

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #485

Subject: Doris (Hughet) Yriarte- 2014 Harney County Pioneer Association Queen Mother

Place: Yriarte home

Date: April 13, 2014

Interviewers: Karen Nitz with Denny Presley, David Arntz & Claudette Pruitt

Nitz: So why don't we start? Who were your parents? What were their names?

Yriarte: My parents were Louis Hughet and Myrthelene McPheeters. M-c-P-h-e-e-t-e-r-s.

Presley: I think she's run into that name before.

Nitz: A time or two.

Presley: Wasn't there a Dr. McPheeters?

Nitz: There was.

Yriarte: Yeah. Uh huh.

Nitz: And were both of your parents born here, in Harney County?

Yriarte: Yeah. Yeah, um hmm.

Nitz: And then you were too?

Yriarte: They just homesteaded. My dad homesteaded. And then he kept buying land, property, here and there. And my mom was a teacher. She taught school. They call it the Petersen Place. And I can't remember that Petersen, up in the north end of the valley...north and west end of the valley.

Presley: The Riley do you mean, the Riley Valley?

Yriarte: No. It was still in this valley, quite close to where Schroeder's live up here. Well now, what is it? Who's up here now? I can't ever...

Presley: Gary...Gary Marshall.

Yriarte: Gary Marshall, uh huh. Yeah.

Presley: Who lives there now you mean, kind of close to there?

Yriarte: Close to...Well, it would be down about four miles from there. Pete Obiague had a place up there that Don Miller has now. And she boarded there and drove buggy back and forth to teach school, which was about four miles from there. And she taught the Cote boys, all the Cote's...where that school was at.

Nitz: So was that the OO school?

Yriarte: No.

Nitz: Or what they called the Warm Springs school? Or is that a different school?

Yriarte: No. I think...I don't know what they called that school, to tell you the truth.

Presley: I wonder if the Warm Springs School was the one that was here?

Yriarte: Yeah, it was.

Nitz: Well, that's kind of what I'm thinking.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: Was it just sort of a lean-to type building? I know I've seen a picture.

Yriarte: No. I don't remember what that school looked like...their school. But I think it was...Oh, gosh, where are my pictures at? That may have been part of it. But I don't think so. Now, I knew I should have got them pictures out. I knew...I'm in trouble. I'm in trouble now.

Nitz: So...

Yriarte: No, it was...The one that I...The only one I remember was just a framed one room school.

Presley: Like most of them were.

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah. And it was right here. And we used to have to go down here to the spring and pack water up to the school. And everybody had their dipper.

Presley: That was this one?

Yriarte: Um hmm. Yeah. And everybody drank out of the same dipper. None of us died from it. But anyway... Yeah.

Nitz: So how many brothers and sisters did you have?

Yriarte: I had one brother, who was the oldest, and then a sister that was ten months under his age. And then my youngest sister who's still alive... My oldest sister passed on. But I had two sisters and one brother.

Nitz: And what were their names?

Yriarte: My brother's name was Louis Hughet Junior... Louis M. Hughet Junior. Yeah. And my sister is Elizabeth Sayles now, Elizabeth Hughet Sayles.

Nitz: We've met her, I think.

Pruitt: That's your sister.

Yriarte: Yes, it is. Uh huh. You're good.

Pruitt: No, she was good.

Yriarte: Oh. Yeah.

Pruitt: This all came from Elizabeth, her sister. Yeah.

Nitz: So those are probably some of your family... your pictures that you have, right?

Yriarte: I'm sure I've got pictures. But I don't think you want me to drag them out. Do ya?

Nitz: No. Not just yet.

Yriarte: That's my grandfather and my grandmother. She was a twin.

Nitz: And your grandfather was?

Yriarte: Isaac Newton... Isaac Newton Hughet.

Nitz: Isaac Newton. And your grandmother was? What was her name?

Yriarte: Lilly. Lilly Pfordt. That's... I don't know, is that French?

Presley: I think it is, just the way that's spelled. That's what I would guess.

Pruitt: That's what I'd guess too.

Yriarte: Uh huh. She came out here to visit her twin sister and ended up getting married here. So that's how...She was from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Nitz: So what was her sister's name?

Yriarte: Oh, gosh. There goes my mind. You'll have to forgive me. I don't know. Since I've come to this point I cannot remember. And I can't think fast enough anymore. Sorry about that.

Nitz: It's okay.

Pruitt: Her parents were George and Philomena.

Presley: Yeah, Philomena.

Pruitt: Philomena Hartman Pfordt, her father and mother, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah.

Presley: Doris, we give you permission to call Karen any time of day or night if you remember.

Nitz: Yeah, I'm probably more awake at night than the day, so...

Yriarte: Oh. I'll tell you what. You know, I even didn't sleep very good wondering about what I was going to remember or not remember. And I do apologize because my mind does not work like it did.

Nitz: It's not a test.

Yriarte: Oh, that's good.

Nitz: And we can correct anything that happens to not be exactly, completely accurate.

Yriarte: Yeah. I think---

Presley: They do that to me all the time.

Yriarte: Do they?

Nitz: All the time.

Presley: These are the two historians.

Yriarte: Well, what did you---?

Nitz: Okay, so you grew up here on the homestead. This is where you grew up, right here?

Yriarte: Uh, yes. Yes. The schoolhouse was here. That place down there that you can see the lone tree down there, my dad bought that from Phil Smith. And we lived down there. And then we rode...But his original homestead is up here about three miles...maybe not quite three miles. But that's where we grew up, basically. And we walked, uh, down here to the school. Or if we was good, we could ride. But we had to have our horses fed. And my dad fixed a pen so that they could have hay while they was setting in there all day long. There was a lot of things went on around here when we was going to school.

There was a fella that killed somebody, but we don't know who. And he come walking through the valley. And he stayed all night in the woodshed at the OO. And Lady... What was her name? Bowers, I think was her name. Anyway, went out to get some wood to build a fire. And scared her to death, because here this guy was in there. And anyway, he jumped up. And he took off. I don't know whether he was wanted by the law or what. But anyway, crank phones, everybody. You just hear one ring and everybody listened.

Pruitt: Yeah.

Yriarte: And she called and said she didn't know. He acted kind of crazy. But anyway, she said he left. And he's headed toward the school. Well, the teacher, Bill Newton was his name, brought his pistol to school. He didn't know what he was going to do. So anyway, my cousin had to go to the outhouse out there. He come a screaming and a yelling. He says, the crazy man is coming! You could hear him all over the whole valley. The crazy man is coming! And anyway, I don't know what that man must have thought, but he went right on by.

And Joe Moon had his little mare here. And ours was turned loose in the lot. But that little mare had to be tied up to the fence all day long. Poor little thing. And she was just thin as a rail. But anyway, Virgil was a little bit cheap. He wouldn't buy no hay. But that's right. Oh, hum...So he didn't have to buy hay. All he had to do was just bring it up here, you know?

But anyway, here comes Stanley from the outhouse. This is my cousin, a screaming "the crazy man is coming! The crazy man is coming!" And come a slamming through the door, scared to death that that guy was going to just hold us up or something, you know? So he went running. And he stopped. And he seen this little mare Joe...or, yeah, Joe Moon's. And he started crying, because he stopped there at the...And he thought, humm, she's got...She's all tied up and got a saddle and...Of course, the little old strip is this long, you know? But she would ride, I suppose. And he stood there for the longest time.

And he started crying. He says, he's going to steal my Elfie. They're going to steal my Elfie. He lisped a little bit. And finally he went on. So, he didn't get the...The mare didn't get stolen.

Nitz: So about how old were you when this happened?

Yriarte: I probably...I probably was nine or ten. I wasn't real old then. Yeah. But I do remember that. There were things like that that always kind of sticks in your mind, you know? Stands out a little bit.

Nitz: Who were some of the other kids that you went to school with?

Yriarte: Well, I had my brother and my two sisters. And Alex McGinnis, he was a Hurlburt nephew of Bill and Donna Hurlburt, a nephew of theirs. But I don't know which one, for sure. Whether it was Harry... It was Harry and Don Hurlburt...Harry and Don Hurlburt...and Bill. I think that was the four boys, but...There I lost where I was going. But anyway, that...they had a teacher that lived down there with them. And her name was Cote. Now what was her first name? Annie. Annie Cote was her name. And they lived...They lived up where Marshalls are. They called that the Cote Place.

Presley: Is that why Gary has one of the boys named Cody?

Yriarte: No. I don't think so. No. No. But that's...C-o-t-e.

Presley: Oh, Co-te.

Yriarte: Um hmm. I guess you would say Co-te, yeah.

Unknown: [Unintelligible] Roger?

Presley: Could be.

Yriarte: Yeah. Roger was a relation to them.

Presley: Jack Cote.

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah.

Nitz: I think that's different.

Yriarte: Who was that?

Presley: There was a Cody that shot Sheriff Goodman.

Nitz: Archie.

Presley: Archie...Archie Cody. They're spelled different though, right?

Nitz: Yeah.

Presley: That's our historian to keep us straight. It was Cody, not Cote.

Yriarte: Well, he shot him in the back. Did he kill him just...

Presley: Oh, he was going to arrest him. And he just pulled the rifle off of his horse, supposedly, and just shot him.

Yriarte: Okay. Well, I'm glad somebody is keeping these straight.

Presley: Well, I'm not sure that's right either. That's why I listen to these two gals.

Nitz: That's a different story.

Presley: Yeah, different story.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: So you went to school out here until eighth grade?

Yriarte: The eighth grade I went into Burns. My mom had to move in there. We had a lady that got to messing around with my dad. So she says to hell with that. So she moved to town and took us kids into town. Isn't that something? That's awful to say that. I shouldn't have said that, but it's true. Yeah. So anyway, eighth grade I went in there and...with her. And my sister and I both finished up our high school and eighth grade in Burns, yep.

Nitz: And what did you do after high school?

Yriarte: Well, I went to work at the bank. And I worked at the bank for about three years. Then I met Louis. And then we got married...then I was married.

Nitz: What year was that that you got married?

Yriarte: That I got married? I don't even remember.

Nitz: Plus or minus.

Yriarte: Oh, my gosh. I got married in...You know, I can't think. I'm sorry. I'll think of it later.

Nitz: Well, what year were you born?

Yriarte: I was born in 1928.

Nitz: Okay. We can do the math.

Pruitt: '36.

Nitz: '46?

Yriarte: 1946 when I got married.

Nitz: Okay, 1946.

Yriarte: Yeah, that's what happened.

Nitz: And where did you live after you got married? Did you come out here and live then?

Yriarte: Yes. Yes. My dad... My dad decided that he could hire Louis, my husband.

Nitz: That's Louis Yriarte, just for the record.

Yriarte: Yes, uh huh. Oh. Anyway, to work for him. And so he had... He decided that he would have a partnership. So he and... Louis and my brother and him, had a partnership. But it didn't work out very good...because of certain things. Not with my husband but with my brother. He got to...He got to spending more money than we were taking in. So my dad said we can't afford that, so... So---

Nitz: And how did you meet Louis, do you remember?

Yriarte: Yes. I met him. He was a good friend of my cousin, Harold Hill...Lyle Hill, Lyle and Stella Hill. He was a good friend of theirs. And that's where I met him, was through him because they run around together.

Nitz: And then how many kids do you have?

Yriarte: Two boys.

Nitz: Two boys. And their names are?

Yriarte: Harlan is the oldest. And Charles is this one that's here. Yeah. That's it. No more...No more kids. I should have had more, I guess. I could take care of more things around here. Oh, they do good though.

And Charlie, he's staying here with me, which is really good. Harlan...started the Steens Mountain Running Camp. And so that's where...He never did like the ranch. Harlan never liked the ranch. Charlie always did. So Charlie was the one that stayed and helped. And Harlan was the one that...went away. Played a game of something else all the time. Went to work for...uh...Coca-Cola Co... No, that isn't the name of it. What was the name of the...Coke...Coca-Cola in Burns?

Presley: Coca plant, yeah.

Yriarte: Yeah. He went to work in there.

Yriarte: Yeah. He went to work in there for awhile. And then after that...I don't know where he went after that. Anyway...

Nitz: Did he stay here in Harney County? Or did he move away?

Yriarte: No. He moved down into Eugene. He went down there. That's where he's at now. Um hmm.

Yriarte: It is. He's in the nursing home down there. Yeah. Louis got too much for me to take care of. I couldn't handle him. And I don't know why. Poor guy. He started getting blisters on his feet, I mean huge, big blisters. He couldn't walk. And we think it was from [Drug name?] that he took so much of for his heart condition, somehow or another. And so he's been an invalid ever since because he could never walk after that because of the blisters. And then he just quit walking. So put him in a wheelchair and rolled him around in these chairs for a long time. Said that's enough of that. Then, we got another chair that he could run...or you could push him around in.

Presley: And Louis' eyesight hasn't been good for along time either, has it?

Yriarte: No. It hasn't been, huh uh. No. He...never...You know, we had him...He had a terrible scar on that eye where he was burned so bad. And they took a lot of that scar tissue off. And then he could finally see a little. Couldn't read with it, hardly. But the other eye, he could...They kind of got the scar tissue off of the other eye enough where he does lots of reading even yet, so...

Arntz: How did he get burned?

Yriarte: Well, he and his brother-in-law, his sister's husband, were out rabbit hunting. And he said some...They come by an old dump someplace over there. And here was a fruit jar that had a lot of black powder in it. So he said, you know, I think I'd better...I'd better blow that powder up before somebody gets hurt. He threw a match in there. And he's the one that got hurt. It blew up in his face. Burned the whole...all of his chest and his back and his head and eyes and...

Arntz: That was after you were married?

Yriarte: No. That was before. Yeah, that was before I even knew him. I think he was about fourteen, I think...thirteen or fourteen at that time. But anyway, they walked home. He had to walk home because they were...They lived at Crane at that time. And his sister was there. And he walked in. Of course, they had to take him to Burns. Dr. John Wheeler was the doctor at that time. And I guess she looked at him and screamed and fainted.

Nitz: Oh, no.

Yriarte: Yeah. So...

Presley: What was her name?

Yriarte: Mary Zunino now. Mary. And let's see, there was Elisa, the youngest girl. And let's see, Mary. One more. Elisa. Huh...Isn't that awful? Sorry about that. But anyway, they took him to Burns to see Dr. John. But he says no. He said, he can't...I can't do nothing for him. And so he wrapped him all up with Vaseline and gauze and they sent him on to Bend. And he couldn't go...They were going to send him to Portland. And he said, I can't go any further. I hurt too bad. Dr. Shanancoff (sp?) was his doctor then...in Bend. And we knew him. He came here later. He was a nice man. And he says, I didn't think Louis would ever see. And I didn't think he'd ever use his arms again. All real scarred arms, real bad. Because his arms burned so bad they kind of stuck together, you know? Yeah.

