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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #486

Subject: Kathleen Wilber

Place: Harney County Library, Burns, Oregon

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Interviewer: Bill Wilber

BILL WILBER: So, this is Kathleen Wilber talking about her history and what she knows about Harney County and particularly about her family. So, let's start out, Mom, by telling us what you remember in the stories and all about when Jack Joyce came to the United States from Ireland – about when it was.

KATHLEEN WILBER: He came to the United States in 1902 from An Carn Mor, an area of Ireland in county Galway, and he came to Trenton, New Jersey where his aunt resided and he got a job working in the city building buildings and whatever, and he stayed-- I'm not real sure now how long he stayed there. I don't remember hearing that. But it was just long enough so he made enough money that he could buy a train ticket to The Dalles, Oregon where this... another aunt lived, which would be a sister to the one in Trenton. And they had a sheep business at The Dalles area so he came to The Dalles and went to work for his aunt and uncle. They owned property out-- I can't tell you which county it is but it's where... I presume it might be some of the property the Rajneeshies had and--

BILL: Out by Antelope?

KATHLEEN: Yeah. It's in the Antelope area.

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BILL: You told me one time when he was in this construction business that he had to carry what they called hod or mortar and it was an extremely difficult job for a person his size.

KATHLEEN: Yes, he was not a real large man and he decided quite early that was not the place for him.

BILL: Now, he came through Ellis Island as a legal immigrant and all?

KATHLEEN: Yes.

BILL: Do you recall any stories about traveling on the ship?

KATHLEEN: They came in steerage-- what they called steerage, which was kind of a-- not a very pleasant-- but I guess they had lots of fun and parties and everything going across this, but when I visited Ireland in 1991, I was standing out by his home where he was born and raised and visited with my-- he would have been my dad's grand-nephew—no great grandson. Great grandson. Anyway, I said, "Well how did he get from here to Cork?" because that's where the ships picked him up-- in Cork. And he said, "Well, he walked, of course!" and you know probably carried whatever he could on his back til he got on the ship to come to the United States.

BILL: Just packed a suitcase?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, mm-hmm.

BILL: His two aunts. Were they on his mother's side or his dad's side?

KATHLEEN: His dad's. They were Joyces.

BILL: And how long had they been in the United States?

KATHLEEN: I have no idea really, but probably quite a while. The aunt in The Dalles, where he finally came to, she had no children. They had no family. He worked for them for-- I'm not really sure how long but I would presume two or three years. He delivered a band of sheep to an old Irishman that lived on the ranch that the O'Toole family lives in Drewsey now own — his name was Pat

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Connolly. He delivered a band of sheep from his uncle to him.

BILL: Now, when you delivered, you trailed them?

KATHLEEN: You trailed them through the hills, yes, from probably Antelope to Drewsey.

BILL: Do you recall any stories about that?

KATHLEEN: Not really. I think I remember one story. He said some old gentleman he met along the way asked him, he said, "Well, you ever pick up any gold when you're coming through on these kinds of trips?" and my dad said "Yeah, I pick up a little every day." Anyway, he went on to Drewsey and when he got to Drewsey with the band of sheep he decided he didn't want to leave there. He was going to stay there. He took a job working with the sheep with this gentleman, Pat Connolly. That's how he ended up there.

BILL: About what year was that?

KATHLEEN: Well, he came to the country in 1902 so I would say it was probably about 1904, '05.

BILL: So, as I recall, he went back to Ireland though.

KATHLEEN: Well he worked for this Pat Connolly and that's when he became a citizen, and he had a-- took up a homestead up Cottonwood creek. That I still own.

BILL: Before he went back to Ireland?

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh.

BILL: On his initial trip here?

KATHLEEN: Yes,

BILL: Now what year was that?

KATHLEEN: Well, he proved up on that homestead in 1914, I think it is. So he spent all those years working and also proving up on his homestead. 'Cause he didn't go--I'm not sure really when he made the first trip back to Ireland. But he made one trip back and then he came back and worked, and

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then he made another trip back. That's when he found my mother—he met my mother in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

BILL: He stayed a couple years back in Ireland didn't he?

KATHLEEN: No.

BILL: I thought I recalled that he went back and stayed a year or so before he returned—before he came back to the United States

KATHLEEN: No, not that long. No, maybe several months—three or four months, but that would be all.

BILL: Did he ever talk about what it was like on the ship? In the steerage?

KATHLEEN: Not really. No. Not really.

BILL: So he homesteaded. And then on the third trip to Ireland?

KATHLEEN: Second trip

BILL: Is that when he met Katie Grealish?

KATHLEEN: In 1918 he made a second trip back and he met my mother at a party in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she was working. She was also from Ireland. She came from county Galway too, but from a different area from where my dad was from. They didn't know each other.

BILL: Having been there, how far apart in real terms is it? Not very far?

KATHLEEN: No, not really. Not after I went there. It was fairly close

BILL: Five miles?

KATHLEEN: Oh yeah. All that.

BILL: I can recall both places.

KATHLEEN: They weren't that far apart. In our today, with the transportation...

BILL: So, he met Katie at a party in Pittsburgh and then what happened?

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KATHLEEN: Well, they decided to get married and she came back to Oregon with him.

BILL: How long had she been in the United States?

KATHLEEN: I would say probably ten years because she worked for a family-- a wealthy family that owned one of these steel mills in Pittsburgh-- the Wainwright family. And she worked for them for eight years as a nanny, taking care of the children.

BILL: How old was she?

KATHLEEN: I don't know. Probably eighteen, nineteen.

BILL: When she got married to Jack how old was she?

KATHLEEN: Well, she would have been there eight years so she was close to thirty.

BILL: And how old was he?

KATHLEEN: He was probably forty.

BILL: So, he went back a third time to Ireland?

KATHLEEN: No, just the twice is all.

BILL: When did he bring his sister and

KATHLEEN: And her husband and son? Well, that was the second trip.

BILL: So he made three trips?

KATHLEEN: mm-hmm.

BILL: Talk about the second trip then.

KATHLEEN: That's when he brought them back. And that's when he got married.

BILL: Oh, so he didn't bring both of them on the second trip then?

KATHLEEN: I'm not real positive, but maybe it was the first trip he brought them out. That's right. She was his sister. And his brother-in-law. And their young son.

BILL: And the young son was?

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KATHLEEN: Mickey.

BILL: Mickey. Ok. And then later on, he sponsored his brother to come out too, didn't he?

KATHLEEN: Oh yes, uh-huh.

BILL: When was that?

KATHLEEN: I really don't know. I used to know when that was.

BILL: But he didn't go back and get him. He came--

KATHLEEN: No, he came on his own. He just-- they probably sent him the money to pay his passage.

BILL: So, they got married in Pittsburgh. Rode the train to-- where?

KATHLEEN: Ontario.

BILL: Oh, they did?

KATHLEEN: I have a picture of them at the depot when they came in there.

BILL: How did they get from Ontario to Juntura?

KATHLEEN: Well, on the train. There was a train there then.

BILL: That's right.

KATHLEEN: See the railroad was built into Juntura about 1914, I think it is.

BILL: So then they could ride the train to Juntura.

KATHLEEN: Yeah.

BILL: Did they have any kind of a house yet?

KATHLEEN: No, they stayed in a hotel. There was an old hotel there right down next to the depot in Juntura and they stayed there. They bought a little house there after they arrived, and moved into that.

BILL: Were any of their children born yet?

KATHLEEN: No.

