

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-ORAL HISTORY #445 – Sides A/B/C/D

SUBJECT: Charles Walker

PLACE: Walker Home – Hines, Oregon

DATE: June 28, 1979

INTERVIEWERS: Melba Lewitz & Truett Powers

(Interview of Charles Walker, Assistant Sales Manager of the Hines Lumber Company, at Hines, Oregon, at his home at 423 Pettibone Street, on Thursday, June 28, 1979 at 9:00 a.m., was by Melba Lewitz and Truett Powers.) (For the Horner Museum #979129-A)

CHARLES WALKER: --- my father and mother came over here in April of 1929. We have to go back farther than that, my father worked for Edward Hines Lumber Company in Winton, Minnesota, ... Wisconsin, and Virginia, Minnesota. And the Edward Hines Lumber Company cut out of timber in Minnesota in 1923, and that was the end of the mill in Virginia. Then from Virginia, then there were --- the people we left --- we went to Montana and to Canada, then back to Portland. All this was between '23 and '29.

MELBA LEWITZ: Had nothing to do with the mill though?

CHARLES: No. Because at that time my father worked for the lumber company, he worked up in British Columbia, Lumber ... BC. And all of our family moved up there. In

our family there is my mother and father, and my brother and myself, there was just the four of us.

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: Then we moved on to Portland in April of 1929. Well in 1928 when Edward Hines bought out Herrick and Howard here, then all the people that used to be with Hines in Minnesota and in the South, were drifting back and forth, and decided to come to Hines here where they were finishing this mill here.

So my dad came over here in April of 1929, and went to work. And in the meantime from April to September my mother and I and my brother lived in Portland. Then we came over here in September of 1929, in a Model-A Ford. The road from Bend to Burns was all dirt; there was no pavement. Every car that traveled that road from Bend to Burns had the water bag, the canvas water bag. Everybody carried one of those, because there was no water from there to here, a couple of gas stations.

We got to Hines late in the afternoon, and I'll never forget this. We didn't know where my father was, where his residence was. The mill was still working so we parked there until the mill let out at 5 o'clock. And coming from to Portland to Burns, holy smokes, what a let down I'll tell you.

MELBA: Who were the people at the mill at that time?

CHARLES: That was --- you mean --- running, the manager?

MELBA: Yes.

CHARLES: That was C. J. Pettibone.

MELBA: Pettibone. Is that what she said, that information --- Pettibone?

CHARLES: No. Well the first manager of the mill when they were under construction, he brought quite a few people, executives out of Minnesota. And T. S. Whitten was one of the general managers here. And C. J. Pettibone, he was also a manager. Came out of the South, from Mississippi. That's who built the guesthouse over here was T. S. It's a guesthouse now, but that was his residence at that time. We come here then in September of 1929.

MELBA: How long did it take you to come from Portland?

CHARLES: Oh it was hours and hours and hours. I have no way --- you know with today's traveling, compared to what we --- it was all these trips; it was a good eight hours from Portland to Burns here. We came through rocks, we didn't come to Warm Springs in those days, we came up through Maupin and down Cow Creek Canyon to Madras, to Bend to Burns and that way. They didn't have the Warm Springs cut-off in those days.

We got to Burns --- and of course the mill was all under construction, and there is some pictures around here I'll show you. There was hundreds of people working on the construction, which if you just considered today, that mill was all constructed with hand tools. You didn't have electric drills and electric wrenches, and power saws and that. It was all built by manpower. And that is what it was. So the crew they had there was hundreds and hundreds of people working. Now all the timber from the mill, which was all constructed with timber, and corrugated metal on the outside. It was shipped in by rail. Of course when Herrick started the mill, the first job he had to do was build the track from Crane to Burns because that was the end of the line at Crane. The Union Pacific stopped when they built there. I think they ended there in 1924, I think the records will show you. So when Herrick and Howard came in here to build the mill, their

first job was to build the ... track from Crane to Burns to get the materials in here. So all the timbers and all the metal to build the mill was shipped into Burns by rail.

MELBA: From where?

CHARLES: Well from the coast, it's all coast, I don't know where abouts on the coast. But some of those timbers, for instance, go overhead ... timbers are 12 x 24 x 34 foot lengths. So there is lots of timbers down there 12 x 12 x 40 feet, 42 feet. So all that type of timber was shipped in here and then cut and put in place. That, even today the mill is structurally in great condition, in those many years, 50 years since they built the thing. But it's all corrugated metal on it. Now we're in the process of tearing some of the mill down and putting in a new planing mill down there, ... And so they're tearing some of the old buildings down. Now we built an addition on that building in 1950, to the shed, and put on some local timber, corrugated metal. So the difference between the corrugated metal we get today, and what we got 50 years ago, you can't imagine how much stronger that was, and there is no deterioration of materials. U.S. Steel corrugated metal.

MELBA: The old stuff was ---

CHARLES: The old stuff is out there with about a 2 ½" nail, and they hooked it with, and it's a job to take it down. ... to take it down. Took the first section down that was built in '50, and there is real ... really had a good contract until he got up to the mill that was built in 1930. And then he really had trouble getting that one apart. So, we'll go back to '29.

So then in 1929 there was the schoolhouse in Hines, see if I've got a picture of it here for you. It was a one-room schoolhouse. I've got one picture --- and it was down on

the south end of --- it was a one-room schoolhouse, or 2 rooms, first through the 5th grade in one room, and the 6th on through the 8th in the other room. And not much of a school, so most of the people --- but a lot of the houses you seen in '29 were not finished yet. So a lot of them lived up in Burns. We had, out there across from the office we had some buildings that people built, and let just --- you might call them shacks today that they lived in. And so there was a few kids that went to school down here; in the early construction people's children went there. Well we went right on up to Burns, and we lived in Burns until the next summer when we moved out to Hines in 1930. But then in 1930 when we moved to Hines they built the new grade school down here, their new school now. A. E. Cuff built that building and R. H. Anderson was the first principal of the grade school.

All right. Then you want more about the mill, all right. First in those days the mill was right in the middle of depression, of all times to open the mill was in 1930. Who in the world knew we were going to have a depression in 1928, or even '29, that's when it hit. But I'll never forget when I went into the service in 1940 --- actually we never knew we had a depression here in Harney County. We always had plenty of food to eat, and our fathers worked at the mill. Now they didn't work steady. You might work two days a week, or you might work one day a week. So --- but the days that they worked at the mill that we paid house rent. If they didn't work, we didn't have to pay rent. So all the money that they made at the mill was for food and electricity, or stuff like that. So another one that we had when we came here, this is something that we had to --- when we came out here in 1929 we brought a lot of the people from Minnesota that worked for Edward Hines in Minnesota, here to Hines. And then we brought a lot of

people from the South up here in Mississippi that worked for Edward Hines in the South.

And when we all got together here we had the civil war all over again. (Laughter)

MELBA: Why was that?

CHARLES: Well you had the North and the South, see. You forgot that now, but in 1930 they still remembered the Civil War. And then the, and the strange talk, you know, you all, we all, carry you all home, and stuff like that. Fat wood, which was pitch. And cornbread, never heard of that in my life until we got here. And some of them ... the recipes was great. One I'll never forget is robin pie now. I never heard of robin pie, I don't suppose you did?

MELBA: I never have.

CHARLES: It's the greatest --- it's like a meat dish. All you use is the robin, is the breast of the robin. And there is hundreds of them around here. And the southern knew how to cook the robin pie. Just take the breast, that was the meat. We all raised our own vegetables, and that was a pretty good ---- I said that one time, I was talking to a man over in Idaho and I didn't know he belonged to the Audubon Society. But as soon as I told him I had robin pie that ruined that conversation. He left me like a cold potato. But I'll tell you --- it was a good --- and their recipes like --- One recipe I'd like to find again, Mrs. Park used to make this, it was chocolate cake with prunes in it. You cooked the prunes and put it --- and it weighed a ton to lift it. Oh it was delicious. I've never --- that's 50 years; I've never had any since then. But --- when we --- let's get back to what I was telling you.

When our fathers worked we paid rent, and when they didn't we didn't pay rent. So during the depression we had enough money to give them all, we paid our electricity

when we had to. And clothing you had to buy, and stuff like that. But everybody had a garden now. In the city of Hines for instance you lived in one block, maybe two houses would be occupied in the whole block, and there would be vacant houses behind you. So you could use that property for your garden. Now you didn't have --- you had to all be hand spaded in those days, we didn't have these outfits to plow up the ground. So everybody plowed their own little gardens. And we had water, lots of water. No problem getting water. So everybody, that's what your job was when summer came, was taking care of your dad's garden. So we raised potatoes and corn, squash, and carrots and peas and had a good community. Because if you had extra potatoes and the other guy had extra squash, you could swap. So you always had a full basement of food to last you pretty well into the winter. So everybody got along pretty good, it was a good community. And we --- automobiles, very few automobiles, you walked you didn't ride.

MELBA: Is that what you and your brother did mainly, was take care of the garden and stuff?

