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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #53 - Side A

Subject: Jack & Doris Kittredge

Place: Fort Rock, Oregon

Date: June 22, 1992

Interviewer: Edward Gray

Release Form: No

EDWARD GRAY: This is Edward Gray, with Jack and Doris Kittredge, at the Kittredge Ranch in Lake County. What date is this?

JACK KITTREDGE: The 21st, 22nd.

DORIS KITTREDGE: The 22nd.

EDWARD: The 22nd.

JACK: It's my daughter's birthday.

EDWARD: Oh. June 22nd, 1992. Clarence --- Jack, did you ever hear of Clarence Woodard? What do you know about Clarence? What did your father --- your father was Walter. Or the old Bill --- what did they ever say about Clarence Woodard?

JACK: Well, I think Clarence Woodard worked; he worked for Bill Kittredge when they were here. And the last time we saw him, in fact the only time we saw him, was 1954 when we moved up here. He came in and we never heard more about him. And then he went --- Clarence had a farm, I think, in California, some place in California, I'm not sure where. See he married ...

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Cummings ... Now that's enough?

EDWARD: No, not even close, Jack. (Laughter)

JACK: Oh, I don't know, see I don't really know that much about Clarence Woodard.

EDWARD: What did your dad, you knew Bill, the original Bill Kittredge?

JACK: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: That would be your grand ---

JACK: That would be my uncle.

EDWARD: Uncle. Did he ever mention anything about Clarence Woodard that you recall?

JACK: Not to my knowledge, no. But I don't, I know he worked for him for a long time.

EDWARD: Do you know if that was in the 1910's?

JACK: Could have been, yeah.

EDWARD: And did Bill Kittredge have his big ranch on Klamath Marsh then?

JACK: I'm not sure. He had Summer Lake; I know.

EDWARD: He had one at Summer Lake?

JACK: Yeah, uh huh.

EDWARD: And Bill Kittredge is your uncle?

JACK: Right.

EDWARD: Did any of your relatives ever mention anything about Clarence Woodard being involved with horse stealing?

JACK: No.

EDWARD: Did they ever mention anything about him drinking?

JACK: No.

EDWARD: Heavy drinker, you know, not the cowboy drinker. But ---

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JACK: No, not to my knowledge.

EDWARD: Did they say anything positive about Clarence Woodard?

JACK: Well, I think ... he was a very good worker. He was a man that worked for the interest of the person he worked for.

EDWARD: Did he by chance ever work for Bill Kittredge, because of staying out of jail?

JACK: Well, I don't know.

EDWARD: Don't know? Now let me --- Clarence Woodard was nice, a neat guy.

JACK: Yeah, he was.

EDWARD: When you and Doris saw him in 1954 ---

JACK: '54.

EDWARD: --- at the MC down at Warner Valley.

JACK: Right.

EDWARD: What was he doing then, do you recall?

JACK: He was just; he was up there visiting.

EDWARD: Visiting, oh.

JACK: I think, I'm not sure if he still had a ranch in California, or whether he had sold it, I'm not sure.

EDWARD: Did --- Of course --- '54 you were 31 years old.

JACK: 30 years old.

EDWARD: 30 years old.

JACK: 30, I got --- '54.

EDWARD: So, he just stopped by to visit Kittredge, probably?

JACK: Right.

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EDWARD: Bill.

JACK: Bill.

EDWARD: Old Bill, or Bill senior. And Leona was with him?

JACK: We didn't meet her.

EDWARD: Didn't meet her.

JACK: No. Did you meet her, Doris?

DORIS: No, I don't think she was with him.

JACK: Was he?

DORIS: I don't know.

JACK: I don't either. But I know we never met her.

EDWARD: Did you ever hear of, and you've been around this country quite awhile, you've heard of Bill Brown. Did you ever hear of "Punk" (V. M.)? Robertson?

JACK: Uh huh.

EDWARD: What did you hear about Punk Robertson, Jack?

JACK: Well not too much, I don't know ---

EDWARD: Oh, come on --- what a --- not too much. What kind of a guy was Punk Robertson?

JACK: I don't know, I think he was kind of a traitor, wasn't he? I think he was.

EDWARD: Never met him, Jack.

JACK: I never met him either. This is hearsay.

EDWARD: What was the hearsay about this guy?

JACK: Oh, I don't know, I'm not sure. Didn't he run a lot of horses or something? I don't know whether he run horses --- did he run horses out here in Bill Brown's day? I guess he did.