Nitz: So how long did that take him to recover?

Yriarte: I don't know. Forever I think. Yeah. Well, I don't know how long it took. I don't know.

Nitz: Of course, you didn't know him when that happened.

Yriarte: No, I didn't. Hmm um.

Nitz: How much older than you was he?

Yriarte: Three years. Yeah. But that's how I met him, through my cousin.

Nitz: And you guys just basically ranched here, pretty much your whole married life?

Yriarte: After my dad...After my dad hired him to work for him, then he gave us some property, which is in the upper end of the valley which we still have. And they called it the Petersen Place. But I can't remember that man's name, his first name?

Nitz: Peter?

Yriarte: Petersen.

Nitz: Peter Petersen, P.C....Petersen?

Yriarte: Petersen, P-e-t-e-r-s-e-n, Petersen. And anyway---

Yriarte: Huh?

Pruitt: Did he run sheep, Petersen?

Yriarte: No. No. I don't know what he done.

Nitz: Shelby?

Yriarte: Shelby was a brother, I think. Yeah. But I can't say his name. I don't know.

Nitz: I know the family.

Presley: They have a place up there in the upper valley, toward Riley and-- I think Petersens.

Yriarte: Did they? Uh huh. Yeah.

Arntz: I figured it probably was.

Yriarte: And what is your name again? That's why I say my mind don't--

Arntz: David Arntz.

Yriarte: David Arntz?

Arntz: Um hmm.

Yriarte: Oh. Okay, David.

Arntz: Yeah.

Yriarte: Arntz, sure. Yeah.

Nitz: So who were some of your other neighbors that you had around here?

Yriarte: Hurlburts were one of them. And they lived down, not where the trees are down there, but they lived this side of the trees in the next place. Moons, Virgil Moon...Virgil and Helen Moon, oh, they were good neighbors too. And they had Joe. Didn't they have twins?

Presley: I couldn't tell you.

Yriarte: I think they did. I think they had twins. And I think both of them passed away. Don't quote me on that. Erase that, please.

Nitz: We can always check it.

Yriarte: I don't remember now. But anyway, they lived over there. Mrs. Sizemore...Edith Sizemore was Virgil's mother. And Helen and Virgil lived across the creek, a spring – we called it the spring – in a little old, one-room house. I don't know how she ever lived in that little place. But anyway, that's where I got to know Helen and Virgil.

Mrs. Sizemore, she was...I shouldn't even say this. But she didn't want...She wouldn't let Helen go anyplace without her going with her. She was afraid they might divulge some of their business.

Yriarte: That's true. She thought that's what was going to happen. Oh, wow.

Presley: One old guy told me the reason they kept those small cabins was so the wife wouldn't buy a lot of furniture.

Yriarte: Well, that could be. Yeah. Well, I imagine that furniture... They built a lot of their furniture though.

Nitz: Didn't need a lot of furniture either.

Yriarte: No, they didn't. Hmm um. Yeah. Well, I don't know. What else?

Nitz: So you mostly ran cattle? Did you grow hay?

Yriarte: Yes. We had...After Louis and I...Well, let's see. I was trying to think when we bought...We bought...My cousin started buying property. And we bought my cousin's forty acres. That was another...That's how all of this got started. There was ten kids in that family...in this family.

Presley: Right.

Yriarte: I think it was ten. Is that right?

Pruitt: Right.

Yriarte: So they each got forty acres when my grandmother passed away. And yeah, that grandmother, uh huh, when she passed away, they each got forty acres. And then he started buying other kids' forty acres. And that's how come we got our forty acres. Because the youngest one, Gertrude's, son, the one that died young, yeah Gertrude, her...She passed away. And then Stanley, her son, had this forty acres. So we bought...He didn't want to stay here, so we bought his forty acres. That's how we got started here in the valley. Yeah, I forgot about that. It's coming back.

Nitz: So your parents both came from big families. Did your family do a lot of things with your cousins and aunts and uncles?

Yriarte: Uh, not...No, not really. Not really. Most of them all moved away. Glen was the one...Glen and Albert were ones that stayed around the...valley. And then Glen and Gertrude, after he got married moved over to Bend, I think, somewhere in that area, Glen did and his wife. And his wife taught school for awhile, Gertrude, his wife Gertrude.

Nitz: Here?

Yriarte: Uh huh.

Nitz: Do you know which one, which school?

Yriarte: Yeah, this one that's here. Yeah. And then she taught school also at the Double O school up here after...That's another little story. I shouldn't tell it, but I do...I will, because it's true.

Pruitt: Yes, do.

Yriarte: My Aunt, Mildred, she wanted...She was a pack rat. Everything that she got, I'm telling you, she'd throw it in this one shed down there. And you'd open up the door and everything would just kind of fall out, you know? That's one of them kind. So anyway, she wanted the school to put her...store some more stuff in. So we said, no. We got together and had---

Pruitt: Is that this one, Aunt Mildred?

Yriarte: Uh huh, yep. That's her. Anyway, we got together. Because the school had just about went in...What do you call it when the school is just about ready to annex into another one? They got it before...We caught it before it got annexed. And we'd had to have gone to the...to Crane, for some reason why. That far away, I don't know. But anyway, we didn't...There goes my mind again. We didn't want to have my aunt have the school. We said no, we were going to keep the school. And well, she wanted it. Well, I need it. No, they wouldn't let her.

We elected a Board of Directors at that same time, Joe Moon, my husband and Phil Hurlburt. And I was elected the clerk. So, said no, that we might have a school here one of these days. Which we had our two little kids. See, I know we had our kids. Hurlburts had a couple. And who else? Oh, and then Stanley Gibson.

Presley: Hurlburts had four.

Yriarte: Hurlburts ended up having four, yeah. They weren't...See, Jim was the oldest and then Nancy.

Presley: He was my age.

Yriarte: Yeah. And then Nancy. And Mary...Mary? Jim and Nancy. And what was those other two kids' names?

Presley: Mary, she's the one that committed suicide. And then what's the boy's name? He was up there...He was out there at the high school...I mean, out there at the airport for a long time.

Yriarte: I can't see him.

Presley: [He went bad too?] Anyway...

Yriarte: Yeah. Yeah. You know, Donna always said, no, that guy that married Mary Lilly...That wasn't her name. Mary wasn't it?

Presley: Sally or something. I don't remember either. She was about your age, wasn't she?

Arntz: I think Kathleen...she was a couple of years older than I am, if I remember?

Presley: She committed suicide.

Arntz: I think...I think it might have been Sally.

Presley: I think her name was Sally.

Arntz: Yeah, that does sound right.

Presley: Anyway...

Nitz: Anyway, so the school, what happened with the school?

Yriarte: Well, after we had the meeting and she wanted it... Said no, we might have to have a school here one of these days. And for some reason it burned down that night. It's true.

Presley: Well, she didn't get it, did she?

Yriarte: No. She didn't get it. She was an ornery old...

Pruitt: That's the one on the end.

Nitz: So where did your kids go to school?

Yriarte: We built another one.

Nitz: Where?

Yriarte: Where it's at right now. Do you know where that's at?

Nitz: I've been past it.

Yriarte: Yeah. Well, that's where we built it. And the reason why we built it there, Darwin and Mary Collins had their kids. And they lived where Marshalls are right now. So they wouldn't go along with having it down here. They weren't going to drive that far. So we compromised and had it put where it's at. So everybody had to drive down. Yeah. That was...And anyway, they said we couldn't...Let's see, how was that? So we didn't have any...any property. Nobody would come down here. So we didn't have any property. So Alvin Hurlburt donated that property, ten acres, at...at...ten acres where the school is at right now. Yeah. So he donated that ten acres to us. So that's how the school ended up up there. Now, where was I?

Nitz: Where did you guys get your mail when you were a kid? What was the closest post office?

Yriarte: Burns.

Nitz: Burns?

Yriarte: Uh huh.

Nitz: Wow, that's a long ways.

Yriarte: Yeah. Well, nobody cared. I mean, what could you do? You just went to Burns.

Nitz: Did you guys go to town very often, when you lived out here?

Yriarte: No. We didn't. You know, that...My dad either had to ride a horseback to Burns, until he finally got him an old car. And then he drove it back and forth. So I can remember one time I wanted to go. And he said, no, you can't go. And it was a car that had a...A pickup, I guess you'd call it. So anyway, I decided I was going to go anyway. So I got in the back of that pick-up and covered up with a tarp. He found me.

Pruitt: After he got to town?

Yriarte: No. Before we got there.

Presley: She'd been giggling.

Yriarte: Oh, wow. I don't...It's funny what kids will do. But I didn't get to go to town.

Nitz: So when did you learn how to drive yourself?

Yriarte: Probably when I was about seven. You know, we drove early. We had to learn how to drive. That, I guess isn't too awful young, right?

Nitz: Seven?

Yriarte: Yeah.

Presley: I don't think they were quite giving licenses out there though.

Yriarte: No. They were probably not.

Nitz: Do you remember your first car?

Yriarte: Hmm um.

Nitz: No?

Yriarte: Oh, yes. A Jeep. That was one that Louis had was a Jeep. So that's what we had. And when Louis and I got married, we went... We didn't have a car. We was going to take the bus and go to California. His sisters both live down there. And John Ebar, his step-dad, said, no, you're not going to have to go on the bus. You can just have my car. He was such a sweet, sweet man. I think of him quite often because he was so kind, such a kind, kind man. And I don't know, I was always very close to that man. Yeah. Very good man. He was a sheepherder. Scaring coyotes away. And lit a stick of dynamite to throw it. And it blew up and blew one arm off, blew his right arm off... In the Steens, I think is where it was. You remember that? I remember reading about that in there. Yeah.

Now, what do you want to know?

Nitz: Well, when you were working here on the ranch, did you go out and drive tractor and all that with everybody else?

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: What did you do?

Yriarte: Huh?

Nitz: What kinds of things did you do on the ranch?

Yriarte: Well, everything. You have to---

Nitz: Like what?

Yriarte: Oh, my gosh.

Nitz: I'm not a ranch girl, so...

Yriarte: Well, let me see. What did I do? Every...I mean, everything that needed to be done. I could drive tractor. I mowed hay. When we used...When we stacked hay in a big stack, I had the horse. We'd---

Presley: Slide.

Yriarte: Yeah, and a slide, uh huh, hooked up there. And then I'd bring the slide back down and put some more hay on there. And that's what I done that way. And then when we quit doing that and got the tractors that had...that you could lift up and stack...That's the way Louis and I done our haying that way. We'd stack it with the Farmhand. So that's what we done there.

Nitz: Did you hire a lot of people to help on the ranch? Or you did it all with just family?

Yriarte: No. We done most of it ourselves. We couldn't afford to hire people when we was starting out. No, we didn't hire. And then, of course, the kids got big enough, you know, they could rake. They could...One would drive the tractor. No, wait a minute. Who drove the tractor? I guess he had a...You know, I don't remember that part, for some reason. I do remember both of our kids. One couldn't trip the rake. And so they set back to back on that seat, somehow or another, and pulled the trip rope.

Nitz: Teamwork.

Presley: It's hard to do that, yeah.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Presley: I used to run a lot of them too.

Yriarte: Did you? Yeah, that's how they done that.

Nitz: Did you have big family brandings, cattle brandings?

Yriarte: No. No, that got...We helped a lot of people. I...We kind of quit that and got a calf chute. And the reason why we did, because people got too...too rough with my cattle and break their legs or...or rupture them. That was the part that was too bad because they wouldn't watch what they were doing. And the poor little things was all ruptured, you know? And then you had to kill them.

Arntz: They would slam them down to hard and break them inside.

Yriarte: Yeah. So Louis and I decided we weren't going to have those big brandings like that anymore. We lost two calves in one day from branding. So we got us a calf chute.

And we got to branding them in that. And we could do that without a great, big...Because I had to do the cooking and work out there too and buckaroo and all of that stuff.

Arntz: How many acres did you hay?

Yriarte: I think about 192 acres, something like that.

Arntz: All wild hay?

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah.

Arntz: How many cows did you run?

Yriarte: We ran...We didn't...We didn't have a very big herd. We had around 200. But that was pretty---

Arntz: At one time, that was pretty good.

Yriarte: Yeah. But we only had 150 head permit, but we ran 200. Anyway, here and there, you know.

Nitz: And then all your water comes from springs?

Yriarte: Yeah, like this here. Yeah. It watered...This spring waters a lot of people down there, Hurlburts and everybody down all the meadows down through there. Moons, they got their own spring. They water all of their meadow from their springs over here, so... I see all them geese down there on that lake. See that white one down there?

Nitz: Yeah.

Pruitt: Snow geese?

Yriarte: Yeah. I'm surprised that they're still here. But now, where was we? Oh, I don't know.

Nitz: When you were a kid growing up, did your family have big brandings at all?

Yriarte: You know, not really. Huh um. No, my dad wasn't one for letting his calves get hurt too. So a lot of the times if we have, oh, a little bunch, well, he'd have us kids come and...He's put them all in the corral. And then he'd have us kids come in with our little rope. And we'd go catch them and then throw them down and then brand them. So we had little bunches. We could do it that way.

Nitz: So what kinds of things did you guys do for fun as a family?

Yriarte: Oh, my gosh.

Nitz: If you had time?

Yriarte: Oh, I don't know.

Nitz: You must have went fishing, hunting, that kind of stuff?

Yriarte: No. We didn't. My dad never got to go very...go fishing very often. And after Louis and I got married, he took us up there in the mountains some place. I don't know...I don't even remember where we went fishing. Was it Burnt Car?

Nitz: Oh, up there on The Steens.

Yriarte: Yeah. I think that's where we went fishing one time. And that was the first time my dad got to go fishing, I think forever. And he enjoyed that so much. Charlie was pretty little though. But...Oh, that wasn't the time.

There was another time we went fishing. There's other times when Charlie was real little. And he was kind of grouchy and cranky. He was tired. My dad would pick him and pack him and call him Hoopin'-hiker.

Arntz: Did you go to dances?

Yriarte: No.

Nitz: Did you go to the Fair?

Yriarte: Not Louis...My dad and us went to dances. He'd take us to dances all the time. But Louis didn't believe in public "belly dancing" he'd call it.

Arntz: Where did you have to go?