CHARLES: Take care of the garden, pull the weeds, and turn the water on, and turn it off. Chase the rabbits out of the yard, because rabbits and deer come right down into the town in those days. There was lots of jackrabbits. And we were fortunate; we lived in a house where they had cherry trees in it. This used to be a cherry orchard back in here many, many years ago. So we had cherry trees in our yard. But, now then, like you see, a lot of houses were vacant so you could shovel up the back yard, and your garden might take in two properties, or maybe even more. But everybody raised their own vegetables, while our fathers worked.

And one other one that we don't do any more, or never hear are all these --- we had a, our whistle blew a quarter to the hour and on the hour. Now in those days living here in Hines, our fathers could walk to work in the morning, about a five-minute walk to work, or ten minute. So the whistle blew a quarter to the hour and on the hour. When the quarter to whistle blew they took off for work, and came home for dinner. And it was, I never realized what the depression was until I got to the service, and being a first sergeant talked to the soldiers that lived in New York or Chicago, or Philadelphia, those huge cities, and that must have been a horrible situation with no food, you couldn't raise food like we did out here. We had deer, we had ducks and geese.

MELBA: You really had a good set-up, didn't you?

CHARLES: We went through the depression --- yeah. And our mill was good to us. We had beautiful homes, brand new homes. All these homes in Hines were all plastered. Plastered interior, was all plastered. Fantastic buildings.

MELBA: Are they owned by Hines?

CHARLES: No. Stafford, Derbes and Roy came in here as a speculator. In fact they built the city of Chehalis, Washington. I've got one of those --- that's it right there.

MELBA: Okay.

CHARLES: That's the brochure of the people --- they came in, in the depression, they went broke. And then a couple of, after the houses were built was when they went broke. Then a couple of finance companies came in, and it ended up the Hines Company took over the selling of the houses. In those days you could rent them, I think the rent was about four bits a day when you were working, and not, there was no rent. So there was no money to sell the houses anyhow. So all they had to do was maintain them, and keep

them up. So it was pretty good to them in that kind of condition, where we had our own grade school here. We have a union high school, after you got through here you went to Burns at that time. We was up there making a junior high, that was our high school at that time.

MELBA: Because Burns had a grade school and high school.

CHARLES: Yeah.

MELBA: And Hines was just separate from them.

CHARLES: Yeah, right, they were separate. They were incorporated in 1931. But that's another one, you see, I pull this on you that the name of Hines originally when it was starting was D. Greeder Burns. We had quite a time with that. No, not many people admitted it, but they all ... in there even in the picture, D. Greeder Burns.

MELBA: I'll bet Burns had it ---

CHARLES: Well you have to be a pioneer from this end you have the county --- You know when they came in here, when --- then they tell this story. I of course, I was too young then, but they wanted to build the city of Hines out there on the south end of Burns, and they called that the Voegtly addition. Well, which would have been a good idea. It would have been a huge town, about the size of Bend. But the land, people raised their prices beyond what they wanted to pay. So then they went over the hill north, to what they called the Reed addition. And they were going to butt the city of Hines there, the town site there. There again they raised the price of the land. So what they did they came out and bought county land. And this was a lot cheaper, there was --- there wasn't either --- the city of Burns. Consequently we got the city of Hines here and the city of Burns there. But then, like I say they called it D. Greeder Burns.

Now when we came out here to build, or to work in the mill here, Burns had been setting like that for many years, just a ranch country, farming, cattle. And to have the lumberjacks move in on them they were ... In fact R. L. Jackson wrote an article in the Saturday Evening Post, and this goes back in about, in the '30 or '31, I don't have a copy but I wished I did, but in it R. L. Jackson was, as long as he was a great man, and a good historian, and good friend, but in the article he wrote that when the mill people came in, the Burns people started locking their doors. (Laughter) So we never let that get out of site, see. And I --- well when I --- I got to tell you this too. This is why I talk this way. When I was a little kid, when Hines Grade School --- I went to Burns Grade School first, and then came out to the Hines Grade School. But in the summertime when we went to town and you get up on to Main Street, you could get licked, you know. The Burns boys would wait on the edge of town, we'd walk into town, if there was only one of us you got licked two or three times before you got to town see. Until we got smart, and then we all got us a bean flicker. Now you can make bean --- of course you can buy a bean flicker today. But what you do you go out and you get a willow and in those days you get the rubber inner tube and you cut, made slingshots see. And we'd go to town and we got pretty proficient with that bean flicker. We'd kill rabbits with them, and birds, and everything else. And you wore them around your neck, and a pocket full or rocks. And that --- we could go to Burns without being afraid of getting licked.

LORRAINE WALKER: ... the kind of stuff they want to know about.

CHARLES: Yeah. Now this is the town site, I'll let them look at that too. But ---

MELBA: Now where, these pictures of down in the mill ---

CHARLES: Yeah. Then I've got some of those too.

MELBA: Good, I'd like to see those.

CHARLES: I got a whole pile of pictures of the mill.

MELBA: Good. That might help you. You can see what ---

CHARLES: Where were we now?

MELBA: Your bean flickers.

CHARLES: Yeah, we had our bean flickers. So consequently we had the two communities, which is great. Another one that, the Hines give them too much --- the city of Hines here ---

MELBA: Well it sort of coordinates I think a little bit.

CHARLES: Yeah. The mill and the city of Hines do go together. Now when, you might wonder why we only got a grocery store in Hines, no commercial, retail stores. That goes back to Edward Hines himself. There again we were worried about having two business districts. And he made the promise to the people, the merchants in Burns, that there would not be any stores in Hines. This would just be a residential area. And Burns would be the business district. So that's why we've got the grocery store and that's it.

MELBA: I think that's a real important point.

CHARLES: Well it was, it was. It was, and is important particularly when you consider the payroll at this mill for fifty years. Well over a million dollars in a year, payroll.

LORRAINE: Here is some stuff about the buildings of the mill.

CHARLES: Yeah. She's got; you've got a copy of that.

MELBA: Uh huh. Got all these. Something similar. Let me look through it in a little while when we get through here if that's all right.

CHARLES: Yeah. Then the mill, the mill was under construction, for instance, like my father when he came here in 1929, there was no --- the mill was still under construction. So he went to work in a blacksmith shop. Now my father was a shop grader. And so during the construction of the mill a lot of these men that didn't do their profession in lumber, worked in the construction of the mill. He worked when they poured the concrete floor to the powerhouse down there. Now you see when they built the mill, they also had their own power plant.

So in 1930, January of 1930, they cut their first log in the sawmill. And A. D. Reid was the sawyer who cut the first log. Then right after that they had a lot remodeling going on, but I don't have the date for you, I can get it, when they shipped the first carload of lumber down there. But then from 1930 on she has been a continuous operation both winter and summer. We log enough logs in the summer and the fall to carry us through the winter months. But in 1930 was when they cut the first log.

Now something else unique about the mill; today every mill that cuts lumber has dry kilns. Up until 1930 there was, in fact we had, our mill was constructed with 40 dry kilns. Forty 100-foot kilns, which is a battery of kilns. There was none to surpass it at that time in the northwest. In fact when they started the mill you had that though that you, when the Secretary of Commerce pushed the button in Washington, D. C. and made a signal out here and then we cut the first --- It was quite a celebration. And at that time it was the most modern mill in all the northwest, when it was constructed.

MELBA: That's good.

CHARLES: But they had a battery of 40 kilns. They never have built anything that large before. So it was quite a modern mill.

MELBA: Now how many out there?

CHARLES: We still have the forty.

MELBA: The forty.

CHARLES: The forty was capacity of what you could cut in your head rigs in other words. No, we ... ponderosa pine, we had enough kilns to cut --- to take care of all of our capacity. So every bit of lumber that we produced we kiln dried when we shipped. Prior to that time, steam kilns were just coming into, be a known then. Prior to that time in the South, used to dry with smoke. The smoke stack, they had kilns, and they put the smoke from the smoke stack through the kilns to dry the wood. But then these were all steam dry kilns, which was new and modern. Automatic stackers that later became a fact, and all mills could stack the lumber into cribs. And then we had six planers down there ... and the planer ... in fact the number one shed down there was built large enough to handle 36 boxcars ... loading at one time. So we had in those days, everything was hand graded at the dry sorter, the planer, the ... So every crew loading lumber was a 3-man crew; a grader, and two loaders, one inside and one outside. So we had a crew down there in those days of probably, oh let's see we must have had 15 crews loading lumber at a time. They would load more than one car per day.

But when I went to work in there in 1936 in the sheds, stacking lumber when I was right out of high school. Back in those days we had a, common labor was about 32 or 35 cents an hour. And then if you were a counter man you got 39 cents. Everything was under the four bits an hour scale. And we would work ten hours a day, and 6 days a week in the rush seasons like the summertime when lumber business was good. So we worked six days a week, and Sunday was a day off. We had our own labor organization,

our own union you might call it. We called it the L.I.U., Lumbermen's Industrial Union. And then we were 4L and later they worked a national union in the '40's, during the war.

