

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #452 – 2 Tapes – Sides A/B

Subject: Cato Teeman

Date: April 30, 1997 – May 7, 1997 – May 21, 1997 – June 5, 1997

Place: Burns Times-Herald Office – Burns, Oregon

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Cato Teeman on April 30, 1997. Cato is 90, you're 90 years old? 80? 82-years-old? He's gonna talk today about how he came to Harney County from Fort Bidwell with his parents, and let's see --- what year was that?

... (Small part erased by bomb threat call.)

CATO TEEMAN: Children come from all over to go to school, till the springtime, then they go on a vacation. Some of the parents lived nearby; they would go on vacation over there. Klamath Falls, Alturas, and Burns here come and get them and then they would, uh no parents, they would stay there till they graduate, you know. Well, that's how we went on vacation when my father and my mother, Bessie Teeman, decided to take a trip up here to Burns.

PAULINE: Did they live at Ford Bidwell?

CATO: Yes, they lived there at that time.

PAULINE: What was your father's name?

CATO: Charlie Teeman.

PAULINE: How did you travel?

CATO: In a wagon. Two horses pulling one of those buckboard wagons I guess you'd call it. It had a two-seater, you know, but the one in the back seat they took off. It was kind of an old wagon me and my father had, and a team of horses. Good gentle horses, good trotting horses.

PAULINE: Good trotting horses. What color were they?

CATO: Well one was sort of a brownish color; I believe the other was a kind of a grayish black of some kind.

PAULINE: So you started out. How many children were there?

CATO: There were my younger brother and my sister. My sister was about 8 years old at that time. Her name was June, June Teeman.

PAULINE: What was your brother's name?

CATO: My brother's name was Paul, Paul Teeman.

PAULINE: And how old were you?

CATO: I don't know exactly how old I was. I was in school about three years already. Maybe I was about 14, 12 or 14, somewhere around in there.

PAULINE: So you started out from Ford Bidwell to come to Burns.

CATO: Yeah.

PAULINE: What happened?

CATO: Well we come through Cow Head Lake, along toward Adel. We stopped at the camp at Adel for the night. Then we come to the next town, what do you call it?

PAULINE: Paisley, no? Lakeview, no? Wagonfire, no? Harrington. Alturas, no? Let me get the map here.

CATO: North of Adel.

PAULINE: Plush?

CATO: Yeah. We got some supplies there. You know, what we needed. We camped there over night again. My father got some grain for the horses there, oats. My father used a nosebag, you know, you put a strap behind their ear. I think you called them nosebags. Canvas nosebags. That's the way you feed them, you know. Or let them graze along side the road. That was when we was camping for the night.

PAULINE: So then from Plush ---

CATO: Well we camped there and got up the next morning. We were traveling the old road and it takes time. Come from Plush up toward the gap.

PAULINE: Gap Ranch?

CATO: No across the flat up there where the antelope refuge is.

PAULINE: Oh, Hart Mountain.

CATO: Up that way. And camped up there. And then from there we come across the flat to up there toward Warm Springs, toward Blitzen. Then from there we went to, what do you call it, the P Ranch?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: Down through there. Then we come through The Narrows a couple days later. We stopped at The Narrows a couple days to rest up. Narrows was a pretty big town then, big iron works, and wagon works, and underground saloon and everything.
(Laughter)

PAULINE: An underground saloon. That meant it was during prohibition and it wasn't legal? Is that what you mean by underground?

CATO: Where they drink beer and stuff in there. Kind of a --- They had probably ... nighttime. We stayed there for two days to rest up the horses and stuff. And then one morning, the next morning, left about 7 or 8 o'clock, left toward Wrights Point. Now Wrights Point on the old road --- (Turned off the scanner.) The first old road, you know. And we got to Wrights Point down the bottom about 10 o'clock maybe. We started up the steep grade on the south side. We stopped one time and ran around to the back and put rocks behind the wheel to keep it from rolling back, to give the horses a rest, you know, or a breather I guess you want to call it. We stopped about two times like that. The third time we stopped, this was on the south face of Wrights Point.

PAULINE: That is very steep.

CATO: And there is a kind of a wide place there and very near the top it choked into a one lane, a one-wagon lane. Just as we entered the one-wagon lane we heard a car coming from the top. And it come at us, you know, pretty good speed, it didn't slow down a bit. I don't know whether it had any brakes or not. It was a car with two people in it, two men with hats on. You could see the hair blowing backwards. And my father moved the horses and got them off the road as fast as he could. That's when the car hit the front wheel. The front wheel turned, it sticks out more when you turn. The front wheel then hit the back wheel too; it smashed both wheels. The wagon kind of tipped over again like that and threw my mother out. My sister was sitting between my father and mother and she rolled out in the road. And I was holding on to the railing on top of the seat, kind of a bar on the top, I was holding on to that real hard.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: And there was dust there and it smashed both the wheel on this side, and you know on that old wagon, the driver sits on the right side and the passenger sits on the left side.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: My sister was sitting in the middle, and threw my mother out.

PAULINE: The car hit the left wheel then.

CATO: Yeah, the left wheel. Then it hit the back wheel too.

PAULINE: On the left side?

CATO: Smashed both wheels. When I looked back I seen where it (car) just kind of veered to the right after he hit us and climbed that steep hill, from the steep bank on this side. And it flipped over, just like flipping over a frying pan. It threw two people out on the road. Then it, the car, it was a touring car they called it at that time.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: The car flipped over and fell right on top and it slid about 20 feet, and it didn't hurt the people that were in there. I guess they were shaken up quite a bit. And I looked again and the back wheels were kind of a jerking motion then they stopped. And my mother, I guess, got hurt.

PAULINE: But you didn't fall out of the wagon?

CATO: I didn't. I was holding on to it and my brother in the back, he was holding on to me. We kind of rolled around a little bit.

PAULINE: And your father was okay?

CATO: My father was all right. He had his hand on the railing too, I guess. The horse jumped about that time and dragged the wagon off to the side. He quieted down the

horses and unhitched them. And he tied them up there somewhere. There were a few juniper trees on the side of the road there. Those two white people there were kind of; they were men. Of course I was young then and all big people were men. And they talked a while and my father he don't understand white people too much, but I guess he understand what they was talking about. I don't know, I wasn't listening and I didn't understand them too well. I couldn't talk "white" at that time. Not too good.

PAULINE: You couldn't speak English then very well?

CATO: I don't know what they was talking about, what they was gonna have to do. And then my father come back and started unloading all the stuff, you know, it wasn't much. Just, you know, it wasn't much just blankets and some grain for the horses, stuff like that. And I guess they made some kind of a deal, they must have made some kind of a deal because them two white guys looked at the car and come over there and they come over there and talk a while. Then my father starts to pack all our belongings up under the juniper tree. Of course the south side of Wrights Point now, yeah the south side, it was getting pretty hot the first part of June, pretty hot.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: Under the juniper tree, a small juniper tree. Started to fix up them horses, they still had the harnesses on them. After they got through moving my mother up there; they carried her up there. She couldn't hardly walk. I wasn't, uh, I guess she was hurt, you know, but I didn't pay attention. I was looking at the car, and they got on the horses. My father got on one, and them other two got on the other one, and they started down the road. And they went back to The Narrows I guess, back to The Narrows.