BILL: So, it was after they were in Juntura that Raymond was born?

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KATHLEEN: Yes, they had. Yes, uh-huh. They had a daughter born first, that died at birth. She was born in a hospital in Ontario. She died at birth with a heart malfunction. And then the next year they had Raymond.

BILL: I didn't know that they had a child that didn't live.

KATHLEEN: Yes. She's buried in Ontario.

BILL: I'll be darned. In the cemetery with Jack and Katie?

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh. Her name was Rita Marie.

BILL: Rita.

KATHLEEN: Uh-huh. Rita Marie.

BILL: Tell me what you recall from your mother's stories about being a nanny, working for this wealthy family in Pittsburgh.

KATHLEEN: Well, she said they were wonderful people. It was a wonderful life she said.

BILL: Then she moved from there to Juntura?

KATHLEEN: Moved her to Juntura and she hated it when she got there. It took her a while to adjust.

BILL: Did she do any cooking?

KATHLEEN: When she worked at the...? No, she was the nanny. Took care of the children.

BILL: She always liked oysters as I remember. Where did she learn to eat oysters?

KATHLEEN: Ireland.

BILL: In Ireland?

KATHLEEN: Yes, lots of seafood. Where her home was close to Galway Bay, you know.

BILL: So, Raymond was born. And then Aunt Mary. And you're third born. And the youngest was Barbara.

KATHLEEN: Yes

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BILL: When did you move from the house in Juntura up to the house that I remember?

KATHLEEN: The ranch? When we moved out of town to the ranch? About 1937.

BILL: When did they buy that? '37?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, about that time, mm-hmm. I'm not positive of the date but I think it was about '37.

BILL: So, let's back up and talk about his homestead on Cottonwood creek. 620 acres.

KATHLEEN: Right.

BILL: Which is still there today.

KATHLEEN: Yes.

BILL: The original piece of property with the old cabin on it—the improvement they had to have. When was that cabin built?

KATHLEEN: I think he proved up on the homestead in 1913, I think it was.

BILL: And you told a story about a bunch of sheepherders and Irishmen got together all the materials and built that.

KATHLEEN: They had the mill up on the-- the old Ott mill was up fairly close to them and they got the lumber for a cabin and they hauled it over across the hill to Cottonwood creek where his property was with a team and wagon, you know. Several of the Irish sheepherders built the cabin – which wasn't really done very well but it made the-- it was what was required, anyway.

BILL: And they had to raise some crops.

KATHLEEN: Yes, they had to raise-- I don't recall how much, but that was... The meadow around there was all tilled. They plowed it and put rye in it.

BILL: And the rock fences that were there and down at the Palmer place. Do you remember?

KATHLEEN: They were built by the sheepherders that worked for him. The Irish sheepherders.

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They'd do that in their spare time. Build those rock fences like they had in Ireland.

BILL: I would say, having been to Ireland, there's rock fences everywhere.

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh. That's how they cleared the land.

BILL: And the fact that you can't dig a hole and plant a post so they just made the fences out of rocks.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, that's what they had. That's what was available.

BILL: What's your first recollection of Cottonwood as a child?

KATHLEEN: Well, when we were children-- after we were, you know, oh probably eight, nine, along in that age group, we'd go up there in the summer and stay. We'd camp. My mother loved to camp and we'd leave Juntura, oh, about the first of June and stay up there til the first of August, and then we'd come back to Juntura again. And prepare for school again. But we spent the summers up there.

BILL: So you liked to camp— or Katie liked to camp. Did you stay in that little cabin or did you...

KATHLEEN: Very little. We just mainly camped with tents.

BILL: Which was up the creek from...

KATHLEEN: Yes, on land that he bought. He bought 320 acres from an old gentleman that had homesteaded up there.

BILL: Was that Harry [last name unclear]?

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh, and then he bought a section of state land, that the state sold— that's where you boys have your elk hunting camp. His sister and husband who came from Ireland and became citizens, they had a homestead that joined his. Joined his section and the 320 that he had. So he always leased theirs for pasture and-- we camped usually in that piece because it was in the timber and it was nice there.

BILL: Is that where the O'Toole...

KATHLEEN: O'Toole cabin is. Yeah. When I was small, that's where we camped.

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BILL: I can remember that O'Toole cabin when I was-- eight or nine or ten. Talk about the accumulation of sheep. How many sheep did they start out with?

KATHLEEN: You know, I have no idea, honey, but--

BILL: Do you recall as a child watching the sheep?

KATHLEEN: Oh, yes. He had probably five, six thousand head of sheep.

BILL: And owned-- actually that property on Cottonwood. That's the deal with fenced(?) property?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, there wasn't a law then that-- That was before the Taylor Grazing Act.

BILL: Where did those sheep summer?

KATHLEEN: In the mountains. Up in the forest.

BILL: Just wherever?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, mm-hmm. And they spent the winters in Malheur valley, you know. Down around Vale, Ontario, you know. They'd buy hay. They'd winter them there and then they'd come back up through the hills and back up to the forest in the summer.

BILL: What was the route they took from Vale to the Malheur forest on the way back?

KATHLEEN: Well, usually--

BILL: Up through Beulah and that way?

KATHLEEN: Yes, that way. I could show you the trail where they used to go through. It's a hill right between Drewsey and Beulah. If you take that road that goes up there, north.

BILL: They crossed the Malheur River somewhere with those sheep? Whereabouts?

KATHLEEN: I think they usually came up on the south side of the river. Trailed them up through Riverside and that way, and then across Stinkingwater and to the forest.

BILL: Do you recall any of that?

KATHLEEN: Yes, I do. Uh-huh.

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BILL: What do you recall?

KATHLEEN: Well, I recall them lambing on what they call Basco canyon— it's a canyon above Juntura, off the river there. That was one of their places where they lambed.

BILL: The Depression came along. You were born in-- when?

KATHLEEN: 1923.

BILL: So, you were ten years old or about--

KATHLEEN: Yes, when the Depression hit, uh-huh.

BILL: My recollection is that rather than mortgage the land to continue his business Jack Joyce let the bank take the sheep.

KATHLEEN: Yes, he did.

BILL: But he kept the land?

KATHLEEN: Yes, he kept the land and the cattle. He had about a hundred head of cattle.

BILL: How did he pay the bill for taxes and put food on the table and all that in the meantime? Do you know?

KATHLEEN: He took jobs.

BILL: Like what?

KATHLEEN: He worked on the highway for a while. Whatever. Anything that he could find, he did. And they had a little savings, you know. And my mother always had an income because she-- we had about three milk cows and she sold milk in Juntura. It was about the time the highway was built. Highway 20 was being built and Beulah reservoir-- Beulah dam-- was being built and there were lots of people looking for places to stay. She had two small houses on the property in Juntura, in town, and she rented those and she... We sold milk. This was before we lived on the ranch. And she always had chickens. There was always an income. Somehow, we survived. She was a very good person at

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stretching money. She did all her own canning. She raised a little garden. She did *everything*. And in the fall I recall we'd go down to Ontario and there's a Japanese farmer down there just between Vale and Ontario-- I can still see their place there. It's still there. They'd go there and buy all their winter vegetables that they needed for the winter, probably for five bucks, and on back home and put them in the cellar. We never went without anything that I ever remember.

BILL: Your mother, then, probably learned to like living in Juntura after a while?

KATHLEEN: Oh, yes. She did. She was very industrious and made her own way.

BILL: And Jack-- he was a very hard worker.

KATHLEEN: Yes.