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: But prior to that time we had our own local union, and cost us 50 cents a month to belong, and we accumulate all those funds, would accumulate, and then on Labor Day every year we would take the mill, all the union employees, or the mill employees, and we'd go up to Idlewild and have a big, big picnic. And the company would match our funds with the union funds and we'd have potato salad by the barrels, and beans by the barrels. They'd take cattle, half a cow and barbecue it in a pit. And boy it was a fantastic time there. When you get all the families of all the mill people together, we had really a big picnic.

MELBA: Who made all the potato salad?

CHARLES: We had --- all we had was one of the cooks on that, for that day. He was a pretty good cook. He was a bachelor, three or four children. And the ... which was a millwright down there would dig the pit. Put the cattle there a couple days before the picnic, so by the time we got there that day, everything was done, and food was out, there was games, baseball, and softball, horseshoes, and all that kind of ---

MELBA: Races for the children?

CHARLES: Races for the children. One of the last picnics I remember, this is before the war, the big war, I was --- we --- for the kids, the company bought a whole truckload of ice cream bars. A whole truckload came in, freezer truck; and that was our job passing out ice cream bars. And we passed out a whole truckload of ice cream bar. I don't know how many hundred ice cream bars there were, but we had quite a time.

Let's see, what else can I tell you. Some of the older names down there, like our sawyer down there --- well we had two shifts in the late '30's in the sawmill, and of course everything else was one shift. The shipping worked one shift. And two shifts in the sawmill. You could ship so much more than they can cut too. Some of the old sawyers down there, I'd like to remember all of them --- there was Jens Strand, Bagley, Eddie Reid, and Sutherland, Strauger Sutherland. And then we had one more. Bill Claire was one --- and who else? I hope I don't forget anyone. Those are the fellows that cut the logs in the sawmill. And ... Sloan and Tony ... were the foreman in the sawmill. Then down in your kilns --- we had one --- I can't think of his name now, but he later retired up there ... Jervas, Jervas. He was from Minnesota. He was in charge of the dry kilns; he was here during the construction of the kilns. It was at his insistence that they had 40 kilns rather than 20. And he is gone now, but we thank him many times for the 40 kilns. His son Dick Jervas lives in Bend now. But he was the head dry kiln foreman at that time. And later we had Bowers and Ormand Ausmus and ... At one time we kept 10, 12 and 16-quarter pine here. And a 16-quarter pine is 4 1/8" thick, and the use for that was chemical vats back in the East, Dow Chemical would buy it. They ... in these huge vats where they hold chemicals, that pine didn't take the chemical at all. It was better than red wood, or Idaho white pine or any of those. But our pine was the best to make chemical vat material. And old Crisscraft used some 10-quarter; they used it for ... for making crates and stuff like that. And that took, 16 quarter took 60 days to dry in the kiln, continuous days. And 12 quarter was 45 days. So ... that was a long time, that somebody had to keep constant care of that wood.

And then down in shipping where we had the six planers and the loading, 15 loading crews --- in those days we were shipping probably in the 90 day of peak mark of lumber ... All the, most of the --- the head office for the mill is in Chicago. That's another story. Edward Hines himself, he was quite a lumberman in his time.

MELBA: Right from a youth, wasn't he?

CHARLES: You bet. When he started out about 14, 15 years old, and eventually --- quite a story on him how he became in the --- you have to realize back in the Chicago area, where the lakes froze over in the wintertime, in the spring when the lakes thawed out then they put their lumber on these rafts and take them up to the north ends of the lake to the farm country. And then from there they were transported back into the --- there is where they sold their lumber. Well Mr. Hines, Edward Hines came up with the idea that when he loaded his lumber on these here boats, these barges, he put on horses and wagons so when he got up to the end of the line with the barge, he had his wagons and his horses and his lumber, and from that he transported all his material, plus how to get it to the customer in a hurry. So he was, that was one of his inventions or ideas, which worked out. Of course today now in Chicago our company we have about 26 yards, retail yards, plus the main yard, plus Danville Warehouse. We have Skokie ... windows and doors and stuff like that. But he was quite a lumberman, that ---

MELBA: In a whole ... supply.

CHARLES: Yeah, you bet. Now days they've got everything from the TV, to lumber, to mills, everything. So ---

MELBA: What were your positions from a boy up, what did you do?

CHARLES: Well when I first, when I went to work down at the mill, after I got out of high school, the first job I did, I went down and worked in the moldings down there. Night shift. In moldings I crated the molding, I tied the moldings, fed the motors. Then in the shipping department I cut the planers, and loaded cars, and handled the lumber to make orders for the ...

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CHARLES: ... until 1936 into --- yeah, then in the fall of September '36 I went to Oregon State College and --- just for a half a year. I worked from September through January. I took a course in forestry. And we lived in Holly Hall; today it is a girl's dormitory.

MELBA: Yeah.

CHARLES: And I came back here in '37. In January went back to work for the dry ... I worked in the mill, from the dry sorted out to shipping, night and day shifts until 1940, of August. And then I went to the service. Then I came back here in December of 1946 and went to work in the sales office. In 1951 I was made sales manager. And I was sales manager, and now I'm getting ready to retire. I'm 62 this June. So about another year, and I'm assistant sales manager now. Then I'll be retired in about a half a year or so, I think, as soon as I get all these kids in college.

MELBA: Through school.

CHARLES: I want to go home. But during that time of sales manager, of course I got to the woods, and through all the sawmill, and I put in some slotted times. I had a good teacher; the manager of the mill at that time was Mr. Dewey. Now Mr. Dewey, that was

a strange one there; he was a salesman for our company in southern Illinois, Champaign, down in that area. And this is about 1940, or '41; our general manager became sick and passed away. So Mr. Dewey came out here as a temporary manager of the mill, and liked it so much and so he stayed and he stayed, until in the mid '50's, about '55 or '56 he retired. But he came right from the --- he was a lumberman. Of course that was a strange thing too. Mr. Dewey was a lumber student with Edward Hines Lumber Company in 1918 in Virginia, Minnesota, and he worked with my father. And low and behold after all of these years he comes out here and then I get to work with him. But we, in those days, he up until about 10 or 15 years ago we, our company was one of the last companies to have their own private sales force. We done away with that about 3 years ago. Today we have big distribution yards. Part of that time from 1892 when the company started, we had a salesman out selling our products in all the areas of the East. Not so much in the West, but mostly in the East. So Mr. Dewey was a lumber student. He trained our own salesmen, in our company, and then sent them out to sell our wood, our lumber. And that was one of our --- that's how he did with our company. And then came out here and took over the mill. Then in 1946 I went to work for Mr. Dewey here. He was a great ... man. That was ... worked in lumber from the time he was a young man until he retired. You don't have that too much anymore. We trained our own salesman. We had quite --- it was quite a unique company in that we had our own salesmen. And another one, our, the ... salesman they worked by cars. Our salesmen's territory were such that he could go from his home to his farthest customer and back home in one day; so that our salesmen had a home life, as well as selling lumber, which was a great success. Because with the private salesmen in those days when the market

got bad or good we could, our mill ran on an even keel because of the --- had to sell lumber, they went out and pushed lumber. When the market was good you don't have to do that. But we trained our own sales force right at the mills. And that was one of my jobs during the, for the ... couldn't sell them, lumbermen from college. Not to say all college people, but we paid a lot of salesmen or vice-presidents of companies now. We've got one John Schick (sp.?) in Portland trained here. There is quite a few that --- did great in the lumber business. But during that training period they worked with wood just like the worker does. You go down and fall the tree and load cars, and learn all about lumber from the ground up.

MELBA: Did most of you do that?

CHARLES: Yeah, most of them, yeah. Most of them did that.

MELBA: You know it seems to me like Hines Lumber has had an even progression all the way along as far as business was concerned.

CHARLES: Yeah.

MELBA: What do you suppose was the cause of that because a lot of businesses have conflict, and low grades and high grades and so forth?

CHARLES: No, you're not --- here is one thing that we've got here that is unique, we've got third generations now in our mill now working. When we came here there was still the first generation. I worked in the second, my son works there, so --- people stayed, you know. It is too far from town to town out here, really. And that's the main business, and they stay in that. But our turnover in our mill is very, very small. And there are good working conditions, and the pay is fantastic today. And I don't think they get to meet other types of businesses. Now for instance when they work in a city, they work in

a cannery, and you might want to work in the lumber mill, you get to visiting with somebody from the lumber company, well I'm making this much --- so what you do is you go out and change your jobs. The only one you can change here is to the ranch. And we've got some of those too now. But the --- well we got out of the ranch into the mills. I figure this is the only industry we have really, that and the ranching.

MELBA: So everything is pretty well congenial that people do want to stay.

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah. It's a good --- it's good business. What the kids --- well like after the service we saw many places that we could have settled in, in our travels during the service. But we decided to come back to Burns. We were in Pierre, South Dakota, and our next door neighbor, were very fine neighbors, owned a saloon and a beer hall, and pool tables, and I used to play a lot of pool with the fellow, and he was elderly. And he said, "Will you and "Renee" (Lorraine) come back when you get out of the service, and I'll give you half the business just to help me run it?" So I could have gone back to Pierre, South Dakota and gone right into business, which later became a farming community when they built the dam, you know, above Pierre there. But we decided to come back to Burns. I think most of our people are ---- a lot of our young people, well like anybody, if you want to work in the mill, you go to college, you learn another business. My son was a schoolteacher in Boise. I've got two more that are going to be schoolteachers. I got to tell you one about schoolteachers during the depression.

