

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #45 - Sides A/B

Subject: Henry Otley

Date: June 18, 1973

Place: Otley Home - Diamond, Oregon

Interviewers: Pauline Braymen & Marcus Haines

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Well the thing that I am interested in finding out is when different families came to Harney County, and if people can remember why they came. I have heard different stories about why people came here to live. And do you ever remember your dad saying why he came here?

HENRY OTLEY: My dad? He started for the Big Bend to Washington, and he got here and he heard there was some land, he said. He broke a wheel down out here in Wagontire or something or other, and have to get it fixed. That's the way I get it 'cause I was born here. He heard about some vacant land down here so he just went down and took a preemption out the Island Ranch on the river, and it didn't turn out so he went down farther on the lake, below the Meander Line, then got a re-survey of the lake.

MARCUS HAINES: Yeah, he and Herman Ruh bought most of that thing out, didn't they?

HENRY: Yeah, Dad did most of the riding. Dad was a good rider, and I can't ride anything. But he could ride a horse. Oh, he could ride anything. Make it sound right, you know.

PAULINE: Well what year was it when he came in here, do you remember?

HENRY: '86.

PAULINE: About 1886.

HENRY: I was born in '88.

PAULINE: Are you the oldest?

HENRY: No, I had a sister older. Passed away a good many years ago. Oh, she taught school around the countryside. Taught in Denio a year or two.

PAULINE: What was her name?

HENRY: Mary.

PAULINE: What was your mother's name?

HENRY: Ida.

PAULINE: Ida. Where did they come from?

HENRY: Well, my dad come from England, and my mother come from California.

PAULINE: Is that where they met?

HENRY: No, Dad was married before. Fred Otley's mother was his first wife. She passed away, she had, oh, I don't know. Just got sick and died when she was young. And she was a California girl so he kinda was out in that country. Got a little place down there, and I never been there and I would kinda like to go down and see where it was.

MARCUS: Yeah, you should. You bet.

HENRY: But he didn't like it so he sold out and took six horses, I think he had, wagon, and light wagon or two I guess, he had a light wagon. Started out with a baby, that was Mary. Must have had quite a trip.

PAULINE: And they was going up to Washington?

HENRY: They was figuring on it. They had heard of some good land in the Big Bend of Washington. Well the Big Bend is where the Columbia comes down and makes a turn, where the Snake comes into it at Pasco. I guess that would be the Big Bend. I guess they were over towards, that is, the farming started over towards the town of Ellensburg.

MARCUS: That is still down on the Columbia, would it be?

HENRY: No, Pasco, the farming country, I think was mostly west of it. Because east of it, Pasco used to be just dry land, now they're irrigating it, pumping the water out and around. First time I went through it there wasn't hardly any of it between Spokane and Pasco that was farmed. I guess there might have been a little around ...

MARCUS: You're thinking of Walla Walla.

HENRY: No. (... Discussion omitted)

PAULINE: So then their wagon broke down by Wagontire?

HENRY: Well I don't know where, somewhere Dad said he broke a wheel down and come into Burns to get it fixed. I guess there was a blacksmith there or somebody. I think it was a wheel broke down. I don't know where they was. Got a diary of his but it don't go back to his trip at all.

MARCUS: Yeah, it was too bad it doesn't. A pretty hectic trip along about that time. It was a way of life with them then.

PAULINE: It is just hard to imagine in this day and age. You go out there between Bend and Burns in your car and to think about walking across that desert; it is just inconceivable that anyone would ever start out.

HENRY: You wouldn't want to be a hitchhiker, would you?

PAULINE: No, I sure wouldn't. Well then you were born at Lawen, or in the Lawen area?

HENRY: No, it was out from the Island Ranch then. Old Doc Hembree was the Doc then. He had a homestead there too, he didn't live in Burns. He lived out there, a neighbor of Dad's. And it's at; we used to call it Boat Ford, just below Boat Ford there on the river.

MARCUS: Boat Ford Slough.

HENRY: And his homestead was right in there, the company put another man, well he filed for it and sold it to a John Devine, I guess. Dad just relinquished his filings, homesteaded down at Lawen there. Homer's got his original homestead.