PAULINE: Your mother was able to get on the horse and go back to The Narrows?

CATO: No, she was under the tree. They left some food, and some of the food we had. And we had some dried bread left from the day before. And, uh, see they was gone that day it happened and gone all the next day, and then the next day. We kept looking south, you know. She ... all this time and nobody come along. So nobody come by the third day. We seen something back, way back toward The Narrows, coming toward us. It was my father. He had a brand new, another wagon. I don't know; it had yellow wheels and red stripes on the spokes. It was a nice looking wagon. It had two seats, just like them, that was supposed to have been on this one. So we loaded up. My father had to carry my mother down. And we went on to Burns. When we got to Burns why my father's father was here in Burns and at that time Father Heel the Priest was here and they was all living in army type tents along the ridge by the cemetery.

PAULINE: Where you live now?

CATO: Uh huh. Somebody went and told him (the priest) and he come and looked and kind of looked and she was in pain. And he went and got her some pills; some kind of medicine and that quieted her down. I don't know what kind of medicine it was. Then my father decided to go back to Fort Bidwell, so that same evening we went by wagon to Crane. When we got to Crane it was getting dark. Next morning we loaded up I think, Geer was the man's name that had that store and ...

PAULINE: Geer sounds right.

CATO: Huh?

PAULINE: Geer sounds right. I think he did have a store.

CATO: Yeah, uh huh. Two sacks of oats for the horses, and uh, that same evening we took off. We got down toward, went south. What's that little town south?

PAULINE: Princeton?

CATO: Huh?

PAULINE: Princeton?

CATO: Princeton. Yeah, Princeton was way over next to the hills at that time. Way over there, south of ...

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: We got there in the late evening and we were going toward Princeton, about a mile this side of Princeton. That yellow dog we had, a car ran over him and I thought it'd killed him. My father went over there and looked and there was blood coming out of his mouth and he wasn't moving. And my father he dragged it over to the side of the road and put him behind the sagebrush. And we got to Princeton and camped there for the night and put a canvas on the ground and covered ourselves up with a blanket. It was pretty warm night.

PAULINE: Your mother was still not feeling very well then?

CATO: She wasn't feeling, she, she didn't seem to be in pain but she was, she couldn't walk unless we carried her. And about daylight we got ready. And I woke up and felt something heavy on my blanket, kind of a warm spot, and I got up and looked and there was the dog. That dog we dragged over to the sagebrush. He had come to somehow and found us and went to sleep on top of my blanket. (Laughter)

PAULINE: You were glad to see him again?

CATO: He was pretty stiff; he couldn't walk. So we had to pick him up and put him in the wagon when we started out.

PAULINE: Did you go up then up over the end of Steens Mountain to continue on?

CATO: No, we went up toward The Narrows, up that way.

PAULINE: Okay.

CATO: There was an old town over there, Big Springs.

PAULINE: Voltage?

CATO: No. And we crossed over there above Big Springs and then we cut across over there to the springs south of The Narrows, and we hit the road over there.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: Then we went back the same way we came. Then we got back to Plush again. Then we went to Adel and then we went back to Fort Bidwell. And that's where my mother's mother lived, was still alive, she --- we went and told her and she come over there to Fort Bidwell. And then she went over there and called a Priest, their names was Wes Shoemaker, Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker was their church members. And there was no doctor at Ford Bidwell at that time. No white doctor, just a doctor for the Indian children out there, there at Fort Bidwell, the Indian school you know, the boarding school. They had doctors, and uh, they uh, there was a preacher's wife and she would go and see her about every two days. She must have bandaged her (mother) up somehow. I didn't know what was going on, how bad she was hurt. That was all summer. And in that fall we went back to the boarding school, me and my sister and brother. And I thought, about Thanksgiving we heard the news that, my disciplinarian, the one who looks over us in the building where we stayed he come over there and told me that my mother had died. And, and my sister was waiting outside and you better take her down there and go see her. So we, about a mile we walked until we got to where we used to live, somewhere there. We, uh, got there and stayed there one night and one day. And the next day we went and

buried her. And this preacher (Cough) he came and said some words, something you know, and pretty soon they layed her in the grave and covered her up. And that was how my mother died. I don't know how old she was; I never did know how old she was. She bore six children. (Cough)

PAULINE: You weren't the oldest?

CATO: No, no I had two other older brothers.

PAULINE: You had two other older brothers.

CATO: There was Gilbert Teeman that was next to me, and Wilbur Teeman the oldest one.

PAULINE: Then Cato. Then your sister June?

CATO: Uh?

PAULINE: Your sister June? Older than you?

CATO: No, she was the youngest.

PAULINE: So then you had a younger brother.

CATO: Paul Teeman was the next one. And Richard Teeman was next to Paul, and then June Teeman. We all went to school at Fort Bidwell.

PAULINE: Are any of your brothers and sisters living?

CATO: No.

PAULINE: They're all gone?

CATO: June, she was the last one to die. She died in 1983 --- '81, '81.

PAULINE: Did she marry and have children?

CATO: Huh?

PAULINE: Did she marry and have children?

CATO: She married couple times, but she never did have children. Let's see, she had one daughter, one daughter and she grewed up and went and got married down south somewhere and uh, we don't know what happened to her. We never did hear anything from her.

PAULINE: And you were probably about 12 to 14 when your mom died?

CATO: Yeah.

PAULINE: And you're 82 now?

CATO: Yeah.

PAULINE: Where were you born? Were you born at Fort Bidwell?

CATO: Yes, I was born on Jim, my grandfather's allotment, Jim Burns' allotment.

PAULINE: When did you move to Harney County? When did you move back over here? You've been here a long time.

CATO: Well, as a boy we used to go back and forth all the time, you know. We used to go back and forth all the time and visit. My father used to work quite a bit over around Drewsey, over around, when I was a little boy. I remember salmon coming up the river there. We used to catch 'em when they flood the meadows, up above Drewsey. The salmon would go in there and they were disoriented, you know, and when they shut the water off, we would catch 'em. Maybe steelhead (Laughter) they was all salmon to me.

PAULINE: I don't know the difference either. I think they're different, but I'm not sure what the difference is.

CATO: They say one of 'em dies after spawning, and the other goes back to the sea.

PAULINE: Here's your coffee.

CATO: And that's how I happen to know. I used to know quite a lot of people up in Drewsey. Mullens, I don't know the first name, but the name was Mullens. They was a whole bunch of girls in that family. My mother used to go wash their clothes for them and stuff. Then there was Ralph Chambers. Used to live up there, Kimble Flats above Drewsey, up in there. My father worked for him for a couple years and they used to keep me to work turkeys for them; just watch them so the coyotes wouldn't get 'em. They had a bunch of turkeys up at Ralph Chambers. He's the one that give me a spankin' for knockin' down green apples. (Laughter) I was knockin' down green apples 'cause the little pigs were eaten' them real good, and I was knockin' down the green apples to feed them. The little pigs, they would follow me around.

PAULINE: (Laughter) I could just see that. Did you ever go to school to any of the other schools? Just Fort Bidwell?

