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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #51 - Sides A/B

Subject: Fred & Pearl Witzel

Place: Witzel Home - Diamond, Oregon

Date: June 18, 1973

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

Release Form: No

PEARL WITZEL: That's kind of a hard one to answer. It is kind of hard to tell why Fred's dad came here. He came from California; up here Shasta County was where he was born.

PAULINE BRAYMEN: What was his name?

FRED WITZEL: John Henry.

PAULINE: John Henry.

PEARL: Maybe he had heard about Pete French having such a cattle deal up here, because he came up here and went to work for Pete French. Maybe that's how he happened to come. It's hard to tell. I never did hear him say why he came. Just like any young man, I guess, just bumming around, looking for new territory.

FRED: ...

MARCUS HAINES: Well, he was 17 years old when he landed here, wasn't he?

PEARL: Yeah, just a boy.

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MARCUS: Well, didn't you tell me his parents were over on Hay Creek at the ---

FRED: Yeah, they lived over at Hay Creek there at Antelope.

MARCUS: After he got shot he went back over. He went to Fort Harney. And then after he got well enough to travel he went back home for a while.

FRED: Yeah, I think he did.

MARCUS: Yeah, I think you told me that.

PAULINE: Well, where was Antelope at?

FRED: Well, it's over at, it's just between John Day and Dayville.

PEARL: One of them shacks?

FRED: No.

PEARL: One of them little towns that's over the ridge?

PAULINE: No.

MARCUS: Yeah, I think so.

FRED: Between John Day and Shaniko. It's on the river there.

PEARL: Don't it come in at Biggs?

MARCUS: Yeah.

PEARL: That road comes in at Biggs, instead of going this other way across ---

MARCUS: Across the Columbia River there. Used to cross it on the Maryhill ferry, I think. They got a bridge in there. I think it's over in that area.

FRED: I think there is a bridge there now.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, I think so.

FRED: Was the last time we was over there.

PAULINE: So, he was 17 years old and come and worked for Pete French. When did he marry

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and start his family?

FRED: Gosh, I couldn't tell you that.

PEARL: When he was married?

FRED: When he was married.

PEARL: Well, I don't know either. How much older is Addie, older than you? ... is older than you.

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: Older than Addie I think. I think he is 10 years older than you. Either that or Addie's 10 years older than you.

FRED: I think ... is 10 years older than we was.

PEARL: Well, then he must have been born about 1884. So, I imagine he was married sometime, probably around 1882 or somewhere along in there. Yeah, I think ... was just 10 years older than you was.

FRED: The Indian War was in '80, wasn't it?

MARCUS: '78.

FRED: '78.

PEARL: Your dad came here in '78?

FRED: Well, I imagine it was about that time. Between '78 and '80.

MARCUS: Well, he hadn't been with Pete French very long before he got ---

FRED: No.

MARCUS: When he got shot here in June of '78.

PAULINE: Well, that would have been June '78.

MARCUS: Yeah, 18th of June.

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PEARL: We've got a paper that tells when he came here.

MARCUS: Well, he married; your mother was a local girl, wasn't she?

FRED: Yes, she was a --- lived on Silver Creek.

MARCUS: So, he came back in this country to get married.

FRED: Yeah.

PAULINE: What was her name?

FRED: Her name was Miranda, what was her ---

PEARL: Miranda Jane.

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: Miranda Jane Baker.

FRED: Baker.

PAULINE: Baker.

MARCUS: Yeah, she was a Baker.

PAULINE: Yeah, she would have been some relation then to Tresa Baker's husband wouldn't she have?

FRED: Yeah, she was a sister.

PAULINE: A sister? Or an aunt?

PEARL: She was a sister to Bob Baker.

FRED: Yeah, she was a sister of Bob Baker's.

MARCUS: Well, was Bob and Tom brothers?

FRED: No. Tom and Frank was their --- they was cousins.

MARCUS: Cousins.

FRED: Yeah.

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PEARL: 1877 was the year your dad came to, 1877. He was born in 1861. So, he was just 16 years old then, wasn't he?

PAULINE: Can I see this?

PEARL: That is his transcript when they had that trial over the lake, you know, down there between the government and the state. That was his testimony.

PAULINE: Yeah. He was born in 1861 and came in 1877.

MARCUS: He lived here almost a hundred years ago, didn't he?

PAULINE: Yeah, that's a long time ago.

PEARL: Then his birthday isn't until October, so he wasn't 16 years old when he come. He was between 15 and 16.

FRED: His birthday was the 23rd of October.

PEARL: 23rd of October in 1877, you see, and then he wasn't 16 until that fall.

PAULINE: Well, this is what you have in your book, isn't it?

FRED: Yeah.

PAULINE: Well then did he settle right here? Is this where your dad homesteaded, or took up land, or after he worked for Pete French or ---

FRED: Yeah, took up a homestead up there close to Burns, Potter Swamp.

PAULINE: Is that where you were born, or ---

FRED: Yes.

PAULINE: Are you one of the twins, or ---

FRED: Triplet.

PAULINE: You're a triplet. What year was that?

FRED: In 1894, October the 1st.

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PAULINE: Where did you go to school?

FRED: For school I went to Potter Swamp, I guess.

PAULINE: Is there quite a few people down there in that community then?

FRED: No, I don't imagine there was over seven or eight.

PEARL: Seven or eight families, or seven or eight kids?

FRED: Seven or eight families.

PAULINE: I haven't ever had anyone tell me about the Potter Swamp School, so I am kind of interested.

PEARL: Where was a school in Potter Swamp?

FRED: Well, when we went to school, it was down close to the old Doug Baker place.

PAULINE: Doug Baker?

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: That's where Campbell's live now, Johnny Campbell.

FRED: Some of the Campbell's live there; I don't know which ones.

PAULINE: Yeah, it's right over there against the point there.

FRED: Right there at that point.

PEARL: There is somebody's grave right there. It's a little kid or something, didn't they say?

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: It's got a little fence around it.

FRED: But I don't remember whose kid it was buried there.

PEARL: ...

FRED: Nannie might remember the name of it.

PAULINE: Nannie?

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FRED: Elliott.

PAULINE: Elliott.

FRED: She lived there in Hines.

PEARL: She lives there on that circle there in Hines, you know, that circle. The street there by the park. Do you know where Vogler lives?

PAULINE: Yeah.

PEARL: She lives just this side of Voglers, on that circle street.

PAULINE: I have to go talk to her. I didn't even realize that she was a Witzel until Marcus told me here a few days ago. I've known her all my life too, but ---

PEARL: Some little girl that the people were traveling through or something, and that little kid died and they buried her there. I can't remember for sure. I know it ain't none of you folk's relatives.

FRED: No.