BILL: He liked to party a little bit?

KATHLEEN: Once in a while. Yes.

BILL: And Grandma didn't like that?

KATHLEEN: No. No, she didn't. She was very anti-alcohol and smoking.

BILL: It never changed through her whole life.

KATHLEEN: No, it didn't.

BILL: And Jack smoked, too.

KATHLEEN: Yeah.

BILL: And Raymond smoked.

KATHLEEN: Mm-hmm.

BILL: So, tell me about your brothers and your sisters. What do you remember?

KATHLEEN: My brother was always a hard worker. After my dad's sheep were gone he later was able to borrow money and get into the sheep business in Idaho with a relative.

BILL: This is after the Depression?

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KATHLEEN: Yes. Well, no. It's still during it. This gentleman that he was in partners with was not actually Irish but his--he was the brother- in-law of a cousin-in-law. Sadgast[sp?] was his name. Sadgast. They went in partners in Idaho in the sheep business and he made money there. A lot. Good. He was able to get a good sheep business going and the gentleman that was with him in the partnership was a farmer-- he had a nice farm at New Plymouth-- and they were able to get winter feed and everything there for their sheep. He stayed with him until he bought the ranch at Juntura.

BILL: How many years was that? Do you recall?

KATHLEEN: '37. Oh, probably four or five years. Wasn't even that long.

BILL: And the ranch at Juntura, which I remember.

KATHLEEN: They bought *it* in '37. Yeah, that's right. It was probably between '33 and '37 that he was in Idaho. He was pretty well confined after that. But we as kids weren't. We grew up in Juntura but we got out of there in the summers when we were children because my aunt, my mother's older sister, lived in Tacoma, Washington and she had no family, and we would go, my sister – my older sister-- and I would go during the summer and spend July and August... most of July and August with her.

BILL: At Tacoma?

KATHLEEN: Yeah. And we had cousins at Seattle and she would take us all over around there and we would visit the cousins. It was a real revelation to us after growing up in Juntura.

BILL: How did you get up there?

KATHLEEN: Well, on the bus. We took the bus from Ontario.

BILL: Her name was Auntie, but what was her--

KATHLEEN: Aunt Barbara. Grealish.

BILL: I can remember her.

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KATHLEEN: We had a real awakening when we left Juntura, you know, and we'd go there in the summer. It was so different.

BILL: Talk about some of the Irish shepherders that your dad employed that you remember.

KATHLEEN: Oh, they were all good people, really.

BILL: Do you remember any of their names?

KATHLEEN: They all-- they had drinking problems, a lot of them, but you know, they'd drink and then they'd go back to work and did their job.

BILL: Do you recall their names? Some of their names? How about Phil Quinn(sp?)?

KATHLEEN: Well, he didn't work for my dad. One of his nephews came out from Ireland-- Tommy O'Toole. And he worked for him for a lot of years until he moved to San Francisco. And Oh gosh, I can't remember the names.

BILL: We'll come back to that. The Depression. What do you recall about the Depression?

KATHLEEN: Well, people didn't have any money. They were just, you know-- it was pretty sad. A lot of people had no jobs. And, you know, people just didn't have anything. I don't remember that we ever suffered during the Depression, at all. We seemed to always have plenty to eat and we didn't do much else. We didn't run around or go anyplace much but we were-- we didn't do without. But a lot of people did. They were pretty resourceful, my folks were.

BILL: Do you recall any discussions between your mom and dad regarding finances or debt or the Depression?

KATHLEEN: Well, we heard a lot about it, yes. What was going on, you know. You'd hear...

BILL: School? Radio?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, we had school. We had radio. An old family radio. Everybody had one.

BILL: There was no electricity was there?

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KATHLEEN: No, huh-uh. Oh, no.

BILL: And no indoor plumbing?

KATHLEEN: No.

BILL: And you pumped water with a-- by hand out of a--

KATHLEEN: from a well.

BILL: Tell me about illnesses and colds and serious health issues. Do you recall those as a kid?

KATHLEEN: We had all them, you know. All the illnesses that you can get. Chicken pox and measles and mumps and the flu. It was-- we went through all of it.

BILL: You got married in 1941.

KATHLEEN: Yeah. We moved to Drewsey. Moved to--actually to the ranch out at Little Stinkingwater.

BILL: You attended high school in Juntura?

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh. Graduated from high school.

BILL: How long had that high school been there?

KATHLEEN: Oh, gosh. I don't know. Probably fifteen years.

BILL: Your brother Raymond went there?

KATHLEEN: Yes.

BILL: And your sister, Mary?

KATHLEEN: Mm-hmm. Barbara. We, all four of us. Barbara, my sister Barbara, went two years and then she transferred to St. Francis Academy in Baker, Oregon.

BILL: What was the reason for that?

KATHLEEN: I think they felt it was-- Well, the war was on. The population had dwindled in Juntura and in that area. There just wasn't the people anymore and consequently the school was

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pretty small and I think my mother and dad felt that she probably should get out and go someplace where there was a little more population. And, she was the last one so they were probably financially able to send her to the school in Baker, paid board and room.

BILL: Your sister Mary—she went to college. She graduated from Marylhurst.

KATHLEEN: Yes, she graduated from Marylhurst College.

BILL: And your mom and dad paid for her to go to school.

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh.

BILL: Do you remember anything about that? Specifically?

KATHLEEN: Yes, I remember when she went to Portland and she left and come home for vacations and the summer and that was it.

BILL: That's a huge change for....

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it was for her. Yes. She got along very well there.

BILL: And then Barbara, when she went to Baker City to the academy, then she went to nurses training. She became a nurse.

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh. She became a registered nurse.

BILL: Talk about life on the ranch that you remember, before you left there.

KATHLEEN: You mean after I was married?

BILL: No, before.

KATHLEEN: Before? Well, we all worked. We didn't have any spare time, I'll tell you. We all worked. We worked in the hay fields, we helped... I don't remember that we did any cutting or that kind of stuff but we always helped stack all the hay and Barbara and I used to set the nets for the slide—for slide stacking. And cooking for hay crews. And raising a garden—we always raised a big garden there. There was just a lot of work to do.

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BILL: I can recall a garden. I thought it was huge.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it was. It had everything in it. Of course we canned stuff for winter. We helped our mother do everything. In fact, we did most of the housework. She did the cooking, but we did most of the other work around there, us girls did.

BILL: So, your dad, when he was doing business in Idaho, he was gone for long periods of time?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, he would be. Several months at a time. During that period, we would go to Warm Lake, Idaho and camp, sometimes for two or three weeks in the summer. That would be just north of Cascade, Idaho, where the sheep allotment was, on the middle fork of the Salmon River.

That was beautiful, beautiful country. It was just gorgeous there.

BILL: How did you get there?

KATHLEEN: We drove. A pickup. We had a pickup.

BILL: A Ford? A Studebaker or--

KATHLEEN: Chevrolet.

BILL: A Chevrolet pickup. And you all rode in the back, probably.

KATHLEEN: No. Some of us did sometimes. Two of us maybe.

BILL: Did you take your dogs with you?

KATHLEEN: We didn't have any, I don't think, that I remember much. No, they stayed home with our hired man I imagine.

BILL: They probably had sheep dogs, didn't they?

KATHLEEN: Oh, they had sheep dogs. Yes.

BILL: As a child, what do you recall as most memorable, I suppose, growing up?