EDWARD: Yeah. He also stole them.

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JACK: Did he?

EDWARD: Old Punk was in the state pen a few times. What about his brother, V. L. (corrected to William L.), I think it is.

JACK: Never heard ---

EDWARD: Never heard of his brother?

JACK: No.

EDWARD: What about Jess Penington?

JACK: Oh yeah, I know Jess.

EDWARD: Did Jess ever say anything to you about the death of Ira Bradley, by any chance?

JACK: No, he never did.

EDWARD: Did he ever say anything about working for Link Hutton?

JACK: No, not to my knowledge, no.

EDWARD: Does Jess talk much?

JACK: Well, he didn't used to; I don't know whether he does now or not.

EDWARD: He --- not at all.

DORIS: No, he never talked about those things.

JACK: No, he never --- I've known Jess a long time, and ---

EDWARD: Everybody seems to know Jess.

JACK: Yeah. Oh, he's been, see he's been at Summer Lake for, probably longer than we've been out here.

EDWARD: Did you know that Jess Penington and the Hosmer Bradley found Ira Bradley?

JACK: No, I didn't know.

EDWARD: Jess Penington has been around Wagontire, but unfortunately, he has, from what Ray

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Houston says, some Alzheimer's now, and his memory is pretty bad.

JACK: Yeah, that's what we heard. Maybe he told Doris, I don't know.

EDWARD: Probably, yeah, may have.

JACK: We were just two --- you know Jess was quite a storyteller. I mean he knew quite a bit of history ... there's not too much ... anymore.

EDWARD: Running out, and they're dying on me.

JACK: Russ Emery might, have you ever talked to him?

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. I was telling Doris I must have spent four or five hours with old Russell Emery. We had a ball.

JACK: I'll tell you another guy; did you ever talk to Lyle Woods?

EDWARD: Yeah, interviewed him.

DORIS: He got Ray Shaver to come over.

EDWARD: Yeah, Russell got Ray Shaver to come over, and we had a ball about Wagontire.

JACK: Oh, Ray Shaver, is he in Bend?

EDWARD: Medford.

JACK: Oh, Medford.

EDWARD: He drove all the way from Medford.

JACK: I'll be darned.

DORIS: Wasn't that something?

JACK: Yeah.

EDWARD: How about Edwin Sollinger?

JACK: No.

EDWARD: No.

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JACK: Never heard of him.

EDWARD: Everett Emery, ever meet that character?

JACK: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: "Slivers".

JACK: "Slivers".

EDWARD: Was he a pretty tough mean old son-of-a-what-you-do? Pretty nice guy?

JACK: I liked him myself. He was a business --- let's put it this way, he was a good businessman.

DORIS: He was nice to us.

JACK: He was good to us.

EDWARD: Everett was an all right guy?

JACK: Yeah.

EDWARD: He married Esther Graves.

JACK: Right.

EDWARD: Austa Carlon's sister.

JACK: Right.

EDWARD: I've interviewed Austa Carlon too.

JACK: She's in Burns then?

EDWARD: Yeah. Oh, she's a character. I'm going to see her again. She's my hero in Burns.

Emery, did he ever mention anything to you in your travels and talking, and so forth, bar talk, whatever, about Wagontire Mountain?

JACK: No. No, was he involved out there? I, see I didn't know that ... Well, we really --- well we

...

EDWARD: Yeah. Everett, or Slivers, Emery married --- oh, I forgot, it doesn't make much

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difference. And Clarence --- Esther Graves, yeah.

JACK: Right.

EDWARD: Esther Graves, and Slivers, and Clarence Woodard, and the Clark girl went to Klamath Falls and got married all together. And Clarence Woodard and Slivers Emery bought the Sam Hutton place on the southeast side of Wagontire Mountain in 1925.

JACK: Huh, I didn't ---

EDWARD: Clarence stayed at the old two-story house ---

JACK: Oh, I kind of think now --- now things are coming back. I do think that Slivers and Clarence were partners.

EDWARD: That's right.

DORIS: Yeah.

JACK: And Clarence married Hutton's wife.

EDWARD: Right.

JACK: And he left the country in ... Slivers.

EDWARD: You got it. Everett had to get a court order --- Clarence left, old Link Hutton would have shot ---

JACK: Yeah, right.

EDWARD: Link Hutton shot the wrong man. If you're going to kill somebody, which is stupid, but anyway, Harold Bradley didn't have nothing to do with Leona.