PEARL: That's all I do know. I know I've heard Nannie say, but I can't remember. Whether she even knew the name of it or not, or whether it's just --- I think it was just somebody was traveling through, a little girl or little child of some kind died, and they buried it there.

PAULINE: Do you remember who your teachers were there, or anything about going to school there?

FRED: Yeah, one of the teachers was, here name was ... then. She married ---

PEARL: Cote.

FRED: Yeah, Cote.

PEARL: You know Annie Cote, don't you Marcus?

MARCUS: You bet.

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PEARL: That's Wanda's, that's Wanda Cote that married Tommy Wentz, so it's her mother.

FRED: Her mother, yeah.

PEARL: That's right.

FRED: Another teacher was Sophia, Sophie Cribbs. I can't think of her other name.

PEARL: Well, you got some of them little cards there. I think there might be some of those names on that.

FRED: I ain't got nothing on there as far back as Annie Cote.

PEARL: Well, what teachers did you have there at the Narrows? You went to school at the Narrows.

FRED: Oh, I got an older sister, and Annie Cote, Vera Hendricks. Mrs. ... She married a feller name of Geer in Burns, owned a hardware store. I think his name was I. S. Geer.

PAULINE: Yes, there was an I. S. Geer. Did you walk to school when ---

FRED: Yeah.

PAULINE: Rain or snow or shine. Wintertime or, however.

FRED: That's right, we walked to school.

PAULINE: Did you go pretty much nine months, or just in wintertime or ---

FRED: No, at that time they only had about four months of school.

PEARL: Did you tell them about going to Judy Wise?

FRED: Yeah, Judy Wise when she was at, she taught at the Narrows.

PEARL: Sod House.

FRED: At the Narrows. She taught at the Narrows, and then she taught down there at the Sod House District after that.

PAULINE: Well, you had about four months of school. When would you go then, just during the



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real bad wintertime, or fall and spring?

PEARL: Well, when he wasn't helping his dad ...

FRED: Yeah. We only had about four months school, and I imagine that it was in the fall of the year.

PEARL: Have you got Eva Harris?

FRED: No, Eva Harris.

PEARL: That was at the Narrows, wasn't it? She and Myrtle Haines and John Witzel and Millie ... That was in 1909.

FRED: At the Narrows we went to school.

PEARL: Is when you got this card.

FRED: Yeah.

PAULINE: Isn't that nice. That's really pretty.

PEARL: That was in 1909. That was Eva Harris, she gave you that too. ...

FRED: She married Tex Byrd, Eva Harris did.

PAULINE: Tex Byrd?

FRED: Tex Byrd. You remember him, don't you, Marcus?

MARCUS: You bet.

FRED: Had a homestead out there close to your dad's.

MARCUS: I remember her too.

PAULINE: Was that B Y R D?

FRED: I imagine.

PEARL: And Mary Hurlburt.

FRED: Yeah, Mary Hurlburt.

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PEARL: 1906, that was at the Narrows.

FRED: That was at the Narrows.

PAULINE: Well do you remember what your dad had to say about working for Pete French? Did he ever talk much about the days that he buckarooed for him, or ---

FRED: No. He worked for Pete French at the Diamond Ranch. Herded horses there about the first work he done for Pete French. That's when the Indians come.

PEARL: Here is another teacher, Vera Hendricks.

PAULINE: Yeah, I got her.

PEARL: 1904, taught at the Narrows, I think it was Narrows. Yeah, it's Narrows. It's got Marrows on there, they made a misprint. Here is another 1903, that's Rose Rutherford in 1903. ... That wouldn't be up near Potter Swamp, would it?

FRED: Mayfield? Yeah, I think it was.

PEARL: Mayfield, Simmons and Cribbs.

FRED: Huh?

PEARL: Mayfield, Simmons, and Cribbs.

FRED: I think that was Potter Swamp.

PEARL: That was in 1903, you was just starting school. You was just 7 years old.

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: 4, no you would be 9 years old.

MARCUS: Go to sleep here and fall off on ...

FRED: (Laughter)

PAULINE: I wondered what was going on over there.

PEARL: Sagehen School is where you went to Annie ... Annie Cote, Sagehen.

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FRED: Where?

PEARL: Sagehen.

FRED: Yeah, well Sagehen that would be there at Potter's Swamp. They called it, come to think about it, I guess they did call that the Sagehen School.

PAULINE: That was Sagehen School then?

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: That is Mary ... She must have taught more than one year.

PAULINE: Well, after --- somehow or other you got from Potter Swamp down here into the, down into this area. When did your family move down here, or was this after you were grown?

FRED: I can't remember when we did move here.

PEARL: You mean up here? Up where? Up to this place?

FRED: No, when we moved from Potter's Swamp, down to this country.

PEARL: Down to the Narrows?

FRED: No, come from there down to the Narrows, and lived there at the Narrows several years.

And then I think it was 1916 then we come up here. Well, it was about 1912, we came up here and we took a homestead.

PAULINE: How old --- you were about what, about ---

FRED: I took a homestead around 21 years old.

PAULINE: You were around 21, huh?

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: Your mother classified you as being born on February the 22nd, 1918, your draft card.

FRED: Yeah.

PAULINE: Did you serve in the war? Did you ever go or were you just ---

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FRED: No, never went.

PAULINE: Well, is this right here, is this where you homesteaded?

FRED: No, up here about ---

PEARL: It's what's part of Baca Lake now.

FRED: Yeah, about 6 or 7 miles, it's called Baca Lake.

PAULINE: Have you raised cattle all of your life?

FRED: That's right.

PAULINE: Do you run them in the Steens or ---

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: Except for the two years you spent down in Portland in the shipyards during the war.

PAULINE: Oh, you were down there for a couple of years?

FRED: Yeah. Still had my cattle and my dad's business to take care of...

PAULINE: Yeah. Did you ever drive any of them out on cattle drives?

FRED: No, never did, but I worked at the Company, and we used to drive to Ontario. And then when they got the railroad into Juntura, we drove to Juntura.

PAULINE: How long would it take you to drive them to Ontario from down here?

FRED: Oh about, I imagine about 13 days.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PEARL: You used to help your dad freight them on down in there, too. Hauled supplies to Charlie Haines' Store there at the Narrows.

PAULINE: How often would you make the trip with the freight wagons? Was it a regular deal, or did you just go a few times a year?

FRED: No, like in the spring of the year, my dad would go, take a couple of trips. And maybe in

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the fall of the year he might make one, one or two. Generally, about one.

PAULINE: Yeah. Did he have an order of stuff that he got and brought back, or did he just go and get general ---

FRED: Just went. And well, Haines would order, you know, and maybe he'd have groceries, and some machinery, and whatever he had to sell there at the store. And Dad would go and bring back whatever they would need for a load.