CATO: No. That's the only place I went to school.

PAULINE: Did you work for ranches then, as you got older?

CATO: Yeah. I worked all over. I worked on ranches and I worked in the mines over in McDermitt, the quicksilver mines.

PAULINE: Huh.

CATO: For one winter. I worked at MC Ranch for a couple summers. Oh, I would go and work up at Seneca for a while.

PAULINE: Did you ever work for the mill? Excuse me, for the sawmill? As a logger?

CATO: Yes, I worked up at Seneca. Then I worked in --- I piled brush up there for a long time, and we piled by the thousand, thousand feet. I had a chance to come down here to work in the mill. I'd say it was in 1937, '36, '37; I started to work in the mill. I

worked in the mill for pretty close to 15 years, not quite '45, I think '44. I was a clean-up man down in the mill.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: And then I got to work down in the stacker. I stacked lumber for a while.

SIDE B

PAULINE: And I'm talking with Cato Teeman on May 7, 1997. And last week we talked about his trip to Harney County over Wrights Point where his mother was injured and later died. We're going to talk about some other things. Cato, what did you do when you were a little boy to have fun? What kind of games did you play?

CATO: Oh, there's a game we play out in the wet ground. We would go into the willows and cut long sticks, about like that, out of green willows and sharpen one end of them, and then we would make a willow hoop, you know, round like a ring.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: There would be about two or more players. We would roll it on the ground, you know, and somebody would throw a spear at it and spear it to the ground.

PAULINE: So you would cut a willow about 4 foot long and make it into a circle.

CATO: And when he does that, when he spears it then we would have to go over there and do the same thing and spear it from where he was standing. If we miss, we lose our spear, and then after that why he would be the one to roll it this way and we would have to spear it from this side. And we would do the same thing over here. We played that a long time ago with three or more boys, you know.

PAULINE: The girls didn't play this game with you?

CATO: No. They had their own, I guess. And then we would go out to the willows and climb on the willows, you know, and we would go up and down like this and somebody would get up there and ride the willows, you know. Other fellow would be over here and get a hold of the branches and go up and down like this. (Laughter) He would be riding it up and down. This was where there was a lot of willows.

PAULINE: That sounds like fun. How old were you when you played these games? Do you remember about how old you were?

CATO: Oh, ah ---

PAULINE: Pretty young?

CATO: Oh, we had to be about 5 or 6, or maybe 7.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: I was kind of a, I didn't go to school until I was probably 10-11 years old. Course I was pretty big when I was in the first grade. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Do you remember the first time you went hunting?

CATO: Out hunting?

PAULINE: Yes. Did you start to hunt small things, or did you start to hunt deer?

CATO: Oh, I used to go with my father out hunting, you know. We would walk, start walking in the woods, and I would start walking behind him holding the gun. Then we would find a fresh deer track, a fresh one, and we would follow it along this way and that way, to see which way it probably gone. Then we would kind of find where he was laying down during the day and follow him along until we found where he was laying down. And then we would get him to jump up, you know, and wait until he stops, then

shoot him. We don't try to shoot when he is jumping up and down, you know. But he will stop; we got deer that way.

The sagehen and stuff like that, my father had a 12-gauge shotgun and we would hunt them in the spring. I guess the Indians long time ago hunt them in the spring because that's the time they strut, in the strutting grounds. The Indians don't just stop by the strutting grounds, they strut, you know, they kind of spread out a little bit. And they kind of strut around and then sometimes you can, if you were a good runner, get a long stick, wait until the rain and they strut around in the rain with their feathers bristled out, you know, in the rain. Rain get into their feathers and kind of, they can't fly any more. You can get a long stick and hit 'em, pretty close to them, that way.

PAULINE: That sounds like a pretty good way because you wouldn't have any gun shot in them to clean out.

CATO: No, that's right. A long time ago the Indians didn't have no guns and that's one way you can get 'em. You can get the big ones, the cock that struts around.

PAULINE: What about the ground hogs? When do you hunt for ground hogs?

CATO: Now would be too early to go out and hunt ground hog, unless you had a gun, a shotgun. I guess now you could go out and get a big one, a male. But latter on about around the middle of June, you can go out and shoot any one of 'em. They'd be in pretty good shape, fat, and the only way I know how to hunt ground hog is to get a good dog.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: A good dog that's, it's worth a lot of money to the Indians. To the Indians a long time ago, when the Indians didn't have no gun and a good dog would go out and smell 'em down and catch 'em right where they're feeding at. Out in the sagebrush, in

the flats, or out in the rocks. And they will smell them, you know, and they can catch them that way. Go down to where they are hiding at in the rocks too.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: And then they, the Indian goes to pull them out, the rocks, with wire. Kill ‘em that way. A good dog, you know, usually two good dogs, they usually follow each other around.

PAULINE: What about antelope? I don’t think I’ve ever really had anyone talk about hunting antelope.

CATO: They, with a gun you can kinda get a antelope pretty easy, but any other way it’s pretty hard. You can’t run ‘em down unless you run ‘em down into a canyon, over rocks, over cliff. They used to do that to animals, buffalos, and antelopes too, they would chase ‘em, chase ‘em over a cliff.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: And when they fall over the cliff into the, way down below they would go down there and club ‘em to death, you know. Chase ‘em over a cliff.

PAULINE: Well there used to be buffalo in Harney County. Can you, you --- they were gone by the time you were growing up. I don’t think there were any left when you were growing up.

CATO: No.

PAULINE: But do you remember the elders talking about the buffalo?

CATO: Yes. They used to be buffalos here. They called them “Baboots”? Water, water, water cattle they called ‘em. And they, and we used to have a buffalo head out in the allotment. We found it in the old dry lakebed.

PAULINE: What do you think happened to them? Why they weren't here anymore?

CATO: I don't know what happened. I guess the white people just slaughtered them back a ways, and they don't come as far west anymore. And ah --- and ah ---

PAULINE: Well last week you talked about the salmon in the Malheur River, out by Drewsey. Did you go fishing for those, or did you catch them in nets? Or how did you catch the salmon?

CATO: Well my father had a spear made out of a, I think it was dried willow. It must have been, oh maybe about like that. Spear head made out of a pitch, like a --- and it's tight, kinda of a, like a arrowhead you know. It fit on the end of the spear. But it was made out of wood and tied on to the end of the spear. And he would see if, ah, the salmon comin' up small streams, he would go up there and stick 'em with a spear. Maybe from here over to the corner of that desk. And when he hit the salmon, it would go into his flesh and the spear point would come off into the fish and the string would hold onto the shaft. Still be holding the fish. And he would take the shaft and pull the fish out that way. That's one way, and the other way is where you find, let's see how did he, I know there's several ways. You can put a thing they call it a "*bywago*" an Indian could make some kind of construction in a little creek, kind of like something made out of willows, you know, tied together, kind of like a wire trap. Like if the steelhead was up in the stream they would start to go back, to lay eggs up there and start to go back, back downstream they would catch 'em. They would fall into this net and then they wouldn't get out because the willows would be pointing toward him and he couldn't get his head in there.

PAULINE: So he could swim upstream through the trap. Then he could go upstream to go lay the eggs and when he came back down, then he would be caught in the trap.