MARCUS: Yes, the big house is on the ...

HENRY: No, well, that wasn't his homestead. He bought that big house from a fellow by the name of Bridge. And he bought another there on the lake from Bob Drinkwater, brought his homestead down there. It wasn't a full homestead. It was below the Meander Line. It was only 120 or 30 acres.

PAULINE: Do you remember Amy Catterson was telling me about some gas wells down there? I think it was in the Swan Island place.

HENRY: Amy Catterson? Her dad had a well down, it was in the ... you could just take a match and light it and it would burn there. You put your hand over the pipe and shut it off.

Then there was another one up there that Lloyd Johnson had. Dan Opie's got that place there now, just below Lawen a little bit. You could start a pump in the kitchen, had a pitcher pump in the kitchen under the sink there, and a drain just for convenience. And you could light that water when it run out of there, as long as you would pump why it would burn on top of there with the gas coming out.

PAULINE: Well she was telling me this, and from what she said they had a well down there that would just burn all the time until they filled it up, but maybe I misunderstood what she was trying to tell me.

HENRY: Well I think it would burn until you put your hand over it. Like your Uncle Ormand (Ausmus). One time, he hadn't ought to be doing it, but he looked into his gas tank to see if he was getting short of gas, and struck a match and started a fire. He was smart enough he just clapped his hand over the gas cap and put it all out.

PAULINE: Yeah, he should have known better than that, shouldn't he?

HENRY: But he had presence of mind enough to just dab it over there, and put it out. I'd have let it blowed up, I expect.

MARCUS: Oh, I would have!

PAULINE: I'd have run!

HENRY: Down at Denio country, I forget if it was Standley's (Ausmus) car or not, but anyway a Ford, and they had to put some new con rods in it, so a bunch of them just picked it up and rolled it over on its side to work on it easy. Standley done most of the work. To work around a car, why he'd crank it for you just to get to monkey with an engine, he liked them so much. Quite a mechanic too.

PAULINE: You spent some time shearing sheep?

HENRY: Oh, I used to shear, yes.

PAULINE: Can you tell how you went about it, where you went?

HENRY: Usually right out here for Tom and John Jenkins is where we learned. He even used an incubator out there for sheepshearers. I went to Montana a few times and sheared.

MARCUS: You never were a high roller though?

HENRY: No, not by a long way.

MARCUS: Lloyd Hill was one of the outstanding sheepshearers in Harney County.

HENRY: Well Red George was about as good too.

MARCUS: John Parker was good. John is still shearing. They live in Stayton and he shears all those little bands down there.

(... Discussion omitted)

MARCUS: Yeah, Pauline, back in the time Henry was talking about shearing sheep, that was kind of the grub stake to get the hay up and do the, keep body and soul together on a lot of the ranches here.

PAULINE: You go out and shear sheep to earn enough money to keep the cattle from starving to death.

HENRY: Well I wasn't quite as good as that, but then you had to pretty near make a living

for them for a while then. We sold young steers for \$18 and two year old's for \$22, and drove them to Lakeview.

MARCUS: Yeah, I image. Did the Ausmuses have some cattle in that range?

HENRY: No, it was just Charlie Ruh and that is Herman, Charlie went along for him. He wanted to be a buckaroo, whether he ever was or not. He was all right but then he wasn't one of the tops. Pete Miller, he went for the Millers, and John Carey went, and Bill Bardwell was driving the cook wagon, showing us the way.

PAULINE: How long did it take you to drive across there?

HENRY: Charlie was the one that went for us. Oh, I suppose ten days. Person ought to be able to make it about then, hadn't they?

MARCUS: Yeah, it would take all of that, I imagine. They had a little difficulty the first day out, didn't they?

HENRY: Yeah, we went too far, or tried to. And they was going for, I think it was the Chapell field, and it got dark and they got into a bunch of wire down, homesteader, you know, and stampeded the cattle. They got them stopped and Charlie come back clear home the next day, and gathered up what we could and helped him take them back out there. Some of them we got afterwards. We were short three or four head. I know the next year we sold them to the same fellow, only he drives them himself. That is, he hired buckaroos to drive the whole herd. Allen Jones went with another bunch and there was about three or four different bunches went.