PAULINE: Well did you go over empty, or did you have something that you would haul over?

FRED: He would just go over empty.

PAULINE: He would go over empty. How much of the team did he drive?

FRED: Well sometimes he had six horses and sometimes he had eight.

PAULINE: Just one wagon, or a couple of wagons?

FRED: Sometimes two, and sometimes three wagons. Most of the time two wagons.

PAULINE: Well if he had, like if you went along would he take two teams of horses, or would you just go ---

FRED: Well in the later years I would go along with him, and like Haines, he would give the order, he'd have a bunch of wagons down there.

PEARL: And he had new ones.

FRED: And new ones, and we'd take four extra horses, and when we got down there we would just load that wagon and bring it back for Haines.

PAULINE: Was the road about where it is now, or was it, did you go through Juntura and that way, or was it a different way?

FRED: He hauled, he used to freight from Huntington quite a lot, and Ontario, and he missed Juntura. Used to come over what they called Bendire Mountain. And I forget the names of some of

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them other mountains that he come across.

PAULINE: Then they came through the Agency?

FRED: Agency, right.

PAULINE: Yeah, and probably into Drewsey and then to Harney.

FRED: Yeah, and then to Beulah.

PAULINE: You much of a rodeo man? Did you, when you were younger, did you take in the rodeos?

PEARL: I think his rodeo ability was riding the milk cows. All the kids did that in them days.

FRED: For several years I was the pickup man in Burns.

PEARL: Him and Roy Bossuot would pick up for the rodeo for several years, and worked together.

FRED: And then they used to have a little rodeo out here at Frenchglen. And Vern Bossuot and I would be the pickup men up here.

PAULINE: Well, that can be kind of a dangerous job at that. I didn't know about a rodeo out here at Frenchglen though. When did they do that?

PEARL: Well, it was about the time Fred and I got married. Was it about '31?

FRED: About '31.

PEARL: '30, '31.

FRED: '31.

PEARL: Somewhere along there. They had two or three of them.

MARCUS: They had three there, '30, '31, '32. Down in Diamond, too.

FRED: Huh?

MARCUS: They had one over at Diamond, too.

FRED: Yeah. I never did have anything to do with the rodeo at Diamond, though.

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PEARL: Well Frank Henry, up here, he kind of helped put it on, didn't he?

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: Frank Henry.

FRED: Frank Henry and --- Well that little fella that used to run the garage up here.

PEARL: Guy Lasater.

MARCUS: Guy Lasater.

FRED: Yeah, Guy Lasater.

PEARL: I don't know who else.

FRED: Roy Clark.

PEARL: They even used to have a baseball team up here at Frenchglen. They played baseball.

PAULINE: Did you play on the baseball team? Did you ever go to Drewsey and play, and Crane and around?

PEARL: They went to Burns one time.

FRED: Played Hines.

MARCUS: We played Crane too.

FRED: Maybe we did.

MARCUS: Sure, we did.

PEARL: ...

MARCUS: I used to play on the team. Fred used to catch and I pitched. We played Crane, you bet. Yep, we played Crane.

FRED: I had forgot about that.

MARCUS: I don't know if we ever beat anybody, but we played them.

PEARL: All these guys around here, you know, they would go to the baseball game, I think on

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Sunday up here, and their hands were crippled up for all the rest of the week. And about the time they got healed up, another game came along. Fred used to have banged up fingers from catching. And Jim Hardin, he played on the team, by golly he was a good player, old Jim was. He could catch a ball, just turn his back and reach his hand out to get it, you know. Jim Hardin that was Marie's husband. You know who Marie Hardin is? Elmer Ash, he played on the team. Oh, that big fella that lived up there above, on the Barnes's place, what was his name? He played on the team.

MARCUS: Glenn Edwards.

FRED: Who?

MARCUS: Glenn Edwards.

FRED: Glenn Edwards, that's right.

PEARL: Yeah, that's right Glenn Edwards.

MARCUS: Glenn Edwards.

PEARL: He played on the team, and gosh I can't remember who else.

PAULINE: You were married about 1930 you said, 1931?

PEARL: '31.

PAULINE: Well, was your family a Harney County family too?

PEARL: Well, Dad come here and took up a homestead in 1916, but he didn't stay only just a short time, and then he left and went back to Washington. And I got married to stay here.

PAULINE: Well, what was his name?

PEARL: Myers.

PAULINE: Myers. What was his first name?

PEARL: George.



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PAULINE: George Myers. Where did he homestead?

PEARL: He homesteaded over there on the road from Frenchglen to the Narrows.

PAULINE: Oh, across that way.

PEARL: The road where the mail stage goes in on over to the Narrows. Well, I don't know from Frenchglen down there, well I imagine about 6 miles, 6 or 7 miles somewhere like that.

PAULINE: Did you ever teach school or anything around here or do anything?

PEARL: No.

PAULINE: Why did your dad leave? Was it because of drought or---

PEARL: Well, it just took too much money to live there. You couldn't raise no crops, too many jackrabbits I guess, and not enough rain, mainly. These dry ranches, you know, guys come in and take these homesteads and they starved out in just a short time. Not enough moisture to raise a crop. Too many jackrabbits to eat it up if you did raise one.

PAULINE: Were you married in Burns or ---

PEARL: Yes.

PAULINE: Yeah. Do you remember who the minister was, or the ---

PEARL: You mean Fred and I were married in Burns? Well, I was married before. Fred and I were married in Bend.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well I thought there was quite a few years in between there that were unaccounted for.

PEARL: Yeah, we were married in '31. We've lived here on this place ever since. That's 52 years, or 42 years, 42 years.

PAULINE: Do you usually go into Burns for supplies then when you lived here, or all the time that you were living here?

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PEARL: We didn't go very often them days. They didn't have enough gasoline to get you there and back again. About once every month or two.

PAULINE: Can you remember the first car you ever rode in?

FRED: No.

PAULINE: Or the first car you ever saw that you remember?

PEARL: Probably your old dad's old Model-T Ford, huh. Got to tell them the joke about that. The dad come home with the first old Model-T, and he had a garage. He drove in and hollered whoa, and went right on through. Come right around and done it again, went through twice before he ever did get it stopped. I know Fred's mother says that she pushed that old Ford, she said she thought more than she ever rode in it. Every time you came to a hill, you know, everybody would have to get out and ...

PAULINE: Yeah, get out and push.

PEARL: Especially if the ground was a little sandy, and we was, everyone would push the car over the hill and away you would go again.

PAULINE: What was the first car you ever owned, personally?

FRED: Ford.

PEARL: Model-T or Model-A?

FRED: Model-T. I think I got it in 1916, 1915.