CATO: Uh huh. And then the other way, I, where you flood a field and the steelhead when they was comin' down would get into this flooded field trapped in the low places there when you shut the water off. They'd be trapped in the low places and you could go out there and catch them that way. A lot of times the crows and magpies would beat you to it. They would peck their eyes out.

PAULINE: Did your family pretty much stay at Drewsey when you were growing up? From Fort Bidwell, did you stay at Drewsey most of the time while you were growing up, or did you move around?

CATO: Oh we, vacation time, we would be the end of this month at Fort Bidwell. We would go on a vacation over to --- and then we would plan to go some place. That was vacation time when we come up here when my mother got hurt. After the first of June, somewhere around the 10th of June. We ah, we always planned to go some place. We always planned to go some place to dig for roots or something; groundhogin' or something like that.

PAULINE: Did you dig roots too? Did the men dig roots too, or just the women?

CATO: Oh, the woman did most of the roots. Yeah, they, the women they got more staying power. (Laughter) They are more, specially the older ladies, the older woman that's been digging the roots for years and years, you know. They know just where to go. And where they been before, you know, and they go where they left some from last year's diggin'. They know just where to go and they don't waste no time, they know just where it's at. It's the older woman and they teach the younger woman how to do things.

And then the young girls go along too. They mind the babies that's in the cradle, you know. They mind them while the woman's diggin' roots. The men do most of the hunting and stuff like that, you know, and pack. And if the woman got a husband, and she tell her husband to go pack her roots; if it's too heavy to pack, or tell him where to go to go get it. That's the only --- yeah. And later on when the Indian had horses, they went on horseback to where the roots is and then they had the horse to pack the roots when they dig a lot of 'em.

PAULINE: Did you ever stay in a willow, I don't know whether you called it a teepee or not, the Paiute built a house out of willows, like a teepee? Did you ever live in a teepee?

CATO: In one of those willow, kind of a willow you know, uh, the way they did it they make holes in the ground in a circle and stick the willows all around in them holes. Then they would bend them to get them tied up together, kind of tied them with small ropes, anything they could get, make kind of a Hogan-like willows. Then they would put a canvas over 'em or a blanket over 'em and in the place where they go back and forth in, it kind of a things, special flap thing you could pull it over when you wanted to go in and put it back when you were in. It's big enough to have a small stove, a small camp stove.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: And then up through the middle of, up through the middle. I was born in one of them in my grandfather's allotment in Fort Bidwell.

PAULINE: And then your dad worked on some ranches over at Drewsey.

CATO: Yes, he worked for Ralph Chambers for about three years. That's where we, we ah, stayed out in the willows.

PAULINE: Was he a buckaroo? Did he ride a horse?

CATO: No. He did some farm work, you know, like irrigating. And Ralph Chambers had an alfalfa field and he and my father irrigated that all the time. And he did all kinds of farm work like building fences, then general farm duties. Ralph Chambers, he didn't have no cattle, just two or three milk cows and a lot of turkeys and some pigs. Some chickens too. And he done some fence building, irrigating, everything.

PAULINE: You lived up there by the cemetery in that little house for a long, long time. Can you tell me how you came to live there the first time?

CATO: Ah, I ah, I lived there a long time ago when I was a boy. See, when I was a boy down at Drewsey working for Ralph Chambers, we would come up and one year my grandfather, they was living up there in one of those pyramid type, one of those, of those army type tents. Father Heel he talked for the Indians to get those army type tents. He had 'em sent up there where the gates to the cemetery is now, on the north side. Up through, up that way. Up toward the hill. I was a boy then when we was here. I was, I went to school to the Fort Bidwell and then we moved to Fort Bidwell. I don't know how many years, 1925-26 maybe. I was down to Fort Bidwell till my mother died.

And then I worked in the hay field at Adel at MC Ranch for a long time. I was a ... setter and later on buck ranch, MC Ranch. That was only in haying time. In the fall we go back to Fort Bidwell and get ready for winter, hunt deer, then we pick wild plums and dry 'em. I would help my grandmother pick wild plums and we would dry them. Pick chokecherries, and she would make jam out of 'em. That was pretty busy days in the fall, getting wood for the winter, and them was. And then they would have a fair in the fall, fair and a rodeo. And that would be --- pretty soon winter come and I would go to school again. Yeah, a lot of those people from here went to Fort Bidwell. My cousin

went to school there, she and several other people. Most of ‘em are gone though now.

Maude, Maude Stanley, she went to school there.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: Emma?

PAULINE: It wasn’t until I was in school that the first children from the reservation were allowed to come to school. I think there were a few that were just older than me, and then Benny Capps and Lloyd Louie, and Larry Richards were in my class in school. And Herb Hawley, we went to school together. But before that, they didn’t go to school in the Burns school.

CATO: No, no they didn’t. They was goin’ to school at Chemawah.

PAULINE: In Salem.

CATO: Uh huh.

PAULINE: I know what I was going to ask you when we were talking about the willow houses, and I don’t know what to call them. I don’t know what to call them; I know it’s not called teepee. What is the name for that house?

CATO: Let’s see. What ---

PAULINE: Wickiup?

CATO: I guess you would call it a wickiup. White people call ‘em dome houses now they copied off and put canvas over them and call ‘em dome houses.

PAULINE: Yes, we have a couple of them here don’t we? (Laughter) I always feel silly calling them teepees and I knew that wasn’t right. And then Hogan is a Navaho.

CATO: Navaho, they got a mud house. Hogan, it’s the same thing only it’s made out of willows and mud and grasses and straw, and clay and everything.

PAULINE: Did you ever travel to the southwest to Arizona or New Mexico and visit people down there?

CATO: No, I never did but I been around Long Beach, around that way, around Willitin (sp.?) Harbor, around that way. I met a lot of Navaho's and a lot of Pima Indians, and Indians from around there. No, I never been down that way too much.

PAULINE: Did your grandparents have to go up to Washington when they took all the Indians, some of those folks that had to go up there?

CATO: Well my grandparents, Pete Teeman and Ann Teeman, they had a, before they was taken prisoner here, the army was --- during the, after they took away the Malheur Reservation. They were taken prisoner over at Harney. That was the gathering place of prisoners, Indian prisoners. They took 'em up there to Washington too; I forget what the name of the place was. That's the only time the Indians from here went up as prisoners.

PAULINE: Really they thought they had to go up there because of the Bannock war.

CATO: I guess a lot of them died along the way. They burned their corpses. The army burned the corpses. A lot of Indian, Indian children, old Indian people disappeared and they don't know where they, what happened to them. There's a burn out place over this side of Harney, looks like somebody had been burned there for quite a long time. There's no reason to have a big fire to burn there all the time. Between two big cliffs, surrounded by boulders and stuff. I don't know what they burned there. A lot of Indian people disappeared at that time; old people, young children that can't travel.

PAULINE: Pete Teeman, he came back down, back here. Didn't Pete Teeman come back from there after a while?

CATO: Yeah. I don't know how many years he was up there. And then he talked about how they crossed the Columbia River. They didn't have a boat, they hung onto the horse's tails and they probably still had two or three horses and they rode them.