MARCUS: Who did you sell to, Henry?

HENRY: Fellow by the name of, Mac, sounds like MacInerny, but that isn't right, I don't believe. MacInerny was an attorney, wasn't he?

MARCUS: Yes.

HENRY: California man anyway. They were shipped from Lakeview.

MARCUS: They put them on the cars there at Lakeview. Well, of course people used to buy, Herbert and Mayfield you probably sold to them.

HENRY: Yeah, we sold to Mayfield one time.

MARCUS: They trailed from the Double O out across the desert there. Ted Graves used to go with them there, when he was there. And previous to that Rankin Crow was what you'd call trail boss nowadays, I think.

HENRY: Well his book says he was anyway. But he used to drive for a fellow over along Crooked Creek. I knew him too.

MARCUS: Dixon?

HENRY: Dixon, yeah, wasn't he? In the book? I think he was driving for Dixon.

PAULINE: I know this sounds like a silly question, but I've had someone ask me and I need to get some information on this kind of thing. But do you remember what your house was like that you lived in when you were a kid in Lawen?

HENRY: Just an old shack. It was a, just, they built themselves. Just looks like any of these old shacks. I know Dad built a kitchen on after; of course I was pretty small when Dad built the kitchen on.

PAULINE: It started out as just one room then?

HENRY: Two, I suppose. I think there was two rooms to start with. I know there was two. Then they built the kitchen on. That was, I suppose, course I was pretty small. But you see there was Fred and he was 13 or 14 years old, probably 12 or 13 when I was born. Probably 12 or 13 when they come to this country. And so they'd have to be a room, or a place for him. He could have slept in the front room or front room and kitchen, whatever it was. We didn't have much better when my kids was born over there at Lawen either. I remember one time frost come through the house and there was a white nail there and Harold was just a little bit of a kid. I don't want you to put this in any book

though, he stuck his tongue against that nail and he couldn't pull away from it. Howard, he come a running and said he was stuck to the wall. They was just 2 or 3 years old at the time. Of course the nail didn't amount to too much, his tongue was soon ...

PAULINE: Warmed it up enough. Well, I'll bet there isn't a kid alive that hasn't pulled that trick at least once.

HENRY: Well it was about the same as your folks' house down there. I don't know, when your dad was born then, I don't think it was any different then from when the other boys though.

PAULINE: No, not from what he said. Oh, I got a questionnaire the other day; some people are doing a survey of how people lived up to the late 1800's.

HENRY: They didn't need any environmentalists then.

PAULINE: No. Well where did you kids sleep when you were boys? Did you have a bedroom, or did you sleep upstairs?

HENRY: Wasn't any upstairs until we moved to, up where the big house Dad built. That was up on the bridge there, on the homestead. Why I don't know, they built a kitchen and a bedroom on, and Fred was gone most of the time cause he homesteaded. He got old enough to homestead, and he homesteaded right next to Dad. He had a bach camp up there and of course, always had lots of company, and they called it Hell's Half Acre. They pretended like they was gonna, they was trying to scare somebody. There would be shooting and everything else going on around there just to scare anybody that came along, by himself.

Of course anytime anybody came along in those days at night, why you stayed all night. They all found a place to put you, somewhere. I can remember people coming in down there that, staying, that would maybe be from clear up in Silvie's or anyplace else.

MARCUS: Yeah, used to fill the beds with kids, Pauline, like sardines. Kids at the foot of

the bed, head of the bed too. You slept that way, five or six of you, as long as you had someplace to get covered up.

HENRY: We had bunks too, one above the other.

PAULINE: Well I don't know why this fellow wants to know this information, but anyway that is what he wanted to know.

(... Discussion omitted)

PAULINE: Did you ever skate to school?

HENRY: Teach?

PAULINE: Skate. Did you ever skate to school in the wintertime?