PEARL: You was 21 years old, is that right?

FRED: Got it in 1915 from Myrtle Hickey in Burns.

PAULINE: Uh huh. What color was it?

FRED: Black.

PEARL: They were all black.

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MARCUS: They were all black.

PAULINE: They were all black, all black.

PEARL: That's the only kind of paint they had.

FRED: Only, then the radiator was copper. No, it was, I guess it was copper, but it was brass wasn't it Marcus?

PEARL: Copper and brass.

MARCUS: Brass.

FRED: The outside was brass, wasn't it?

MARCUS: Yes.

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: You know when we first come here, the first summer I guess I was here, I worked for Doctor Iland over there at Lawen. And old John Oard lived there just this side of where she lived down on the lake. Just before you got to her place, you come to old John Oard's place. And he had one of them old, old Fords that didn't have no doors on it, you know, one of these big old long horns on the side, you know. One of them real old ones. I just often wondered what they did with that. It sit in that garage for years.

PAULINE: Can you tell me a little bit about Doctor Iland and the outfit that they had over there at the Warm Springs?

PEARL: I don't know too much about it after they moved over there to Warm Springs. I know she built that swimming pool out there; you know. And the water was so hot that you had to cool it two or three days before they could even get into it.

PAULINE: Well when you worked for her, it was before that?

PEARL: She was down in the lake then, just running cattle down in there. Then she doctored

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around the country, you know. She was, she lived down there. I don't know who owns that place now. Craig Cohorn had it for a while, and then I don't know who is on it now. Its way down in the lake, you go down through Lawen there, and on down into the lake. But she doctored around there, she was a pretty good doctor, old lady, Doctor Iland was.

PAULINE: Where did she come from, do you know?

PEARL: I don't know that. I think possibly back east, maybe someplace. I think when she died, there was either a nephew or a niece or somebody came. The only relative she had or something like that.

PAULINE: Well, it's been kind of a mystery to me, or intriguing to me I should say, you know, about a woman doctor out in this country. But that period of time ---

PEARL: She had a buggy and a horse, and that's the way she went for a long time. And then finally they got the old Model-T Ford. Ralph Catterson, he used to drive her a lot after she got the car. Didn't he drive when she got the horse and buggy? I can't remember. Old Ralph just, they got in an argument one-time some-body said. And then --- about washing a car. So she washed her half, but she didn't wash Ralph's half. But in the spring of the year the water used to get kind --- around there, and she would go so far in the car, and then they would have to either wade in or ride horseback on back into the place.

PAULINE: Uh huh, because it was really right down near the lake. Yeah, I've heard that she was quite a good doctor and ---

PEARL: Yes, she was, Doctor Iland was. She was here, I guess, a long time. About the time the flu was so bad, about the time she come here. I don't know how long, but it was long about that time. Along about 1916 or '17, somewhere along there, '18. I wouldn't say for sure when she came, but I know she was here when we came. We came in 1916, Dad did, and she was living there by

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the lake then.

PAULINE: Do you remember the flu epidemic, and anything about that?

... (Discussion of the flu)

PAULINE: What about jackrabbit drives, did you ever take part in a jackrabbit drive?

FRED: Oh yes. Down at Voltage, went to a jackrabbit drive there one time. And then out in

Sunset, I was ---

PEARL: That was Brady, was that old lady's name, Mrs. Brady.

FRED: That's right, Brady, was that doctor's name.

PEARL: No that was a woman; yeah that woman was a doctor. She wasn't really a doctor; she was just a practical nurse.

FRED: Yeah, Brady.

PEARL: Brady.

FRED: We went to a jackrabbit drive out in Sunset Valley.

PAULINE: Well, tell me about the one out in Sunset Valley, I'm kind of interested in that Sunset Valley area out there.

FRED: Well they went out there, and there was lots of homesteaders in there at that time. I imagine --- well you take from the Narrows along the road to Burns, to Wright's Point rather.

PAULINE: Yeah.

FRED: Well, about every --- I think then the homestead law was 160 acres. Then they changed it to 320, it could have been 320. But anyway there was homesteads, you might as well say, from the Narrows clear to Wright's Point on both sides of the road, besides further out there, was homesteads. But they was just pretty near all taken right along that road. And then during the war, about 1917, they all pulled out, and of course I guess they went to the shipyards.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

PEARL: Well, she wanted to know how you did the rabbit drive, Daddy.

PAULINE: Yeah, we'll get him back on the track here.

FRED: Yeah. Well, out there in Sunset they'd just take --- and there was one of these people lived there, and like there would be two ranches, and a fence along, you know, from one ranch and down. And they cover a, triangles, why they'd take and build a corral right in the corner. And then they'd just, people would get out there, oh probably it would be 75 to a 100, you know. Some of them would be a horseback; they'd take the outside and go way around. And they'd just all come in, you know, and they'd drive them rabbits, they would be --- they was probably a hundred yards apart, a couple hundred yards. And as they come close to those wings, they just kept a coming in, you know. And they'd just drive those rabbits into those there pens, the pen they had built. And I've seen them piled up there, you know, where they'd be ... this here house as high, you know. Make those drives.

PAULINE: Then you just get in there and club them.

FRED: That's right, they'd just take clubs and ---

PEARL: Maybe had thousands of them.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PEARL: Everybody would take a lunch, and they all had a big potluck dinner afterward.

FRED: Lots of those people, you know, in them days, lots of those homesteaders would take those rabbits, a lot of them, dress them for their meat, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PEARL: Well, it was either that or go without meat.

FRED: Well, in them days it don't seem like, after that, years after that why these rabbits kind of got disease in them.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

PAULINE: Yeah.

FRED: In them days you never seen a rabbit that had a disease.

PEARL: Well, in later years they had one or two rabbit drives over to Barton Lake, Jenkins did over there. Maybe you remember that, it hasn't been very long ago.

PAULINE: Well, about 15 years ago they were real bad again, they were really bad again.

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: They had drives over at Barton Lake, Jenkins did.

MARCUS: Yeah,...during the CC days. I think they got one rabbit. And the CC boy tromped him to death getting out of a hole, they poked down into.

PEARL: Well, every one of those CC kids had a rifle, those that come from New York. And I think they cleaned our rabbits out up here, we never had too many after that.

MARCUS: Well ... would beat off, you know, the rabbits would dodge around ... It was just like playing hockey. That was the only rabbit you got. They were coming in there and eating up the lawns.

FRED: Oh yeah.

PEARL: Well, they were quite thick, I guess, after the CC left. When Freddy was just about 8 or 9 years old ...

MARCUS: '58 was, that was the year the rabbits and the mice ---

PAULINE: Yeah, they were really bad that year.

PEARL: Born in '37, that would be '47 and '48.