KATHLEEN: Well, I think living out in the country was a wonderful experience, like we did. And the fact that we could get away in the summers and go to the city was a wonderful experience. And I

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think we had a good choice in what we wanted to do as a result of those two elements of change that we had as we grew older.

BILL: On the negative side, what's memorable that you won't forget?

KATHLEEN: Oh, I don't know. I don't have too many bad memories, really. I had wonderful parents and I had a wonderful childhood, really. I can't think of a better childhood than we had.

BILL: Going back to the names of some of these people that were involved in the sheep business, talk about John Conroy. Who was John Conroy?

KATHLEEN: He was a cousin of my father's and he had a sheep business in Idaho. He may have started-- I don't recall what he did around Juntura, but we used to see him quite a bit, you know.

He'd visit—come and visit.

BILL: I visited his place in Idaho and I can remember him as a little kid. I recall he was a pretty big guy, wasn't he?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, a pretty big guy. You're thinking of Steve Joyce. Steve Joyce-- he was a cousin also.

BILL: And then there's Jim O'Donnell.

KATHLEEN: Yeah.

BILL: Who was Jim O'Donnell?

KATHLEEN: He was not a relative, but we knew him real well. He and his brother had a sheep business together in that area, too.

BILL: Most of the people you're talking about were raising sheep, but Jack Joyce somehow got his hundred head of cows. Ahead of the curve?

KATHLEEN: Well, they did this through milk cows.

BILL: Is that right?

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KATHLEEN: And leppy calves that they'd get from the ranchers around that didn't want to bother feeding them or something.

BILL: I'll be darned. I didn't know that. So that's the way they got in the cow business?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, mm-hmm.

BILL: Probably all colors, shapes, sizes?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, they were.

BILL: Where did they run those cows?

KATHLEEN: Oh, in Cottonwood and out on the public land.

BILL: I'll be darned. They had horses?

KATHLEEN: Yes, they had pack strings, you know, with the sheep, uh-huh.

BILL: How about cow horses?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, had those too. My brother did, because he was a horseman. That was his interest.

BILL: Did your dad ride horses much, do you remember?

KATHLEEN: No, huh-uh. No.

BILL: So, then you met Dad. How did you meet Dad?

KATHLEEN: I met him at a dance. In Drewsey.

BILL: A country dance. And he was a dashing young fellow?

KATHLEEN: Oh, yes. Uh-huh. Yes.

BILL: Actually, quite handsome in those pictures.

KATHLEEN: He was, uh-huh. Great personality.

BILL: So, you got married.

KATHLEEN: Yeah.

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BILL: And moved to Stinkingwater. Talk about that.

KATHLEEN: Well, it was a change for me because I had grown up in a home where we had lots of company, people coming to visit and going, and lots of people around and then we moved out to the Wilber place on Little Stinkingwater and it was pretty isolated. We were twelve miles from a highway, on a dirt road, which in the winter time was impassable, and it was a real change for me. I was busy. I had Bill the first year and that kept me busy.

BILL: Talk about the origin of the Wilber family and all that Stinkingwater property. How did that--

KATHLEEN: Well, actually, my mother-in-law's father, who was George Wright, was an attorney in Albany, Oregon and he bought the lower place on Little Stinkingwater from some people by the name of Howard. They weren't related to the Howards that are still at Drewsey now; they were from the Willamette Valley originally. He bought that place from them. My in-laws, they were married in 1913—Nelson and Eulah Wilber. They were both college graduates. He graduated from Albany and she graduated from Oregon State College-- it was Oregon Agricultural College in those days. They got married and came to Payette, where he worked. He was working as a bookkeeper for a fruit company there. After her father bought this place on Little Stinkingwater well, they decided they were going to come to Harney County and look for property too. So they took their saddle horses and their pack horses with their beds and stuff on it and came to Burns and they found a place out-- The Lamb ranch now-- called Lawson Newell homestead. They decided to buy that and move out there and get started in the cow business. That's what they did. They left Payette and moved out there to that little homestead house. It kind of was pretty close that that property that her father bought. Eventually they bought more property that adjoined him, right close to his place, and that's where the house was that we moved into when we got married because they were in Texas and in business.

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BILL: Tell me about the Eulah Wilber homestead.

KATHLEEN: I never did hear her say much about it, really. It was done to gain more land, yes.

BILL: But she actually filed on a homestead claim?

KATHLEEN: Yes, she did. I think her sister did too. Willetta. Willetta Wright.

BILL: In the same area?

KATHLEEN: Yeah. Yeah I think it's on that property that you boys own.

BILL: Do you know about where it would be? Where the little house used to be?

KATHLEEN: No, I don't know. I really don't know. I can't tell you exactly where any of the-- I knew where the Joe Wright-- where the Joe Wright field was. That was my mother-in-law's uncle.

BILL: And that was adjacent to the Newell...

KATHLEEN: Yeah that joined the Newell field, back of the Lamb ranch, yeah. That place I knew but that's the only one I can really tell you where it was. But they're all there. You could find them if you went through records.

BILL: Why did George Wright, who was a successful attorney in Albany, buy property in Harney County?

KATHLEEN: I have no idea. I never did figure that out unless because it didn't cost as much; it was cheaper or he just wanted a change. He really was from Missouri.

BILL: Did he ever live in Harney County?

KATHLEEN: No.

BILL: I heard a story at one time-- or I dreamt it-- that he actually got some of that property as a legal fee for doing some law work for somebody.

KATHLEEN: Well, it's very possible. I don't know that. I couldn't verify that.

BILL: He was a circuit judge, or a--

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KATHLEEN: Well, he was the first District Attorney in Morrow County, did you know that?

BILL: Morrow County?

KATHLEEN: Now, when he came from Missouri he was in Morrow County.

BILL: Then he ended up in down Albany.

KATHLEEN: Then he moved from there to Albany and that's where he met his wife, who's a descendant of the Blakelys and Cooleys.

BILL: So talk about the Blakelys. What's the connection there because the Blakely family is quite well known in Oregon history?

KATHLEEN: James Blakely led a wagon train to Oregon in 1846. He settled in what's now Brownsville. He was accompanied on the wagon train by his uncle, Hugh Brown, and that's how come he named the town Brownsville. They settled there. That's where they settled. They came in a wagon train but I'm not sure how they got to the Willamette Valley—whether they came down the Columbia or-- They probably did, I just don't know for sure. I've never really been able to find that out.

BILL: I'm sure that was the route that all the successful wagon trains that didn't get lost and do stupid things.

KATHLEEN: My husband's family have been Oregonians since 1846, when he moved here.

BILL: Talk about the Blakely family. What did they do that was-- Were they farmers? Ranchers?

KATHLEEN: Well, his sons were everything. One of them was the first pharmacist in Oregon—first licensed pharmacist. Two of them, I think, were sheriffs. They had all positions. Without looking it up I couldn't really tell you offhand, but if you read "Thunder Over the Ochoco" with the Blakelys in it, you'll find out. It's all in there.

BILL: And probably that family history that George Wright put together would have some of this

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in it too?

KATHLEEN: Yes, it does. The Blakely family is in that history, yes. George Wright traced his lineage back to 1066 when the Normans invaded England.

BILL: William the Conqueror.

KATHLEEN: Yeah. They came to the United States. It's all in that history. He spent a fortune just writing that book about the Wright family.

BILL: I'll bet. It's a big book.

KATHLEEN: It comes back from 1066 up to your-- you're not in it but your dad-- your father is. Wright Wilber is in it.

BILL: Probably if we were worth our salt we'd ...