JACK: No.

EDWARD: It was Clarence. Clarence lived a mile and a half from the Link Hutton's house, and the old Sam Hutton place, and they were ---

JACK: Now Sam Hutton, now who was ---

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EDWARD: That was Link's father.

JACK: Oh, it was?

EDWARD: He came to Wagontire in 1884.

JACK: Now who was --- who was Link's sister?

EDWARD: America.

JACK: What was her maiden name --- her married name?

EDWARD: America Hutton Foster Sutherland.

JACK: Sutherland.

EDWARD: And then they had another brother, Thomas, who was killed in a car wreck the same date that Link shot and killed Harold Bradley.

JACK: Huh.

EDWARD: It's strange, the dates are strange.

JACK: Yeah. I know my brother and I we went --- well the Hutton's, Sutherlands and the Hutton's were for sale.

EDWARD: 1946.

JACK: Right. And my brother and I went out there to buy them, but --- and they went into the Sutherlands ---

EDWARD: Now just a second Jack, what do you mean you went into Sutherlands? On Wagontire?

JACK: Right. We drove in on the backside, off of Highway 20, into Sutherlands.

EDWARD: At the Egli place?

JACK: I don't know.

EDWARD: Okay, this is interesting. This is about 1946 or '47.

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JACK: It was --- who bought that from Hutton?

EDWARD: I just told you Doris, McCollum.

JACK: McCollum.

EDWARD: McCollum bought it first, and then West.

JACK: West. West is the one that ---

DORIS: West, I remember that name.

JACK: West is the one that ---

DORIS: ...

EDWARD: Yeah.

JACK: He was the one that had an option when we went out there. And if he hadn't of taken it, then we had the next --- but he took it.

EDWARD: About 9,000 acres.

JACK: Yeah, approximately, something.

EDWARD: That was all Hutton's and Brown's, and Jackson's and Dobkins' land.

JACK: Yeah.

EDWARD: You went in from Highway 20 --- you know where the Brown corrals are?

JACK: ...

EDWARD: This was a long time ago, I know.

JACK: Yeah, no I don't.

EDWARD: Was the Sutherland house; was it a little tiny thing?

JACK: Yeah.

EDWARD: And was there apple trees around it? Well, this is asking some pretty ---

JACK: Boy I tell you; I can't remember it.

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EDWARD: You don't have ---

JACK: We had to walk in, we got stuck in the --- it was in March, we got stuck in the road and we had to walk into that house for them to pull it out.

EDWARD: What --- this is real important, Jack, because that house is long gone. That was the original Egli homestead, right across from ---

JACK: Now which Egli?

EDWARD: Huh?

JACK: Which Egli?

EDWARD: Anton and Louise Egli.

DORIS: Do you suppose they were related to ...

EDWARD: Yes.

DORIS: ... Egli at Silver Lake?

EDWARD: Uh huh.

JACK: Yeah, probably were.

EDWARD: Right across from that house, up the hill about three-quarters of a mile along the fence line is where Bill Brown shot and killed Johnny Overstreet in 1886. A hundred yards from that, at the gate, is where Frank Dobkins was murdered by James Burk in 1939.

JACK: Is that right? Oh, when I say I came here, that was in '46, and you're talking a long ways back for me.

EDWARD: Don't happen to have a picture of that cabin, do you?

JACK: No way.

EDWARD: Do you recall what that cabin looked like?

JACK: No, I really don't.

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EDWARD: Shoot. Yeah, that was America. I'll show you some pictures here.

JACK: No, I don't, I don't remember what the cabin looked like. I do remember we came in from Highway 20 --- I'm just, I'm not sure exactly where we turned off.

EDWARD: Gap Ranch.

JACK: Could have been, yeah, probably was.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JACK: Yeah, it was in the spring, like I say, probably March when the frost was going out, and we got stuck going in there, and we had to walk in.

EDWARD: Oh, it's a mess. That road, it's not a road; it's a wagon trail. Where that cabin was, that's the Meek --- 1845 Meek Wagon Train went through there. And then turn left and went over the gap to Lost Creek and off to Stauffer, and blah, blah, blah. Everett Emery sold the old Sam and Caroline Hutton place, about a 1,000 acres, to Frank Dobkins. That's how Frank Dobkins got that amount of acreage. Sold it for \$8,000 bucks, 1926.

JACK: Did you ever talk to Bill ...

EDWARD: Going to on Wednesday.

JACK: Oh. ...