Yriarte: To the Narrows. Yeah, we'd go over there. That's when my dad and mom... I can remember we all got...We had to drive the buggy, the horses. And so, of course, we could drive across the lake then too. There wasn't no water in the lake. And we got all ready to...all loaded in the back of the buggy. And it was...It was moonlight. And pretty soon, here come one of Dad's little dogs, one of his favorite little dogs. And she had got into the strychnine and...Hey, Charlie?

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Yriarte: Come and visit these people a little bit, would you please?

Presley: This is your hired help?

Yriarte: That's the whole hired help.

Presley: Does he get paid a lot?

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. He gets paid a lot. Yeah, he sure does. Poor guy. Yeah. You're already broke down?

Charlie Yriarte: I said something is always broke down.

Yriarte: I know that. Sit down, Hon.

Nitz: Part of life, huh?

Yriarte: Yeah.

[recording turned off while the group is introduced]

Charlie? But no, he had one old well up there they bought with the place. It was eight inches. And we put the solar pump in and dropped...dropped the pump down in there at sixty feet, turned it on and thirty seconds, poof, got water.

Nitz: That makes it easy, doesn't it?

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah. So moved everything down to the next one and stuck it in.

Yriarte: Yeah, three wells out there, upper, middle, lower.

Presley: Did you have an old windmill here at any time?

Yriarte: No. Louis would never have a windmill. He said, no, I am not going to have no windmill. And he never would. He didn't get a windmill. I always wanted one. I liked them. I thought they were pretty nice. Because we used to have to run out there and start a pump all the time.

Presley: So you're going from no windmill to a solar pump.

Yriarte: Yeah. That's right. Exactly.

Charlie Yriarte: Skip the middle man.

Yriarte: So, yeah. Technically, it is improved a lot from...from pumping hand pump, to solar pump is really great now.

Nitz: A lot more work with a lot less people.

Yriarte: Uh huh.

Charlie Yriarte: Well, the first well we had out there, I hand dug it. Thirty feet deep. And no shoring or nothing. So I went down almost thirty feet, all by hand, just a square hole.

Presley: Oh, really? You mean by---

Charlie Yriarte: Brought it up with a bucket. So Dad and I dug that well. And then he would... That was the first water we had out there.

Yriarte: It is. Yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: And we'd pump about thirty-five minutes and then we'd shut it off. He just put a little hose down there and pump the water out. And about thirty, thirty-five minutes, it would go dry. And we'd wait an hour and pump another thirty, thirty-five minutes. That's how that... That was the first well we had out there.

Presley: Was it a good well, good water?

Charlie Yriarte: Oh, yeah.

Presley: The water you have here, good water?

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Yriarte: We didn't have any water, period, until you done that.

Charlie Yriarte: I know.

Yriarte: In that field out there, so...

Charlie Yriarte: I think back on. That might cave in on me.

Nitz: Yeah, you're lucky. So has this been dug out?

Yriarte: That's pretty deep, you know it?

Arntz: Thirty foot is a long ways up and down.

Yriarte: Yes, it is. I had a ladder to get in and out. You know, it is a wonder it didn't cave in on him.

Presley: How much water does the spring run?

Yriarte: The Lord was with us.

Arntz: When you was growing up, did you play any instruments? Or what did you do for entertainment?

Yriarte: Well, you know, I didn't get...I didn't get to play anything. My Mom played the mandolin. And my Dad played the violin.

Arntz: Did they play with any of the dances in that, when you went?

Yriarte: My dad did once in awhile. And Mom did too once in awhile. But most of the time, it was just easier just to go and have fun, you know? Us kids could sleep on the benches around the center. They had a school house. There's still part of that school over here at The Narrows. That's where we went to have our get togethers, was at The Narrows.

Pruitt: That might be where this building is. Narrows. Well, it could be. Because it seemed like that they did have a...that they did have some...

Arntz: That's the school part of the hall, or...?

Yriarte: We don't know.

Arntz: Oh, that was over at The Narrows?

Yriarte: I don't remember.

Pruitt: He doesn't have any glasses.

Arntz: No, I didn't bring my glasses. That's alright.

Yriarte: I've got some glasses.

[break while Doris searches for reading glasses]

Yriarte: Where was we?

Presley: There's no...I don't remember what we were talking about. The school days?

Arntz: Well, I asked her about the hay grounds.

Presley: Oh, hay grounds.

Arntz: And the dances that they went to for entertainment.

Nitz: Did you guys ever go to the fair when you were a kid growing up?

Yriarte: Yeah, once in awhile. But they didn't have...The thing that I can remember that I was so thrilled about is going to...Glen, Dad's brother, had a place over at...close to Bend. And we'd go over there to go to a fair or a rodeo.

Nitz: Rodeos?

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah. So we'd get all covered up in the back of the pickup and away we'd go.

Nitz: Did your family ever have family reunions?

Yriarte: Well, you know, those are really...I don't know why I don't remember them very much. Not a lot, no. The only time we'd have is when we'd go to like Thanksgiving dinners or something like that. That's the only thing I can remember being a family reunion. I liked doing that because there was so much good stuff in the kitchen.

Pruitt: Now, you don't remember your grandmother and grandfather, or do you?

Yriarte: Yes, I do. I remember not my grandfather but my grandmother. My grandfather died of pneumonia. He got pneumonia, my dad's...died of pneumonia. Of course pneumonia then was...That was it. You didn't ever get better from that, as a rule, so...And then my Mom's dad---

Pruitt: 1901...No, 1914... No, 1901 did he die?

Yriarte: Don't you ask me them things. I don't know. I don't know. But I do know I was...My Mom's dad, he scared me to death just looking at him. I didn't...didn't know him very well. We weren't around him very well...much. But I never knew my...this dad, this grandfather, on my Dad's side. I didn't never...He died before...I think I was...I don't remember whether I was born or just about one or two. I don't remember offhand either.

Nitz: So what was your mom's dad's name? Was it Charles?

Yriarte: Yeah, I think it was Charles.

Nitz: I know there was a bunch of them.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Presley: You could jump in any time.

Charlie Yriarte: I wasn't born yet either.

Nitz: Was he the doctor?

Yriarte: No. No. His dad was the doctor, yeah, Dr. McPheeters.

Nitz: I think he was Charles.

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah, I think it was Charles also. Yeah.

Presley: That's your surname.

Yriarte: Well, there was a lot of Charles' in that side of the family because her brother's name was Charles. And her dad's name was Charles. Then he got to be Charles. So he come along. We didn't know what we was going to name him. Mom says name him Charles. She had a brother named Charles. Okay, we'll call him Charles.

Nitz: That's how it always goes.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: It's an easy one to remember.

Arntz: I always liked that name.

Nitz: So did your mom come from a big family? Did you know them very well, her side?

Yriarte: I didn't. There was quite a bunch in that family. There was just two girls. I think that's the way it was, two girls and then...oh...Oh, my god. She had...Rodney and Elwood and Carl and...August.

Charlie Yriarte: Charles.

Yriarte: And Charles, did I name him? I didn't name him. Okay, I think she had five brothers...and two girls, I think seven.

Nitz: Did most of them stay in this area? Or did they live kind of all over?

Yriarte: No. They lived out there by east of Burns. What is that little place there by the airport? There was a---

Nitz: Oh, Lawen?

Yriarte: Nope. This side of Lawen.

Charlie Yriarte: Oh, Ryegrass there.

Yriarte: Ryegrass, uh huh. That's where they had their homestead.

Nitz: So do you know how your parents met? Did they ever tell you?

Yriarte: I don't remember how they met. Oh, I suppose she was a teacher. And she taught school at what we called the Petersen Place. We started on that one time. And she taught school. And I think that's where he met her. She stayed with Pete Obiague, Pete and Dolly Obiague. And then she drove or rode a horse or drove a cart from there to the...to the Petersen Place, what they called the Petersen Place. Herb Peterson, does that...That don't sound old enough, does it?

Nitz: We could look it up. I'm sure we could find it.

Presley: Well, there was a Herb Petersen.

Yriarte: It seemed like there was another Petersen there. But I don't remember now the name. There was quite a few of them I think, Petersens, wasn't there?

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Yriarte: Charlie Petersen, I think was one of them.

Presley: Yeah.

Nitz: I think there were a couple families that weren't even related too.

Presley: Yeah, there were.

Yriarte: Oh. Uh huh.

Presley: Charlie was related.

Yriarte: Yeah. Um hmm.

Arntz: So where did Obiague's live?

Yriarte: Do you know where Don Miller's place is up here? And you come...That's where...He bought that from Obiague, Don Miller did. Do you know where I'm talking about?

Arntz: Well, I think I do.

Yriarte: You see that water tank there by the road? That's part of---

Charlie Yriarte: The big red one? Did you come that way?

Presley: No, we came in around this way.

Charlie Yriarte: When you come down the hill, up coming from Alameda Buttes, come on down. Come on around the hill. And then you come around the bend, hit the meadows. That house on the left.

Arntz: Well, the only reason why I ask is because we used to...Just west of the...well, the radar base, up there in that flat, Willow Flat or beyond that, Obiague's had a sheep camp there. And we'd hunt that ridge in there. And I didn't know if that was the place you were talking about referring to. I'm just curious.

Presley: Don Miller had a place there too.

Arntz: Yeah. And Miller's had a place along in there too.

Charlie Yriarte: That's called Willow Creek, isn't it?

Arntz: Yeah.

Presley: Yeah. That spring right there.

Arntz: But that's a long, long ways from here on horseback.

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah.

Presley: Yeah, Don's place is just this side of where Marshall is.

Charlie Yriarte: That was his home place. But then he had all that range for sheep and cattle.

Presley: Yeah. They still got a bunch.

Yriarte: You know, I told you that was white geese down there. That isn't. That's that lake. That's Harney Lake.

Nitz: It's pretty bright today.

Yriarte: Yeah. I'm sorry. That's wrong. I apologize.

Nitz: But there are still geese around. I saw some yesterday.

Charlie Yriarte: They're all up at Burns.

Yriarte: Oh, there was thousands of them up there at Burns, when we went in the other day.

Presley: I think a lot of the big flock left here just recently.

Nitz: Yeah, I think with the nice weather, they all took off.

Yriarte: I don't think I remember seeing that many geese...ever. Just fields full of them.

Nitz: Did you have a lot of the sandhill cranes out in this area at all?

Charlie Yriarte: We don't get the lessers that much. The lessers mostly go to Burns. We have quite a few of the greater that will just come back and nest.

Nitz: Because there were a lot of lessers around this year. And I don't remember seeing that many.

Presley: Yeah, the lessers don't stay. But a lot of the greats do.

Charlie Yriarte: Right.

Yriarte: My mom used to get the biggest kick out of watching them dance. She'd call them and then they'd dance. And they'd get up and down. And they really needed to have a movie taken of them when they were doing that. It was quite graceful the way they'd dance around, bowing their head to one another. It is kind of pretty.

Nitz: A couple of months ago we were out at the old Double O ranch walking around and we saw an elk. Do you see elk out in this area?

Yriarte: Oh, you did?

Charlie Yriarte: You did?

Nitz: Yeah.

Presley: A small bull, yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: You mean down here at the patrol station?

Presley: Yeah. He was just...He was between your place and theirs.

Arntz: I'll be damned.

Charlie Yriarte: No, they run through here. The Fed-Ex lady come through last fall. And it was just getting dark when she got here. Oh, man, I got some pictures of elk or... Ran right across the road down there, right in front of her.

Arntz: Well, I think those pivots probably brought them in. And they're just moving to the...moving around. Because I know them pivots will get hammered pretty good over there.

Nitz: Well, I don't think there was much open water when we were out here either, other than the springs.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah, we probably have water out there now. And it will probably stay around, probably.

Yriarte: Yeah. Water makes a difference on animal life. Get in to have something to drink.

Presley: What do you call that big, tall grass that's about seven feet tall or eight feet tall with the big head on it? It looks like a forest.

Yriarte: We call it cane.

Charlie Yriarte: You mean on the meadows out here?

Presley: Well, it was right there at the spring there at the Double O headquarters.

Nitz: Big, tall stuff.

Presley: I mean it was way over your head.

Charlie Yriarte: Right in the water?

Nitz: Canary grass?

Charlie Yriarte: Well, it could be. It wasn't tules or cattails?

Presley: No.

Charlie Yriarte: You're talking canary...I'll bet it was canary grass.

Nitz: It was grass.

Charlie Yriarte: It will grow six feet.

Presley: Well, this was eight feet tall in there.

Nitz: At least.

Charlie Yriarte: Kind of long leaves on it?

Presley: Yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah. Yeah, probably canary grass.

Nitz: Is that native?

Charlie Yriarte: No. We brought it in.

Presley: It's kind of where that young bull came out of.

Charlie Yriarte: Was it?

Nitz: Yeah. Yeah. I think he was just kind of wandering along the banks.

Charlie Yriarte: I don't see him very often.

Presley: He decided he was going to leave. He was coming this way, so...

Yriarte: Whether we want it or not. Is that it?

Nitz: So growing up, did your family hunt for food a lot? You know deer hunt or...?

Yriarte: Oh, just my dad. He's the one that had to keep us in meat. So once in awhile he'd get a stinking antelope. Ugh!

Nitz: I'm with you on that one.

Yriarte: Ugh. But it was meat.

Presley: One of the best meats I've ever eaten is antelope.

Yriarte: It's so awful. But we had to eat it. So, yeah. But then he raised goats and sheep too, little band of sheep, you know. And that was us kids' job to keep them sheep in from the coyotes.

Nitz: Were there a lot of coyotes that you remember when you were young?

Yriarte: Yeah. Yeah. There were quite a few coyotes, yeah. We, I think had coyotes just at random, at different times more than other times. Charlie had a coyote that went hunting with him all the time. He did. It was funny. We called him... He called him Yodie...or Her.

Charlie Yriarte: It stayed here all winter. It would curl up on the lawn waiting for me to feed her. But it would go... We had those kangaroo mice. They were just absolutely horrendous on this place two years ago. So I took the four-wheeler at night shooting them with a shotgun. They just mow your garden and everything off. This little pup started hunting with me. And then pretty quick it would come and sit down by the four-wheeler about ten feet away, waiting for me to shoot. And then when I'm done, I'd drive off to go to my house. Everyday, if I fired the four-wheeler up, here she come. Stayed here all winter long.

Arntz: I'll be danged.

Charlie Yriarte: Then just found her dead under the Cat. Someone must have shot her with the shotgun. So she come back home and died underneath my Cat.

Yriarte: Oh.

Charlie Yriarte: But you'd call her Yodie and she'd come running off the hill. It was amazing.

Presley: I'll be danged.