KATHLEEN: Keep up with the book. He'd hoped someone would continue it.

BILL: We'd update it.

KATHLEEN: Yeah. Update it.

BILL: Maybe that's something for the Grandma Kathleen nest egg to fund. What do you think?

KATHLEEN: Anyway, that's the story about the Wright family.

BILL: Nelson and Eulah being college graduates-- well, first of all, let's go back to being Irish and Catholic in Juntura. How did that set with the local population?

KATHLEEN: We weren't really considered their equal. That was obvious at school—not in the later teachers, but in the first teachers we had. I was discriminated against, I know, by the teacher I had in the third and fourth grades but then I got into the fifth grade and I had this wonderful teacher... her name was Cassie Becker. She was one of the better-- Pink Becker, an old-timer of Malheur County was her father-- and she was a wonderful teacher and she just did everything for us in school. She started 4-H. She started cooking clubs, sewing clubs and everything. I was in

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everything. She just was really my lifesaver, I think, in school

BILL: How were you discriminated against?

KATHLEEN: Well, we would have to work harder for grades than the other kids did because our folks spoke with an accent. We were discriminated against – it depended on the teachers we had, definitely.

BILL: There were other Irish families there: your dad's sister and your dad's brother and another Joyce family that is not related. How were they treated?

KATHLEEN: Well, probably the same way we were. I don't remember hearing them saying anything about it but maybe they weren't being truthful. I don't know.

BILL: When you moved to Stinkingwater and started out, talk about being Irish and being Catholic in *that* community.

KATHLEEN: I don't know as I was discriminated against. I probably was but didn't know it.

BILL: After you moved to Stinkingwater and you started a family, talk about some of the things you did there to keep yourself occupied.

KATHLEEN: I kept busy. There's plenty of work to do. There was always usually hired help to cook for, and kids to take care of, and chores to do, and *everything*.

BILL: You had your own hogs? Your own chickens?

KATHLEEN: We had all that ourselves, yes. Milk cows. I used to make all the homemade butter for the winter in the summer when the milk cows were giving lots of milk. Had a cream separator and pasteurized the cream, and then churned it and made butter out of it.

BILL: Where would you keep it?

KATHLEEN: In the freezer.

BILL: Not on Stinkingwater did you?

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KATHLEEN: No, I didn't. Not there. I didn't do that there. No.

BILL: Now, Stinkingwater didn't have any running water. Didn't have any indoor plumbing?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it did. That little house up there had running water, had a hot water heater, and a bathtub.

BILL: How could you do that with no power, no--

KATHLEEN: Well, it was a spring that was up above the house. It was piped down to the house.

BILL: Was there a pipe that ran from a collection point on Stinkingwater creek also?

KATHLEEN: It was to a spring up there, yes. You probably know where the spring is.

BILL: Well, it was piped to the spring--

KATHLEEN: Piped from the spring down to the house.

BILL: But there were pipes up there in the creek, too.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, they had to cross the creek.

BILL: So, the water did not come out of the creek, it come out of that spring?

KATHLEEN: No, it came from the spring.

BILL: And gravity flow, because it was downhill. Do you remember what kind of water pressure you had?

KATHLEEN: It wasn't real big, but it was always enough.

BILL: And you had a gas water heater?

KATHLEEN: No, it was heated with a wood stove—coils in the stove. Pipes in the stove, and a tank in the back of the stove.

BILL: Nelson and Eulah put that in?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, mm-hmm.

BILL: Let's talk about Dad. Now, he went to grade school where?

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KATHLEEN: He started school in Boise. Yeah, his mother was over there going to beauty school

BILL: After getting a college degree?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, she still went to beauty school because she thought she could use it-- cutting men's hair and giving women Marcells like they used to do and all that. So he started there and then came back to Drewsey and he went to-- I don't know, I think they came to Burns. She worked for an attorney here in Burns for a while.

BILL: What's his name?

KATHLEEN: Van Schmalz, I think was his name. She worked for him. He and Maxine both started in here.

BILL: What did Nelson do then?

KATHLEEN: He batched.

BILL: He stayed at Stinkingwater? I'll be damned.

KATHLEEN: Yeah. She probably went back and forth on weekends, when she could, you know.

BILL: Then where did Dad go to school?

KATHLEEN: Then back to Drewsey. She'd go in and stay in town in the winter, during the school year and send them to school.

BILL: Comment on Drewsey because I want some of your earliest recollections as a kid, but we'll come back to that. When he started high school, where did he go?

KATHLEEN: He went to Crane.

BILL: And how did he get there?

KATHLEEN: Just however he could.

BILL: I heard a story here and there that occasionally he'd ride horseback from Crane to the ranch.

KATHLEEN: Well, yeah, that was-- I don't know as that was for school, honey. That was just when

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he was buckarooing over there or something.

BILL: He didn't do that when he was in school?

KATHLEEN: No, huh-uh.

BILL: That's a long ride.

KATHLEEN: They had cars then, so people drove back and forth, and there were always kids from Drewsey going there so somebody's parents would always pick up the kids, you know.

BILL: How did he get from Drewsey out to the ranch when he came home from school?

KATHLEEN: Someone was there to pick him up—his mother or his dad or someone.

BILL: No telephones?

KATHLEEN: No.

BILL: So communication was not instant. You had to arrange things ahead of time, I'm sure.

KATHLEEN: People had cars then, you know.

BILL: I'm just wondering, if he decided to come home and he couldn't call mom to come get me...

KATHLEEN: You're stuck there. Well, it's true.

BILL: Borrow a horse and ride to Stinkingwater. So, when you got married, how many cows did Wright Wilber have?

KATHLEEN: Oh, probably thirty or forty head.

BILL: Did he have a bunch of horses?

KATHLEEN: He had some, yeah.

BILL: Did he have any kind of partnerships in horses and cows that you recall?

KATHLEEN: No. Probably an arrangement with his dad on the cows. I don't remember, really.

BILL: How about Bill Catterson?

KATHLEEN: Yeah. That was in later years that we took his cows.

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BILL: It was during the war?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it was after we moved to Drewsey – to the Drewsey field ranch.

BILL: Oh, it was? That's why I remember the cows, then. Was he going in the Army, or was he *in* the Army?

KATHLEEN: He went in the Army and came home on leave and knew he was going to be shipped overseas.

BILL: The war was still on?

KATHLEEN: Yes, right in the midst of it. He came to Wright and I and wanted to know if we wanted to buy them. He said, "If you can buy the cows, or I'll sell them to somebody"-- because he wanted to get rid of them—"Because if something happens to me and I don't come back, it's easier for my mother and family to divide that than have a bunch of cows to worry about." So we went to Baker, to the-- it was called the PCA then, it's the Federal Farm Credit now-- and borrowed the money to buy the cattle from him.

BILL: The PCA in those days was part of the federal lending bank.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it was Production Credit Association. It was a means for farmers to get financing after the Depression—one of Roosevelt's things, you know. It's still in existence, yes.

BILL: And doing extremely well. The farm credit system is just--

KATHLEEN: You know farmers are pretty reliable. They're usually good for their money. It might take a while but they'll pay off it eventually. It was a good thing and it sure was a help to us.

BILL: So, everything-- everything was done with horses? You didn't have any tractors or anything when you lived at Stinkingwater?

KATHLEEN: No. Well, we had an old tractor—a big ol' Farnall

BILL: It was a John Deere.

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KATHLEEN: John Deere. That's what it was. Yeah, an ol' timer. We used it for a threshing machine, to thresh the grain.