MELBA: Careful. (Laughter)

CHARLES: They were paid with warrants in our county; they didn't pay them in cash. Now you got paid with a warrant, a county warrant. Now the county warrant, you might be paid in December, but it wasn't good until April for the full amount of the warrant.

See it was pre-dated. So some of those people ... that had money, cashed their warrants. I always had a soft spot for the teachers, because imagine them working for warrants, they got their money, but it wasn't worth that until April. And, but they stayed, my gosh, Mr. Anderson was here from 1930, '31 until way in the '40's and early '50's. Of course he was our Hines principal all that time. His wife taught too. But it was tough times for that business. But everybody got along so good here. Gee whiz, no problems. And inter-married the South and the North, but we did have that civil war --- I like to ... a lot of times because --- You get the Minnesota people, or the Mississippi, both worked for the same company, and had the same respect for the company, but you all's in the North --- (Laughter) Yankee, you know. They forgot those words, which I think, made good --- it was, you know, good fun in those days.

MELBA: Probably was the beginning of people trying to be congenial?

CHARLES: I think so.

MELBA: And working together instead of separate.

CHARLES: If we had to worry about the depression, we'd have had a horrible time, really.

MELBA: Yeah.

CHARLES: But we had this North and South thing to talk about, and traded recipes and ---

MELBA: You said you came here when you were 11, right?

CHARLES: Yes.

MELBA: Okay. And so then you had a few years before you went to work. What did you think about, about what you would do about the area, about lumbering while you were growing up?

CHARLES: I know, always when your parents are in the lumber, that's where you figure you're going to end up in the lumber business. That's, the ranching business didn't appeal to me at all. Auto mechanics didn't ... that was about all we had. You know you think of the jobs that are available to the children at that time; we didn't have the boob tube, or there was radio repair and stuff like that. But there wasn't so many jobs other than what you did yourself. Truck driving, and something like that. So no, you pretty much set your style for the lumber.

MELBA: Sounded like a pretty good deal.

CHARLES: Yeah. And my parents always had --- we always had everything we wanted in our home life. ... We didn't try something different, if you ... School teaching, that was what I wanted to do, yeah.

MELBA: You thought you'd like that.

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah, you bet. I even thought about that in later life too.

MELBA: What about as a student, did you think you were a good student?

CHARLES: In school?

MELBA: Did you enjoy school?

CHARLES: Oh yes, yeah we --- our types of schools here --- you see we weren't too crowded. Like in my senior class when we graduated from high school I think we had something like 109 or something, it wasn't too big of a class. In grade school, for instance, out here in Hines we had the 7th and the 8th in one room, and Mr. Anderson was

our teacher. He was strict, I know when we had the old school house, the one with five grades in one room, you didn't get too much out of it because the teacher was so busy all the time. So when we got this other classroom, or we got this new teacher, and Mr. Anderson was 6 foot and probably weighed 190 pounds, a huge man. And we pretty much run our own school, we had our own way until we got up to that one. I'll never forget the first time we went to classroom --- there was a few of the regular bullies in any room --- well I was pretty good sized, and we had J. C. Cobb and Dale Bagley. Dale Bagley was one of the bigger fellows, so he was; we figured kind of one of the leaders of the gang. So Mr. Anderson asked him to --- you want to close that door there? Yeah. Mr. Anderson asked Dale Bagley to get up and do something on the blackboard, so he stood up and went over to the blackboard to do this problem, and couldn't do it, so Mr. Anderson said well sit down Dale. So Dale turned around and walked back, but he forgot he had an eraser in his hand. So instead of walking back and putting it on the chalk tray he just threw it. Now this is the first day of school. He hit the chalk tray and it fell on the floor. And Mr. Anderson was on him just like that. Got him like that, and grabbed him like this and put him down on the floor about three times, and set him in his chair. From that day until the day he died, he was the king bee of all the schools. He was the chief. So he licked the biggest guy in the class the first day.

MELBA: The first day.

CHARLES: From that day on he was the chief of all the schools. He was a fine man. He was a good teacher. Then when we got to high school, we had problems. There again people wouldn't admit it, but your Hines, your Burns, your mixing, and we had problems like that a little bit. But the school, the high school was in Burns. So both of the classes,

and in sports, you had to be upper four or five to get to be in the 6th or 7th up there. We've changed that now. We've got the, one here a few years ago, well my number five boy was the first one to experience, we got a junior high school in Burns. We get away from this animosity, and ... and away from ... animosities. But they are getting, the kids get along good now. We have some fantastic kids. In our sports program, it's second to none really. If you can imagine going to the state basketball tournament four out of five years; and golf, four times out of five years. And baseball, it's just --- We have people that don't particularly like to promote sports, but like myself with six sons, they've all been involved in it.

MELBA: Sure.

CHARLES: And if you've got a busy boy, you got a boy that is out of trouble I always believed.

MELBA: Right.

CHARLES: All my boys played all sports.

MELBA: Now you played Bend and ---

CHARLES: Yeah --- in those days we played Lakeview, Bend, and Redmond, John Day, Long Creek, Prairie City, that was our schedule. You see we didn't have A1 and A2 or A3 in ... leagues. Bishop ... started that, oh gosh, I forgot what year, ... district. But prior to that, no we played Bend; we beat Bend double headers in basketball. We were pretty --- but the towns weren't growing like they are today. So Bend was our size at one time in school. But now a days we travel to Madras and it is in our league. And up there Wahtonka at The Dalles is in our league.

MELBA: Is it a day or two trip now wasn't it?

CHARLES: Well it is a full day trip, a full day trip to Wahtonka. The ... because a lot of parents follow --- for instance in football we go to Madras, it's 180 miles. You get through at 10 o'clock, you drive home; or you go to, we've been to Idaho quite a few times.

MELBA: Are they in the league also?

CHARLES: No, these are out of league games, but they are --- but Vale and Nyssa are in our league, and that is 130 miles to Vale, and about 150 to Nyssa. That's some of the other far places we go. But then of course you play others than your schedules. And then they follow their team wherever they go. Quite a carload, you'd be surprised how many people follow the sports. We drove all last year. I don't know how many 100's of miles we've gone.

TRUETT POWERS: I was thinking a while ago when we was talking about the mill, where, I understand that they built a railroad to bring the lumber in. About what period of time was that built?

CHARLES: That was built in, let's see Hallick and Hart started in there in '27 or '28, was in a period of our, until we took over in '29. It was done in, when we bought it, that must have been '26 and '27. Because we bought out Hallick and Hart in 1928 I think our prospectus will show you. Now the reason for the mill being where it was, in the lumber prospectus from the government, where we were buying this timber, in there they specified that the mill had to be built within a radius of 3 miles from the county seat, which is Burns. That's why the mill is built here instead of Seneca. And then also the prospectus of whoever bought the timber had to build a railroad from Burns or the mill

site to the woods. So when Hallick and Howard were building the mill they finished the track from Crane to Burns to get the material in there.

TRUETT: Oh.

CHARLES: They were in the process of building the track then from Burns to Seneca to bring the logs in the Malheur Forest. Now you go from the mill to Burns it is a double track. One is UP, and one is our Hines ONW track. So we've got parallel tracks going from the mill to Burns. Then the ONW takes off from there and goes up to the Malheur Forest. That, you see 890 billion feet of timber at that time was quite a forest. Untouched, there was no, nobody had any mills here up to that time, any large mills. And then our company had already cut out Minnesota, and we were just about done in Mississippi, so our company was looking for an area, they had never been in the West before, always in the North or the South, Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Louisiana and Mississippi. So this is the first venture of them out here. In fact when Edward Hines came out to look at this mill here, this site, for him to get to Burns he had to go by train to Baker. And Wally Welcome told me about this, he and another boy that was in high school who could drive a car, and somebody loaned them a car, so they drove Mr. Edward Hines from Baker to Burns to look at the site and talk to the people. Edward Hines was out here himself for at least, I've known two or three times that he was here at the site in the course of the business dealings. But he came here to Burns and looked at the site. Then they signed a contract with the lumber, for the timber later, and then continued building the mill. So it was a good year and a half afterwards before, from the time the track came to Burns until the mill was completed.

TRUETT: Well now do they truck say to Seneca and then load on railroad?

CHARLES: Oh no, at that time the track went right out in the woods to the siding.

TRUETT: Right.

CHARLES: The track went to Seneca then out to Murders Creek in the early part, in the early '30's. Then we cut in the Murders Creek area which is out to the, it would be the east side, wouldn't it, as you're going north, the west side of Seneca. So we cut out that area. That was all by track. But we had little ... trains up there pulling, then later steam trains. So they had track right out into the woods, maybe 20, 25 miles. They would log to the side there --- now we used horses to start with, before gas equipment. So they had horses up there, we had a regular corral of horses, or borrow horses, had a man to take care of the horses. So we logged to the sidings, then load them on cars and brought them down to the mill. And then in later years we went out into the Logan Valley area and logged out in there. Today, of course, it is all logged by truck. And then the siding right down to Seneca, and then we bring some of them down by Crane. And the rest of it, the Ochoco is all by truck. Ochoco Forest came in later. And, the first part of the '50's we went into the Ochoco Forest, and it is all by truck.