Nitz: That's cool. Do you ever have problems with jackrabbits out this far?

Yriarte: There used to be, a long time... When you guys were still in school was the most of the time.

Charlie Yriarte: About 1964, '65, '66, when Hurlburts had especially the—had the alfalfa there and Moon's out here, that's the last big batch we've had. They never come back after that.

Yriarte: No, they didn't.

Charlie Yriarte: There used to be, literally, hundreds of thousands of them.

Nitz: They used to talk about that. But you hardly ever... Well, not hardly ever. But you don't see nearly as many as you used to.

Yriarte: Yeah. It's rare to see a coy... a rabbit running across the road anymore.

Nitz: Yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: You don't want to hit him, if you see one. Hopefully, they have a litter, you know, or something.

Presley: Well, I remember fixing quite a few tires that had rabbit bone drove through them.

Charlie Yriarte: Oh, yeah.

Presley: You'd just drive the bones right through your tire.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: You get porcupines out here?

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. Once in awhile, yeah. We don't like to see them because they chew your trees up. You can see where they're chewing on one down here, porcupine.

Charlie Yriarte: Really?

Yriarte: Well, isn't that porcupine that's chewing on them trees?

Charlie Yriarte: You mean down at the Smith place?

Yriarte: Oh, is that the Smith place? Yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah. They've almost got all those old willow barks just gnawed down. And I never see them. So they're coming out at night probably. But they'll just bite down all those trees completely, the bark way down there. And then the river otters come in here once in awhile.

Nitz: That's interesting.

Yriarte: Yeah. They come right up on the edge of the lawn and looked right at me. That was something else. That's just so neat...to see those otters.

Presley: Sharon Catterson had to take her little dog to the vet here about a month ago. A river otter pretty well chewed it up.

Yriarte: Who's dog, yours?

Presley: Sharon Catterson.

Yriarte: Oh, Sharon's.

Presley: At the Five Mile Damn.

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. Yeah? Oh, that would make you mad.

Presley: There's a lot of them there. So they come on the bank and challenge the dogs all the time. So dogs learn to stay in their place now.

Yriarte: Uh huh.

Presley: River otters aren't small. They're big animals.

Yriarte: Yeah, they are.

Charlie Yriarte: They've got sharp teeth too.

Yriarte: Yeah. They're kind of interesting to watch them. They get to rolling around and playing in the water out here. I like watching them when they was doing that.

Nitz: So is that a fairly recent thing here, the otters?

Yriarte: Huh?

Nitz: Are the otters a fairly recent thing here?

Presley: You don't remember them back when---

Yriarte: I don't remember them back later, no... earlier, no. Yeah, they're new here.

Arntz: They brought them in here on the refuge to clean out some of the carp. And they started migrating. They've gone clear up Emigrant Creek. I've seen them up, you know, Miller's, just before you get to Seneca, just out of that canyon.

Nitz: Yeah, I've seen them up there.

Presley: Yeah, they go all the way up the river.

Charlie Yriarte: I don't think it bothers them to go across land. I think they just take off.

Nitz: All of the fish.

Charlie Yriarte: Ol' Chance Peila found a beaver out here, about eight or ten miles in the desert.

Presley: Yeah, they'll take off and go across country.

Charlie Yriarte: Out in the middle of the desert, there was a beaver.

Nitz: Wow.

Presley: It was an eager beaver.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah. But he wasn't headed this way. He was headed that way.

Arntz: Well, maybe he got kicked out. He was going to go find another spot.

Presley: He was going to find some place, yeah.

Nitz: What about mountain lions around here? Do you ever have a problem with those?

Charlie Yriarte: We haven't seen any right here, have we?

Yriarte: How is that?

Charlie Yriarte: Mountain lions? We seen them down at the school when I was going to school down there.

Yriarte: Well, that's the only time I remember them.

Charlie Yriarte: But they have trapped them over here. And I've seen their tracks out in the desert. Of course, they're hard to see. A few bobcats. Buzzards. They just come in here and started roosting, about thirteen, fourteen of them. Five, six years ago, never had a buzzard here. Now they got a roost in here. They come back every year.

Arntz: Every year. Yeah.

Nitz: What about eagles, bald eagles?

Charlie Yriarte: We got two nests up here on the rim. Two years ago, there was...A guy come in and he said, yeah, you've got a golden eagle. They're golden. You've got a hawk. You've got – I can't think what else – a falcon and an owl. And they're all nesting within a hundred foot of one another.

Nitz: That's pretty unusual.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: Yeah.

Arntz: That's why you're not seeing any rabbits.

Charlie Yriarte: Oh, I know. No quail, no chuckers.

Presley: That's right.

Charlie Yriarte: I wish they'd come and get this---

Yriarte: I didn't mean to do this. There's a blackbird with a white ring around it's neck.

Arntz: Oh, yeah. I see that over here.

Presley: Is it something that people put on him to mark him or is it just his natural color?

Yriarte: It's just natural color.

Arntz: I'll be danged.

Presley: Every once in awhile you'll find a crow that will be that. It will have some white on it.

Charlie Yriarte: Funny, isn't it?

Nitz: Oh, my gosh. That's different.

Yriarte: I thought I had that picture of the Cooper's right there.

Arntz: Have you noticed since the otters have showed up around here that the water has cleaned up any? Of course, this water is not too bad anyway.

Charlie Yriarte: When the water started clearing up is when the carp were gone. And they eat a lot of carp. I mean, they really get after them.

Arntz: Well, I was doing some work up at the river for Bill Guthrie, at the old Hayes place up there not too far out of town. And I happen to be real close to one of the channels in the river there. And I got to looking. Geez, you could see the bottom of the river. And I know when we were kids, you could not see the bottom of the river. So I thought, well, maybe they were helping out in that aspect. Because the carp, I know they keep that old bottom stirred up just grubbing around.

Yriarte: They make good fertilizer.

Arntz: Yeah. In fact, I went to the, oh, the show that they're having at the high school right now. And now, one of the ladies that's in a booth back there, they have fish fertilizer made out of carp, I guess.

Presley: Well, in the 80's when the river...the lake was so high at Nine Mile slough there, there was carp. The slough was actually one of ours. It was coming from Cow Creek, I guess. And this carp were right under the bridge, just so. And the kids were all there just hooking them with treble hooks, pulling them up on the highway. They had the highway just covered with them. A guy from Crane went down and got a five gallon barrel...I mean a fifty gallon barrel and brought down here and threw all those fish in the fifty gallon barrel. And he took them in and put them in his garden. And I saw him about, oh, three or four months later. And I said, how did all those fish work? And he says, well, there's a limit on how many you should put. Because his garden was nothing but flies.

Arntz: Growing a heck of a herd of flies, huh?

Presley: So he tried to rototiller them again. He said it just made a mess.

Charlie Yriarte: That probably stunk so bad he couldn't plant it anyway.

Presley: Oh, yes.

Yriarte: How's the coffee and stuff? Do you want some more?

Arntz: Well, I'll take the last little dab you got. There's not much over there.

Yriarte: Alright, I'll go make some more.

Charlie Yriarte: We'll make more. We'll make a bunch. We'll make another pot.

Yriarte: I should have made a cake, but I didn't get it done. I'm sorry.

Presley: So how is the military treating you? Leaving you alone?

Arntz: Oh, yeah. I'm retired now.

Presley: So they know that.

Arntz: Well, they keep sending me stuff to go here and go there. But I just...I just don't have time.

Arntz: Every once in awhile people ask me to come and speak. But it's...Kind of the further you get away from it, then the less they bother you about it. I don't mind doing it. But it just...

Presley: Whenever the phone rings you just cringe on who it might be, huh?

Arntz: Yeah. Oh, I miss a lot of it. But some things I don't miss. I don't miss being on an airplane every weekend.

Presley: When you and Harlan went to school at the Double O here, how many kids did you have at school with you?

Charlie Yriarte: Oh, let's see. I think there was nine, counting us. I think there was nine.

Presley: Who was the teacher then...teachers?

Charlie Yriarte: Mrs. Manesse taught us when we first came here, Manesse. Then Fern...I think her name was Fern. And her husband's name was Mack. And then after they left, then Gertrude Hughet taught us.

Yriarte: That was Glen's wife.

Charlie Yriarte: Glen's wife.

Yriarte: Her name was Lange. Do you remember any Lange's? I don't remember.

Charlie Yriarte: I don't remember that name.

Presley: Well, there was Oscar Lange. He ended up running the sporting goods store in Madras because they were from here.

Charlie Yriarte: Probably related somehow.

Nitz: Did you go to this school through eighth grade?

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Presley: How was your conversion into the Burns school?

Charlie Yriarte: It wasn't that bad. It wasn't that bad. Let's see. You had a lot of those Drewsey kids coming in there too. They didn't go to Crane. They came to Burns. So, there was quite a few out of the...

Nitz: Rural kids.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Presley: Yeah. You had to, what, drive out to the Narrows and pick up the bus there? How did you get to town?

Charlie Yriarte: You had to drive out to 205, by the junction. 205, that's where you'd catch the bus.

Presley: Left your rig there?

Charlie Yriarte: No. Mom would drop us off. Then we'd go in. Then you had to go the Island Ranch. Then you'd turn around and come to the Island Ranch back in. So it was an hour and fifteen, twenty minutes every...

Presley: In the wintertime, you're driving in the dark.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: Did you do sports then, after school and all that?

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah. Then Mom finally rented a place in town. That's when we stayed. I think after about my freshman year then we stayed in town, in a little box.

Nitz: Yeah. That's a lot of driving.

Presley: Yeah. And Charlie and Harlan, they were the discus, shotput throwers and the javelin throwers.

Nitz: Anything else you could throw.

Charlie Yriarte: Harlan had the record there for a long, long time.

Arntz: Denny finally beat him, I think.

Charlie Yriarte: Tom beat him.

Arntz: Oh Tom?

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Arntz: Then he had the shot-put record.

Charlie Yriarte: Does he still have that?

Arntz: Oh, yeah. Tom still got the discus record. But then they started changing. They got new records now.

Presley: They're meters instead of yards.

Arntz: Well, they...I guess they didn't want to give them an inferiority complex now because everybody is a winner, you know.

Charlie Yriarte: Oh, that's right. Nobody can lose, right.

Nitz: Everybody's got to be a winner.

Yriarte: I'm sorry I didn't make a cake or cookies, Guys.

Pruitt: Oh, me too.

Arntz: Didn't expect any.

Yriarte: Well, usually I always have something. Been going out with him out...doing the water and stuff. And I just come home and I just clonk out.

Nitz: Well, we didn't come to put you to work.

Yriarte: Yeah, I know. But...it would have been nice.

Charlie Yriarte: Did you tell them you went to school right here where this place is?

Yriarte: Yeah. And we rode horseback or walked, one or the other.

Nitz: Did you have a favorite horse when you were a kid? Did you like horses?

Yriarte: Well, yeah. I loved horses. I rode a little...Well, he wasn't little. Rusty was pretty good sized. My mom raised this horse from a colt. They run horses on the desert. And then he was a leppy. So she raised him. And I broke him to ride and rode him to school. Dad wouldn't let us have a saddle. So we had to ride bareback. And he'd dump me off. And I've have to walk. And then I'd...He'd usually wait for me though, most of the time.

Arntz: Well, that was nice of him.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: He knew where the food was.

Yriarte: And so anyway...But then, he got pretty smart about...Because I had to ride bare back. About the time I'd try to get my leg over, just keep---

Presley: Did you have any pets when you was growing up? Dogs that always followed you around?

Yriarte: No. I liked the kitty-cats, most of the time. And I had...I shouldn't even tell this. But I don't know. I...We slept in the upstairs, down there...at that place down yonder. And then my dad had a ladder on the outside to the upper window in case of fire--

Arntz: You've been out here before, haven't you? Or have you?

Presley: I've been out here with John once, years ago. He showed me the spring. And we looked for some arrowheads when you guys weren't looking.

Pruitt: That got his attention, didn't it.

Yriarte: You know, when the Job Corps---

Charlie Yriarte: There used to be a lot of them right here. I found that big ol' spear right down in the straw.

Presley: Yeah, your mom showed us about three or four frames.

Arntz: Yeah, that's quite a collection.

Presley: [Unintelligible] in the backpack here.

Charlie Yriarte: Right. Yeah.

Yriarte: I don't know where I'm at.

Arntz: Well, you was going to say something about the Job Corps.

Yriarte: Oh. Yeah, when the Job Corps was down there, they...they'd come up here and swim in the spring. But you know, they got to the point where...

Yriarte: And they'd come up here and go swimming in the spring, you know? And that was okay.

Arntz: The Job Corps guys did?

Yriarte: Yeah, the kids did. You know, they'd bring them up here. But you know, they got a little careless. And they started breaking glass and stuff in the spring. So I said, no more. You can't come here anymore. But I don't know why they got drunk or something, you know? You don't know what they...why they would do that. So I said, no, they couldn't come up here anymore.

Arntz: I remember going down to two boxing matches---

Arntz: ---down there, when they had that a-going when I was a kid.

Yriarte: Did you?

Arntz: Yeah. Dad was one of the judges.

Nitz: So did you have chickens or turkeys---

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: ---or things like that?

Yriarte: Yeah. Um hmm. Chickens and turkeys both.

Presley: You said you were about seven years old when you learned to drive. Who taught you to drive?

Yriarte: Uh huh.

Presley: And what did you drive?

Yriarte: Oh, the pick-up, my Dad's pick-up.

Yriarte: Usually, it was an old guy by the name of Al Choate was his name. And so we'd go along. And he'd take us out on the flat, back out here...where we couldn't run into anything. And then he'd let us drive. So that's how we learned to drive.

Presley: In an old pickup of some kind.

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah. Yeah, that was something else. Oh, we thought we were big.

Presley: Probably an old Model A or a T maybe. Probably it was Model A.

Yriarte: I don't know. Probably an A. It wasn't a T. With the three.

Presley: That's a T.

Yriarte: That's a T. That's what I did.

Nitz: So did anybody ever run into anything or have any misadventures?

Yriarte: No. They took us out here on the back where there's no... a great, big flat out there we could go drive here and there, back up, learn how to reverse and how to drive forward. Yeah. It was pretty nice.

Presley: Did your mom and dad teach you how to drive out here? Or did you just start out with tractors?

Charlie Yriarte: Oh, yeah. They put us on it. They just ran them. I don't know. We were probably driving tractors when we were seven, eight, nine years old.