PAULINE: They just hung onto the horses tail and let the horse swim across. Hang onto the tail while the horse swam across the river.

CATO: Swam across the river. I guess they entered the river a ways upstream and kept swimming until they drifted quite a ways. I guess it was quite a ways before they could climb out. I guess quite a lot of 'em came back over here. Cross that way. Some crossed by boat I guess, later on. They was all given allotments. I don't know how many years, in 1980 something, 1984 I think.

PAULINE: So you've lived in the house where you live now for a long time?

CATO: I used to live under them trees, next to the road. My father had a cabin, and it was an old one-room shack. I used to live there when I was --- Then I went away for a long time. Then I came back.

PAULINE: Were you ever in the military? Did you join the army, were you in the army?

CATO: No.

PAULINE: You weren't?

CATO: No. I was working in the mill and I was deferred. Uh, yeah 1944-45. Yeah. I was working in the mill. My brothers went. My oldest brother went. He went in when war was declared. He went over to New Guinea, over there, that way. I got a picture of him standing by one of them New Guinea woman with a grass skirt smilin' and lookin' on. (Laughter) Yeah, he was over there for a long time, and then during the war he was

stationed at Montana to guard the prisoners of war up in Montana. A lot of the GI's, they do something, murder somebody, murder their own soldiers, they was taken prisoner, then they was prisoner, and they had 'em in stockade up in Montana and he guarded a lot of them.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Do you think that life is better for the Indian now than it used to be?

CATO: Yeah, better livin' conditions and more money and, and a --- but some of 'em still have been favored ---

TAPE 2 – SIDE C

PAULINE: Cato Teeman, May 21, 1997 at the Burns Times-Herald office. This is the third time we've talked together and today we thought we'd talk about Malheur Refuge headquarters and the people who used to live there and what they did. Do you want to talk about Malheur Cave first?

CATO: Yes. Uh, Malheur Cave in the olden times, you know, ancient times, there was usually a family of Indians there all the time. Probably two or three families stayed there in the wintertime when there was snow on the ground. And about this time, spring time, they probably scattered out, you know, to go to their usual places like root diggin', and go fishing on the Malheur River around Drewsey and get scattered out to their usual hunting places, root diggin'. And about this time, uh, first part of about April, April, first part of May, smelt come up the Malheur River, come from the Snake River and up the Malheur River and up to South Fork Malheur River, right past the Malheur Cave. And those people who stayed there would go and watch the creek to see if they were comin'

through and when they see them smelt, you know, they couldn't catch 'em then because they were too fast and the creek was too swift, I guess. And, but the smelt would come up to the Big Spring, they called it Malheur Refuge now, you know, and when you see the fish coming by, the little fish, this --- get ready, some of them would get ready to move up to the spring. And they would camp there one or two or three days. They would be so thick in that spring you could pretty near walk on 'em, they say.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sake.

CATO: And you, in the spring you could feel them hitting the side of your legs when you're wading that stream. So Indians would be camped there, and they go out into the willows and they get a lot of willows, uh, and make what you call, make strings out of this rabbit brush, they call it. Then they would braid this willows together and make kinda a big spoon like thing; kind of a basket. That was to dip out after dark, you know. You couldn't hardly get near them during the daytime. You had to get near them in the evening in the dark and dip 'em. I don't know, maybe several in one scoop, you know. They would get 'em that way.

PAULINE: This would have a handle on, and then a basket on the end.

CATO: Yeah, kind of, a handle on that side and a handle on that side so when they go like that they were in the middle. Kind of a big crude basket, big spoon like thing. And it would be, make out of willows and sagebrush twine tied together.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: And they would, people would come from over, out toward Nevada, out to Owyhee, some from California. And people that stayed around here, from McDermitt, from all over. Stay at the spring and camp for two or three days and come back, and

some just came to see their friends and relatives; see how they wintered, you know. Come there to trade. Indians here was good at making arrowheads and spear points and knives, knives out of black flint. They made them knives, you know, and they would trade them off for something that they had, like buckskin shoes, buckskin moccasins, jackets, and you know.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: A woman would trade last year's roots for salmon, pound, salmon from Wasco.

PAULINE: That far?

CATO: The Wasco tribe would come down, from down around Pendleton, down around that way, come down to trade for roots. They would have this pound salmon, they would have this dried salmon they would pound and bring that down and trade it for flints, and arrowheads, and whatever the Paiutes have here. Especially came down here to eat. And little fish they called, *Sa-que-paq-we*.

PAULINE: Say that again.

CATO: *Sa-gue-paq-we*. That means that when the fish comes by they catch them with a *sa-que-paw-we*, spoons, and made out of rabbit brush. Some of them big spoons and baskets. And then the Warm Springs would come around and they would have big baskets; they called them root baskets. They would trade them for just about anything you know, knives and everything. You go out on the hillsides out near Crane or south along there you find where they been workin' with flints and stuff like that.

PAULINE: Uh huh

CATO: I guess some of 'em; well they made big knives out of flint. You know they trade mostly for roots and stuff, deer hides, elk hides. We didn't have many elk here but the Warm Springer's come down with the elk hides.

PAULINE: So there didn't used to be many elk here in Harney?

CATO: No. Uh, not many, but there was buffalos. This is about the edge of the buffalo country. Most of buffalos are out east. I hear Indians tell about those buffalo can swim across the Snake River. I guess they can swim pretty good, the buffalo. Yeah, a lot of trading about this time of the year. And then there's some, some Indians they were not so good. (Laughter) I guess they caught three Warm Springer's or some from up that way down here stealing horses. Paiutes had horses then, out in the lakebed. I guess they --- couple Indians out there watching the horses and the Warm Springer's come up on them. I don't know how it happened. I guess they killed one of the Paiutes and took them horses. Took 'em out that way toward Riley or some place out there. And the Indian that was left, he ran off and he went and told the other Indians, and they got after them all right; but they couldn't catch up with them. They went out toward Bend, and out that way. I don't --- where they went. That was a long time ago.

PAULINE: Had too big a head start?

CATO: Yeah. Chief Ochoco from down around Lakeview and out that way was out here at that time. He had a bunch of people, you know, and I guess they're the ones who chased them away; but they didn't catch them. Chief Ochoco, I got his picture. Yeah, he, he's a big Chief, that's --- these Ochoco Forest is named after him, Chief Ochoco.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: Egan was Chief here with the Northern Paiutes at that time; pretty good friend.

PAULINE: The name Egan, that's the way it was pronounced, long E-gan.

CATO: Yeah.

PAULINE: Does it have a meaning?

CATO: I don't know. It probably has a Indian name, I don't know. Yeah, they have a Indian name but I don't know. Chief Ochoco's Indian name was Oits. Oits means left, lefty.

PAULINE: Left-handed?

CATO: Yeah, left arm.

PAULINE: So Egan was a name the white people called the Chief?

CATO: Yeah. It wasn't his Indian name. I read about this, I don't know what his Indian name. There's another Chief, his name is Winnemucca, up around here. He wasn't from this area; he was from Nevada.

PAULINE: Nevada?

CATO: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Do you remember Chief Louie?

CATO: Yeah.

PAULINE: Was he a tall man?