TRUETT: When we were driving through the Ochoco, we noticed some of your loading operations, and they were talking about the different ways to getting the logs, like by cable or in sometime there was a regular loader there. But we did see this cable running across there.

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah, you don't do too much high lining logging here. Now high lining logging you lay cable on them like that. It's mostly because we've got valleys and hills, and deep canyons. Fortunately in our forest up here, we're pretty level for logging really, nothing like your coast areas over there. It's mostly choker setters, cables behind

a Cat, and skidder too I imagine. And there is some ... loaders out there. But not too much anymore, but they do both kind. They did helicopter logging up there by John Day here this spring, because the canyon was so steep.

MELBA: How did that work out?

CHARLES: It worked out quick. It was expensive as the devil; that was ---

MELBA: Quite a bit more expensive than the other one?

CHARLES: Yeah, it's quite a bit more expensive too. But the canyon is so steep you couldn't, well it was hard to fall the trees so they didn't break all to pieces. I don't know if you maybe picked them up from the helicopter. But they did that too. Our woods are pretty smooth as far as mountains are concerned for loggers.

MELBA: Do you have anything to do with contracting, getting the logs or the forests?

CHARLES: No, no.

MELBA: Somebody else takes care of that.

CHARLES: Yeah, ... Vemitar is our contract man. Incidentally right now we're cutting a 100% of Forest Service timber.

MELBA: Do you find it quite a hassle to get lumber places, or certain trees?

CHARLES: No, no we ... the Forest Service will have a section that is cruised, and they will tell you how much timber is in it, and tell you the price they want for it. And then it is an open bidding now. And up until just a few years ago our cut trees --- we had a mill that cut the mills in John Day, other mill owners that would bid on that timber. Of course you only bid on what you could cut. You had a certain time to cut that timber, so it doesn't do you any good to gobble up all the sales, because you can't cut the timber in the specified time. So we got along fine with our competition. But today they're coming

so far you know there is no way in the world they can haul the logs and, from here to Prairie City for instance, or Portland, or Eugene, and cut the logs and then still make money on them. But we do have people come in that compete with us in bidding.

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: Our particular mill here, in our sawmill now we're cutting only Ponderosa pine, so our mill is a 100% Ponderosa pine. The other species, white fir, Douglas fir, and larch, it all goes into our private mill. So our sawmill is 100% Ponderosa pine.

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: And actually we don't have too many people who come with the fir mills, because it is a different type of wood, it is handled different, it's used different, so the ---

MELBA: Other mills pick that up because that is their specialty.

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah they pick up their fir that's their specialty, and pine is ours.

TRUETT: You mentioned I think it was Minnesota that they so called logged out. What do you think about the long-term supply here?

CHARLES: Now there, you see, from 1923 until 1930 they, everybody learned their business ... In our particular, in our area here, now there is in our prospectus we use what you call a selective type logging. In other words if you've got --- now there is something I can't understand, and you can't get across the ecology that a tree is just like a carrot, or like any vegetable. It's a vegetable. When the pine tree grows up, and the top of it is dying, the top gets cracked. Now that tree is not going to grow anymore, the tree is through growing, the tree is dead. It will stay green for a certain period of time, but eventually it will get to, or it goes to rot or falls down, then you have nothing. So trees are just like vegetables in the garden. When they are ripe, they better be cut, they better

be ... You better cut them, you got to cut them up into lumber, that's what they're for. Then your other forests will grow back again. Now we've been through areas up there, you go up there in the Murders Creek area, or the Logan Valley where we logged in the '30's, it's like a park. And the trees that were left there, this is another thing, the trees that are left will grow faster, will grow more and more footage from that tree. For the meantime you have a continuous supply of timber. And that's what we started out with in 1930, and it has proven out that way.

But to lock, the thing that scares me to death, now up here we have these areas of wilderness areas where you cannot log in there, you cannot put a road in there. Well you can walk in them. Well you know what is going to happen now, the trees are going to die, they're going to fall over. The grass is going to grow up because there is; the grass is just going to keep growing, nothing going to eat it. Sometime we're going to have a forest fire and then you're going to lose the whole works. Wilderness is fine, but you shouldn't, you want to get to the trees that are ripe, they should be ... taken out, and then let the people watch it. They're better to walk into a --- you've seen the forest over there at the coast; there is no way in the world you can walk into some of those areas.

MELBA: Right.

CHARLES: But if the merchant timber were taken out of there, and roads put in there, then people could enjoy them. But we're going at this thing wrong. I can't understand how we can get in this situation. For instance up there in the Strawberry Mountain area, it's wilderness, it's excellent. There is not any, there is timber on it, but not much --- but to put it to a wilderness area where you can't take any equipment or cars, or motorcycles or anything, it's impossible to walk in. It's like that --- you couldn't possibly walk in it.

It's a wilderness area. One --- this weekend, we have the Boy Scouts of Idaho and Oregon up there, and they're going to camp, and they're going to walk in. The Rotary Club I belong to is sponsoring this. Now they said anybody that would like to go along is welcome to come and camp out with us this weekend. We have a couple of elderly men in our club, how we going to get in there, we're too old to walk? Scouts can walk in there, but they would like to go. And it's, I don't know, I don't know where we went wrong. (Laughter)

MELBA: Well do you think it will eventually come to the, they will clear that when some of these other areas grow up, or they just don't want them touched?

CHARLES: Well I don't, I can't under --- you just like plant the garden and then never even take ... you have a bunch of rotten, dead vegetables. And that's what --- you know I had some students, lumber students; well they came out from the University of Iowa, and they came when --- this was about three years ago. So they sat down, and we talked, and they said do you mind if we tape this? And they were, they couldn't understand that trees have to be harvested. So that's what we got into, and smoke coming out of our chimney out of here. What do the ecologists say about that smoke? And I said well do you remember --- you probably never did this, but we had a bonfire, smoked all this ... everybody went around to the side that the smoke was coming out of, and that never bothered you a bit. Wood smoke doesn't bother anybody. And it clears the air, really. But we've had people come down and stop by the highway there, the ecologists, take pictures of our smoke stack. There is one in Deschutes County, ... that's the only smoke stack, ... but wood smoke, there is nothing in the world wrong with wood smoke. But there again I'm awfully afraid of this wilderness thing. Now I know in 1939 we had a

forest fire up on the, at Seneca that had a 30-mile front on it. They were working, they worked all the way around it, and destroyed thousands and thousands of feet of timber, and it had to be --- in those days we didn't have borating, today we've got borating, thank God for that. But some fires, boating wouldn't even work, like in California. If we get these wilderness areas, and you get that grass two feet high in there, and dead grass, and lightening starts a fire then we're going to have an awful ---

MELBA: Grows rapidly.

CHARLES: --- yeah we're going to have an awful time.

TRUETT: Talking about a maturing tree, approximately how many years are you talking about? How old a tree is that you call them?

CHARLES: Probably 70-80, a hundred years old. But you see up until 1930 nobody was in those forests that we were cutting out of now. Nobody has ever been in those forests. We're different than your ... on the coast where your trees, where you get lots of moisture. See we don't get the moisture over here you do on the coast. So our forests are quite a bit older than your trees. But this pine doesn't grow very fast, but it is all over the place. We're talking --- well from here to Seneca is 50 miles of timber. And then you go past Seneca, either way the Ochoco Forest runs all the way from Prineville clear up to Seneca, and that's a 130 miles. So the forests here are huge, compared to your Douglas fir over at the coast where 50 or 20 miles you're through one to another.

TRUETT: So you're saying that there is still a lot of available trees in this area, just haven't been touched.

CHARLES: Oh yeah, yes. We're putting another new planning mill down here, 6 ½ million dollars. Though we ought to be here 50 years the way we're investing another 6

million dollars for future production from that forest here. So no, we --- this timber --- we can go back to log where we logged 30 years ago, easy, and still have enough to ... There are different ideas ... than we did 30 years ago. Today we use pretty near all the trees --- we ship chips for paper to a little ... in Washington. Years ago we burned it up. We have a big wigwam burner down there by the mill that we used to burn the waste. And of course we furnish our own power. So we burned the sawdust and refuge after we cut the lumber. We hog it and we'll either --- we've got to furnish our own power and steam. So we sell chips to ... So pretty near all that tree today is used up, compared to what we used to burn before that. Wigwam burner, we haven't used that --- well there is not even a conveyor chain to it. And the Columbus Day storm, the original one is felled to the ground in one big heap, which we didn't need anyhow. But we had replacement insurance, so the only thing --- no money changed hands, except the insurance company had to build another wigwam burner.

MELBA: Build another one, huh?