Yriarte: Yeah, seven. Well, they'd sit on our lap. We'd let them drive, you know? He was the little one. The oldest son, he wanted to drive the tractor. So anyway, I said, okay. We had a little Ford tractor. We still have it. So he sat on my lap. And we were living down there. And we had this flat out there, pretty good-sized flat. Nothing in it, you know. So anyway, he says he wanted to drive. I said, okay. So, I had him out there where he wouldn't run into the brush and everything. I'd hold it to the wheel, where he had to go around and around. And he says, Grandma, I don't like riding this thing. It just goes in circles.

Arntz: That ain't any fun.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: Harlan one time said, I'm good enough to drive. He said I can drive that Ford tractor up the... I think we were bringing it up to---

Yriarte: Oh, your dad...

Charlie Yriarte: ---my grandparents'. So they said, well, whatever you do, you just don't go fast. I can still remember they opened the gate down at the Smith place. And they had the gate wide open. He can just see him shooting like a rocket across that flat. I remember jumping in the rig. Everybody was trying to catch him. Well, he didn't get it stopped. And he went through a wire gate, right down here, this old wire gate. And the

only thing that saved him was they had the braces with the long exhaust and all the wires broke...before it got him.

Arntz: Yeah. That's pretty lucky.

Charlie Yriarte: Yep.

Yriarte: Yes he was.

Charlie Yriarte: You remember that?

Yriarte: Yeah, I do remember. I was scared. And I tried to get your dad to jump out and run and jump on there and stop him. And oh, he'll know how to stop. He had so much faith in him it was terrible. He'll know how to stop. Well, when he got there, his foot slipped off of the clutch and right on through he went. And boom.

Nitz: So how old was he when that happened?

Yriarte: Oh, he was about six, I think.

Nitz: Oh, gosh.

Charlie Yriarte: I thought it served him right because they don't let me drive it.

Pruitt: Well Charlie, that's before you had to wear helmets and all that stuff. And you kids lived.

Presley: And you can't drive tractor without going to tractor school, so...

Yriarte: Well, they had to learn to drive, because like I said, you said you done that too. One would drive and the other one would sit back and string those dump rake.

Charlie Yriarte: Dump rake. And then fight on whose turn it was to drive. I'd be sitting on the hay in the back.

Arntz: Yeah. The meadow, you had to hold your foot down on that to keep it from bouncing up so it didn't dump too soon.

Presley: Those little dump rakes now, they're just collectibles.

Yriarte: Are they?

Presley: Yeah. They're pretty collectible. They want to set them in the yard. And the roses grow up through them.

Pruitt: Gee, you are rich, aren't you?

Yriarte: Huh?

Pruitt: You are rich, aren't you?

Yriarte: Well, I guess so. There's all kinds of stuff that's valuable. He was telling me how much those spears were.

Presley: Yeah, she's going to bring them to town and sell them.

Charlie Yriarte: Oh, the arrowheads?

Yriarte: Yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: You get some of those real fancy... Even the little arrowheads are a \$1,000 people will pay for some. It's amazing.

Nitz: Well, those arrangements are something.

Presley: Yeah, that's quite an arrangement.

Yriarte: Oh, I showed them those, yeah... She done a pretty nice job putting those together, kind of interesting. Denny knows a lot about those arrowheads.

Presley: I make it up as I go.

Yriarte: Oh. I see.

Arntz: Well, you've got a pretty green thumb if you can get an orchid to bloom.

Yriarte: Oh.

Charlie Yriarte: You like that?

Arntz: Yeah. I just now seen it.

Yriarte: That is awesome.

Charlie Yriarte: The other two little ones... Well, these have been on now for about four months.

Pruitt: I never could do that.

Yriarte: It sure likes it in that window.

Arntz: Them orchids are pretty neat. There was a...Oh, when Ray still worked for ASCS there, there was a gentleman that worked in his office. And that was his hobby. He grew the orchids for a hobby. He grew orchids for a hobby.

Yriarte: His son...His son done that. I thought that was pretty neat.

--- [side conversation about house plants]

Presley: Charlie, can you think of any stories or anything that you think that would be significant for your mom to remember or you can remember, maybe they told about horse experiences or farming experiences?

Yriarte: Spankings.

Nitz: Yeah, let's hear those.

Charlie Yriarte: What did she say?

Arntz: Spankings.

Yriarte: Spankings.

Arntz: Were there a few of them administered?

Yriarte: Oh. I'll tell you what, one time...

Presley: Charlie is going to leave at this part.

Yriarte: Well, maybe I said it...Maybe I told you before. I don't know. But anyway, with the creek and the culvert and stuff, you know, that's a big swirl that goes in there and just sucks you right in that culvert, you know? And I was always afraid they'd get in front of that and get sucked down into that water. So anyway, I went out there and hollered at them and hollered at them. No answer. And they'd been playing down there. And I couldn't...They won't answer me. Didn't answer me. And I...Then, I panicked. And I was everywhere, down under the barn, everyplace, looking for them kids and a yelling and a hollering. Finally one of them must have said, we better answer her.

Presley: Getting in a heap of trouble all the time.

Yriarte: What they'd done, they climbed...Well, I had a feed holder I put oats and stuff for the cows right alongside the stanchion. They'd both crawled in there and closed the door. And I didn't see them. And they wouldn't answer me. And they got awful spankings for that one.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Yriarte: They sure did. That was not good for them. But I was so scared.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Yriarte: You know, you just do.

Presley: You're supposed to hug them not spank them, haven't you heard that?

Yriarte: Be happy.

Nitz: After you spank them.

Yriarte: Yeah. You know, Hurlburts lost that little girl. Bill Hurlburts little sister drowned in the creek down there.

Presley: Oh, really?

Nitz: Out here?

Yriarte: Uh huh. Down there at the Hurlburt place. And there was a foot bridge across the creek to go to the barn. And she must have fell in there, crossing the creek. Anyway, she disappeared. And I don't know how long she'd been in there. But she floated down to the fence. And her clothes caught on the fence line or they would never have found her, maybe. I don't know.

Nitz: Was she pretty little then?

Yriarte: I didn't know her. I didn't know her at all. But probably was. And the only little girl in that family for a long time. That's sad. So anyway, when there's water around, you kind of worry about your kids.

Presley: Yeah, they'll find it and play in it.

Yriarte: They do, yeah.

Presley: Water is like a magnet to kids. They like it.

Charlie Yriarte: I can remember one time...Dad used to mine out here [unintelligible] grade and low grade. And he'd buy powder. I remember going all over the place shooting holes and looking for uranium. He had a case of powder sitting in the old smoke house, that old stuff that just had the sawdust that leaked. I remember for months he'd say, I've got to get that power out there. You know, he'd procrastinate. So finally Dad and Mom headed up there to Grandma's, up this part.

Yriarte: His grandma.

Charlie Yriarte: Dad and I were taking this out. He said, let's just haul it down there and blow it up. Just picked a whole case of powder up, just a seeping, and walked it down past the house out to the old dump. And we got up on the garage...up on the old barn. It was only 100 yards. Had my thirty aught six shooting. Finally, boom! I mean, we were too close for a whole case of powder. I remember the stuff flying all over. Black smoke went up in the air. This shockwave come. Oh, crimey! That was a little bigger boom then I thought it was going to make. Mom and Dad, I mean the whole valley heard it. We looked up here and it looked like a rocket with the car coming up. I'll never forget it, just a dust trail looking like a jet.

Yriarte: You'd think the whole valley blew up. Oh, man, that did make an awful noise.

Arntz: So did you ever get a market for your uranium?

Charlie Yriarte: No.

Arntz: Wasn't enough to mess with.

Charlie Yriarte: No. Then it was about that time that the market started petering out.

Arntz: Well, I can remember folks doing that around, talking about it and doing it.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah.

Yriarte: Well, you know, you could see that uranium with a black light.

Presley: Oh, you probably could, yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: Then we had a Geiger counter.

Arntz: Oh, sure. Yeah.

Presley: Yeah, Dad did that. He had a Geiger counter.

Yriarte: So anyway, we decided, Joe and June Moon and Louis and I... Was you with us? Was you old enough to go with us then?

Charlie Yriarte: I don't know. I know I went up here and shot a hole at Moon's.

Yriarte: Well, no. We took the black light. And we decided...And those black light shows up the uranium, the green. So we took it. And we went down around the lake. And we was on the rim rocks and on the ground and here and there. Pretty soon here's all of this green just showed up, just lots of it. Well, we was so happy we found all that uranium. And pretty soon it started moving. It was scorpions.

Arntz: Holy Smoke!

Yriarte: Yeah.

Charlie Yriarte: Made the ground fluorescent green as well.

Arntz: I didn't know that. I guess you didn't either. You found that out.

Yriarte: We didn't either. Isn't that something? Yeah.

Nitz: I never knew that.

Presley: It was like a mass of scorpions?

Yriarte: Well, they just crawling here and there. Well, I don't know why they were there, so many of them. But quite a bunch of them. And we thought we'd found the mother lode. Yeah. Oh, man.

Nitz: Did you ever have any encounters with rattlesnakes?

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. I had one strike at me once and just hit my pant leg. I just jumped out on an old board. We were out messing around, looking way over yonder. And I just jumped across on that board. And that old snake just...just missed my pant leg. I don't know. It never stuck no fang in it or nothing. But count your blessings when that happens.

Arntz: Yep, that's right.

Presley: You didn't get many in your hayfield when you were haying though.

Yriarte: My Dad did, when he was loose stacking. And that was up north, up at the Petersen place. He done a lot of haying for Obiague and all of them people up there.

Presley: They stacked with a net. You had somebody on top of the stack.

Yriarte: Well, he's the one that---

Presley: Yeah, got into snakes.

Yriarte: A snake a dangling up there on that load when I come up. There was that old snake a dangling up there. That always worried me about him being up there because they could bite you so fast, you know? They come in that hay.

Arntz: It's tough to get away from them, yeah, moving in that loose hay like that.

Presley: Did you have any old cantankerous horses that you wished weren't...

Yriarte: We always got the cantankerous horses. My worst experience though was Joe Moon and his uncle. I think it was Helen Moon's half-uncle. They come over there. We were getting ready to go to get cattle. My mom and dad and Helen and my cousin, Stanley were going to back up to the Double O and gather up cattle and bring them into field. And this Elmer Wilson and Joe, they walked over there. And I never did remind that Elmer of it, but I should have. But anyway, he was so dumb. Just about the time I put my foot in the stirrup he made a big jump. And I was riding a colt. He was just two years old. And I was just starting to break him to ride. And of course, it scared him. It scared the colt, of course, you know? And I had just gotten my foot...just started getting my foot over the candle. And he run under the clothes line and caught my chin---

Arntz: Oh, geez.

Yriarte: ---under the clothesline and knocked me off, caught my foot in the stirrup. And we just went around out through the grease wood. And oh, that hurt. That did hurt. Got out to where my Dad had been feeding hay out away from the brush. And I said, oh, this just feels so good. I guess, I'll just turn over. And I turned over, my foot come loose. Isn't that something, how you...I mean something, the Lord was after me.

Arntz: Well, you're lucky.

Yriarte: I know. But that kid has never...That man has never said another word. They took off and went home. They weren't supposed to be over there. But that's dumb things to do, you know? They don't realize what happens.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah. It happened pretty fast too.

Presley: I had a great-granddad drug to death in 1883 by a horse.

Yriarte: Who's that?

Presley: I had a great-granddad that was drug to death by a horse in 1883.

Yriarte: Oh, is that right?

Presley: Yeah.

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. Well, if I hadn't of turned over...I guess the Lord was with me to tell me to do that. And I turned over enough to where it just my foot come loose. It just feels so good just to be out here in the brush, I guess I'll just turn over. And so I did. But they...There's lots of ways you can get hurt. My dad never wanted me to have a saddle because of the catching my feet in the stirrup or getting bucked off. And then I get one. And then I got drug the first thing. I was twelve years old.

Arntz: Yeah. You was a long ways off the ground too.

Yriarte: Yeah. My mom finally caught that colt. It scared him so bad. Of course it would, you know? And she got up...He ran up to the fence where Hurlburt and us joined together there. He ran up there. And she finally got up there and got him caught. And she brought him back down the house. That's when we was living down there. And she had eared him down, grabbed his ear and just twist it so bad he couldn't move. It was before I could ever get back on, just ruined the horse. I never could never ever ride him without him being just deathly afraid to put a foot in the stirrup. Poor thing. He was only two years old. But two year olds are pretty good sized for a twelve year old too.

Presley: Pretty mature.

Yriarte: Uh huh.

Presley: How about bulls, did you have any bulls that you didn't like?

Yriarte: Well, yeah, I shot some with a shotgun once. They didn't want to go. They'd fight your horse. So I went back...I was afoot. And my brother and my dad was...Let's see, was it him? Anyway, my brother was one. And they kept turning around. And they went out into the creek. And he couldn't make him move. And the rest of them go on. But he was wanting to fight. They said go back and get the shotgun. So I did. I went back and got the shotgun. And I got up to the creek where I could pepper him really good. And I shot him, I think about three times...before he would ever leave. He didn't want to leave. He was going to fight. But after that, my brother said all I had to do after he finally left...He'd had enough of the bbs hitting him. But he said after that they was taking him from there up to here. He said all I had to do was just pop my chaps and he'd... And away he would go. So they learned lessons too.

Arntz: Yes, they do.

Pruitt: Did it work on the kids too, the chaps?

Yriarte: Yeah. He knew that. Oh. Oh, them kids. Well, you know, you just can't help but worry. And if they won't answer you, you just think the worst immediately, you know? Oh.

Pruitt: That Joe Moon, is that the one that went to Oregon State College?

Yriarte: Um hmm. I think so.

Pruitt: And he Rodeoed.

Yriarte: No.

Pruitt: No? He didn't rodeo...at college.

Charlie Yriarte: Well, it was Gary Moon that had a scholarship to go wrestle at Oregon State. I don't know if he ever went. That's Joe's boy.

Presley: She's talking earlier time period though.

Charlie Yriarte: Joe Moon, didn't Joe Moon go to OTI or something?

Yriarte: Yes, he did.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah, he went to OTI.

Yriarte: And he got multiple sclerosis. Joe did.

Charlie Yriarte: Yeah. Virgil was his dad.

Pruitt: Virgil, did he go to Oregon State?

Yriarte: I don't think so. Hmm um, no.

Pruitt: What year would he have been at Oregon State? I'm thinking '55...1955. He was in a rodeo, Moon. I remember.

Yriarte: Well, that must have been a different Moon though.

Pruitt: You think?

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. Because... No, Geren---

Charlie Yriarte: No, Joe.