HENRY: Well yes, I guess we skated part way. I know we used to skate at school, and we'd get so far away, we made a flagpole for the teacher to raise. We couldn't hear the bell, we was so far away.

MARCUS: Oh?

PAULINE: She'd raise the flag, then you'd all come in to school.

HENRY: Yeah. It wasn't a regular flag, just a rag that she'd stick up on another pole. But I read something, trying to think where it was at, where Joe Hendricks taught them at the school.

PAULINE: Yeah, I think Velfa Richardson was telling us that Hendricks was her schoolteacher.

HENRY: Oh, that's right, that's where it was. Well, he taught our school too, I remember him. And he used to ride a horse to school, you see. Old Molly, I think he called her. Someone battered him for a race when they got out in the schoolyard, you know, and so he raced them and beat them. He weighed 250, I think, pretty near. Between 200 and 250.

PAULINE: Well he was a big man then?

HENRY: Yeah, he was.

MARCUS: This is Joe Hendricks you're talking about?

HENRY: Glen Hendricks.

PAULINE: His initials were G. O., weren't they? Glen O. Hendricks.

HENRY: Yeah, he taught school there at Lawen. And this young fellow, he was going to have a little fun, I guess, and anyway they run this race. About ... It was a quarter of a mile out from where this school road went into there at Lawen, and before it was up at Lawen there, you see, in that field of Dick's.

MARCUS: Henry, do you recall the year that Lawen was moved back out to the highway from the original site?

HENRY: I don't know the date. Let's see, we'd ought to be able to figure that, it was about when the highway went through there.

MARCUS: Well, it was right in the very early 20's. Oh, 1923 my folks worked on the railroad there at Lawen, and the railroad came into Burns the next year. And U. S. Hackney was driving a stage on the highway from Burns to Crane, back and forth.

HENRY: And when it got muddy in the spring of the year, he'd bring it down and Dick would meet him from Crane with a team, or something or other, and take the mail on into Crane. I believe that was the way it was. It got so muddy he couldn't get through with his car there for oh, maybe a month or so. And Dick, you remember when Dick had the garage there at Crane?

MARCUS: Yeah. So it was probably 1920, '21 along there sometime.

HENRY: Must have been.

MARCUS: I have asked that question several times, but nobody seems to know.

HENRY: Seems to me it was before the railroad was built across there.

MARCUS: Yeah, it was. The store moved out in 1923, I'm pretty sure.

HENRY: Carpenter Mill moved it, didn't he?

MARCUS: I don't know who moved it.

HENRY: John Grave's wife's brother, Carpenter. Do you remember him?

MARCUS: No, I don't.

HENRY: I think he moved it. He had rollers under it, or had roller wheels, blocks of wood for wheels that way. Got it up on that and rolled it.

MARCUS: Lots of horses.

HENRY: Yeah, they had, I don't think, there wasn't anything but horses. Well I guess there was cars too, but wasn't any trucks or tractors around.

MARCUS: Yeah, but they couldn't pull as much as a horse, anyway. Excuse me for...

PAULINE: Just keep up the good work. That is what is nice about having somebody else along.

MARCUS: Well, while we are talking about, I wanted to talk to Henry about, and I know you'd be interested in, is that's a little history about Albritton, and Harriman, and Saddle Butte. Pauline, of course, has never known those places. I can remember them but I don't know enough about them to tell anybody anything.

HENRY: Well they even had a barbershop there in Albritton.

MARCUS: In Albritton?

HENRY: Charlie Roan.

MARCUS: Yeah, I knew Charlie Roan.

PAULINE: R O A N ?

HENRY: Roan, yeah. Yeah, he had a barber shop there, nice little building, big hotel. Poor old John Jenkins and those people had a little money, lost it there, didn't they?

MARCUS: Poker games, was it?

HENRY: No, in building that hotel. They put a lot of money into building that.

MARCUS: Oh, they built it? I didn't know that.

HENRY: Well John Jenkins was into it, I think. I don't know if Mahan was, he never did have as much money. Jenkins was pretty well fixed at one time. They pretty near lost it, then come back again. But there was several others. I forget who all was into it, but they built this hotel and was going to have a stopping place to sell liquor, as much as anything, of course.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well that was built on the strength of the railroad coming on through that country there.