FRED: What did you say, '58?

MARCUS: '58.

PEARL: Well we had them thick before that, because I can remember them ---

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

MARCUS: Yes, but this '58, the last ---

PEARL: During haying time we'd start right here by the corral and just go up to the road under the hill there, and we'd kill 90 or a 100 rabbits. I'd drive the jeep for him, and he'd shoot rabbits. It was just a matter of; it was just a quarter of a mile.

MARCUS: Yeah.

PEARL: And we'd get about 90 or a 100 rabbits right there. They were pretty thick that time. We went down the road here one night, we was going down into the field there where the haystack ... going to shoot them. And lo and behold the antelope season was on. Just ready to turn in the gate, well here come the cop, a new one they brought in for this antelope hunt. Well he wrote us out a ticket for shooting off the highway. I guess we did shoot one or two going down there, maybe a half a dozen. He swore we was hunting, or something. We had to take the hubcaps off and everything. I told him we was just going down to the field and kill the rabbits around the haystack. "You know," he said, "how many tickets I wrote out between here and Burns?" He said, "13."

MARCUS: All rabbit hunters, huh?

PEARL: All rabbit hunters. You know he got Elmer Ash right up here after he left us; he caught him that made 14.

### SIDE B

MARCUS: When Charlie Chapman moved out to Star Mountain in 1931, there wasn't a deer in the country there. And then they started showing up along, oh a couple years later. By '35 there was deer all over the place there. Then they started showing up down home in here, too. But then in 1927, I hunted on Steens Mountain up there. Fred Osburn, my uncle, married Judy Wise, told me he herded sheep on Steens Mountain the summer of 1940. Saw one little forked horn buck all



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summer.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: What happened, I don't know.

PAULINE: Sounds like they go in cycles then.

MARCUS: And then if you read these early diaries in here, there wasn't any game in the country.

People ate their horses, and ate their oxen coming through here.

PAULINE: Well, that book, you know, that Oregon history book that Charlie Otley had over here?

I was looking in there for references to Harney County, and that one I got a hold of, well it was a relative of Irene Davis' that was with this party that Meek brought in through this area someway.

And they got, oh they ---

MARCUS: Yeah, in 1845 went down by Wagontire.

PAULINE: And no water, no game, nothing to eat, no anything. Yeah.

PEARL: ...earlier in 1918 along there, when I was out there to Jack Creek there was quite a lot of antelope out there in that country.

MARCUS: Oh there is lots of antelope in that country, yeah, you bet.

PEARL: I don't remember about too many deer, but I can remember there was lots of antelope out in there.

MARCUS: Yeah, the Foster Flat country.

PEARL: Yeah, droves of them.

MARCUS: Foster Flat ---

PEARL: In the wintertime they bunch up, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, Foster Flat at that time. Well up in the '30's was bare brush, you know.

FRED: Yeah.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

MARCUS: You remember, Fred, we used to go out there, I had that, you remember that ... Ford Roadster I had. Go out there and we'd catch an antelope on that lake. The brush is that high now, and as thick as hair on a dog's back.

FRED: I know when I was just a kid, well I was probably about 15 years old, 16, Taft Miller and I used to --- of course ... And we'd go out there and we was riding for those fellows. And out on Foster Flat we used to try to outrun those antelope and lasso them. And they'd just, we'd just get about so close, just ready to lasso one and they'd just stayed right there. We never could get close enough to really lasso them.

MARCUS: You ...

FRED: That's right.

PAULINE: Well, they're fast.

PEARL: They're pretty fast on ... You betcha they are.

MARCUS: Fred, Jack Robinson told me that when he first went out in that country, they was stacking hay out on Foster Flat. Did you ever see haystacks on Foster Flat?

FRED: No.

MARCUS: ... along there.

FRED: Who's that?

MARCUS: Jack Robinson.

PEARL: Jack Robinson.

FRED: Well, I never seen any hay there. I seen where they, out there at Clover Swale, this side Clover Swale there where Jack lived. Of course, there was no brush. And I guess they did cut hay in there, all right. They used to have a little haystack there.

MARCUS: Yeah.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

PAULINE: Well, what about Clover Swale, was there quite a community there at Clover Swale?

Did they ever have a post office or stores or anything there?

FRED: I don't think so.

MARCUS: No, not right at Clover Swale.

PEARL: They just had one there at Blitzen, and Beckley, and Catlow, wasn't it, post offices?

MARCUS: Yeah, there were six out there, Berdugo, and ---

PEARL: Six, oh Ragtown.

MARCUS: Yeah, Ragtown, and Rock Creek, and one of them up toward the schools there too. Up toward Clover Swale, but they were still out in Catlow Valley.

FRED: Catlow Valley.

MARCUS: Clover Swale, Pauline, was just a little valley, and it juts back up into the hill, and it breaks off of this country out south of Harney Lake. And the drainage goes to Catlow Valley, but the drainage on this side of it comes to Harney Lake, or Silver Lake. It comes to the north, and that drainage goes to the south from when you get into Clover Swale.

PAULINE: But there were quite a few people that had places out in there?

MARCUS: Well, there was about three places, four places in there.

PEARL: That's where Mrs. Bradeen and her homestead...

MARCUS: It was close by there.

PEARL: I think her mother was out there, too.

PAULINE: I know Treff Duhaime was out there for a while.

MARCUS: Yeah, now they're out in the ---

FRED: I'll tell them about ...

PAULINE: They weren't actually in ---

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

MARCUS: They weren't actually in Clover Swale.

PAULINE: Now they refer, when I talked to Bessie, she referred to that.

MARCUS: Well, when they'd come to Burns, they'd come right through Clover Swale and in on the south side of Harney Lake, and then to the Narrows, and went through that way.

PAULINE: So, it would be as good a way to identify as any way. But I had an idea that it was a bigger area than that.

MARCUS: No, it really isn't.

PEARL: Dave Crow lived there.

MARCUS: Yeah, and he was pretty well out in the mouth of it.

PEARL: ... and Mrs. Nelson's place. Mrs. Bradeen, her name was Nelson then. Augustine ---

MARCUS: Yeah, well Augustine was over the hill. He was actually out of Clover Swale. He was over to the south, or to the west and over, out of Clover Swale. There was the old Clarence Mace place, and Jack Robinson. And then there was --- those people's names--- I got this tape from Johnny Crow, he told me their names. There was a rock house over on the west side over there, the west side of the valley between Jackson and Jack Robinson's, and Clarence Maces place. It just about come to me, but not quite. And it's over toward where ... dumps in there. O'Malley, O'Malley is the name.

FRED: O'Malley.

MARCUS: I never knew ---

PEARL: Well, where does ... was he at Catlow Valley ...

