, they had a chuck wagon, regular wagon and they had a chuck box on the, grub box on the back. That was where the cook kept their groceries.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

WAYNE: And you let this table ... worktable. And of course you cooked on an old fireplace out here. This chuck wagon I brought down from Roaring Springs, we'd just moved in. That was the first time I'd ever drove a four-horse team, and I pulled this wagon down. It was about; just right after dinner when I started to leave with it, they told me well you better jog right along to get there in time. It was 15 miles, you know, down to the P Ranch, and then back ... 3 or 4 more. So I was loaded with, they had loaded all

the groceries in the wagon, cases of stuff. And I didn't know that they had a half a case of eggs in the back. This old iron-wheeled wagon, and I was trotting right along. Better get down there, like they told me. And got down there and the eggs were running everywhere.

PAULINE: Oh gosh, what a mess.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: I bet the cook was happy about that.

WAYNE: Yeah. And I think it broke all but about a dozen of them. But that was --- I got better pictures somewhere of that too.

PAULINE: We'll save this, this one as the fly. And then I'm going to scan this other one in and call it the chuck wagon.

Photo #9 The Chuckwagon

WAYNE: The chuck wagon is in underneath the fly. You see that?

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah it would be right back.

WAYNE: Be back in here, see.

PAULINE: Right here.

WAYNE: Yeah.

Photo #10 Washing Up!

PAULINE: Oh well it shows it better there. I'm going to do this one in too because it has the wash pans where you washed up.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: That sure brings back memories.

WAYNE: Yeah. And there should have been another one that showed better --- and ---

PAULINE: Okay. The chuck wagon boxes, it shows there on the left hand, or the right hand side of the picture, and the men are sitting at the table on benches under the tent, which they called the fly. We'll save that as --- Okay. We'll save that as the chuck wagon box. And then we're going to scan in one that shows the wash, washing up. Oh in that picture that has the chuck wagon box in it, there is Judd Wolf, Harry Meyers, Elmer Ash, Solen, it's S O L E N, Wolf W O L F, Johnny Oleachea, O L E A C H E A, and May Wolf Oleachea. She was the cook.

WAYNE: No, she wasn't an Oleachea, she was May Wolf. Just May Wolf.

PAULINE: Oh, May Wolf was the cook. Okay, I couldn't read. I saw that and thought that was Oleachea. And this was in 1940 at the P Ranch.

WAYNE: Yeah, Solen Wolf was Judd and May's boy.

PAULINE: When the men came in to clean up, they had dish pans, or wash pans sitting out on a bench, and everybody poured a little water in and ---

WAYNE: Yeah, they had washtubs on top of this pit fire, on this frame and that helped a lot, so it had hot water, and they'd build a fire early in the morning there. And that's where they had a little hot water to wash with.

PAULINE: And then when you got through washing, what did you do with the water?

WAYNE: Just throw it down. It was in the meadow, right out there, it didn't make no difference.

PAULINE: That's what I remember, was you washed up, and then you just gave it a toss.

WAYNE: Yeah, just toss it away.

PAULINE: Okay, and in this picture we've got --- shows the wash pans --- it says eating under the fly at the P Ranch, and it was Billy Bresneck.

WAYNE: Casper Gunderson probably.

PAULINE: Casper, is that Casper Gunderson?

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Casper Gunderson and Ed Dobson. Well which one of these was Billy Bresneck, was that this one closest to the cook box?

WAYNE: No, right here.

PAULINE: Right here, in the dark suit.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And then this was Casper Gunderson in the white shirt and the blonde hair.

WAYNE: And that's Ed Dobson up there.

PAULINE: And Ed Dobson and he's kind of the bald headed fellow that is standing. And the others are seated and have their backs to us.

WAYNE: One of them --- is this the same pictures?

PAULINE: Yes.

WAYNE: Yeah. This here is Jody Gadas, Gadas.

PAULINE: He's in the white shirt facing us.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And the three fellows with their backs to us we're not sure of that. And what kind of a pickup was this back here?

WAYNE: ...I don't know, I think it looks like an International to me. ...

PAULINE: In the enlargement on the computer you can see the cook box with the different kinds of cans and supplies in it.

WAYNE: Yeah, you can see the tables down for her worktable.

PAULINE: Uh huh, and her worktable. Okay, this one again, was at the P Ranch. We'll call this one washing up.