BILL: That's what it was used for?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, threshing.

BILL: It was the power source for the-- the threshing machine was stationary. You brought the hay or the grain--

KATHLEEN: Bunches into there.

BILL: Shocks, right?

KATHLEEN: Right.

BILL: Now, hay for the winter. You raised rye. You didn't have hay, as we think of hay. There was no wild meadow hay; it was just rye. You had to plant it every year.

KATHLEEN: Mm-hmm. And mow it and stack it.

BILL: And I'm sure there were winters there that you ran out of hay.

KATHLEEN: Well, the cattle, you know, that was before Taylor Grazing and it-- Not after I was there it wasn't, but we got by. What we could feed, we'd keep what we had.

BILL: Running cattle was much different than it is today. Much different.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it is.

BILL: The cost of doing business was not near as high then, in proportion, as it is now.

KATHLEEN: Right

BILL: And people didn't require as much. They just didn't have the luxury and all the bells and whistles we do today, so the cost of living was better. Do you have any recollections of the Stinkingwater that you won't forget? Good or bad?

KATHLEEN: Well, there were a lot of things that I didn't like, really. One of them was in the

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winter time the water system would freeze up and we had to get water from the creek because there was no well. Which I never did understand why there wasn't a well but-- Anyway, we'd get by.

BILL: How'd you pack the water? With a bucket?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, and the road was pretty bad at times. Lots of times you couldn't travel that road. I think that was the worst thing that bothered me, was that road from there to the highway.

BILL: I have a clear recollection of one time that you and I and Virginia--

KATHLEEN: ... walked home.

BILL: Walked from the Lamb ranch hill all the way to the Little Stinkingwater house.

KATHLEEN: Yeah.

BILL: And I was scared spitless because the moon had come out and I could hear coyotes howling. I thought they were going to get us for sure. And in fact, in later years didn't you and Dad get stuck up on Red Flat, or on top of the mountain during a storm and had to walk?

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh. We had to walk down to the Lower Place there and we had it equipped for overnight. We had a bed and a few groceries there, so we spent the night there and George came looking for us the next morning.

BILL: He found you, huh? I spent a night at the Upper Place. Dad and I were up there salting, I think, and I can't remember if we got stuck or if something happened to the Jeep and we ended up staying at the Upper Place. There was pancake mix that was buckwheat pancake mix and we had pancakes for breakfast and of course, no syrup and butter, and I thought this is the damndest thing I ever had in my life. Did you do buckarooing when you were out there?

KATHLEEN: Some, yes, I did. I used to—before I had my second boy, I did.

BILL: Who did you have babysit?

KATHLEEN: My mother. We'd take you down there to Juntura and leave you with her.

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BILL: For how long a period of time?

KATHLEEN: For maybe a couple of days. I didn't do a lot of buckarooing. I just couldn't. Usually when the buckarooing was going on I had a crew to cook for, you know. The neighbors and everybody would stay there. Williams' and Hatts and--

BILL: At the Upper Place?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, mm-hmm. And they all helped, you know. The boys all did the buckarooing together.

BILL: Not having any way to keep food for a long period of time, as your mother went through, did you do much canning?

KATHLEEN: Oh, I did a lot of canning. Yes, that's one thing I did was canned a lot. Oh, yes.

BILL: Did you have a garden up at Little Stinkingwater?

KATHLEEN: No, we didn't. Didn't have enough water system there to do it.

BILL: Nelson and Eulah, they were in Texas as you were starting your business there. And Wright Wilber and Nelson Wilber were partners in the cattle business

KATHLEEN: Right.

BILL: I can recall there were Bar D cows, which were Nelson's, and D Bar cows which were Dad's, and there were Catterson cows which were really D Bar cows but they had the Catterson brand on them too and it was a nightmare keeping track of them all.

KATHLEEN: Yeah. For branding that would make a problem.

BILL: How long did that go on?

KATHLEEN: You know I can't remember what year. It was after we were on the Drewsey field. After they bought the Drewsey field. Nelson bought the Drewsey field in 1944, so the first four years we were married we lived out at Little Stinkingwater. 1945 we moved on the Drewsey field

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permanently.

BILL: Why did he buy the Drewsey field and who did he buy it from?

KATHLEEN: Well, he bought it because we didn't have enough hay land and enough production on Little Stinkingwater to do what we had to do to survive, you know, so he bought that from Henry and Charlie Otley. They owned the Drewsey field and they put it up for sale because they wanted to move to Diamond. They bought a ranch at Diamond because it suited their family better. They had three boys and they thought it would be better for them if they sold that one and moved. Because they actually had never done-- the only thing they done, the only improvements that were on the Drewsey field when we moved there, they had cleared some of the meadow and built the irrigation ditch and put a dam in the river.

BILL: And the big barn?

KATHLEEN: The big barn was built on the opposite side, and drilled a well because they planned to build a new house there, and then the war came along, and that changed. When we moved there, there wasn't a house. There wasn't anything there because it was too hard to get materials during the war to even build anything, really. You just had to put your name out and hope you could get a few two by fours if you needed them, but it was real difficult. Nobody knows what it was like. I don't know whether people could do that now days, when we were rationed on everything.

BILL: Talk about the move from Little Stinkingwater to the Drewsey field. What you went through-- how you got a house when there wasn't a house.

KATHLEEN: It was very difficult. We knew we had to move there because that's where the production was going to be.

BILL: And I had to go to school.

KATHLEEN: Yeah. You weren't ready for school yet. You were about three. How old would you

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have been then?

BILL: Four

KATHLEEN: Four. And Mike was-- When we moved to the Drewsey field Mike was nine months old and you were about four. They moved-- Harvey Hatt and Wright moved a bunkhouse from the Lower Place at Stinkingwater down there and set it up, moved it on Harvey's truck down there, and set it up. It had a little porch on it and we built onto that. And that is still the kitchen in that house-- the bunkhouse is, yes. That porch is still there but it's part of the kitchen now.

BILL: I have a recollection, and this is not correct, but there's a wood floor. It didn't have any floor.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it didn't. We couldn't get flooring. No, it wasn't dirt honey, it was lumber. It was one by twelve rough lumber. I had an old rug I resurrected from somewhere and put over the living room floor a little bit so you could at least have a place to walk without getting slivers in your bare foot, but the next spring after we moved there -- we moved there in '45 so it would have been the spring of '46-- we finally were able to get flooring for it, and I still remember us coming to Burns and picking up that lumber. It was just like heaven to get that floor put down.

BILL: Who was the carpenter? Was it Carl Morgan?

KATHLEEN: Yeah. Carl Morgan did it. He put it down. It was regular pine flooring, you know, the four-inch stuff, tongue and groove, uh-huh. I finished all that and I used to wax it on my hands and knees.

BILL: It's beautiful stuff. And it's still there under all the carpet.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, under all that carpeting. It's still there.

BILL: So, that house, then, was added on to piece by piece?

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh. Yes. The store room that's in there with the big thick walls on the back, Henry Otley built that on the Drinkwater place where he leased before he sold that place, and when

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he left he told Wright and I, he said, "It's built on skids and I want you to move that over to your property," so he and Harvey Hatt moved it down Highway 20 with poles and a tractor. Pulled it down the road. They didn't have the tractor on it. I think they just had the car on it down the road. When they got to our gate they had to put the tractor on it to get it down there, through there to where it is now. That's that store room that was in the back and it was the nearest thing to refrigeration we had because it had these big thick walls and it had airways in it where the cool air could go up and heat could go out. It was really great. It was just a lifesaver.