FRED: He was out this side of Taft Miller's there.

PEARL: Oh.

MARCUS: Did he have a homestead?

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: I never knew ---

PEARL: Tucke's had a place in there, you know, called...

FRED: Once you stopped in the old ... there, just as you go up the bridge there a little ways there is a little draw right up, and Babe had a place in that draw, and Tucke, Bill Tucke.

PEARL: They called that Tucke Flat there, didn't they?

FRED: Yeah. Before you ever went over it, Clover Swale.

MARCUS: On over around Mud Springs there, at Taft's home...

FRED: Yeah, right there, just this side of Mud Springs is where Tucke and them had that homestead.

MARCUS: Millers and them weren't too far apart, I guess, were they?

FRED: No.

MARCUS: I never knew just where the Tuckes lived.

FRED: Three or four miles. Well just before you get to Mud Springs there, you remember kind of a draw that run up the country there? Well, old Babe had a homestead right in that there draw, and Tuckes was on above him there.

MARCUS: On up above there yet.

FRED: On above him. Well, it must have been a couple three miles over to Clover Swale, wasn't it, over the ridge there where you drop down in ---

MARCUS: Oh yeah, it would be all that and more.

FRED: Yeah, come to think about it.

MARCUS: We were out there one time; I'll have to tell you this, in 1951 when we were branding calves out at Walls Lake. And we were up in what they call "V" Valley; do you know where "V"

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

Valley is?

FRED: No.

MARCUS: Its west of the Walls Lake. Old windy day about like yesterday, and Jean Miller and Jean Koffman, the people that bought out Billy Dunn down here, and myself, we were off our horses in the head of "V" Canyon waiting for the fellows to kind of get the --- a whole bunch of us. And we hunkered down behind the brush there, and Jerry Miller trotted up, and he said, "Hey there is a man overboard." And I was beginning to look around for the water. You know it was Joe, he was riding the colt, and a sagehen flew out from under him and left Joe where the sagehen left from. We run that horse all over the country to catch him. (Laughter) We had a man overboard, I'll tell you.

PAULINE: I know this sounds like a silly question, but can you remember what your house was like, oh when you were a little boy? What was your house like? How many rooms did it have?

FRED: That I wouldn't know, but I remember it was a two-story house.

PEARL: Well, isn't that the same old house that's on the place up there where you kids was born at?

FRED: I think so; I think it is still there.

PEARL: Lee Morris, didn't he ---

FRED: Yeah. ... place out there.

PAULINE: Oh, that's where you were born?

FRED: Yeah, out where Lee Morris lived out there. South of the sawmill there, where you go into Silver Creek.

PAULINE: Well, I've got a picture of that, or I've seen a picture of that house, yeah.

FRED: Yeah.

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PAULINE: It was a two story. And did you kids sleep upstairs then?

FRED: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah. Had a big porch on the front, didn't it?

FRED: Yeah. Up ... we was off above the ground. I remember one time, we was just kids, my brother ... brother was making a ... And fixed a ... on my mother's sewing machine ... peddle it and that wheel would run there, you know. ...

MARCUS: You pulled it off this high porch.

FRED: Pulled it off this high porch.

MARCUS: I bet you were a pretty popular kids about then.

PEARL: About the only sewing machine for miles around.

PAULINE: Yeah, I imagine that your mother was not too happy with you.

PEARL: Especially in those days when you had to make all your own clothes.

MARCUS: You bet.

FRED: I know dad patched it up...

PEARL: ...you and Freddie burnt the haystack up.

FRED: We were living right there.

PAULINE: How did you manage to set the haystack on fire?

FRED: Smoking.

PEARL: Learning to smoke.

PAULINE: I should have known.

PEARL: All the hay ...

FRED: At that time, it was after haying in the fall of the year, you see, and it was earlier ... and I forget who else. That time they was breaking Calvary horses. And Dad had them corrals there, you

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see, right on that rim rock. And they was breaking Calvary horses there. And of course, them fellows was always smoking all the time, you see. And we was little tads, and we decided we'd smoke. So, we went back right on top of the ... in them corrals, and I guess there was a whole in the ground, in the rocks there, you know, and we'd go up there by golly and --- And the buckaroo wagon always stopped there, you see, and left their supplies in it, you see, and matches and everything. And the old matches used to come in those boxes, them seven day matches, you see. And of course, we went down there to the buckaroo wagon, and there is where we got our matches. And smoking that there pine bark off of these here pine poles in the barn, you know, we'd get that pine bark off, and we'd ... smoking.

MARCUS: You bet.

FRED: And we smoked up there in that rim rock for a long time. And then we decided after they got that haystack, well that would be a dandy place to smoke. So, we went over there to smoke. And of course, them old seven day matches, you know, you'd light one of them and if you wasn't careful, you know, get right close to the head of them why they'd break off. So, I lit a match, you know, and the head broke off, and it didn't even more than hit that haystack till boy she went right over it, you know. The hay was dry, you know. Burnt up the haystack for Dad. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Did he find out how it got started?

FRED: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah, he did.

FRED: It didn't anymore than get started, you see, we didn't get ...

PEARL: Two kids on ...

MARCUS: Didn't have a chance to get away, did you?

FRED: Couldn't get away from that haystack, you see. Dad and them their fellows from the corral,



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they was riding those, breaking those Calvary horses. My dad was out there at the corral, and four or five men, and they run over there. But of course, it's all over that haystack, you know.

MARCUS: Sure.

FRED: Burnt that haystack up right now.

PAULINE: Well, what was a seven-day match like, that's a new one on me?

PEARL: Well, they come in blocks, about that square. And they'd, it looked like they just chopped them. Chinese matches, we used to call them. That way, and then they'd chop them this way. And they was just little, they wasn't much bigger than a toothpick, square. And they was sulphur on them. They didn't light like these others; it took them quite awhile when you'd strike one of them, before it would get to burn. It's not like sulphur, sulphur matches.

FRED: She'd like to take them, the butt end of the matches, and they'd mash them down and they wouldn't tear apart.

PEARL: I thought maybe they just cut them down that far, Daddy, and left them.

FRED: No, that was kind of mashed.

MARCUS: They was mashed together in this block, you just pulled your match loose from it, Pauline.

PAULINE: Just about like a book of matches, only ---

MARCUS: Yeah, only it was wood.

PEARL: They come in cans about the size of the old coal oil cans, the ones I seen, wasn't they Dad? They come in these cans, about a five-gallon can. They come packed in them when they shipped them. It took one of them twenty minutes to get started burning that sulphur some way or other, before it would get the match lit up enough so you could light something with it.

MARCUS: My gosh...Springer, I think that's what killed him, smoked a pipe and used those old

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matches. And he smoked more sulphur than he did tobacco.