Photo #11 Mart Brenton's Cabin at P Ranch

PAULINE: Okay now Wayne, we're talking about Mart Brenton's cabin at the P Ranch. And of course Mart Brenton was one of the very early pioneers, and is probably best known because he was supposedly the one who took his toe and started the water through the sand dune to spill the water from Malheur Lake into Harney Lake way back in those very, very early days. At least that is the story they tell. But he was pretty well known in this community. So this is a picture of Gene Miller and Cliff Fine at the P Ranch, Brenton cabin. And it shows the backside of it. Then the bottom picture shows the front of it. And you said that the cook for the hay crew used to live in this cabin.

WAYNE: Yeah she, yeah they --- that was the only decent place they had, the rest of us either laid out in the wide-open spaces, or they had their own tents. They never even, later years they finally got a great big tent, and then they thought everybody could shack up in that, that could get in. Otherwise you just knocked the hay stalks down and that's where you laid your bed on.

PAULINE: Weren't the mosquitoes pretty bad?

WAYNE: Yeah, we had mosquitoes... by then, put over your head and your bed. That's the only way you could sleep. Put a big, get a couple willows and put them up, you

know, and put it like a Y, and then put a willow across and lay your mosquito ... over that. And you get enough so you could cover your head and part of your bed.

PAULINE: It was kind of like a net?

WAYNE: Yeah. Yeah, then we would smoke them out, put hay in a gallon can and set the old hay afire and smoke them away. Yeah, there was all kinds of tricks though. ... on the end of, well it was after the war got started they come out with 6-12, the stuff you could rub on you, and it was really good, and it kept the mosquitoes off you pretty good. But we had good nets and sacks and flappers on the horses all the time, the horse flies and mosquitoes were so bad, you know.

PAULINE: Oh, horse flies were wicked.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Still are wicked.

WAYNE: We finally got so that the horses would run most of the night, and they'd just be --- so we kept them up in a corral and feed them hay at night and then change them at noon. Worked them half a day, afternoon, then the next morning they'd change and let them go for a half a day. But the night horses they kept out in the corral during the day, the mosquitoes weren't so bad then around the camp.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WAYNE: Because it was ...

PAULINE: Well this one picture is taken in the summertime, but this other picture is taken in the wintertime, and you're sitting on the porch.

WAYNE: Well I think the picture of Gene and Cliff was taken in early fall.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: Because that's the only time that, he never was there in the summertime. He was either, just kind of a buckaroo camp or hay camp in the summer a little bit, and then in the late fall we'd come in there with the cattle. And the men stayed in that, we'd all, had one or two rooms to it, and we'd all camp in the bedroom where the stove was, because there wasn't too much to that cabin.

PAULINE: It was not a very big cabin.

WAYNE: No. And we had beds in there, we doubled up and slept together and everything. There was probably eight of us that could sleep in there. And then we had this little old wood stove that kept it going to keep warm. But it was just made up with boards straight up and down, and then a board over the crack. That's all it was. Wind come in there pretty good. (Laughter)

PAULINE: It was better than being out doors, but probably not that much. And your dog, dog Spud was your dog?

WAYNE: Yeah, that was my dog. He was actually Mary Fine's dog, but he didn't want to stay with her, and it took up with me and so I kept the dog. I stole her dog.

PAULINE: What kind of dog was it?

WAYNE: Well it was just a shepherd, I guess.

PAULINE: Well just a cow dog.

WAYNE: Yeah, he was a smart dog.

PAULINE: And of course the cabin now is gone.

WAYNE: Yeah, it's all burned up. There was a fire, got a fire in there and burned all the willows and ---

PAULINE: Some of the things that I can see is the washtub hanging on the side of the building. Oh gosh, probably food hanging in the ---

WAYNE: That's a meat sack.

PAULINE: Meat sack hanging here to cool, and keep the meat cool. Okie dokie. We'll call this Brenton cabin.

WAYNE: That was my old '36 car setting out there, the only car we had. I ...

PAULINE: I was going to ask you what year that car was.

WAYNE: '34. After the car burned up at Crane, why Dorothy and I was working there at the store and we bought this --- Ray Weeks trusted us and we didn't have to pay nothing down, we paid so much a month. It was a used car. We got it paid off, and then she got married. She give me her part of the car, so I had a car.

PAULINE: Well Ray Weeks was pretty good about helping young folks out.

WAYNE: Yeah. Yeah, he always wanted me to come in and go to work for him and be a parts man. I couldn't see myself being tied down in a store. Oh boy. Because I worked ...once at the Crane Mercantile.

PAULINE: And then you were a little bit out at Lawen too.

WAYNE: Yeah, well I didn't stay there much. My mother was there, and I just was in and out whenever --- No I never stayed there too much. Got eleven years in after Dorothy's husband died, then I come back there and run her cattle for her. Then we stayed at the store, I stayed at the store with her.