CATO: He was a short man when I seen him. He's old you know. Bent over and had a cane. He was hanging around Burns for a long time I guess. I was a little boy when the army was, you know --- after they, or maybe before they made the Malheur Indian Reservation. He was taken as a houseboy by the soldiers, Captain or somebody, some of the soldiers. He was taken over to Boise as a houseboy and kind of a all around, you know, just general clean up.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: I guess a houseboy. And he learned to talk white man by the soldiers. They kept him there for I don't know how long; till he growed up I guess. And when they saw all the Indians running around here, they took him as a guide, 'cause they thought he'd know the country pretty well.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: I guess he was running around with the soldiers here, around Fort Harney. I heard from some people a long time ago that he was a, what do you call them Indians?

PAULINE: A scout?

CATO: Yeah. He was a scout down in California, down around Alturas, down around that country, Lakeview and around there. And that's just what I heard, you know.

PAULINE: He was very old when you remember him?

CATO: He was pretty old.

PAULINE: He was supposed to be in his 90's or so.

CATO: Huh?

PAULINE: He lived to be in his 90's, 90 years old or older.

CATO: Yeah, he was an old man when I seen him.

PAULINE: Getting back to Malheur Cave. Alfred told me a story about the water babies in Malheur Cave. Can you tell me that story again?

CATO: Now?

PAULINE: At Malheur Cave.

CATO: There's water way back in there, I've never been back in there where the water is. There's a hole back in there; where the water comes out. Dip the water out, dip the

water out. Just like a big spring or something. But nobody's been able to pump it all out. You don't know what's on in there. And that's all I know. I heard about that, but I've never been way back in there.

PAULINE: Well, Alfred told me that story and I didn't have a tape recorder when he was telling me. He told it very well.

CATO: It must be some of them stories, you know, pretty true, I guess. I wouldn't --- All I know is what I seen.

PAULINE: And there were families that lived there every winter? Spent the winter there; two or three families?

CATO: Yeah, about two or three families. Yeah, they would winter there. And they would be, get together firewood; they would go way up there with the ropes. Way up in there, long ways, pull up sagebrush and wrap it around with the ropes and carry it on the backs. A big load to carry. Course when you get to the Malheur Cave you can look all around from the Malheur Cave. Can't find no tall sagebrush. Somehow it never did grow back much. When I first went to the Malheur Cave we were snaring rabbits all along the valley. We come to Malheur Cave and we was to spend the night there. We couldn't find much firewood, not much sagebrush. And besides there, you know, somebody that --- there is some kind of noise coming out of the cave sometimes, we were just kids, you know. Almost believe anything they say. I guess a lot of them's true.

PAULINE: Uh huh. The stories that --- when the Bannocks came through a lot of the Indians went to the Cave and hid in the Cave. Came through on the warpath, I guess is what they were.

CATO: Yes. They come through all right. But some of 'em stayed there. Some of them knew their families there. Some of their relations probably was there, old relations maybe. And some of 'em kept comin' until they come up to the Big Springs and out that way. I don't know what the time they came through, but they was related to a lot of this Indians here. They was trying to protect this Indians here from the soldiers. Lot of 'em went right straight on to Silver Creek. There was a bunch of Indians camped --- I don't know just where, some big ranch. I guess that's where the soldiers see 'em and they had a big fight or something. And then the Indians scattered, and I don't know, I guess the soldiers went back over to Harney. I heard that they chased them other Indians toward John Day and out that way.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well what, what was it like at Fort Bidwell when you lived there?

CATO: Huh?

PAULINE: At Fort Bidwell when you were there?

CATO: When I was there? Well, it was a Indian school. It was a military post at first and then they changed it to a Indian school. We lived in one of the soldier's barracks like dormitories. A boarding school, that's what it was. All the Indians from Northern California and some from here, and some from McDermitt, and some from over in Klamath Falls, they go to school there. And they would let 'em go home about the first part of June. They would let 'em go home, their folks would come after 'em. And then they would go and get 'em about the last part of September. A big boarding school, and then there was a hospital there too, an Indian hospital. They had milk cow, and horses and they had pretty near everything, big laundry, and big auditorium and just about everything you can think. They raised their own vegetables, potatoes, everything, corn,

yeah and they had a bunch of milk cows. I learned how to milk cows there. I used to milk three cows every morning and every evening.

PAULINE: For the school?

CATO: In the morning before I would go to school.

PAULINE: Who took care of the milk?

CATO: Another crew come in. Separated the milk and put the cream in the cooler and you see we'd take turns then. One crew would work and we'd change over every other day. And then somebody, a pig crew would go out and slop the pigs.

PAULINE: Let me check here and see how we're doing. Is there something you have you would like to tell me. We have just a little tape left. Is there something more you would like to tell me for today?

CATO: Well, let's see. Would that be the end of it?

PAULINE: Well, this will end in just a little bit, yes, then we'll have to do another one next week, or when you can come back again. We can do this as long as you want to go. If you have stories to tell me, I want to listen to them.

CATO: No. I guess this is about all I have. Yes, this is about all I have.

PAULINE: Okay.

CATO: In the fall, a lot of us kids would go to school on the outside. They would go to Chemawa, up here, some would go to Sherman Institute down in California, some go to Stuart and stay there for the school months, and come home in the spring. I know my brothers went to Stuart, Nevada. And in the summer, someone went down to meet these kids and brought 'em back. As for me, I went to school at Fort Bidwell. I was getting

pretty old and big. (Laughter) I started working out at a ranch. Started shearing sheep and make money that way.

PAULINE: Did you ever shear sheep for Ben Aus --- Ben O'Keefe?

CATO: No.

PAULINE: On the Steens?

CATO: No, I never did. But my father sheared sheep all around out here in the shearing corral, like Jenkins shearin' corrals out there just the other side of Steens Mountain. The shearin' corrals, two of 'em used to be over by Stinkingwater, over where they would dig roots all the time. And there are several up there. One up the river on the right hand side; way up there. There used to be lot of sheep here about 1920 and '30's. Big shearing corral, Sagehen on the right hand side, as you go out that way.

PAULINE: Uh huh. That was pretty hard work, wasn't it?

CATO: Yeah. Bending over, yeah, bending over. See when you bend over shearing sheep the blood all comes to your head. (Laughter) Hard on your back. Bent over all day workin'. Good money in that. Lot come away with good money. Yeah, a lot of those white people shear sheep. Max Sealoff?

PAULINE: Max Sealoff, yes.

CATO: Max Sealoff, he sheared sheep. That's about all I remember.

PAULINE: Well, I'm starting to cough again and we're right at the end anyway.

TAPE 2 – SIDE D

PAULINE: It's June 5, 1997, we're at the Burns Times-Herald office and Cato (Teeman) is going to talk about the rabid coyotes today. Set that right there and it should go just fine. People told me that years ago; there were coyotes that were suffering from rabies.

CATO: Yes, they was suffering from rabies. The white man called them rabies. I guess people called them crazy coyotes. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Crazy coyotes. (Laughter)

CATO: They'll bite anything that moves. But if you stand still they go right by you.

PAULINE: So did you see a lot of them?