FRED: Probably.

MARCUS: He started out with a block of those things, he'd break them off about what he'd use in a day, you know. It would be about that square, and he'd use a half a dozen on every pipe full of tobacco. He never had that pipe out of his mouth. Big long straight stem pipe he always smoked.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: And he died with respiratory condition, and he had it for years. And I bet you that's what --- emphysema probably is what it was.

PEARL: Probably what was happening.

MARCUS: They didn't know what it was in those days, you know.

PEARL: But there was sure a lot of sulphur in them.

MARCUS: Oh gosh, you couldn't hardly stay in the house when two or three guys striking them old sulphur matches.

PAULINE: It would be worse than the smoke of the cigarette.

MARCUS: Yes, it was, it really was worse.

PAULINE: And you smoked pine bark off of the ---

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: Pine poles.

PAULINE: That sounds wicked.

MARCUS: You bet, that really is wicked too. That would be worse than ... coffee.

FRED: Well, it is hard to get started, you know. Then you have to puff like the dickens to keep her a going.

MARCUS: I'll bet you did.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

PAULINE: Well can you think of anything else that we ought to talk about before --- It's getting long towards the end of the day here. I don't know ---

PEARL: Well, they used to stack hay up here at the P Ranch for years.

PAULINE: What was your specialty, did you stack or ---

FRED: I was a stacker.

PAULINE: You were a stacker. Were you apt to get a rattlesnake on the stack down in that kind of ---

FRED: Yeah, once in awhile.

PAULINE: What would you do when you had a rattlesnake on the stack?

FRED: Well, we didn't always see him until ... get off the haystack or something, he'd be hanging on the edge of the hay, or ---

PEARL: Might be like old Keller up here, he got one on his rake one time, it hooked in the teeth and come up behind him. Dropped onto the platform there where his feet was. He said, "I looked at him, and he looked at me, and I yelped."

MARCUS: He yelped.

PEARL: He said, "I yelped."

FRED: I know over to the Island we was stacking, Dad used to stack hay there at Diamond, you know, contracted for years. And Walter ... and I was ... And you remember old ... he was there, he was ... So, we drove around, we went to dinner and we come back and ... the back of the stack, right where we got off the hay stack. And there was a big rattlesnake, and the head kind of mashed down, you know, and he was laying on that hay, just ... ready to fall off it. And we just pulled those two loads to the back end, and then we, dinnertime, so we took the hook, you know, where you hook the cable. ... backed up there close to the haystack and reached up there and kept getting the

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

straw, and finally he got it down off of there. There was lots of rattlesnakes at Diamond, you know, and the Cummins field, on the side where the schoolhouse is. Lots of rattlers, there used to be lots of rattlers next to that.

PEARL: Well, you used to pick up a rattlesnake right here in the field, all of the haystacks pretty near every summer, one or two.

MARCUS: You used to get them out here in your grain field too.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: Used to pitch bundles, I've seen that happen.

PEARL: They used to crawl right in here to the house. We used to kill one every summer.

FRED: Just down around behind the point there, where that little haystack used to set. And Freddy was just a little old kid and had an ... team and I was bunching hay, hay buncher. And I had, the lines was long, you know, and he wanted to drive ... so I let him on the seat ... and so I just walked along behind holding the lines. And we just went right over that rattlesnake, you see, and rolled him along. And by golly I could feel something down around my feet, and I was just stepping ... I didn't know what it was. And just as soon as I got a little ways there, away went that there snake.

MARCUS: You were dragging him along with your toe.

FRED: And there I was a walking along behind there. And of course, we'd rolled him you see, and he was about as scared as I was, I guess. See he was trying to get away, you see, after I rolled him in that hay buck.

MARCUS: Yeah.

FRED: Walked all over that rattlesnake. Well, I could feel him around my feet, you see. I killed several down there that one time.

PAULINE: That's spooky to me; I don't even want to get that close to them.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

FRED: Was it you, Marcus, pitching bundles down there, and one was right up in the top of the bundles?

MARCUS: You bet.

FRED: Pitching to the ... threshing machine.

PAULINE: Well did you ever really hear though of people actually getting bit by a rattlesnake?

PEARL: I don't think so, with the amount of rattlesnakes there is, and the amount of people. One kid got bit up here, they said at the campgrounds.

MARCUS: Yeah, I was going to ask you, did Freddy...

FRED: No.

MARCUS: It said a local rancher flew ---

FRED: Well, that's what they said.

MARCUS: Went to the hospital, and I was just wondering.

FRED: Freddy didn't fly them in. It must have been somebody that had a plane up in there.

PEARL: Must have been somebody that was landing there at Frenchglen or something.

MARCUS: Well, why don't you tell Pauline about the amount of hay that you used to stack, and the crews that it took to stack the hay in those days, Fred? Your dad contracted a lot of hay, and he stacked a good many thousand pounds a year, didn't he?

FRED: That's right.

MARCUS: And he had quite a crew to do it. And he had to average what, a hundred tons or more a day in order to ---

FRED: Averaged about a 125 ton a day.

MARCUS: Yes.

FRED: Along the last years we stacked at the P Ranch.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

PAULINE: And this is with horses, and net setters and ---

FRED: With horses. Yeah, horses.

MARCUS: Yeah, with a net and cable.

FRED: Net and the cable.

PEARL: Had about three kids on the net, and they played all the time.

FRED: Two men on a haystack. See, we had a net setter, pullback, and around three hay bucks, five; two stackers, seven; two drivers, nine. About nine men.

PEARL: And you rodeoed in the evening, riding the milk cow's calf. ...

PAULINE: And you'd put up hay for the P Ranch and other ranchers too?

FRED: Yeah, cut hay at the P Ranch, and generally hit about 4,000 ton at the P Ranch. Between 3,000 and 3,500, and 4,000 ton. Then at the Diamond Ranch we used to stack about 2,000 ton over there.

PAULINE: Yeah, this thing about 125 tons a day, I know --- wait, say that again. It was more than 125 ton a day. Yeah 100 ton, to 125, that's right.

PEARL: 100 to 125 a day.

FRED: 125 ton a day.

PAULINE: Yeah, my dad would say, if you didn't get up that much, why you fired your haying crew.

PEARL: Yeah, that's about right. You had to get that much up in order to make both ends meet.

MARCUS: Well, then your dad did a lot of dirt work too. He was, he had a lot of good horses, and boys to work them, and ---

FRED: Had about 30 head of workhorses.

MARCUS: Yeah.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

FRED: And we built that ditch over there to Skull Creek, down around to irrigate the Spangleburger Ranch.

MARCUS: Did you?

PAULINE: Spangleburger?

FRED: Uh huh.

PAULINE: That's a new one on me.