Yriarte: ---and Joe, neither one of them were any buckaroos much. It had to have been a different Moon, I'll bet. But you don't think so, huh?

Pruitt: No. I don't know. I can't find out.

Yriarte: Do some research.

Presley: She wants to tie this Joe Moon to it so bad. She's wasted all that time.

Yriarte: Well, he...He got multiple sclerosis, you know. And they got it...He went in...They inducted him into the service. And then I think he was at...up in Washington somewhere. Is there a place up there that they go? Anyway...

Charlie Yriarte: Well, I'm going to go try and get this thing fixed.

Arntz: Well, nice meeting you.

Charlie Yriarte: Nice to meet everybody. And I'll let you conflag more---

Presley: We can tell more stories about you when you're gone.

Charlie Yriarte: That's right. I'm sure they're all good.

Presley: If we're going to do part of this for your oral history, is there anything that needs to be brought out that we're forgetting.

Nitz: No. Just the basic stuff. I think we've pretty well already covered.

Presley: For Pioneer days too. Because we're going to depend on you, even though you're not part of the Pioneer Association we're kind of depending on you to help us.

Nitz: I think we're doing pretty good.

Yriarte: I hope I don't have to do no talking. I would stutter and stammer and...

Presley: You've been doing it all the time here, so...

Yriarte: Well, this is different. In front of a big group...

Presley: What they do is it won't be you that will be doing the talking. But whatever the write-up is, you'll have to figure out someone in your family to do it for you. And you'll...

Yriarte: That General can do it, can't he?

Presley: That's true. And they'll just sit you... They'll put you in a chair. And of course, they'll put a corsage on you. And you'll have a little crown that you'll wear. And they'll get up and they'll tell about your history.

Yriarte: Yeah. He can do that, I think. I don't know who else. My sister is coming over. I don't know. Maybe the oldest boy will come too. He won't know what he's missing if he don't.

Arntz: That's right.

Presley: And other people there will have a chance to get up and say something, if they haven't-- something they want to add to the story or something.

Yriarte: Yeah. I've been through one or two but not very many. Yeah. I thought... But I'm better than I used to be. I used to... I would just freeze. I absolutely couldn't say nothing, just sit there. Just scared me to death. I don't know why. I know, one time we went to a school meeting... a school program. And my aunt told me... I don't know what it was now. She told me to say or sing something. I can't sing. But anyway, I couldn't even think of anything to even say. And Louis, bless his heart, he finally made up some

kind of a poem and he said it for me. So I didn't have to do that. But I was...I just froze. I just couldn't say nothing in front of those people.

Presley: Yeah. And I'll probably bring this up to Charlie. But he'll do, if he's going to be the one that's going to be your speaker for you, he'll introduce your family too...who all is there.

Yriarte: Oh, good. Uh huh. Okay.

Presley: And if you have anybody that wants to get up and entertain or sing or do anything, they can. Yeah.

Yriarte: Okay.

Presley: A lot of times, they have grandkids or something. And they'd get up and they'd do some little thing.

Yriarte: Yeah. That's pretty neat when that happens. You know, kids come up with some of the things you've forgotten and wished you had...wished they had forgotten. Well, it's an honor. It's a honor for me to do that.

Presley: And they're talking about discontinuing the Pioneer Association.

Yriarte: Are they?

Presley: Yeah. And we're kind of balking on that a little bit. And next year is the hundredth, isn't it?

Arntz: Yep.

Presley: Yep. So we're hoping they stay at least until the hundredth.

Yriarte: Yeah. That would be nice. They need to do that.

Nitz: I know one thing I was going to ask you. Have you ever heard of the Hughet Valley up north on the forest?

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: Do you know anything about that, who it's named for?

Yriarte: Not very much. That was I think my...I think my Aunt Esther was the one that...How did she get that? I don't remember. I think it was her though. Either her or Mildred. But I think... But I don't know anything about it. I don't.

Nitz: I know I've been up there before. I was just curious.

Yriarte: I don't know how to answer that because I don't know nothing about it much. But that's who it was. I know it was my family...part of my family that done that, so...

Pruitt: But maybe it comes from the Isaac. It might come from Isaac.

Yriarte: No. It was either... Who did I say?

Nitz: Esther?

Yriarte: Esther. I think it was either Esther or Mildred. I'm not sure. I don't know how they...I don't know how they acquired it. I don't.

Pruitt: See. And I'll bet it came from him, Isaac.

Yriarte: Uh...

Pruitt: Because he had a lot of property.

Yriarte: Yeah. He had property up there too, huh? You know more than I do.

Pruitt: I don't know for sure. I don't know for sure.

Nitz: Did you ever spend much time on the forest?

Yriarte: No, hmm um. We never run our cattle there. We run them out on the desert back here by Iron Mountain and that area. And they'd go sometimes clear to Lakeview, some of them would. It just depended on what direction they'd go. But most of the time they stayed in their area of use because of they water and that sort of thing. Did a lot of buckarooing out that way. Long days, some days, out there.

Arntz: Oh, I'll bet. It was a long, long ways. A lot of country out there.

Yriarte: Yes, there is.

Pruitt: Well, it says that Isaac, after he moved to Warm Springs---

Yriarte: That's here.

Pruitt: Yeah. He had an estate of about 1,200 acres.

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. Yeah. I'm sure. There's a... Well, he acquired a lot of property. Like I said, when all the Hughets got put together and divided up, that took up a lot of their property, you know, that way. And then my dad bought quite a bit of property from different ones of his sister and brothers. So keep that together kind of in the valley, you know.

Nitz: So does anybody else in the family still ranch in this area anymore?

Yriarte: No. Hmm um. No, I'm the only one. And I'm not sure that there was even any opening or if they even had money enough to buy anything. The property that my folks did have and homesteaded was... We called it the Johnson Place. Steve Olson, you know? You know Steve Olson, don't you, Dr...Dr. Steve Olson?

Arntz: I've heard of him.

Yriarte: Have you?

Arntz: I didn't know him.

Yriarte: Well anyway, he bought it.

Arntz: He's the one that got in trouble with the hospital, wasn't it?

Yriarte: Yeah. Uh huh.

Arntz: I didn't know him. But I read about him. It told about him.

Yriarte: Yeah. He was here awhile back. And I went out with Louis...Charlie and I out to Iron Mountain. He worked all day, helping him with putting the solar pumps and everything up. He just... I took a lunch. And he enjoyed it.

Arntz: One of these is Dr. Brown's house, isn't it?

Yriarte: Yeah. Right here next door, um hmm. That was my grandmother's place. She's the one... They were the ones... These were the ones that had that.

Arntz: Okay. John said something the other day at coffee, when we were down there. And the other place was whose, where the other house is?

Yriarte: Hurlburt.

Arntz: Okay.

Yriarte: The next one down is Hurlburt's, yeah. And then the last one was ours. But my dad bought that from Phil Smith was his name. That's where we acquired that.

Nitz: Are any of the old original houses still standing, like the Hurlburt place or yours?

Yriarte: Oh, no, not that Hurlburt place. I'll tell you what. And I ain't got no good name for that man. Absolutely do not have any respect for him. Bill Peila, I have no respect for him whatsoever. He bought Hurlburt's place, all of that property. And he didn't want to pay taxes on it. So he goes in there with a boomerang, or whatever you call it, and just

literally tore the buildings, every house, barn, everything. He just literally obliterated it, just tore them all to pieces. So I don't have any respect for him.

Arntz: Yeah, he bought that just not too many years ago.

Presley: Last year.

Yriarte: Right.

Presley: Last year.

Yriarte: Was it last year?

Presley: Jim and I came out. I went to school with Jim. Him and his one daughter showed up and visited awhile. And they were signing the papers last year to...

Yriarte: Was it?

Presley: Yeah. They were leasing it before that.

Yriarte: Yes, they were. Uh huh.

Presley: Then they bought it.

Yriarte: Yeah. Yeah. Because I know he had...He had control of it for long than just a year. But---

Arntz: Yeah, I did some work for Bill over here on some...dug out some old culverts and put the new in. And I took my backhoe down there and parked so it was away from the road, you know. And the buildings were still there then. And I was kind of looking today. I haven't been out here for quite awhile.

Yriarte: No. Even the dog house he tore up.

Nitz: Oh, my gosh.

Yriarte: I was going to go get the dog house and make a little chicken coop. But they even tore that up. Oh, my. I don't know. Like I say though---

Arntz: Well, the taxes couldn't have been that much on it, could they? Holy Smoke.

Yriarte: They weren't.

Nitz: Probably cost more to tear it down.

Yriarte: They weren't. They're just cheap.

Presley: Well, the main house that Jim and them lived in, that big poplar tree right there fell down across the house after that high water was in here.

Yriarte: Yeah. But it didn't really hurt the house.

Presley: No. It just broke the roof. But it didn't hurt the house.

Yriarte: Yeah. Well, and then that one side over there by the creek, the porch, wasn't it, that... Yeah, it broke the... It wasn't by the creek. It was this one this side, wasn't it? Yeah. Broke it in a little bit.

Presley: Yeah. It was like that when I was there.

Presley: Yeah.... different directions.

Yriarte: But I don't know. That was history to me. And anything that's history, it just irks me when somebody... Well, it's just like somebody went out... And I put a little piece in the paper about them, yanking the boards off of our cellar out there at Iron Mountain.

Arntz: Yes. I remember reading that.

Yriarte: Yeah. They just went and ripped all the boards off.

Presley: Did they want them for keepsakes?

Arntz: Well, they had brands on it, didn't it?

Yriarte: Yeah. It had my dad's name, my mom's name. A lot of the old timers here in the, their names were all wrote on that. And they ripped that off of there and took it home. I thought that's not very nice of you guys.

Arntz: No, it wasn't.

Presley: Go check your sister's place? No.

Yriarte: Oh....yoddely yoddely whoo. Yeah.

Nitz: Are there any other old homesteads still left around here that you know of?

Yriarte: No. No, just the Moon place, Sizemore place. I think there's still a...I think there's still a house standing down there. And that would be where Helen and Virgil Moon used to live. And then Mrs. Sizemore, she lived in the big house. And let's see. I think those are the only two houses. I think they're still standing. I'm pretty sure they are.

Nitz: Are there any stone buildings that you remember ever seeing out here?

Yriarte: You know, she was showing me those stone buildings where my aunts are standing up against it. And I do not know where that is. I don't know. I haven't got a clue as to where that should be. Unless it's maybe some place like the Narrows or somewhere else. I don't know.

Arntz: That could be, I suppose.

Pruitt: Yeah, it could be the Narrows.

Presley: How did you get along with the refuge, alright?

Yriarte: Yeah. We got along fine with them. Yeah, we've never had any problems with them. In fact, they gave me... After I run out of cattle, they gave me four years yet if I wanted to get back in the business to have the property back. So I thought that was pretty nice of them. So I must have... must have had a good reputation with them. I don't know.

Presley: They didn't try to confiscate your property like they did some of the ranches.

Yriarte: No. Hmm um. They sure didn't. Whose ranches?

Presley: Several people have lost their ranches.

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. Well, Hammonds is... Hammonds is one.

Presley: Well, McEwen lost his place out there, you know?

Yriarte: No, I didn't know that.

Presley: Years ago.

Yriarte: Oh, years ago?

Presley: Yeah.

Arntz: Well, my grandpa, south of Saddle Butte, they got that place.

Nitz: Everything right around there.

Arntz: Yep.

Presley: Well, then they just---

Yriarte: They wanted that water, huh?

Presley: Then they moved that lake back and then that next property become confiscated.

Nitz: Yeah. Lake front property.

Presley: Yeah, where they stopped.

Arntz: That's it.

Yriarte: Well, Charlie used to live out there at Buena Vista and worked for the refuge for quite a while.

Arntz: Oh, yeah.

Yriarte: He kind of knew what was going on out there. He done a lot of good with them. Trying to think... I never had any problem with them, I guess I could I say.

Nitz: Do you still have cattle?

Yriarte: No. No. I sold my cattle when I...in 2008, I think. How many years ago was that? I sold them all because I just couldn't take care of them.

Presley: Are you leasing your place out now?

Yriarte: Yeah. Yeah, for... This will be the last year to him anyway... to Chance Peila. Yeah. So... I have some problems there too. You know, when you're dealing with people, sometimes you never know what you're going to get into. Anyway, I got it leased to him until... for the end of next May. So he's got a whole year to go. Charlie gave it to him another year. Oh, well, I'll give you another year Chance. I said, oh, good for you, Charlie. You didn't ask me. Yeah.

Presley: Spanking time again.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: Ground him.

Yriarte: Yeah, wow. I'll tell you what, you know, you get to trusting people and thinking they're okay. And that's alright. I'd rather trust somebody than not. I figure it's easier to get along with them if you can trust them. But he kind of started pulling some funny things that was not good. So, he'll eventually have his turn at it someplace down the line, I always figure, you know. You're recording all of this? I hope you don't get me in trouble. Well...

Yriarte: Yeah. Yeah. Oh, yeah. You know, we went... We had a cow. Well, we didn't. But Cliff Fine did. And Norman Warneke was at the Double O, lived up there, he and his wife, not so wonderful people. But anyway, he come down the road and there was a cow having a calf. And there was five coyotes on her. And they were eating the rectum and her tail and her hind leg. They were all of them on her, eating that little baby and all the outside of her. So anyway, he had to kill her, you know. So Sally Fine, Cliff Fine's daughter, her and I declared war on coyotes. So we went hunting coyotes. And I think we killed five that day just hunting them. And a crippled one. We were in a Jeep. And it had...didn't have...It just had the top on them and no doors and stuff. And so anyway, I think we got five. And one coyote, we had to chase it down. So she ran over it. Was running after it to...to get it stopped. I couldn't shoot because I was going to shoot the Jeep. And so anyway, we got it...She got on top of it. And he reached up and grabbed the spring shackle, right underneath us. And I couldn't get him loose. I couldn't shoot him, couldn't do nothing. And that coyote hung on there for the longest time. Finally, got a...I think it was the jack handle. And I finally got him tapped on the nose. I could reach down there. And he finally turned loose. And then he took off. And we done a lot of coyote hunting. That was kind of...Well, I thought it was neat at that time. But it's killing stuff, you know?

But anyway, that same day we were hunting them coyotes. And we wounded one. And he ran out into the field. And this old cow took after him. And she had her head down a belling and a bawling at him. And he reached up and grabbed her right alongside the neck. And she flung her head up there. And that coyote was a hanging on. And she finally...She finally gave him a big flip over her head. And the coyote took off in the...into the tules. We had to go into the tules to get that coyote. But we had to laugh. That looked so funny, that coyote a hanging onto to her neck. And she was a charging around there, trying to get rid of that coyote. Boy, he was hanging on for dear life. Oh, yeah, me and coyotes had a lot of...a lot of say so around here.