CATO: This one time we, see, we had a tent, a wall tent, set out in the willows and that's where we stayed. And uh, uh, one time I, my mother would go to work to wash clothes at Ralph Chambers place. She learned from the white man that there were some rabid coyotes in the country somewhere, I guess. And she was afraid that one would come around some time, and for me to watch out for them and to run from them. So ah, Ralph Chambers had a lot of turkeys, I don't know; there was a lot of them, maybe 50-55. And they would roost up on the shed; you know, some high places, some farm implements. They would roost up there in the nighttime, and some on the high fence. They would roost on the fence, just anywhere to get away from the ground. And one night a, one night I guess one or two coyotes come around and chased the ones from the row fence and they ran around and jumped at 'em, and pulled 'em down and killed 'em, bite 'em in the head. I don't know how many got killed, maybe about four or five. So they told us to watch out for them. They tried to give us them bad turkeys, but my mother said no, we --- coyote kill them and anyone that would eat 'em would go crazy too. So we didn't get any of 'em. He went and buried them somewhere.

So we, ah, that night, while we were living in a wall tent about one-half grown and he would go with me anywhere I go. And we camped in the night there, and went to sleep. A good moonlight that evening and the dog was outside and something start chasing him around the tent. I guess he run and something started chasing him around all the time, he moved, and this thing was chasing him. He would go by the tent and I could see his shadow, his shadow and next thing that chased him, I knew it had stiff ears, long ears, stiff. And my mother whispered to me to keep quiet 'cause it was a coyote. That's one of those crazy coyotes. We looked the next time. The next time we lift one edge of the tent up and he crawled in, into the tent and then he quit whimpering and pretty soon the coyote left. He went around the tent two more times and then everything was quiet. Early in the morning my father had to go to work and he had to cross a big pasture and some open space. He went, and he come right back. He said there's a coyote out there, he's going round, and round, and round. Just stop and look this way and that way and then he would go round and round and make a circle. Then he got a big willow stick for a club and he went back. And I wanted to go with him to see, but my mother said "no". And I stayed, and my father was late comin' home that evening. When he did come home, he had a coyote hide. I guess that day, in the morning, that morning; he had killed the coyote with the club and hanged it up there somewhere in the willows. Skinned the coyote hide and brought the hide home. He fixed it up and put it on a stretcher and dried the hide out. Caldwell and Lanfeer used to make their run right through Drewsey and them ranches, and they would buy coyote hides, and bobcat hides, and mink hides from the ranch boys, you know, that traps coyotes and stuff like that. And ah, the rancher's boy he shot coyotes too, I guess they bought his hide. Then they told his, my father had a

hide over there too. They didn't tell 'em it was from a crazy coyote, it was a crazy coyote hide. He bought it. I see Lanfeer (or Langtree) goes all the way to Ford Bidwell and around and out that way to make his rounds in the early spring, and the late, buying hides of all sorts. Conwell (or Caldwell). They used to live here in town.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: Go around the country buyin' hides.

PAULINE: Was your little dog all right after he crawled into the tent?

CATO: No, he didn't get bit. He got away from him. That coyote wasn't chasing him. Just behind him because he was moving around. If he wouldn't of run or anything like that, he wouldn't have bothered him.

PAULINE: How old were you? Were you just a little boy when that happened?

CATO: I was just a, I wasn't going to school yet. Maybe 8 or 9 years old, something like that.

PAULINE: Shut that door. It's getting noisy out there.

CATO: No, I couldn't understand white language and that is why, I guess, what you call it, told me not to feed the little pigs he had for, that was rooting under the apple trees. I thought they were hungry. I would get them green apples and feed them little pigs green apples. I guess whatchacallit found out about it, and told her to tell me not to feed the little pigs green apples 'cause they might die.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: They would follow me around. They'd look up at me with their long eyelashes as if to say, "All right Bud, where's our dessert?" (Laughter)

PAULINE: That put a stop to a good thing going. You said your mom used to wash clothes for Ralph Chambers and his wife. Did she wash in the yard or did they wash in the house? Did they have tubs in the yard or did they wash in the house?

CATO: What's that?

PAULINE: When your mom washed for the Chamber's, did they wash in the house or did they wash with tubs in the yard?

CATO: Well, sometimes she would work in the yard, and she would wash clothes by hand.

PAULINE: By hand with a washtub?

CATO: Yeah, with a washtub. She, they would get her lunch at noontime and I would go over there at noontime. It wasn't very far from the ranch that we lived at that time. We get water from the ranch, you know, carry water from the ranch, and once in a while, during milking time I would go over there and they would give me milk in a four pound large pail. They was good to us. In the summer time, we got a lot of things to do. In the wintertime we hardly had anything to do.

PAULINE: You had to stay in and stay warm and stay out of the wind. Was there more snow then than there is now?

CATO: Huh?

PAULINE: Was there more snow then?

CATO: Well, there seemed to be more snow then, now the climate seems to change quite a bit. Now we don't seem to have hardly any snow. We used to have lots of it. I guess the things we put in the air makes it that way. I don't know, smoke, and balloons and everything that we put in the air causes.

PAULINE: Uh huh. We were talking the other day and the tape came to an end. We were talking about the houses that were built for the Indian people; that things got a little better for you. But there were some folks that still thought that there were still good Indians and bad Indians. Then the tape went off and so we stopped talking about that. Would you like to talk about that?

CATO: About what?

PAULINE: About the good Indians and bad Indians and the way folks thought about them. White folks thought about the Indians? Some were good Indians and some were bad Indians? You remember what we were talking about?

CATO: Well the ones that was working on the ranches that wasn't taken by the army to ship up to Yakima. The ones that was living off their land and not working for the ranches, I guess they was the bad Indians. The white people seemed to think that they were not working, but living off the land, that you were a bad Indian. But the, but I guess the good Indians were the ones working for the white people. Ah, it seems that every time you come to town, or something, you were a bad Indian. (Laughter) Well they make a lot of whiskey now and stuff that the Indian drank, and they called them the bad Indian, the ones that were drinkin' it.

PAULINE: That is kind of a contradiction, isn't it?

CATO: Yeah, they make the stuff and sell it, sell it to the people and then they get into trouble, why they were a bad Indian or bad white man or --- yeah.

PAULINE: Well, there's been a lot of flack about your house, and you really don't want to leave where you live. And I didn't know, until I read the story in *The Oregonian* that your son was killed up there. Do you want to tell about that?

CATO: Oh, yeah, yeah, in 1970, somewhere in the 1970, my son he went up to Portland. He went to work for some kind of company up there that a --- workin' in them high rise buildings up there I guess, one of the contractors or something and he fell or something, and he hurt his leg. He broke his leg. And he got in the hospital a long time and the company paid him. And he come back to Burns, he was lame. And about a week I guess, and that's when, I don't know, whatever, he got into some trouble with some Indians. I don't know why or what, anyway, he come over to the old camp, the old camp is what they call it, he come over there early in the morning. And they called him over to the window, and I guess he had a gun hidden back around under his coat or somethin'. And he called my son to the window, and they was talkin', I could hear them talkin'. I was in another small house. They was arguin' about something, I don't know. I guess at the time this man pulled out a gun and shot my boy right between the nose. I didn't hear them boys no more. They shot him and run back over to the car or someplace. I heard the gunshot and went out to the door and looked, and he was laying behind the stove. I said something to him and he wouldn't move. I touched him and he was dead, I guess he was gone. And I tried to move his head and there was a hole and blood comin' out of his right ear, and eyes and his nose. I believe it was 1971 or '72, or some place in there.