CHARLES: So it looks like, it looks like we use them, but there is not even a conveyor to them. There it sits. No, I --- I'm a firm believer ---

TAPE 2 – SIDE C

CHARLES: --- put it on an oval, and the streets all took off from the main parks, in the City of Hines. Now Mrs. Hines didn't like the idea of all the houses looked the same. So one of her wishes were that all the houses be built a little different. No two houses by each other the same. So this is one of the original houses, this house is down here in Hines, well it is just great. Because where we came from Virginia, Minnesota on the 16th

--- we lived at 613 13th street south. Every house was the same. You might change your porch or you might make one window bigger or one smaller. But they are all basically the same houses. But that's why all our houses in Hines are a little different.

MELBA: You said she designed ---

CHARLES: Well she wanted, she wanted the houses to be a little different, every one of the houses a little different. There was no repetition in the houses. And there again, see that probably made for good business, because everybody was happy with their homes. And they were a little different, so ---

TRUETT: I noticed that the mill office there, that's ---

CHARLES: That's Mount Vernon.

TRUETT: Mount Vernon. I noticed in some of the earlier photos that's just kind of a trim on all of your, throughout the country, what they all ---

CHARLES: Yeah. Oh, you mean our porch on them like that.

TRUETT: Well the Mount Vernon, the style.

CHARLES: Yeah, the Mount Vernon style, yes, uh huh. Yeah, that was popular in the '30's see. But yeah ---

TRUETT: I was wondering about other locations, like Minnesota, and things. Did they -
-

CHARLES: No, no the houses in Minnesota, no we didn't have an office building like that. And the mill location there was called Scanlon location. A whole block of the same houses, well as a matter of fact it could be ten or twelve blocks, and all the same idea. But every house looked the same. So then in Winton, except the manager's house or the

higher executives of the mill had a little different shape. But that's some of the trees in our forest. Yeah there is a bigger house there.

MELBA: This is a two-story.

CHARLES: Two story, yeah.

MELBA: What period of time would you call this, or ...

CHARLES: Well I don't know. But that's an eastern, what do you call that, the ... type or something? But see all of them --- and they are different sizes. All the houses on this side, well all the houses had fireplaces in them when they were built. And we had wood furnaces in the basement, so we burned wood. Incidentally up until just a few years ago we cut wood in the sawmill from our slab wood, we cut wood and the Burns Lumber Company would sell it to the residents in the Hines and Burns --- And I think we paid something like, what was it, four or five dollars a load for slabs, and three or four dollars a load for planer mill ends. So two or three truckloads of wood would take you all through the winter with wood. Of course you had to keep that going all night. Coal later came in, but to start with it was wood furnaces. So we still have a lot of wood furnaces going yet in Hines. But everybody has switched to oil now, or coal.

MELBA: Uh huh. I see a picture here of the geese.

CHARLES: Yeah.

MELBA: Now how close do they come?

CHARLES: See that, right out here in the valley, right across --- well now there are houses right there, yeah. Right down past the millpond we have lots and lots of geese out in that valley out there.

MELBA: Do you have any now?

CHARLES: Oh yeah, there is quite a bit of geese there. There is good goose and duck hunting here in the wintertime

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: As well as deer hunting.

MELBA: The Malheur Refuge is probably just a refuge maybe more for them, but ---

CHARLES: Yeah, a place to stay and ... water tower now in Hines. It's, agriculture has changed here since early days. Winters, I don't --- I always believed in the salvage ... but all these atomic explosions we had in Nevada had something to change because we haven't had winters like we used to have in the '30's. No, we haven't had one.

MELBA: What were they like?

CHARLES: We had two foot of snow on the ground. And we still get a lot of snow in the hills. Five to six, seven feet of snow in the timber. In fact before you fall a tree you went out with a blade and ringed the tree, put the blade down and took the snow ... so you could cut the tree down. But we still get that kind of snow in the hills, but we don't get it down here in the valley. We get frost even up in June here now. Where we didn't after May you could start a garden without worrying about a frost. But our weather has changed; we don't have the rains and the big snows in the wintertime like we did before.

MELBA: Do you think that's affected the water supply around this area?

CHARLES: No, now there is another thing. You see our, we're in our valley here, if you come in from that side, from Ontario or from Bend, you're going through hills, and all of a sudden you drop down in this huge valley and like the geologists say, that this used to be one of the largest land locked lakes in the North American continent. It goes from here clear past Crane, you see. So underneath the ground, you can dig out in the valley

here, go down 20, 30 feet and find water for irrigation. The table will fluctuate during the summer, but we've got a huge lake underneath us evidently. So we have no problem with water.

MELBA: Yeah, this is an interesting picture. It looks like grains in the background. What else ---

CHARLES: Probably that might be grain ... potatoes up here it looks like to me.

MELBA: Is this a pretty good potato area?

CHARLES: Oh, yeah, yeah. Well you see that's right up there to the city of Burns; here are the houses right behind it.

MELBA: Is this hay?

CHARLES: Yeah.

MELBA: Hay stacks, a lot of shucks.

CHARLES: Yeah, you bet. Yeah. That was their brochure for selling. That came from Stafford --- that's another thing I rescued from the basement.

MELBA: What grains do they mainly have?

CHARLES: Well mostly, pretty near all wild hay. We did raise barley, and lots of barley here. I don't know what that is. Is that sunflowers?

MELBA: Sunflowers.

CHARLES: Yeah.

MELBA: Right.

CHARLES: That was the experiment station; it's Oregon State's Experiment Station.

MELBA: Did they have one in this area?

CHARLES: Yeah, out there by the airport.

MELBA: What were they experimenting with?

CHARLES: They, weather reports mostly, and different types of crops to raise. It's only been discontinued about 3 years ago now.

MELBA: Here is several ---

CHARLES: It was there when we came, and operated for years and years and years.

MELBA: What's happening to the ... Here is one house, a two story with dormers.

CHARLES: Yeah.

MELBA: Another with, it looks like two barns. And another home, maybe more than that. And that was their experiment station.

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah.

MELBA: Well what about the rodeos?

CHARLES: Oh yeah, the rodeo in September is one of the big events in the town.

MELBA: Where is that held?

CHARLES: In Burns, at our fairgrounds.

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: That's Pete Clemens farm with some deer.

MELBA: Three nice ---

CHARLES: Yeah.

MELBA: --- one is a doe and two bucks.

CHARLES: No they're all bucks.

MELBA: Oh bucks, I see other horns here. Hunting has been always good hasn't it?

CHARLES: Yeah, we didn't hunt does until just a few years ago. The ... eating all their hay and stuff, so we had a doe season. Now that's the way the road looked when we came to Burns.

MELBA: Okay, those would be ---

CHARLES: All dirt.

MELBA: --- yeah, those would be interesting pictures as time goes on, won't they?

CHARLES: You bet.

MELBA: What about antelope hunting?

CHARLES: There is antelope hunting here in season, and they're out here towards Bend, and also Seneca. Some big, big herds of antelope.

MELBA: Huh.

CHARLES: That's up at Fish Lake. That's that other little lake above Fish Lake.

MELBA: Uh huh. Oh, you mean Pate?

CHARLES: Yeah, that's it, yeah.

MELBA: Pate Lake.

CHARLES: Yeah, there is some of my track going up to Seneca. Sheep, we used to have a lot of sheep in this country.

MELBA: Why do they not have them now?

CHARLES: I don't know. That was, if you go to the butcher shop now, mutton is expensive. The wool, of course I imagine that wool is, used to be a lot of sheep, but we don't use wool like we used to. Why we --- stuff like this ---

MELBA: Well we have synthetics.

CHARLES: Yeah, we have ---

MELBA: They are much easier to care for.

CHARLES: Sure, sure, sure.

MELBA: Drip dries and so forth.

CHARLES: Yeah

MELBA: I was wondering if cattle was much more profitable to you, raise rather than sheep.

CHARLES: Well I don't know. Now, you know, it takes a different breed of people to raise sheep than it does cattle. We have a lot of Basco sheepherders here, and Basco people that own them. Pete Obiaque had a huge herd. I don't know where that one was at. But it looks like it might be out here in the valley.

MELBA: Uh huh. Incidentally, how are the minorities or what not, do you hire them in the mill?

CHARLES: Yeah we do if they are around much. There is none here. We still have to operate underneath that government regulation. I seen that one on TV last night. I don't know, I think we've gone too far with that thing.

MELBA: What one was that?

CHARLES: The minority's thing.

MELBA: Oh.

CHARLES: Where that fellow down there balked, down there in California couldn't get in medical school because --- many, many years ago I heard this Governor Talbidge making a speech on the radio. And his word was, let it come by itself, don't force it. Well what we've done, we've forced it now. We operate under that minorities program here. But there is no colored people here. I got a big kick when my son, I took him up to

the Columbia Basin for an interview to go to a junior college up there. And this basketball coach, his name is Jaynes, so one of his questions, they got to talking about their record last year up there, so this coach asked my son if he played with any blacks. And my son sat there, there is none here. See he didn't know what he meant. And I said he means colored people here. We just don't have --- We've had a few families here, and they worked in the mill, good workers, but climate --- Well I believe colored people got to be around a crowd. They can't stand to be out where they are so far from anything. They've got to be around a lot of people.

MELBA: Well what about the Paiutes? Now they have their ---

CHARLES: Yeah, we have them working out there too. Yes, we've got them in the woods and in the mill.