FRED: That's over there close to Long Hollow.

MARCUS: Over close to the HL, you remember the HL?

PEARL: The HL is the other side of Three Mile.

MARCUS: You know right where you're at now, Pauline?

PAULINE: No, I know Long Hollow is ---

FRED: At Roaring Springs, we built a lot of ditch there.

MARCUS: Well then you built ---

FRED: And this here canal bank here, my dad and Fay Comegys and Vickers. And there was another outfit or two, don't remember their names. But this here canal when they dug it here, you see, that dirt was just piled up here. Piled, you couldn't even hardly walk up and down there. And they made this here road, up and down this canal. My dad helped make that there. And I run a fresno.

PEARL: Oh ... fresno.

FRED: ... fresno.

MARCUS: Leveled this out with the fresno.

PAULINE: Well, then was he involved with that dredging that they did on --- that Pete French did?

FRED: No, no.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

PAULINE: He didn't get in on that?

FRED: No.

PAULINE: Well, then what about this breaking horses for the Calvary too, how long did he do that?

FRED: Well, I just think that one-year.

PAULINE: Just the one year.

FRED: Just that one-year they broke horses there. That fall, or I know they wasn't too long ... they stayed there.

PEARL: ...what did he do down there? Work in those mines or something?

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: For a year or two.

MARCUS: He was in Utah for two years, according to this article here.

FRED: Yeah, he worked in the mines there in Utah, copper mines.

PAULINE: How many of you kids were there?

PEARL: Got to take your fingers to count them?

FRED: Yeah. Oh let's see.

PAULINE: Were you triplets the oldest?

FRED: No.

PEARL: No, one boy, one girl, and then the triplets. Then Nannie and Eddie and Dell.

FRED: Then Dell.

MARCUS: What did you count, about eight?

FRED: About eight.

PEARL: Then there was one or two died when they were small.



## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

PAULINE: One, two, three, six, seven, eight, yeah. Well, that's quite a family. Well, you were the first ---

PEARL: Especially when they come three at a time.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well, you were the first triplets born in Harney County, weren't you?

MARCUS: ...pretty quick that way.

PAULINE: You were the first triplets born in Harney County, weren't you?

FRED: We were the first triplets born in Harney County.

PAULINE: And then the ... came along. I went to school with the ... yeah. And then we had those triplets that were born, what was it, last winter?

PEARL: A year or so ago.

PAULINE: Yeah, a year or so ago.

PEARL: They was born in October too.

PAULINE: Yeah.

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: What's their names now?

PAULINE: I don't remember what --- Oh I know who it is too.

PEARL: Brinkleys.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah it's Pansy Mace's grandchildren.

FRED: Yeah.

PEARL: Brinkleys. They must be getting pretty good sized now, walking and everything.

PAULINE: Yeah, they'd be ---

PEARL: I think they'd be, what three ---

PAULINE: Yeah, they must be two or three, because it's been quite a while ago.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

PEARL: I've got a picture of them somewhere in my --- I believe it is laying right here.

PAULINE: Well Marcus, can you think of anything else we ought to touch on before we pack up. I have to get home here pretty soon.

MARCUS: Yeah, I've got to too. I've got to get ready to go to Ontario in the morning.

FRED: You've got to go to Ontario?

MARCUS: I've got to be there at 10 o'clock in the morning, Ontario time.

FRED: Well, you've got lots of time then.

MARCUS: You've got to get up before breakfast to do it, you know. (Laughter)

PEARL: They were born in '71. (Brinkley triplets)

PAULINE: Well, speaking about your dad being shot in the hip by the Indian. And I guess it broke his hip from what Marcus was telling me a while ago. Did that bother him then later in life, or did that all heal up pretty good?

FRED: It all healed up pretty good, but it bothered him, you know. Not too much, I don't think. If it did, he never complained about it anyway.

PAULINE: Well, riding a horse as far as he did with a broken hip is quite an experience.

FRED: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Pauline, when we went in the Otleys there, went up through ... up there over the hill, P Ranch, back around the Sand Reef, and over to Fort Harney, with a broken hip, she looked at me with eyes about that big, you know. That's enough to make your eyes bug a little.

PAULINE: Yeah, that's --- Yes, it is.

PEARL: Well, it was either ride or have the Indians capture you, be scalped...

FRED: Well, I've always wished, Marcus, when we was over there taking pictures of that horse head, why didn't I get a hold of that horse head and hold it up?

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

MARCUS: Well, we'll go back. Well, I'll tell you what I'm going to do as soon as Lynn, Tony, Lynn gets his hay stacked. We'll get the horses and maybe get some of the kids around there, the Davis kids, and string some horses out and kind of show that trail. We'll go on up and do that.

FRED: Well, I thought about that after we left over here. Why didn't I hold the horse head up? And you said, well that was my dad's horse.

PEARL: Oh, it could be.

FRED: Well, it might not be, but I kind of think it is, don't you?

MARCUS: Well, picture this head that is partly in the shade there, and it doesn't mean a thing the way it is.

FRED: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah. I got the picture back Friday.

PAULINE: The skull, there is a skull up there?

MARCUS: Yeah, just a skull.

FRED: But it is right there. Of course, it might not be the horse at all. It's right there about where his horse was shot.

MARCUS: Uh huh. It don't matter whether it is not, it adds a little something to the story.

FRED: That's right.

MARCUS: But as it is, it doesn't tell very much.

FRED: Yeah, well we...

MARCUS: Yeah, we'll do that. We'll go back and get that picture of the trail from down below there.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: You can't see that trail, it's grown up now, you know.

## AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

FRED: That's right.

MARCUS: And then these close-ups that Willis took, he got one picture back down, shows the road coming up from Diamond, and right up through the country. And actually, the only one he got there.

FRED: Oh, the heck.

MARCUS: Yeah, he was, he was concentrating a little too much on the horses, without showing the background there too much.

FRED: Yeah.

MARCUS: They are excellent pictures, just dandies. They don't show quite as much as you would like to have seen.

FRED: They just didn't --- well I'll be darned.

PAULINE: You don't care if I shoot you, do you? (Picture)

FRED: No.

PAULINE: Well, I think it will work all right.

PEARL: Have you got a flash on it?

PAULINE: No. But I think it will ---

PEARL: Pretty dark.

PAULINE: Well, I've got some high speed film, and that's what it is supposed to --- I'm going to move one over here, and take one a little closer. One of the two ought to turn out.

PEARL: Turn on some lights for you if you like.

PAULINE: I think there is enough light. Don't stick your tongue out. (Laughter) Well I sure thank you for sitting down with me.

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AV-ORAL HISTORY #51 - FRED & PEARL WITZEL

MARCUS: Well Pauline, we'd better get going.

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