PAULINE: Now Albritton was between Lawen and ...

MARCUS: Crane.

PAULINE: Crane.

HENRY: It was right on there by Saddle Butte. On that Nine Mile Slough, did you ever see it? Well it was just on the west side of, oh it might have been a half a mile, maybe a quarter mile away from that slough. Just on the road there. Oh, it had quite a few rooms.

MARCUS: Lyle Hill's house across the road from us where Walter McEwen now owns, that was the schoolhouse in Albritton. I helped move that in 1936. Helped get it up onto the skids. And Standley Ausmus pulled it across the lake with an old caterpillar he had. He cranked by sticking a bar in the flywheel on it.

Now in this testimony here it refers to Saddle Butte, which I had never heard of before. Where was it?

HENRY: Right there by Lawen, you know, that butte.

MARCUS: Yeah, well there is a Saddle Butte Post Office.

HENRY: Post Office? I don't ever remember called Saddle Butte.

MARCUS: Well nobody ... but Roy Heinz. Roy Heinz remembers it. Told me he'd take me out there and show me where it was at. Just a little post office between Albritton and

Lawen, was there for a while. The ... refers to Saddle Butte Post Office here in this testimony.

HENRY: Wouldn't be at Albritton, would it?

MARCUS: Might have been.

HENRY: Well that would have been called Albritton Post Office, because that was all it was.

MARCUS: Well getting back to Albritton, that hotel you were speaking of later turned out to be the Denman Hotel there in Crane, didn't it?

HENRY: No.

MARCUS: Which one did Lyle Hill move in from someplace then?

HENRY: Well there was the Denman Hotel too.

MARCUS: Oh, two big buildings then?

HENRY: Well it wasn't near as big. They built on to it a little bit. But Doc Denman run the hotel there. A little while Mrs. Denman did.

MARCUS: Now this is at Albritton?

HENRY: No, that's at, they called it Harriman I guess ... no.

MARCUS: There was a Harriman, you bet.

PAULINE: Yeah, there was a Harriman.

HENRY: I guess it was Harriman.

MARCUS: It was moved from Harriman instead of Albritton?

PAULINE: I think I've gotten this from someone else too, that they moved that hotel from Harriman, the Denman Hotel.

MARCUS: Now where was the Harriman now? I've never found out.

HENRY: Right on the south side of Warm Springs Butte.

MARCUS: On the south side?

HENRY: Yeah, the road used to go right through there by Albritton to Saddle Butte, and right straight to Crane, pretty near. The road is still there, graded up and all. In some of this testimony they, ain't in any of this, was in our case with the government when they was talking about the waters of the lake. And I told them that what I understand that when the wind blowed from the west it raised the water on the Pelican Island, and that on this Nine Mile Slough that goes through there blowed it over enough that its run up that slough. And then that Lou Sitz, that is Jimmy Sitz's dad, no granddad ... no, dad.

MARCUS: Dad, I think.

HENRY: He had a ditch going out and reclaimed this land. We bought it from Cozad, got it for attorney fees and sold it to us for a dollar an acre, or something like that ... and we sold it for \$10,000. But anyway, the wind would blow this water, all open lake for several miles to the west there then. And he'd go out this ditch, and then he had, uh, force out there and when the wind quit blowing and settled down, why there was a board that would drop back down in place and held it up there so ...

MARCUS: Oh? Well I'd be darned. I never heard that one before. Like handling the tidewaters, isn't it?

PAULINE: Yeah.

HENRY: The wind would do that?

MARCUS: You bet, no question about that. You remember where my mother's place was, on the east end of the lake? Well my dad had a place up on the east end of Malheur Lake, on the south side.

HENRY: South corner, pretty near on the corner.

MARCUS: Yes, and we were living at her place there in 1921, on the spring after school was out, and just salt grass flat and the wind came out of the northwest and the next morning we were right out in the middle of the lake. Blowed the lake out toward

Princeton, the old Princeton there, for gosh, 100 or so yards out in front of us there.