TRUETT: Of course, that's considered, as a minority isn't it?

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah, it does. Pretty quick we're going to have to include ourselves in that I think.

MELBA: Yes, right.

CHARLES: The way we're going --- but I always remember that speech that that Governor Talbidge made. He said just let it come by itself, don't force it. I think he's right now, I do.

MELBA: You brought up the Basques a moment ago.

CHARLES: Yeah, we have ---

MELBA: You have Basques too?

CHARLES: A lot of Basque people here. And I get a bang out of them. There again they follow each other from country to country. They came in here as sheepherders, and

we hired some of them in the mill. I worked with them down there. Good people. Some couldn't even speak English. So we got quite a few Basques in this --- They're good people. They know how to handle money, and themselves, got great families. So they're real good people.

MELBA: Do they live in, more or less the part of the city by themselves?

CHARLES: No they, right now they're spread out quite a bit.

MELBA: Same as the Paiutes?

CHARLES: Yeah, uh huh.

MELBA: You know books like this of, you know, touching on many areas; it's really neat isn't it?

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah. They did --- I took so darn many pictures I don't know what in the world we could start with here.

MELBA: Well I think whenever you probably get so you have too many pictures and don't know what to do with them. Probably to start with the library and ---

CHARLES: What I'm going to do, that's what I decided to do. For instance here is some ...They made a progress report of the mill when they were building, but these are pictures in the progress report.

TRUETT: Now speaking of pictures, that building to the left of the main administration buildings, what is that called?

CHARLES: That's the commissary.

TRUETT: Commissary.

CHARLES: Yeah. Now we've always had a commissary. In other words that's where the men could go have lunch at noon, or supper. And all that's upstairs, we have rooms

for the single people to live in. And of course coffee breaks down in --- and they have a break there for coffee. And they have food and clothing. The men worked in the mill had their own payroll numbers, so if they don't have cash, they just sign their ... number down, and that gives them credit at the commissary. The company owns the building, and it's leased out to a family to run it.

TRUETT: I noticed in an earlier photo, where that building now stands it appeared that there was a row of small houses right in there.

CHARLES: Yeah, that was little bunkhouses is what they were.

TRUETT: At one time they had bunkhouses for the men.

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah, yes. We had quite a few single people working at the mill under construction days. And there were bunkhouses then. And then the big cook shack was directly behind the office. When they built that ... they got away from bunkhouses.

TRUETT: About what period of time was the new commissary built?

CHARLES: Oh let's see. That was built, let's see after I went to work in the office in '46, that must have been built about '48, '49, along there.

TRUETT: But the original administration building apparently has been there all the time.

CHARLES: Yeah, it was there when they built the mill, yes. This guesthouse was built in, about '30 or '31, this one right next to us. It's --- there are seven bedrooms in that. Mr. Whitten, when he came here, who the house was built for. He was general manager of Virginia, Minnesota ... mill. He came out with his wife and himself, and his daughter and her son, and his daughter and son. Excuse me, they had pantry in there that you don't see in a house anymore. And they had the whole basements were --- they had servants and to cook for them and stuff like that. So it is a huge building; with seven

bedrooms and one, two, three, four baths in the thing upstairs. So now our company uses it as a guesthouse when they have visitors, or come out here from their office --- or the customers come out, then we have a place to keep them. And it's pretty comfortable, really. It's a beautiful building.

MELBA: You know we're taking an awful lot of your time this morning.

CHARLES: Oh that's all right, I'm on vacation.

MELBA: You know this is really worthwhile. That's what I was going to ask you. Should you be at the office, but I guess you are on vacation this week.

CHARLES: No, no, I'm on vacation. This --- every year, every summer we take two weeks off to repair the mill, and do any major repairs that we have to do. We'll be back to work the 9th of July.

MELBA: Yeah. Are you planning to take a vacation away from home?

CHARLES: I tell Mother, I think we'll take off and go down to California to see our two sons. We have got two sons in Hayward, California.

MELBA: Uh huh.

TRUETT: There was one question I wanted to ask you, which is apparently just a term that's used in the mill. But we noticed in this little history, that they used the word, a side, what we thought possibly might have been site. Is that ---

CHARLES: In logging you're talking about?

TRUETT: Right.

CHARLES: Yeah, it's side, we call it side. North side, east side, or ---

TRUETT: Well let's see ---

MELBA: S I D E ?

CHARLES: Yes, that's right. Side, yes.

TRUETT: Oh it's, the way it was used. They also, three logging sides working out of the Hines yard. That's ---

CHARLES: Yeah, right. The east side, yes.

TRUETT: It's what?

CHARLES: Side.

TRUETT: S I D E. We thought maybe at first it was a typographical error, but it ---

CHARLES: North side, west side, or three sides.

TRUETT: Oh, oh, I see.

CHARLES: Three sides. They didn't tell you what side, but they said three sides.

TRUETT: They just said three sides. Well that makes sense then.

CHARLES: Right.

TRUETT: That clears that up.

MELBA: Well may I go back to an area way from beginning, you know, like your grandparents? Where were your grandparents from?

CHARLES: My mother came from Finland. She went through Ellis Island.

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: They settled in Minnesota.

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: And my grandfather was there before my mother and her family came over. And my father was from Wisconsin, he was Scotch Irish, is what he was. In fact my name for my great grandfather, no would be my grandfather, yes. Because he was

Charles Walker, he was a doctor in Wisconsin. And my, in those days he was a doctor and a mortician.

MELBA: Everything.

CHARLES: And that, you see, that's, that was double occupation in those days. And my father grew up around my fathers --- father died when he was 11 years old with pneumonia. Then my father after that got into the lumber business in Wisconsin. Then he went to Winton, Minnesota, and that's where he met my mother. And they were married, and then I was born in 1918 in Winton, Minnesota.

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: And then I had one brother who was seven years younger, and he passed away of polio in 1949, when we had the polio epidemic. Now that was strange. He went all the way through World War II; he was in the infantry, Normandy Beach Head, Battle of the Bulge, Saddle ... the whole works. And then come back, and he was going to school at Portland University, he got polio and he had ... of course he passed away in '49.

MELBA: Isn't that something, about our last polio epidemic, wasn't it?

CHARLES: Yeah. You know he had that, maybe dysentery when he was in the service. You know in the Battle of the Bulge you know those poor soldiers over there had an awful time with food and everything. And he had a case of dysentery, that was in '45 see. Just like these poor soldiers came out of the South Pacific with malaria. But always, there is always that bug in them. He was a husky fellow you know, and he passed away in '49, and I'm the only one left.

MELBA: Yeah, since there was just the two of you.

CHARLES: My mother still lives here in Hines.

MELBA: Does she?

CHARLES: Yeah.

MELBA: And your father passed away, when?

CHARLES: In 1972.

MELBA: Uh huh.

CHARLES: But he worked, he was down in the mill, I'll never forget we came back in 1946, '47 there was a fellow that had the Farmers Insurance here in Burns, and he was a mechanic up at the Chevrolet Garage in --- he went out fishing in Beulah Reservoir and drowned. And his agency, Farmers Insurance Agency came up for sale. So my father bought that agency for three hundred and some odd dollars. There was only about 15 or 20 people in the agency. Well my father worked at the mill, he was past treasurer and secretary and everything in the union over the years, so he knew a lot of people. And he run that agency from that three hundred and some odd people up to about twenty-five hundred, insurance holders. In fact when he retired from the mill that's what he did, he kept his insurance business, and did fantastic in it. He was quite the insurance man. In fact he was an agent here for, a full agent for Farmers Insurance. Then later he sold out. I don't remember my father being in a hospital one other time, before he went to the hospital, and he had the gall bladder operation, and it was ruptured.

MELBA: And he didn't live through that?

CHARLES: He didn't recover from that. But he played baseball, I saw my father play. He played minor league baseball. He was a good baseball player. He was short. What was he Mother, he must have been about five eight, Grandpa?

LORRAINE: I don't even think he was that tall.

CHARLES: And your ---

LORRAINE: I think about five seven, or six and a half maybe. He was pretty short.

MELBA: Active fellow though, huh.

CHARLES: You know when we started our --- well I've got to tell you during the service when we traveled all over the country, thank goodness we never had any children. I don't know what we have done with a barracks bag and a baby. So we came back to Burns and we took care of everybody's children, and we didn't have any children. And so finally we decided well we'll go adopt a baby, instead of taking care of the neighbors. So Father Egan he gave us a letter to the Catholic home in San Francisco. So we got in the car and went to San Francisco. But then we find out that if the family ever gets back together they come and get your baby. Well that was no good. So we had another letter to the Portland Clinic up there in Portland. And gosh, what was that doctor's name that run that? Father Egan served with him in the service anyhow. So we went to the, took the full physical and find out that the, the old fellow, the World War II guy's metabolism is haywire, so we get that all jacked up, we come home and sure and low and behold in October we get Charles. And then next we get Bob, and then we get Tom, and then we get Mick, then we get Mark and ---

MELBA: You mean your children are adopted?

CHARLES: No, they are all ours.