BILL: It worked well. I think it still does.

KATHLEEN: It still does. I still use it, in fact.

BILL: So then you added on where the freezer went in the back and a little bedroom for Mike and I?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, mm-hmm.

BILL: So you did add-ons?

KATHLEEN: That's all the add-ons we did, but Mike is the one that put all the stuff that's there now.

BILL: There was another bunk house that the hired men stayed in which was sitting on the hill between the shop and the house. It's now been moved again.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it's over in the center there.

BILL: Where did that come from?

KATHLEEN: That came from Drewsey. When we first moved down there, I think the first winter, one hired man that we had the summer before came out and spent the winter with us and we didn't have any place to put him so Wright bought that little house in town and they moved it with a tractor-- I don't know, maybe a team of horses-- down there. I can't remember what they pulled it with because we didn't have a tractor then... so it must have been a team of horses.

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BILL: Talk about Harvey and his truck. That was unusual to have a truck.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, he did.

BILL: Why did he have a truck?

KATHLEEN: George Hatt, his grandfather, had it. He was a pretty industrious old gentleman. And he was a gentleman, George Hatt was. Definitely.

BILL: That's Dick Edmonson's grandfather? I can recall him.

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh. Great people. Wonderful people. Wonderful, wonderful neighbors.

BILL: So you set up shop there in the sagebrush.

KATHLEEN: Mm-hmm. Sagebrush Flat. I look around there now and can't believe it, but it was just a sagebrush flat.

BILL: No trees?

KATHLEEN: Nope.

BILL: No grass?

KATHLEEN: No, nothing.

BILL: And the bathroom was outside?

KATHLEEN: Mm-hmm

BILL: Did you pump water? You had to if you didn't have electricity for a while.

KATHLEEN: No, we had a well, you know. The well was drilled. Otleys had drilled a well because they planned to build a house there. They were going to build a new house there.

BILL: And they changed their mind because they wanted to move to Diamond for more hay production?

KATHLEEN: Well, it was better property they thought, for the kids and everything.

BILL: Which was probably right.

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KATHLEEN: Yeah.

BILL: It's six of one and half a dozen of the other, I'd say.

KATHLEEN: Wright's dad wrote a check, you know, for that property.

BILL: Is that right?

KATHLEEN: Yeah.

BILL: Cash deal? Didn't borrow money?

KATHLEEN: Nope. He wrote a check for it. I bet the Otley boys could tell you that now. Harold could if he was still here.

BILL: Do you know what the amount was?

KATHLEEN: No, I don't, honey, for sure.

BILL: So, that's the Drewsey field?

KATHLEEN: Mm-hmm, that's the ranch where we live now.

BILL: What's the history of the Drewsey field?

KATHLEEN: The Drewsey field was owned by the PLS Company. Henry and Charley bought it from the PLS Company when they sold all their holdings in about the mid-'30s. They had to sell everything—I think Henry Miller was out of commission. I think he was old and sick and they sold everything. The history of that property and all that is in the University of California archives.

BILL: In Berkeley?

KATHLEEN: Yeah. All the history of that, if you ever want to find out more about it, you have to go there. That's what we found out anyway.

BILL: There's an interesting story about the water right. Do you recall the specifics of that water right?

KATHLEEN: When they built the Warm Springs reservoir, the government wanted to buy the

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Warm Springs ranch from the PLS Company. Warm Springs ranch was, I guess, a really wonderful ranch and it was going to go underwater and I guess they hadn't even signed the papers for it yet when the government moved in there and started building the dam, and Henry Miller said O.K. but you have to let me transfer my water rights from this property to my other ranches, and they said "fine" so he transferred half of it to the Drewsey field and half to the Harper ranch at Harper... at Harper.

BILL: Actually the transfer to Drewsey field was an *upstream* transfer.

KATHLEEN: Well, yeah. And it was legal then. You can't do it now, but it was legal then. And that's what we had the water fight with our upstream neighbors over. They claimed it wasn't legal.

BILL: That's what the law suit was?

KATHLEEN: Yeah. We went to court. You were at that trial.

BILL: I recall it very well. So, what was life at the Drewsey field like?

KATHLEEN: Well, it was pretty rough, honey, because that house was not adequate for anyone to live in, really, until we built on to it and we fixed it up the best way we could with what we could get. You couldn't buy anything. You couldn't even buy windows. I remember the first winter we lived in it we didn't-- we had the places all cut for them. We had the places all covered up with stuff-- rough lumber-- and in two rooms I those little four-pane windows that they took out of the bunk house out at the other place and sit in the corner just so you'd have a little light in them. It was terrible. And the next spring we got the floor put in and that next summer we got the windows-- they came in. So the first winter was kind of rough.

BILL: How were you treated by your new neighbors?

KATHLEEN: Well, the comment was made at the Drewsey store, after we moved there, "Well, they won't be there long. They'll be out on the street," by one of our neighbors.

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BILL: Well, I guess you proved them wrong.

KATHLEEN: The comment got back to me. One of my friends heard it.

BILL: And you never forgot it?

KATHLEEN: No, I never forgot it.

BILL: One of these days you'll tell one of us who said it. Maybe they're long gone by now.

KATHLEEN: They are, yeah.

BILL: They're long gone. You cooked for lots of hay hands. What would be the most at a meal, say when you're haying in the summer time?

KATHLEEN: Probably six. I can't remember for sure. We didn't have those all through the season but we'd have at least two or three extras.

BILL: Always?

KATHLEEN: Yeah. And then maybe three more for stacking and haying.

BILL: Did you have a hard time finding hired help?

KATHLEEN: Not really, no.

BILL: Where did they come from?

KATHLEEN: Usually out of the bars, in town here.

BILL: And they had farming—rural--

KATHLEEN: Most of them did, uh-huh.

BILL: And they could work with horses and equipment?

KATHLEEN: Some of them were just the most wonderful people. They just had problems, you know, from moving around, or from here to there or something, you know.

BILL: So, we're talking about haying—you hayed with horses then?

KATHLEEN: Yeah.

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BILL: And you fed cattle with horses?

KATHLEEN: Yes.

BILL: How difficult was it to find work horses?

KATHLEEN: Well, we raised our own, you know, pretty much. Had our own, as I remember, and our own saddle horses too. Wright was a horse man. That was his love, was horses.

BILL: He had lots of horses.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, we had a thoroughbred stud and a herd of about twenty mares that we raised our saddle horses from.

BILL: Prior to that, he had lots of horses out on the public domain?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, uh-huh.

BILL: I can recall as a little kid, the buckaroos rounding up the horses.

KATHLEEN: To brand the colts and castrate the studs and ship the old ones and get them. They weren't all ours, they were a lot of the neighbors, too, because they'd all come too, you know, and help do it.

BILL: Talk about selling horses to the San Francisco police department.

KATHLEEN: I don't know. Did we do that?

BILL: Yes. That was a connection of Father Egan's?

KATHLEEN: I don't know.

BILL: I can remember we sold two or three.

KATHLEEN: Maybe so. I don't remember. I don't remember that.

BILL: They were bays with white feet and/or they were sorrels with all four white feet. That was a requirement. Father Egan made the contacts and buyers came and looked at them and bought them. I can recall that. The haying and feeding with horses—do you recall using sleds in the winter time?

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KATHLEEN: No, I don't think we did.

BILL: Always wagons?