I had an old dog. We did. My dad did. We called him Bingo. And that dog would take after a single coyote and kill the single coyote. But we had an old cow that was...No, not at that time. The coyotes was coming in after him. And he'd run up there and try to get one which he could kill by himself, if he had one. By the time they got through the fence and into the brush, here he come back. And it was five coyotes a waiting for him. And he come running toward home. And just ahead of a nip...He'd just get ahead of a nip and they'd just be reaching for him. And they was going to...If they could have got him, they'd have killed him, you know. But they were waiting for him. Now, talk about intelligent animals. They knew. Yeah.

Presley: I've heard a lot of people talk about coyotes luring a dog out and have others ready, you know.

Yriarte: Yeah. Yeah, they did. They were a waiting for him, so...They just run him up there. Oh, Bingo, he was really a running. Of course, I couldn't help him then. Couldn't shoot at anything, you know? Well, I didn't then. I don't know why. I just

didn't...wasn't shooting at anything then. But they sure... I was letting him do all the killing.

Nitz: What kind of a dog was he?

Yriarte: Kind of a hound. Yeah. Yeah. I think he was...He wasn't like a big, long hound. He was just kind of a mixture of hound and stock dog. He was pretty blocky built though. But a Bingo he was. Yeah. I was trying to think what other was...

Oh, and then a story. This is not coyotes. There are so many things, you know, that you find and see. Of course we had...I'll get to them too, pretty soon. But I had...I was watering the lawn right out here one day. I was right over on the side of the house. The water was running out of the hose. And I was just standing there letting that water run. Instead of sprinkling, I was just letting it run. And I looked down and here comes this snake. Put his head in the grass and stick his tongue out. Come a little further. Head in the grass. And he came probably about like that from me. And he finally was getting into more moisture all the time. And he come right in front of me like this. I was standing there watching him where the water was running out. And he stuck his head in that water. And he drank water, just like a cow would drink water.

Arntz: Yeah. I've seen that.

Yriarte: And that's the first time I ever seen that. Isn't that something?

Arntz: Yeah. Yeah, I was surprised the first time I seen something like that too. I wasn't...didn't know how they did that.

Yriarte: I don't either. But they just drank it, just like a cow. Just suck it in and swallow, suck it in and swallow.

Arntz: Um hmm. Yeah. You could see them, just actually swallow.

Presley: Now, I heard John...Young Johnny Ebar told me a story the other day. And that's a fisherman's story. He said he was up there at Twin Springs on Stinkingwater several years back. He said they were fishing. And there just water snakes all over in there. He says every time you'd hook a fish and drag it in, he said the snakes would be attached to your fish. He says they got so they were hooking their tails around the tules so you couldn't pull your fish in.

Arntz: I'll be darned.

Presley: I said that's a fisherman's story.

Yriarte: John, are you sure you're telling the truth? That's hard to believe, isn't it?

We had that John from the time he was seven years old when Louis and I first got married. Father-in-law, John Junior...or Senior gave us his car to go on our honeymoon. Little John, he gets in the back seat. And that's where he was going to go on that honeymoon with us. Had kind of a hard time getting him out of there. He was going to go anyway. Yeah. He was... We had him an awful lot. He was fun to have. I don't know what Louis' mother would have done without me babysitting him. But he wasn't a baby. He was just so fun to just be around, you know, young man...young kid. Yeah, we had a lot of fun with John.

But one time we did take him to California in our Jeep. And the Jeep didn't have no...only just canvas sideboards. And he rode back there all the way to California. We had a lot of fun out there. Yeah, he enjoyed it. Didn't mind him at all. Didn't mind being back there in the wind. We all had wind with that, you know.

Arntz: Oh, yeah.

Yriarte: You know we had a lot of...a lot of good times with that young man. He'd come out and stay with us. And I think Louis' mother was so happy that somebody was taking care of John.

Presley: She was pretty busy, wasn't she?

Yriarte: Oh, awful busy in that hotel.

Arntz: Hotel, yeah.

Yriarte: Isn't that a shame that that hotel has went to rot?

Arntz: Yeah. I think it's got water damage clear down through it now.

Presley: The upper windows are broke out. And I see pigeons flying in and out of there.

Yriarte: Do you?

Presley: Something is living in there.

Nitz: Is that the Central Hotel?

Presley: Yeah. Um hmm.

Yriarte: Well, and look at all that furniture and stuff in there. I don't know what they done with that furniture. But I mean they had old time desks like this in there.

Presley: Thompsons.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Presley: Yeah, they're using it for storage. They were going to make a bed and breakfast out of it. But they never got it done.

Yriarte: Oh.

Arntz: And they also wanted...in A.S.C.S. office. Ferris Fenton built the one that's there. They wanted to move that office in the back. They put the bid on it. But it's in the flood plain. So that kind of nixed that idea for them. Whatever.

Yriarte: Well anyway, that's sad to see that hotel go like that. I think that hotel was built in about 1940. I'm not sure. But I think it was about 1940 that that was built. I don't know whether Papa John...I don't think he had built...I don't know if he built it.

Presley: I did an oral history with John's mother, years ago. And according to her he did have it built.

Nitz: It wasn't Ebar that had it built.

Yriarte: Oh, you talked to who?

Presley: John's mother.

Yriarte: Oh, Josie?

Presley: Yeah. I did an interview with her a number of years ago. And she said that he had it built.

Yriarte: Built, okay. Yeah. Well, I didn't know for sure. I couldn't remember whether he had it built or what...or whether he bought it. He had it built though.

Presley: He had it built.

Yriarte: Okay.

Nitz: So this would have been Louis' mother and stepfather?

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah. Yeah. Oh, I loved that old man. He was so sweet, such a good man.

Arntz: They rent out apartments up there too, didn't they?

Presley: Yeah.

Arntz: That's what I thought.

Yriarte: Oh, did they?

Presley: Oh, yeah.

Arntz: You see, I thought Marguerite Osa... Do you remember her? Didn't she live there, I thought?

Yriarte: No.

Arntz: Oh, she didn't?

Yriarte: No. They had the other hotel up there going up Egan hill.

Arntz: Yes.

Nitz: The Commercial.

Yriarte: Yeah, the Commercial, she had that... Margarita did.

Arntz: Oh, okay.

Presley: I did a little thing with Ray Weeks. And he said when he first came here... He came from Lakeview with a Model T.

Yriarte: Oh, did he?

Presley: Had a million Model Ts...I mean a million flat tires. But he was going to be the bookkeeper for Archie McGowan. And he stayed at the Central.

Yriarte: Oh, he did.

Presley: He just had to walk across the street, yeah.

Yriarte: Oh, that's interesting. I'll be darned.

Presley: He said he ate there and stayed there because they cooked meals there.

Yriarte: Huh.

Nitz: So what was the hotel like inside? What do you remember about it?

Yriarte: Well, all I know is just like a living quarter, the kitchen and the bedrooms...two bedrooms...two bedrooms downstairs and the hallway. And of course, the...

Presley: They had a little barber shop and a pool hall in there for a time.

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. That was right next door, wasn't it? Yeah. Yeah. And yeah, the pool hall... The barber shop was between the pool hall and the hotel, wasn't it?

Presley: I don't remember. I just knew they were in there.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: Was it pretty fancy inside or pretty plain or do you remember?

Yriarte: Oh, no. I don't think that you would call it fancy. It was just put together...

Nitz: Well, I've heard that like the woodwork and stuff was really nice.

Yriarte: Well, the upstairs, room upstairs.

Presley: They had two barber chairs in there. And John's boys got them...Joe and young John.

Yriarte: I got one.

Presley: You got one? There must have been three in there then.

Yriarte: Yeah, I've got one.

Presley: And they had a little shoe shine stand in there for several shoes. And the museum has one of them now. I gave it to them through John.

Yriarte: Yeah. Well, I think this one is still setting up here at the shop. I've got it covered it up with the boxes and stuff. But that's where it needs to be. I don't need it, you know. But Louis wanted it. No, you're taking that home. Okay. So if you want it, I guess it's yours to take. So he did. He got one of them.

But no, that's kind of interesting that...That pool hall, you could go from pool hall right on in to the kitchen in the back room, on the back side back there.

Nitz: So I don't remember ever reading whatever happened with that building, when they quit running it or how it ever became vacant and empty.

Presley: Well, John's mother lived there clear up until she passed away.

Arntz: Yeah. I remember her in the back outside when I was little.

Presley: And one of John's nephews lived there too with her for a long time.

Arntz: Oh, Duane.

Presley: Duane Morgan.

Yriarte: Yeah, I always called him Morgan.

Nitz: When did they stop running it as a hotel?

Arntz: Well, he was living... Oh, that I wouldn't know.

Presley: I don't remember.

Arntz: John would know.

Presley: Yeah.

Yriarte: Yeah, Johnny probably would know. Yeah. Yeah, he would know.

But...we had a hard time keeping up with kitty-cats. All the time, our little kitty-cats would...something would happen. They'd disappear.

Arntz: They had that Chinese place right next door.

Yriarte: That is where they went.

Arntz: And you thought Mike Yee's...

Presley: Well, probably old Quong Yee you know?

Yriarte: I'll tell you what, you know, Duane he come by there. He heard this cat meowing. And he looked and he looked. Kept a listening. He heard that cat because it had been missing him. And so he went down in the basement. I don't know how he went...I don't know...I don't know how they go down in that basement anymore. But anyway, he got down in there. They were going to... They were going to eat that cat. That's where they all come up missing, you know?

Presley: Well, you know...

Yriarte: We thought we was having chicken dinner a lot.

Arntz: That's right. You thought you were having chicken chow mein.

Presley: It turns into pork chow mein.

Yriarte: Yeah, that's right. Oh, my gosh. Yeah. She had a hard time keeping her kitty-cats, you know. And I'll bet that was where they went...until Morgan found out that...I always call him Morgan not Duane. I always called him Morgan. Until he found out that that's where those cats was going. He found them down in the basement, you know. And they had them. But he got that one saved, so... From then, they had to be careful with their kitty-cats. Oh.

Nitz: You can start having dogs, I guess.

Yriarte: Well, you know, they don't...I guess they got a different way of looking at what they eat than I do.

Presley: Most people all over the world eat things that we don't eat.

Yriarte: Yeah, I know. That would not make me feel too good.

Arntz: In fact, I was just reading – I don't remember where it was – but about ant eggs. They was raising ants. And they were a certain variety. I don't know what kind. But they were actually harvesting the eggs from these.

Yriarte: Yeah. One of the neighbors... Somebody dumped it off.

Arntz: I guess they were--

Yriarte: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Nothing that anybody didn't want for cats, they'd dump them off here. And you know, they set there. And they look at you. And they're hungry. And I can't not feed them. And I shouldn't feed them, but---

Presley: They've got you trained.

Yriarte: I know they do. You're right.

Nitz: Word gets around.

Yriarte: But anyway---

Pruitt: You could get a good meal there.

Yriarte: Well, you've got that right.

Arntz: Yeah, fatten him up.

Yriarte: Oh, my word. Yeah. Funny, funny. Oh, dear me.

Presley: When you were kids, you didn't try to eat crows or anything like that, did you? Because all kids like experimenting.

Yriarte: No. Sparrows though. Yeah.

Presley: Do they taste like a crow?

Yriarte: No, they tasted pretty good. They were good though.

Presley: How many sparrows did it take to get a meal?

Yriarte: I don't remember that. But you know, they'd get in the granary down there. And you could just get all you wanted.

Presley: Fat sparrows, huh?

Nitz: Corn fed.

Yriarte: Yeah. They tasted like chicken, when they're little.

Presley: A little chicken.

Nitz: Do you guys ever eat rattlesnake? Have you ever tried that?

Yriarte: No. I never did. I never did want to either. My dad did. He said it was different. But he says I'll never eat any more.

Nitz: A bit tougher.

Yriarte: Well, I don't know.

Presley: Probably more like cat.

Yriarte: He said he was kind of like a...kind of chicken flavor like stuff. But I think he was with the Masons. And they got some of them rattlesnakes. And that's where they started eating...where they ate some of them.

Presley: That was something that Don Higgins did. He had the rattlesnake cocktails all the time.

Yriarte: Did he?

Presley: For the Masons.

Yriarte: Oh, yeah. Uh huh. Well, that's where he got them then.

Presley: Yeah. That was something they did when they had their cave meeting all the time is they had rattlesnake cocktails.

Yriarte: They did.

Presley: Yeah. Don, that was one of his specialties.

Yriarte: I don't think I care much---

Nitz: You'd definitely have to mix it with something.

Presley: Yeah.

Yriarte: Well, what did he... Do you know how he cooked them?

Presley: I think he boiled them. I'm not sure.

Yriarte: Did he?

Presley: Yeah. And he just fleshed them out. And they just had them in a little cocktail thing with a little lettuce. And there was rattlesnake meat and then some cocktail sauce on top. Maybe it was like it was shrimp.

Arntz: I can't imagine... You'd think that that would just stink in your house. You know how some things, when you're boiling up in the house, they just got a different odor than if you're frying them.

Yriarte: But you know, they don't smell. I've skinned several of them.

Arntz: Oh, I never have. I've killed a lot of them. But that's enough.

Yriarte: Well, I had some kids from college come up with Harlan. And they wanted me to skin rattlesnakes. So they got this rattlesnake. But I told them, I don't care whether it's dead or not, be careful of the fangs because if you get a fang in your... you're just the same as bit. But anyway, they brought it down. And they wanted me to skin it. And they wanted the hide. So I did. I'd do anything, you know, that wasn't out of line. And that snake had eight babies inside of her.

Nitz: Oh, my word.

Yriarte: Yeah. So they... They're born.

Presley: And they were alive?

Yriarte: No. They weren't alive at that time. But no, I didn't... You know, I didn't realize that that they were born.

Arntz: Well, when you did the snake... I've heard this. If you put it right on a board, it's just like they're glued.

Yriarte: It is very sticky.

Arntz: That's what I've heard.

Yriarte: Yeah. You can... Yeah, you can put it on a board. And it's just like glue. You're right.

Arntz: That's what I've heard.

Yriarte: Yeah. Well, there's a lot of – I don't know – things that you wonder about. So I've had the opportunity to look into a lot, you know. And I was never squeamish as far as that goes. But that was kind of different. But those kids, they wanted to... I don't know what they done. They just wanted the hide, I think.

Arntz: Oh, yeah.