Photo #12 H and L Ranch

PAULINE: Okay, this is a picture of the H and L Ranch, which belonged to the Roaring Springs camp. Oh, to the Roaring Springs, and you camped there while you were building the road to Smith Flat, on the Echart Grade. So how high, how far up the mountain is this? I think ---

WAYNE: Oh, probably a mile up the mountain.

PAULINE: A mile up the mountain, above Roaring Springs.

WAYNE: Well no, it's south of Roaring Springs. Probably, let's see 3 miles, 11 miles, and then, yeah 15 miles south of Roaring Springs. But it's from the main road.

PAULINE: And it's about a mile up ---

WAYNE: Up, up off that road to the ---

PAULINE: So, and we're looking at, from the ranch then you can look back out over Catlow Valley.

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh. Harry Lowe and his wife was running that HL place. They had --- there was a reservoir down below there, and they had some alfalfa in down there, and he loved that alfalfa. And ---

Photo #13 Roaring Springs Shop Circa 1940

PAULINE: Okay, we did that one, and we did those two. So now we've got these little guys. Oh, here is the Roaring Spring shed, shop, we can do that. So this is a picture of the shop before it burnt down.

WAYNE: Yeah, then they rebuilt another one just like it up there, after that one burnt.

PAULINE: Did they have a forge in there?

WAYNE: Yeah, uh huh.

PAULINE: And so what kinds of things did they do in the shop?

WAYNE: Oh, they had an old three-finger Jack. Jack Breese, he was a shop man. And he was a forge welder; he welded anything with that forge. In fact he, I was the man that got to turn the forge for him when I was a kid

PAULINE: Is that the bellows?

WAYNE: No, that's an old crank. Crank these things here, you get the air out, and you get in there underneath there. You kept the fire burning.

PAULINE: Okay.

WAYNE: Then, yeah, keep that old iron hot, it would just sparkle. You bring it out, and tap on the handle a little bit, you hit it, and throw some kind of stuff on it, I always called it sand, I never did know what it was. And he held it together, and set her up and get it hot again and she'd just sparkle and ... put it all down and it would just smooth out just like new, perfect weld. Yeah. Yeah we used to weld the tire irons, but I never did see him --- He told me that when the tire rim would get worn and they'd get too big, then the wheels would come off, he'd take and cut them and then put them together and they would re-weld them. That's probably what they called shrinking them. Put them on then you run your bolts through, big washers on them and held them on the wheels. But I never did help him do any of that.

PAULINE: There is, they've got several old cars in there. Of course they weren't old cars at the time, they were ---

WAYNE: No, that was the hay crews that come in. Fellows used to come in from --- they run the circuit, they'd start down in Texas and come right up through Oregon, and

then they'd go into California and then back down, just made a circle haying. And they'd come back every year, and they'd park their cars in there. And that's what started the fire, because one of them cars their mirrors, come late in the evening and it ripped the mirror, ripped the back seat of one of them cars, it set that car afire. And that's what caused the shop to burn down.

PAULINE: Was this while you were still a kid, or is this later?

WAYNE: Yeah. No, not a kid.

PAULINE: So it would have been about 19---

WAYNE: Yeah, it was around the '40's. I was going to school. Probably in the --- no it was probably in the '30's.

PAULINE: In the '30's sometime.

WAYNE: And then a fellow by the name of, what was his name, Gordon Ferris, he come back and he built the new shop just like the old one was.

PAULINE: Jordan Ferris?

WAYNE: Gordon Ferris.

PAULINE: Gordon Ferris, oh he was a ---

WAYNE: Carpenter.

PAULINE: --- carpenter from Burns.

WAYNE: Yeah. He come back and he built it, the shop back like it was.

PAULINE: Okay. That's a historic picture if it burnt down and had to be re-built. Let's see, we'll save this as Roaring Springs shop.

Photo #14 Baby Pictures

PAULINE: Okay, I'm going to put these three together. Oh, you were such a cute little man. You were, you were just learning to walk in those pictures. That's the thing about little boys; they have to grow up into big men. If they'd just stay little boys. You want to put that one over there. We're waiting for the computer to scan the photos into the computer.

WAYNE: These pictures won't go in the paper; they'll just be ---

PAULINE: I will just put those with your interview for the library. And I'm going to pick out a couple of them that are pretty good to submit with the story for the paper so that --- hopefully they'll use a couple of them in the --- And I'm just going to go through and pick the ones that I think will print the best. Because --- so the quality will be good.