PAULINE: Was the person who killed him ---

CATO: Huh?

PAULINE: Did they arrest the person who shot him?

CATO: They went over to the car and got in the car and left. So I came out and come down town here to report it, and I did report it. I was gonna go back with them, to show

‘em, but they got there before I did. When I got home, they had already taken the body out and took him to the morgue. I guess they arrested them boys later.

PAULINE: Were they punished? Did they have to go to jail?

CATO: Yeah, they put ‘em in, the man who shot him, in jail. And I don’t know how many years they gave him, not very long. Maybe only five years, something like that. And I didn’t want to stay around there any more so I moved to California. Stayed down there about 10-11 years. 1970 or 1985 or ’63 I moved back up here.

PAULINE: So when you moved back up here, you came back up here to live at Old Camp? And you’ve lived there ever since?

CATO: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And you told *The Oregonian* reporter that you felt good about living there. It’s a good place to live.

CATO: Uh huh, a good quiet place.

PAULINE: A good quiet place.

CATO: I wouldn’t want to live up at the other place; it’s not too good. They wanna put a casino in there. They got a lot of other places. Right near town there, flat field, they could put a casino there; within a walkin’ distance.

PAULINE: The thing I like about that area right there the sunset is so beautiful at night. Do you enjoy that, the view and the sunset?

CATO: Yes, I like to see out in the open. I sit outside pretty near all the time, unless there’s too many mosquitoes, then maybe I go in. And that picture that man took of me that was in the evening and there was a lot of mosquitoes flying around. He must have snuck the picture, that’s when I slapped a mosquito.

PAULINE: Well I'd kinda like to take your picture today.

CATO: Anytime.

PAULINE: Would that be all right?

CATO: Anytime.

PAULINE: Let's do that. Are there some other stories you want to tell us today. We have some more room on this tape. Do you have some more stories you want to talk about? We've talked about the Cave, we've talked about the salmon, we've talked about the coyotes.

CATO: I'd like to talk about the time that we got back to Fort Bidwell after my mother died. We went back to school after my mother died. The wagon that we, we got in return for the other wagon, well it was later sold to another man, who wanted a wagon. So my father sold him the wagon. And so we didn't have a wagon no more. After that, at that time, they a --- there was a people around buying horses for chicken feed, they said, you know. Our horses come up missing one day and then somebody told us that it was the chicken feed people got hold of 'em. We don't know who. Somebody told us there was two horses coming up this way, from Adel, this way toward Plush, that's in southern Oregon. My father hired another man, and with his buggy and a team, and they hired them to go along with em' so I could recognize them horses. We came all the way up to Plush. We looked for tracks all up the road. We couldn't find any. So we went back, and later on we --- my big brother he was going to the high school, he and some friends was running around in cars at that time. He said that somebody wanted to sell a car to him and he wanted money, so my father gave him some money. I don't know how much it was, \$60 or something like that. He bought a Ford, a Ford car from his friend. He was

running back and forth all the time, running back and forth to town all the time.

(Laughter) He didn't have no driver's license. There were no such thing as driver's license, just a state license later on.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: We started workin' at ranches and stuff and got along pretty good after that.

PAULINE: When you say you got along pretty good after that ---

CATO: What?

PAULINE: You say you got along pretty good after that, after you started workin' at ranches and stuff. Do you mean that you had more money and could live a little better? Or, that life was just pretty good when you were working?

CATO: Well, I, life got a little better with a little money in my pocket and I could buy my own clothes. I got out a little bit more, to the different towns. Every summer I used to go to work at the MC Ranch down at Adel, at a big ranch. I would go to work over at Alturas. There's some big ranches over there to go to work for all summer. I met a lot of Indian friends that I used to go to school with over there. Then after I got around to workin', started, I went back to Fort Bidwell. I was born there you know, I liked the place. Then I started to go around all the time. I worked there in late fall; go to Redmond to pick potatoes. Picked fruit down in Idaho in the fall time, down around Boise, Nampa, Caldwell. Picked grapes just out of Caldwell one time. Been pretty near everywhere in this part of the country. I was up at Pendleton; my brother was living up there. I went up to see the rodeo, the Pendleton Round-Up. My brother was up there at that time, he was married to one of them people up there. Went to the rodeo and stayed with them. And then he said you stay around here a while and we'll go to Celilo to net

salmon. At that time there, before the dam was built, the Indian people there at Celilo and all the people around Pendleton they had rights to get salmon at Celilo Falls. So we got over there to Celilo. We had our nets already in. We would net all day and maybe take only one salmon. But the weather wasn't right, that's what the Indian people say. That week they run pretty good. They start from the sea, start goin' up the river, then old Indians say, "Today is the day." And sure enough that day we filled the nets up, in the dip net. The cannery there buys 'em by the pound. And it's pretty dangerous to get on the scaffold with the deep water about two feet. That's how far it is from the water.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

CATO: Swirling deep water.

PAULINE: I've seen pictures and it looks beautiful and very dangerous.

CATO: We have to get out on that scaffold with those dip nets. If they're comin' good you can catch 'em two at a time, sometimes three, sometimes they come pretty thick. The cannery man comes out there and looks at 'em and buys and takes them to the cannery, Chinook salmon and the other salmon. They only last only a few days, then they don't come anymore, it's funny. That's before the potato season. From there we go down to Redmond to pick potatoes. And that's what I done one winter.

PAULINE: Did you ever ride a horse? And, was that something you did?

CATO: At Fort Bidwell we had a place where we could play around with the horses. Had a shoot. Some of them played pretty good but I never did very good. I never did try to ride that; you could get hurt pretty easy.

PAULINE: That's what it looks like to me. You could get hurt pretty easy.

I think we're about a half an hour again. Does that look about right, Phyllis? Yeah. So maybe that would be enough for today. Do you have some more stories you want to tell? I'd like to listen to them if you do. Do you want to come back next week? Do some more? Do you want to come back next week and talk again?

CATO: I don't know what we could talk about.

PAULINE: Okay. I just want to be sure you said everything on your mind you wanted to tell. So if you think of something else, why don't you have Phyllis call me and come again.

CATO: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And we'll just let it go for now. I will copy the tape so that you have a copy, so you have a copy. I haven't been able to get my dubber to work. I'll have to take them some place else so I can copy them. But I want you to have those tapes, and I will get them for you. I've really enjoyed this time together.

(PAULINE TO PHYLLIS HARRINGTON): Will you make sure he knows, because I'm not sure how much he hears, I know --- that I really appreciate him coming in. I'm going to transcribe the tapes and put together a story about him because he's told some things that were pretty special.

PHYLLIS HARRINGTON: Yes, he has.

PAULINE: And I will, when I figure out how I'm gonna do it, I'll copy the tape. I do have your number.

PHYLLIS: Yes, uh huh.

(END OF TAPE)

bl

--