Presley: They make hat bands and all kinds of things out of them.

Arntz: One time here a few years ago we kind of inherited this job. Edie Nicoche called and wanted to know, would you... We've had some people back out. And we've got some of these... They were on the 4-H deal. It was kids from Japan. So we got one for... I think it was a week. Eleven years old, didn't speak a word of English. And we had him. My boy had a big... fairgrounds. So we went down there one evening. And the caretaker just had a little bitty pup, a little cow dog puppy. And that little boy was deathly afraid of them dogs. Because I guess dogs in Japan, they run in packs I guess. And anyway, that dog was a playing with that boy and had him backed right into a corner. Of course, that puppy, he thought he was a playing with him because he was a standing there, standing and a squealing and a waving his arms. And that puppy keep a jumping up and down. But I gave him rattlesnake rattles to take back home there with him. He lived on the thirteenth floor of an apartment building in Nagoya. I guess it's the second largest City in Japan.

We went to a concert. Don had some people come in down at the fairgrounds. I can't remember. It was an old rock-n-roll group. Anyway, doesn't matter. We got home. It was probably about ten o'clock. And the sky was crystal clear. Got out and---

Yriarte: Is this still in Burns?

Arntz: Yes. Got out of the pickup. And he, ohhh, he'd never seen stars like that in that city, you know, with all the lights and that.

Presley: Lights and smog.

Arntz: That was something.

Yriarte: I'll be darned.

Presley: My sister had two girls. And they were raised in... in Germany and England. And the same way there. They were both teenage girls. And we took them up on Hart Mountain, fishing. That's when the water was so high in the 80's. And the lakes were all... Warner Valley was all just one big lake. And we went up to the hot spring at night,

about midnight. And of course, there's no top on it. And it's like the sky was just crystal clear. And you're high anyway. And you can see those girls had never seen stars before, neither one of them.

Yriarte: Is that right?

Presley: Yeah.

Arntz: I don't doubt that.

Yriarte: Huh. Oh, that's something.

Presley: There's something about being in this country seeing stars all the time. And they just never did.

Nitz: They're prettier here than anywhere.

Yriarte: Yeah. I'll bet that was awesome to them.

Presley: Yeah.

Arntz: When the dairy was still going, could you see the lights from that thing from here?

Yriarte: Yeah. I think I did.

Arntz: I figured you probably could.

Yriarte: See, they would be this way.

Arntz: Oh, okay. I thought it would be down this way.

Yriarte: Well, actually... Well, just kind of where the corner of my house would be pointing that way over toward the dairy.

Arntz: Oh, okay.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Nitz: Do you ever remember going out to the old Newell house, the one they called the haunted house, with the two peaks?

Yriarte: I never went in the house. I've been by it I don't know how many times. But my dad always took cattle over. Jones' had... Lawrence Jones and... I can't even say his name. It's slipped my mind. But anyway, he'd take cattle. He had a permit in the mountains, Blue Mountains up there by Burns, for 150 head of cattle. And he'd take

them. And he'd have stay over right there at that Dog Mountain. And so that's where I got to know about that house.

Nitz: Did you ever hear any stories about that house that you remember?

Yriarte: No. Hmm um. If I did hear about them, I never paid no attention to them because I figured it was a bunch of hooley.

Presley: Most of them were, yeah.

Nitz: Well, it kind of got the reputation as being a haunted house.

Yriarte: Oh, yes. It did. No. I don't think... I think every---

Nitz: I've never actually heard any stories, other than people called it that.

Yriarte: No, wouldn't be no haunted...It was because somebody wanted it to be haunted and scared them...was about all that would be. Yeah. But that's how things get started, you know.

Nitz: I know. I am learning that.

Yriarte: Yeah. That...

Nitz: It's a neat house.

Yriarte: Yeah. I can't remember. Lawrence and Josie Jones...and Ted Jones, they lived over there. And they had availability. That was their property that that house was on.

Presley: Did you know the Koenemanns?

Yriarte: Yes, slightly.

Presley: Probably Ed Koenemann, huh?

Yriarte: Yeah. Ed Koenemann, yeah. Uh huh. Yeah, Ed Koenemann. In fact, I had a dog. I didn't know what to do with that dog. And so they...It was border collie, and mostly border collie and collie was what the dog was. And so, they needed to get rid of the dog. And I ended up getting it. And I don't know how I ended up getting that dog, but I did. And the dog was so smart. It was such a smart, smart dog. And it would go with us with the cows. It learned how to do things on its own with those cows. So it was more like a collie, just like a pretty collie, you know. And she'd go with us. She had puppies. And I forget who it was that I'd given some puppies to. And they said those were the smartest dogs they ever had. They just took right to knowing what to do around cattle. And they wanted more of them. And I was, well, I didn't know if I could raise any more.

Nitz: Duplicate that.

Yriarte: Right. Yes. But she had good puppy dogs.

Pruitt: Does this get...have a higher water level here?

Presley: He's got a dam out here. If he has a dam, it will pass up. But he's got a dam down there.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Presley: What did he say that the flow was an hour. It was thousands of gallons.

Nitz: It was a lot.

Presley: Thousands of gallons an hour.

Pruitt: Like seven thousand.

Nitz: There was a seven in there somewhere.

Presley: Yeah. A lot of water flow.

Arntz: Holy Smoke.

Yriarte: Seven thousand gallons a minute.

Presley: A minute, that's what it was. Yeah.

Nitz: Amazing.

Yriarte: Yeah.

Presley: Yeah. It's a big spring.

Arntz: Wow.

Yriarte: It has slowed down though. And I think why is all of the aquifers have been drained from all of those wells and stuff people are pumping. And I know that it can drain the aquifer, all of those wells. I don't know what's going to take place if somebody don't---

Arntz: That's what I've wondered too. The county, you know, if they're going to put a moratorium. You'd think they would because they're just...Every month or week in the paper, there are more.

Nitz: Drilling new wells.

Yriarte: They're going to... Somebody better kind of wake up a little.

Arntz: You know, they did that in Christmas Valley until it was almost too late.

Yriarte: I didn't know that.

Arntz: Yes. Yeah.

Yriarte: Well, they'd better do something about it. Well, I know Geren Moon, one of the first thing... He lost one well over there because of those pivots. He lost one pivot, in fact.

Presley: Well, there's a lot of people out in the valley, they've had to sink their house wells, two or three times, deeper because they just went dry.

Yriarte: Yeah?

Presley: Yeah. Surrounded by the pivots.

Nitz: The county is probably making money off the permits and whatnot. So they issue as many as they can.

Arntz: I don't know if the county gets any of that.

Nitz: I bet they do.

Arntz: You may be right. I have no idea. I know that's a state agency that runs that. So I don't know.

Yriarte: Who's that that... You mean the---

Arntz: The water master deal, that's a state deal. You apply for your permits through the state.

Nitz: I'm sure the county gets money.

Presley: I'll bet the county gets some money off that.

Nitz: They wouldn't be doing it if they didn't.

Yriarte: Well, I'll tell you what, I think we applied, finally, for a permit off of this. And I hope it will work. Because you don't know. You don't know when somebody is going to come in and condemn you and say you can't use that water down there.

Arntz: Well, that's a fact.

Yriarte: The state.

Presley: Well, if this is feeding part of the refuge, you might not be able to.

Yriarte: I know. Well, it does. Well, not only this. But there's another one from---

Presley: ...Double O's next spring too. They might condemn this one.

Arntz: Does this water reach down there that...? Does it go all the way down?

Yriarte: It goes into the lake. Yeah.

Presley: The spring there at the Double O comes this way.

Yriarte: Yeah. All of it comes down.

Presley: And it's a huge water.

Yriarte: You cross the canal. You know over there at Silver Creek bridge, that canal over there, that's from back up there at that spring. And then another one, as you come down this way, is the Basco Springs. We call it the Basco Springs. But I forget what the name of that one is up at the Double O. Double O Spring, I guess. Anyway, they got so that, when Forest Cameron was here, they wasn't wanting anybody to have any water.

Arntz: Oh, yeah.

Yriarte: And so they were trying to pack it all the way back up to where Marshall's live. You know, that's not good. You back that water up, just so deep, and it finds another way to get out from underground.

Arntz: Oh, yeah.

Yriarte: Yeah, that was---

Pruitt: A lot of common sense.

Nitz: It's time to run for office.

Yriarte: Yeah, sure. That's all you need, have me in for office some place.

Presley: Just park your shotgun by you. They'd listen to you.

Yriarte: Yeah, they would.

Pruitt: The teachers would. Boy, they'd put it right down on the desk, you know, and willow sticks.

Yriarte: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Well, there's a lot of things that you learn. Well, I've got a lot to learn even yet, if I live long enough, you know. There's always something to learn. Yeah.

Nitz: What kinds of things have changed the most, since you've lived here?

Yriarte: I don't know that anything has changed, except the people. And the people have changed. They're not friendly people like they used to be. I got one really neat neighbor down here now. His name...And he's a young man. And let's see, I don't know how old he is. But he's not very old. He and his wife and little boy, they live down here now. It used to be my grandma's place, right here. And he is such a neat kid. He's just such a neat, neat person. And you don't very often get them that neat, you know. But he lived here by himself.

Him and his dad had kind of battled at one another. And so he just moved in down here. And he just kind of withdrew. You didn't know he was even around. And I felt bad for him because I thought, you know, that's not good for a young man to just kind of withdraw from nature...from everybody, you know, from society. And I don't know how it was I got him to come up here. And we had dinner. And we had breakfast and had lunch and stuff like that. I'd have him come up and eat. I kind of got used to him.

So anyway, I had a bunch of heifers that I had to calve out. And this is something I'd never done before. And I thought, well, you know, it's nice to have all of these babies all about the same age. And then they...It makes it a more even sale bunch, you know, when you get them all put together. So I decided I'd do that. And Louis never had no say to it because I'd have done it anyway. But had to, you know. Well, he wouldn't help me with the cattle anyway.

Nitz: Yeah, somebody's got to take care of them.

Yriarte: So I decided that I was going to have all of these little babies. And sure enough, when it come time to calve out, well, Louis, you got a little more problem sometimes than you expect. But anyway, Louis said, I'm not going to help you. You got that job, you put up with it. You can take care of it because I'm not going to help you. And DJ was here, this boy down here. He says, well, if he won't, Doris, *I'll* help you. I mean he just said I'll help you. That's just the way he was, you know.

Arntz: What's his last name?

Yriarte: Brown.

Arntz: Oh, okay.

Yriarte: Uh huh. Yeah, DJ Brown. And so he says I'll take the night watch so you don't have to get up. And he come up on his four-wheeler. He'd take the night watch. And if we had any problems, he'd call me on the phone. I'll call you on the phone so I don't scare you, you know, when it comes to getting out of bed if I need you. So he called me a couple of times. And we had...had to have...Finally had to have Geren Moon come and help us one night. And the reason why is because that heifer buffaloes me and buffaloes...She hit me once...and just slammed me into the gate. And I still got one knee I'm hobbling around with because she just closed the gate on me. I didn't think she'd hit me, you know, getting in behind that gate. But she did. She hit the gate...and just closed me up in that gate. I just didn't think she'd do that.

Arntz: Put the squeeze on you, huh?

Yriarte: Yeah. But anyway, yeah. Finally, we had to have Geren Moon. I called him because she had DJ and me both buffaloes. I mean she'd hit ya, if ya could. And we couldn't get her in to where we could shut her up, to get that calve pulled.

So anyway, I finally called Geren. And I said, Geren, I'm having an awful time with this one heifer. So he says, I'll get over there and help you. So anyway, when he got up here, he got in there with her. She hit him. And he said, just go ahead and hit me. I'm not afraid of you. And he just rammed her around and put her where he wanted her. And he wasn't afraid of her. But see, I was scared of her. I'd get up on that fence and she'd hit the fence underneath me. So I was afraid of her. But she couldn't manhandle Geren like she did me.

But anyway, DJ helped me with calving out my heifers. So I gave him a heifer. And unfortunately, she had to have a caesarean. So I paid for the caesarian and everything. And it still was his cow. And so usually...The next time she had this calf. She went out and she had it before she was supposed to. She didn't have it and had trouble. And we lost her. So anyway, DJ lost his cow. And he lost his heifer. And so any---

Pruitt: She was a good one to get rid of.

Yriarte: Yes, she was. She did die too. Yeah, she died. Yeah. But anyway, so then I thought, well, maybe Louis is right. Maybe I better not have all those problems. So, yeah, quite a deal.

Presley: They're like people, aren't they?

Yriarte: Yeah, they are.

Pruitt: They are.

Yriarte: They all are kind of different.

Arntz: They've all got a personality of their own.

Yriarte: They do. Yeah, they sure do. Some of them just born to be mean. And some of them are happy, push them around, do anything you want. But no.. And then he lost her... We lost her. She had another calf and she died. Got out in the field. And I didn't think about her. But anyway, she tried to... She died of having a calf by herself and she should have had some more help. The caesarian... You know, once a caesarian, usually you've got to do it again. But we missed her. And so I said, DJ, I'm through giving you cows. And I'm through having heifers, so...

Nitz: That's the end of that.

Yriarte: Yeah. That's right.

Pruitt: And Louis won.

Yriarte: Yeah. Louis won. Right?

Arntz: Did your boys make these?

Yriarte: No. You know, my sister bought those at Hampton.

Presley: The sagebrush?

Yriarte: Uh huh.

Arntz: Well, that's what I thought they looked like sagebrush. That's why I thought, well, maybe they made them in high school or something.

Yriarte: No. I wasn't able to do that. I'd done other things besides something like that. I made those little chairs up there behind you.

Nitz: Really?

Yriarte: Yeah. I made those.

Presley: What are they made out of?

Yriarte: Just---

Presley: Wood, huh?

Yriarte: Uh huh. Just wood. Yeah.

Nitz: Who did your clock with the arrowheads on it?

Yriarte: Yeah, I made that too.

Nitz: That's cool. You did?

Presley: Oh, there's more arrowheads, huh?

Yriarte: Yeah. More arrowheads. Somebody tried to take one of there and broke the head off of it. And I think it was my grandson.

Presley: I wasn't me. I wasn't here then. It wasn't me.

Yriarte: It wasn't you, huh?

Yriarte: Yeah. Oh, yeah. You know something? All of you got to write your name down, so I won't forget. Oh, you going to put it on there?

Nitz: We've got papers we need you to sign too.

Yriarte: Oh.

Nitz: So that we can use the interview.

Presley: Anything that you've said you can't sue us for.

Yriarte: Now you tell me.

[End of Interview]