PAULINE: How long would it stay up that way then?

MARCUS: Until the wind went down, gradually settle back again. The wind will raise the lakeshore several inches.

HENRY: You know when I was a kid, and you was too, down around there I took care of any amount of cattle and horses around that lake, you know. And they did get fat; they didn't have too much good feed, but they ...

MARCUS: And my mother there, she mowed and stacked hay there on that.

HENRY: Oh, did she?

MARCUS: Yeah, salt grass got up like that.

HENRY: Yeah, well I know that Careys and Scott Hayes, not Scott Hayes, got this land that I was telling you about, that we owned there and sold for \$10,000 and he got it from Sitz. I guess, or I don't think he got it from Sitz. I forget just how he got it. Anyway, he used to stack hay down there, and John Carey used to stack hay. Jack, only they had some just west of that and they'd just strike that big old salt grass. It got big enough to mow.

MARCUS: You don't see that anymore.

HENRY: Don't get that big. I know around Saddle Butte in the summertime there would be, I think, a thousand head of cattle summer around there. Then when the Company --- theirs would drift in from the Crane Creek Mountains and that in the fall, and we used to gather them in from what they called the school section, that was up west of where Lawen is now. Back up on that road that goes by Catterson's. And they'd have everybody in the country would be up there, and they'd have four or five brandings out, you know, all they could get. Working those cattle and getting those strays out, and the company, of course, would be there too.

MARCUS: I'll have to tell you this, quite interesting to me, a year ago last spring on the 3rd of July, which is Sis's birthday, we took a trip up to my mother's place, which you can't find now, cause the greasewood is up higher than this door. You can't. No evidence at all of her place. My dad's place, there is a water hole back of the house that Hill's dug, and the foundation of his house there. But Ted told me that his dad was over here as a young man and branded calves, worked for Pete French one summer.

HENRY: Ted Graves?

MARCUS: His dad, yeah. Towards Silver Lake. And he said they spent the summer branding calves right around in that area, and they had to go back up into the hills to get brush to build fires, branding fires with, that was all bare, all grass there. But it's big high greasewood now. That would be back in the '80's probably.

HENRY: I helped brand below Cow Creek one time. PLS Company run a bunch of cattle in there, rounded up and branded cattle in there, and you just couldn't find nothing. Little scrub brush to build a fire with. I think they used dried cow chips.

MARCUS: Probably.

HENRY: Wasn't Rube Hughet's brand HR, or RH?

MARCUS: Yeah, I think so, RH.

HENRY: And he run around there east of the, he owned the Hill place, and he run around east of the lake there, the way I remember it.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's right, sure did.

HENRY: It'd ought to be HR I guess, because that would be Rube Hughet.

MARCUS: Yeah, I think probably that's right. Course I was just a little kid ---

HENRY: Yeah, I know you'd be too young.

MARCUS: --- when he left, but I remember when he was there.

HENRY: Then he moved to Burns and got into politics. Was up to be a judge. I was

thinking the other day there was an awful good county court when Rube was judge there. And they tried to recall him, but did they ever get it done?

MARCUS: I don't think so.

HENRY: What was the matter why, that's when the desperado killed Austin Goodman, I think, and they caught him right up here.

MARCUS: That was August 1924.

HENRY: Well I think that they tried to recall him but I don't think they got it done.

MARCUS: I don't recall that they did either.

HENRY: Well there was Oltman; he was one of the commissioners. And Charlie, they was relation to the Lillards over there, Bedell, Charlie Bedell. See, he was a brother-in-law of ...

MARCUS: Joe Lillard's? You mentioned the Lillards.

HENRY: Well yeah. Joe Lillard's and Pat Cecil's.

MARCUS: Yeah, I knew that Joe Lillard and Pat Cecil were related.

HENRY: Well Bedell married a sister in there somewhere. And he was, I think, a commissioner. No, it wasn't Bedell, it was Lillard instead of Bedell. It was Charlie Lillard that was a commissioner.

MARCUS: Well he lived there on Silver Creek too, didn't he?