KATHLEEN: We always used just the wagon, I believe.

BILL: Wagons with wheels.

KATHLEEN: In the later years, just a Jeep. We used our Jeep in place of horses.

BILL: I can recall the first tractor ride.

KATHLEEN: Can you really? Ford wasn't it?

BILL: A gray Ford. A discussion was going on with someone, whether it was with Ray Weeks at Burns Ford or whatever, I remember somebody saying they were so easy to drive a little kid could drive it, and they said "And you can drive it," and so I got this vision of driving a tractor all over the countryside and building roads and all the stuff that you do with your toys.

KATHLEEN: That's something, to remember that.

BILL: Yep. So, things went along on the ranch. Did the cow herd grow?

KATHLEEN: Yes. Oh, yes, we had a lot more feed after we got the Drewsey field.

BILL: You were raising Herefords?

KATHLEEN: Mm-hmm. Right.

BILL: When you bought the Catterson cattle my recollection is there were lots of shorthorns, a lot of ?-faced cattle?

KATHLEEN: Probably were. I don't know. I don't remember exactly what they looked like. They were good ones, I know that.

BILL: In that open range all the people ran together... whose cattle intermingled with you?

KATHLEEN: Williams', Cables-- Lee Cable's from Riverside-- Edmonson. Yeah, that was about it. Some from the Lamb ranch.

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BILL: How about Culver? Culver Marshall was not on the scene yet?

KATHLEEN: Well, no. He made the scene later, but his cattle, too, would be on there.

BILL: So when the Taylor Grazing Act occurred--

KATHLEEN: No, that was after that even, if I remember.

BILL: In the '30s. Do you remember any impact on your dad's operation?

KATHLEEN: Oh, yes. Yes, it definitely changed everything. That put the transient sheep men out of business. We used to have Idaho sheep come through this country even, in summer, and make the circle around, and that all stopped and everybody was counted. It changed everything. Some for the best, and some was kind of hard on a lot of people, really.

BILL: Do you recall any discussions about the fact that the range had been overused?

KATHLEEN: Oh yes, uh-huh. There were lots of discussions about that.

BILL: No doubt that occurred?

KATHLEEN: Yeah, mm-hmm. There was no time limits on when you had to come in or anything, you know.

BILL: Before we got side-tracked and took a break, we were talking about the transfer of water rights upstream from the Warm Springs reservoir site now, to Drewsey field. Talk about the water right and how it has worked through all the years.

KATHLEEN: It's worked great, really.

BILL: There's been some bad feelings out of the water right?

KATHLEEN: Oh yeah, there is. On all of them, you know. But we've done well, you know, on it.

BILL: In the drought of '77 the water was so short that you and dad decided to buy a pump and start pumping out of the river, in a change of diversion.

KATHLEEN: Yes, we did. Uh-huh.

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BILL: What happened there?

KATHLEEN: Then we were sued over the water right. That's when that water right suit came up, you know. One of the families above us decided we didn't have water rights so that's when this all came out about what happened when the PLS Company let them build the dam in there. That's when that all changed. And that settled that, once and for all. That everything was legal.

BILL: But we did lose some of our--

KATHLEEN: Yeah, we did a little bit.

BILL: About 60 acres

KATHLEEN: 60 acres. And that was due to some of the people that were on the case that were doing the-- they weren't our representatives, they were on the other side. I don't know how they got that done, really. I've never figured it out. We decided not to pursue it because it wasn't that big of thing.

BILL: We still get plenty of water.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, we still get plenty of water anyway so we just didn't even-- Some of our good neighbors around caused that.

BILL: Some of those neighbors are now gone.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, we had to dig into the past and get some witnesses that had been irrigating because they were being so nasty about it. We had to prove all that, too. 358.6 acres of land was what was involved in that case.

BILL: That irrigation amount is probably more than most of them have—upstream, as I recall.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it probably was acreage wise, yeah.

BILL: Do you think there was some envy there? Of success?

KATHLEEN: I think some of it was, yes. I do. We weren't supposed to survive.

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BILL: Well you survived quite well I think. Very well. The water is always an issue—in any book you read about the West and in the movies, there's always some kind of a...

KATHLEEN: Controversy over water.

BILL: Or a shootout about water.

KATHLEEN: Yep.

BILL: And I think we lived it.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, we sure did.

BILL: And it will probably come back again one of these days.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, it might. It might. I agree with that too, it will come back again.

BILL: I think it's fair to say the State of Oregon did a better job of adjudicating this stuff than they did. Ditch riders and-- I think the lesson learned there, if I can suggest this, is that you've got to pay attention to that stuff. I don't believe Dad always did. He kind of said it'll take care of itself. It'll sneak up on you, for sure.

KATHLEEN: He wanted to put a pump in the river to pump water on some of the land and that's what raised the controversy. It was down below everybody-- wasn't going to affect anybody else but boy, it sure stirred up a hornet's nest.

BILL: Well, they saw a chance to get even for something.

KATHLEEN: I don't know.

BILL: Unfortunately, it created a lot of bad feelings and there's still a scab there that, every once in a while, the scab gets rubbed off, although with a new generation coming on board it will probably be fine.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, I think so. Time has a way of taking care of a lot of things.

BILL: Well, it does. Plus a full-time ditch rider.

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KATHLEEN: Yeah, mm-hmm. Everything's run much better – more efficiently than it was in the past.

BILL: Much more business-like.

KATHLEEN: Yeah. I don't know whether you know this or not—I've probably told you this, but the PLS Company is what paid for this ditch around the hill, you know, where the – what do you call them, where they drain the water out? Where the... waste gate above Conly's property up there – all that ditch that was built up there and down through Williams' property and into Drewsey field—the PLS Company paid for that ditch. I don't know whether anybody knows this or not but Angie Murphy who was the matriarch of that Murphy family that lived at Beulah, you know, the grandmother—it would be Jim Palmer's grandmother, her brothers were-- that's what they did in New Mexico. That was their job. That's the kind of work they did was build ditches and stuff, you know, and they are the ones that built that. They came to Beulah. They were with the Murphys and they came over and built that ditch with teams of horses. The PLS Company paid for that ditch from there down to Drewsey field.

BILL: Which Murphy was it? Do you know which--

KATHLEEN: Well, their name was-- you know, I have trouble with names. Let's see, they were Angie Murphy's brothers. Yes.

BILL: They would have been Jim Murphy's granddad?

KATHLEEN: Yes, uh-huh. His grand-uncles.

BILL: Johnny Palmer's great-uncle?

KATHLEEN: Yes. Jim Palmer's great uncles is what they were.

BILL: So, the PLS Company paid for that ditch but now it provides water for Gary Marshall, Jack Joyce, Billy Freeman, and us.

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KATHLEEN: Yeah.

BILL: So the question is, when did *they* get their water rights?

KATHLEEN: They had them, but they were out of the river. They weren't-- there was some kind of another system. The PLS Company could see that the Drewsey field could benefit by it so they built the ditch.

BILL: What about the Otley ditch on the south side?

KATHLEEN: Otleys built that. Harold Otley. He built that.

BILL: The Otley brothers.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, they did.

BILL: Was that in full function when you--

KATHLEEN: Yeah, the dam was built. Everything was there when we bought the place—when we moved there.

BILL: I know that having come from Stinkingwater with not enough water, to a place with all kinds of water you guys thought you were in heaven.

KATHLEEN: Yes. Oh, we did, yes. Gosh yes. Uptown.

BILL: You were.

End of recording

k.n.