WAYNE: How about those I took before?

PAULINE: Oh yeah, I'll show you those here in a minute --- of you. Okay. This is your sister Dorothy in the first picture. And you are pretty little, you are just probably learning to walk. So you may be only about 2 years old. There is no date on the back, so we're not sure. This is your sister Dorothy, and you're in the middle, and your cousin Opal Hedlund. That's O P A L, Hedlund is H E D L U N D. And the middle picture is you by yourself, standing all by yourself, pretty proud. And then on the right you're in your Sunday best suit. Do you remember that suit?

WAYNE: Yeah, I think I had spats too, that you had to put on your shoes and you buckled them up, you know.

PAULINE: It looks like maybe you did. ...

WAYNE: I remember them, doggone it I hated putting them things on; because the tips ... six or eight buttons up the side that you had to button up, take them off. I never did know what they was for anyway. Keep your ankles warm, I guess. Called them spats. Those eastern people they dolled up when they had the money to do it.

PAULINE: Yeah, there they are. Were these buttons?

WAYNE: Yeah, sure, they had to be buttons then. Well I don't know about that, they'd be under that suit.

PAULINE: It kind of looks like your pants buttoned to your jacket maybe, I don't know.

WAYNE: Yeah, I think them is the sock that you pulled up here.

PAULINE: Yeah, right here.

WAYNE: But the spats is right around the bottom of your shoes.

PAULINE: Yeah, right here.

WAYNE: I think it would be when I had the suit on.

PAULINE: Yeah. Do you know who is looking out the window?

WAYNE: I can't tell whether that is my mother or my dad. Is that a man or a woman?

PAULINE: Oh, I think maybe it is your dad. Yeah, he's got coveralls on. And your dad is looking out the window. Okay. ... that mark on there, I don't know how to get that off. I'll have to --- I guess that did it. Zoom out. And these pictures were taken in Nebraska where you were born.

WAYNE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Okay, we're going to call this baby pictures, then we'll know what this is. Okay. Well I think that's about a day's work for both of us.

WAYNE: I think so.

PAULINE: What I need you to do is ---

WAYNE: Here is a picture of ... with his spats on.

PAULINE: Oh yeah. I can blow that up and see the picture of Russell and ---

WAYNE: You took it.

PAULINE: Yeah, it's in there; the one that was taken in 1925 and you have your suit on, with your brother Russell and your sister Dorothy. If we blow that up we should be able to see the spats on your shoes. So this is a release form that says that you were okay about being recorded, and that you know that it is going to be in the library, and that the library has the right to ---

WAYNE: Throw it out if they want to.

PAULINE: Well I'll print it, or use it for research and all that.

WAYNE: Where do you want me to sign?

PAULINE: Right here. And then you can put your address in there.

WAYNE: Box ---

TAPE 4 – SIDE B

PAULINE: Okay. And then I get to sign it, and then the librarian will sign it so it will really be official when we get through. And when I get her signature on here I'll make a copy of it and get it to you, so you'll have a copy.

WAYNE: Who is the librarian?

PAULINE: Jolyn Wynn. And the other lady that might sign it is the archivist, is Sandra Crittenden.

WAYNE: Mrs. Sitz was in there the last time I was ---

PAULINE: Yeah, she is retired now.

WAYNE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Wayne, can you tell me about running the stage between the Narrows and Princeton with Georgia Crow?

WAYNE: You know, really that was a long time ago. But I wasn't, I don't remember just why I had, I did that. But we were working for --- Mother was cooking at Gills at the time, and I used to drive Nellie down to the store to get the mail, but she didn't drive. So I guess that's where Georgia come to ask me to help her, because I think John was sick or hurt or something. I think that's when I helped her with driving the stage.

PAULINE: The stage.

WAYNE: Mail sacks was pretty heavy, pretty hard for a woman to lift, you know. But I was not a very big kid, but I was pretty stout, you know. I would handle them around, crawl up in the back, we had a pickup, and I had to crawl up in the back to get these sacks out and stuff. So I think that this was, something that touched her.

PAULINE: Your lives touched at that point.

WAYNE: Yeah, I think so.

PAULINE: And you worked with her, with Johnny's brother, Rankin.

WAYNE: Yeah, and I rode with Dave Crow, the father-in-law, and rode at Roaring Springs. And when I was a kid, why him and I rode out in the desert together one day. So I got quite well acquainted with him too. Yeah, I'm pretty well acquainted with the Crow family.

PAULINE: Well I think it's neat that you're going to be on the stage together next week. We'll turn this off now.

(END OF TAPE)

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