HENRY: Well he did before, somewhere down in there. And Joe was a little kid, and he was driving with one team and a wagon, little buggy. Wasn't a buggy, it was more what they call a hack. And he stuck his leg out through the wheel and just shattered it. Horses were going along there and they took him in to Dr. Denton, and without any X-ray or anything, he set that leg there, and he had a perfect leg out of it. All back in place. The bones were broke. And by feeling, you know, you could possibly do it. It was broke between the knee and the ankle, I think, where it wasn't all ... no joints bothered.

MARCUS: By gosh, those old time doctors they didn't have very much to work with but they did some pretty nice work.

HENRY: He was a great hand at using turpentine.

MARCUS: He was?

HENRY: Said turpentine was the most penetrating medicine there is. Could put it on your chest and before long you could taste it if you put enough on.

MARCUS: Worse than mustard plaster!

PAULINE: Yeah! Well do you remember a lady by the name of Coral Harris that was a nurse? They lived out by Harriman.

HENRY: Coral Harris? No, I don't believe I do.

PAULINE: I talked to her in Portland, and she was a nurse, and she did quite a bit of nursing while they lived there, different people. They weren't out there too long.

HENRY: Wonder where their homestead was?

PAULINE: Well it was near Harriman, out in that area. But she was pretty vague. She was pretty old and pretty vague, and I never could pin her down to an exact date, or an exact place, but it was near Harriman.

HENRY: Did you, you was old enough to remember Bill Harris' wife, wasn't you?

MARCUS: Oh, old Bill? Rose Harris?

HENRY: Rose, yes.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, you bet.

HENRY: You was pretty young, wasn't you?

MARCUS: No, I was pallbearer for her. She died. I've been pallbearer for all the Harris family. Well I mean that has been buried here in Burns, old Bill and Mrs. Harris.

HENRY: Old Bill was an honest old man, wasn't he?

MARCUS: Great old man, you bet. He'd been alive yet, hadn't burned up. Drank a little

whiskey, and smoked a pipe all the time. That was Jink's dad. You remember him, don't you, Pauline? Set himself on fire in a little cabin he had there, lighting his pipe. Died about three days later.

HENRY: Then young Bill died too, didn't he?

MARCUS: Yes, lung cancer, he died at Christmas time. Was sick then, and Jinks died last October, stomach cancer. Then Marian, he was younger than Bill.

HENRY: I don't remember him. I know there was a bunch of those little ones when they was kids though, around The Narrows and that.

MARCUS: He's had a heart attack, a bad one. Lives in Arkansas, I think, and was in the air conditioning business, done quite well. And had this heart attack, and can't hardly walk across the room. And then George, the youngest one, he had a heart attack here in Portland and died.

HENRY: Wasn't there a girl or two?

MARCUS: Two girls. Thelma is the youngest one, and then Sis, she was a little younger than I am, and she was killed by her husband up here in Montana someplace, oh 15 maybe 20 years ago.

HENRY: Oh, I didn't know them.

MARCUS: Yeah, they lived at The Narrows there for years. Came in here from Colorado here in about 1911. I think Jinks was 3 or 4 years old when they came to The Narrows, and he was born about 1907. But there was Mrs. Harris and Bill; they say old Bill never saw a sick day in his life. And Mrs. Harris lived up into her 80's. And all her offspring, there must have been a poor combination of genes or something; they all have been short lived.

PAULINE: When did you move out in the Diamond area then?

HENRY: We came out here in 1944. In '44 we bought this. And this Maggie Smyth, that

was a sister to Pres, wasn't it?

MARCUS: I don't know. I was going to ask you the same thing.

HENRY: She married Donegan, didn't she?

PAULINE: Maggie Donegan was, yeah, she was the first white child born in Harney County. Well it has to be.

MARCUS: Yes, isn't it '87? Smity, isn't it?

PAULINE: S M Y T H. It has to be.

HENRY: Maggie Donegan.

PAULINE: Well she was born before '78 wasn't she? Along about '76?

(... Discussion omitted)

Note: Tape has reading from book about Oregon, a piece of Marion Louie, and Marcus Haines recording.

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