MELBA: Oh, but they come ---

CHARLES: Yeah, when we got the metabolism fixed up, then they came right along. But we sure enjoyed them. I'll never forget that time we had Charles Walker, that's my

name. And then we had Mickey Walker, well that was a great boxer; my dad thought that was great. Then Tom Walker ---

LORRAINE: Except his name is Michael, not Mickey.

CHARLES: Yeah.

LORRAINE: You keep forgetting that.

CHARLES: Then Bob Walker, that was my dad's name, was I. G. but they called him Bobby Walker. So then we get down to Tom, and we didn't have any Tom Walkers, and my dad --- well that's about four by then, you know. My dad said, "You know you'll run out of names; you ought to put a stop to this." (Laughter) He enjoyed the big family just as much as I do. Many don't see that, you know. What in the world --- well ---

MELBA: What are those six kids for?

CHARLES: Well we got along.

LORRAINE: Some people don't want any nowadays. Why they really think it over before they have --- They can't have a big bank balance, lots of money, they think they can't have children.

CHARLES: See I only had one brother, when he was gone, and Lorraine was an only daughter in her family. We've got them in California, and Idaho.

MELBA: All over. Get to see; you get to see the country by visiting the kids sometimes.

CHARLES: You don't worry about tomorrow until it gets here.

MELBA: Yeah.

CHARLES: Nothing wrong with that.

MELBA: No, not at all. Did your father just work in the mill, is that the only job he had, except the ---

CHARLES: The Farmers Insurance, yes.

MELBA: The Farmers ---

CHARLES: Well one, the time from Minnesota until we came here he was a buyer for lumber. He was out on the road buying timber and stuff. So he bought a lot of lumber in the meantime. But then he was a shop leader at the mill, and also he ran the night shift at the mill. That was his profession, his lumber ...

MELBA: You know, since you have worked so long for the mill and so forth, it seems interesting sometimes that, you know, family background sort of ties in, you know, along the way. What was your mother's maiden name?

CHARLES: Kapanen.

MELBA: How do you spell that?

CHARLES: K A P A N E N, Kapanen.

MELBA: K A P E N ---

CHARLES: A N E N.

MELBA: Oh. Okay.

CHARLES: Ehon Elamon (sp.?)

MELBA: What's that?

CHARLES: That's her name.

MELBA: Her first name?

CHARLES: Yeah, I can't even spell it.

LORRAINE: But it's Elma.

CHARLES: Elma.

LORRAINE: I guess Ehon is how you say it in Finn isn't it?

CHARLES: Yeah, Ehon.

LORRAINE: Because there was a priest that used to always write to us, and he would sign it that way.

MELBA: You called her Elma?

CHARLES: Yeah.

MELBA: Oh, uh huh.

CHARLES: So I'm half Finn.

MELBA: Oh.

CHARLES: We had to go on TV here a while back, they had a picture of Ellis Island, and my mother remembered going through Ellis Island. She went through there when she was about 11 or 12.

LORRAINE: No, she said 5 honey.

CHARLES: Five years old.

LORRAINE: Five years old, but she remembered ---

CHARLES: Went through Ellis Island.

LORRAINE: --- what it was like, and all the people and how they kept them there for a week or so, you know, before they let them go on to communities. I don't think she had any relatives to meet at that time.

CHARLES: No.

LORRAINE: I think they just came over, you know.

MELBA: Can't you imagine coming in to a strange place like that?

CHARLES: Yeah.

LORRAINE: And not, her mother and father couldn't speak English even when they ---

CHARLES: No, no.

LORRAINE: Could they Chuck?

CHARLES: No, grandma ---

LORRAINE: Neither one of them ever spoke English all the time they lived in, they lived here.

CHARLES: In 1946 when we got out of the service I took “Renee” up to meet my grandparents, they were still alive in Virginia, Minnesota. And my grandmother had glaucoma and lost her eyesight ... and they knew how to handle it. So my grandmother, she always called me Sonny, that’s Charles in Finn. I hadn’t seen her for years and --- one other one I’ve got to show you before you leave, the bassinet that I had when I was a baby. My grandmother kept all that, all those years and had them upstairs in the attics.

MELBA: You still have it?

CHARLES: Yeah, I’ve still got it downstairs.

MELBA: Isn’t that neat.

CHARLES: And so I kept that. When we had our babies well then she sent that out and we got that bassinet from back a half a century.

MELBA: You’ll have it for your grandchildren.

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah.

LORRAINE: A wicker.

CHARLES: Yeah, a wicker basket.

MELBA: Thinking back before your grandfather and your father, are you a lot, do they have your pleasant attitude?

CHARLES: The kids?

MELBA: Yeah. No, your grandfather and father, were they a lot like you?

CHARLES: My father and I, my father and I was.

MELBA: You were sort of like your father.

CHARLES: He never, occasionally he would lose his temper, but not much. He got along good with them at the mill. To run in the insurance business, with 300 up to 2500 people, you know, he was --- And then he played a lot of baseball and a lot of sports. No we always got along pretty well with people. No, we had a lot of fun growing up.

MELBA: Well I might ask you just one question. How do you compare life today, as it was when you were 15 years old? I think you've covered probably a little of that anyway.

CHARLES: Oh yeah, I don't know, I think it's much easier raising kids back a few years than it is today. I'm thank --- after our small community here rather than in a big city because you can keep your hand on them yet, even ... kind of keep your hand on them. I don't know what --- and I think if you get a good start on them, they'll go through the rest of their life by themselves without too much trouble. But ---

MELBA: A lot of it depends upon parents too.

CHARLES: Yeah, yeah.

MELBA: You're close to home, and ---

CHARLES: Yeah, Mickey and I, he's the oldest one home now. Mark is a sophomore at OCE, and Jimmy is going to go to OCE this, we'll have two there this coming year. And Bobby he, that's our number 2 boy, he got a scholarship at Boise State. Went all the way through school on his running ability. He ran --- he had the, he, a lot of running with Prefontaine in '72 in the NCAA Cross Country. And so he got quite far in his track

records. He's still got some track records over there at Boise State, in the Steeple Chase and Cross Country, 2-Mile. He was a good --- and then they all had a good healthy life in sports, which I think helped a lot.

MELBA: And you probably followed right along with them, didn't you?

CHARLES: Yeah. We was ---

MELBA: Know all the games and everything.

LORRAINE: When they were, you know, when the other kids it was, we didn't so much as we did the last two.

CHARLES: Yeah.

LORRAINE: Well like when Bobby ran over in Portland, we weren't able to go because of the little ones that we had.

MELBA: And the distance too, maybe.

LORRAINE: Yeah, it's quite a, you know ---

CHARLES: We did go to the NCAA up in ---

LORRAINE: But we did go when he was ---

CHARLES: In Cross Country.

LORRAINE: But see he was still in high school when he was in ---

CHARLES: In Portland, yeah.

LORRAINE: In Portland. And so it was just too much for us to go. But through the last two years, or three years I'll say, we've really done a lot of traveling.

MELBA: Do you belong to Civic organizations here?

CHARLES: I'm Rotary, I'm ... I used to belong to a lot of others, but that's --- I'm president of Valley Golf Club.

MELBA: Not to the Oregon Historical or any of that?

CHARLES: No, no I'm ---

MELBA: Any other historical ones?

CHARLES: I'm going to get into that though when I get through with this retirement.

Well I've got so much stuff, and we've got to ... with people you know.

MELBA: Yeah and to, yeah ... like these pictures you know of actual work there.

LORRAINE: Are those the houses?

MELBA: Right within the building itself. Yes, uh huh.

LORRAINE: Those are really nice.

MELBA: Yeah they are. Who took those?

CHARLES: I don't know who the photographer was.

MELBA: It says on the back, but I was wondering for what purpose.

CHARLES: Well was that ... on the back, was that the name?

MELBA: To make up brochures or such probably. It says, well ... photographed by ...

CHARLES: We had ---

MELBA: Art commercial studios.

CHARLES: We used to put out a daily reminder every year and put pictures of the mill ... And then we had professional photographers come in. Took a lot of equipment to take pictures in the dark, inside the mill.

MELBA: Gee, you have such an array of pictures; I'd like to look at those. I think I will cut the tape here. Is there anything special that you thought about adding, or ---

CHARLES: No, I don't know --- you know like this little meeting we had down there, we've got to get together again. In fact they're talking about having a picnic for the

people down there in the Hines Park this summer, which I hope they do. It's a potluck for the old timers that are here, because there are still quite a few left, and get together again.

MELBA: Would you have --- do you think there is a picnic for the old-timers, and then there is a whole community picnic again.

CHARLES: Yeah, well the community --- we used to have them. I don't know why we got away from that, but it's a good idea to get everybody together. At least they will know that you've been here longer than the younger people. I've been here since '29, and oh my god that's a long time, you know.

MELBA: Really an antique. (Laughter)

CHARLES: Yes, yes.

TAPE 2 – SIDE D

MELBA: This interview with Charles Walker at his home at 423 Pettibone Street in Hines, Oregon on Thursday June the 28th, 1979, at 9 a.m. was by Melba Lewitz and Truett Powers.

(End of Tape)

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