EDWARD: Right.

JACK: ...

DORIS: Now see Jack remembers, I didn't ...

EDWARD: But I've got stuff that Bill has never seen. He is going to have a fit. Doris will tell you later. He's going to have a "tiss" when he sees some of this stuff, because he thought he was going to get that ranch. Well, it didn't work out that way.

JACK: Well, he went out there after Dobkins was killed, and see he went out there to run the place

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for his mother.

EDWARD: Yeah, 1940, yeah. Him and old Hollie Schroder, got pictures of them.

JACK: Well Jim, his brother, went out there too.

EDWARD: Schroder ended up with a lot of that.

JACK: Did he?

EDWARD: Yeah.

JACK: Well Hollie and ... see they, oh they got, they owned quite a bit of that stuff, oh what's that guy, you mentioned him?

EDWARD: Jackson.

JACK: No.

EDWARD: Dobkins?

JACK: No.

EDWARD: Hutton?

JACK: They got a ---

EDWARD: Egli?

JACK: Peila.

EDWARD: Peila, Jack.

DORIS: Peila.

JACK: They owned quite a bit of that, didn't they?

EDWARD: Yeah. Jack, I don't know, I thought he was crazy. But he bought all that for three-quarters of a million dollars.

JACK: Well, I wouldn't want it.

EDWARD: No. Springs are drying up. I'll be back over there Friday, or Saturday, Sunday. Been

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told not to go there. Been five murders on there now. I don't worry about it. What about Robertson's, the Robertson's got me. I don't know what happened to him. Do you have any idea of what happened to him?

JACK: ... Robertson?

EDWARD: Yeah.

JACK: No, I don't.

EDWARD: Where he died, or when?

JACK: No, I really don't. I don't know much --- it's just mostly, it's by name.

EDWARD: Yeah. He run all over this country out here.

JACK: Old Lyle Woods ought to be able to tell you something.

EDWARD: Lyle didn't know either.

JACK: He didn't know either.

EDWARD: I talked to Lyle one day last summer for two hours, and I run out of tape. Boy, we had a ball. And he's pretty accurate too, not that bad.

JACK: Yeah, old Lyle he knew a lot of what went on out here.

EDWARD: Yeah. Okay, next name. Well quickies here, Frank Morgan?

JACK: I knew Frank Morgan, but I didn't know much about him.

EDWARD: Okay, he was the last buckaroo boss for Bill Brown, 1932. Virge Newman?

JACK: No.

EDWARD: No. That's going way back. Bradley's?

JACK: I knew of them. I knew the Bradley girls, and all the girls ... because they went to school at Silver Lake ... Did you ever talk to Grace?

EDWARD: Yeah.

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JACK: You talked to her.

EDWARD: What scuttlebutt, if any, did you ever hear about the deaths of Harold Bradley and Ira Bradley? Particularly Ira, you ever hear anything?

JACK: Not really, other than Hutton supposedly had him killed. I guess they ---

DORIS: Why did he have him killed?

JACK: Huh?

DORIS: Why did he have him killed?

JACK: Well, I think over water probably, wasn't it?

DORIS: Was water, that's right, it was water.

JACK: Yeah. Over a spring, I think it was.

EDWARD: Lost Creek Spring. Although it wasn't actually the Lost Creek Spring, the Lost Creek Spring is about three-quarters of a mile up the canyon. But he wanted --- well Bill Brown owned it.

JACK: Well, I don't know that Bradley, did Bradley own the spring? I don't know.

EDWARD: Bradley, this was a misconception for Grace and Ray, her son. Bradley's never owned anything up there. Bill Brown owned it, and evidently Bill was letting Ira stay there to kind of watch his horses, and sheep, and blah, blah, blah. But it was Bill Brown's --- It was Egli's property in 1894, then Bill got it from Egli.

JACK: Well, see now I --- like Bill Brown, I don't even know when he was killed, or he died. He died in a rest home, didn't he?

EDWARD: Yeah, 1941, yeah.

JACK: Well, see we didn't know him. I just --- I did know Winslow, but I do know ---

EDWARD: Harve Winslow.

JACK: Yeah ... his deputy, wasn't it?

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EDWARD: Yeah. What do you know about him?

JACK: I don't know anything; I never met the man. But I do know my father sold horses to him.

EDWARD: Which --- Walter Kittredge. Walter Kittredge sold horses to Harve Winslow?

JACK: Right. And this guy --- oh I don't even know what his name is, he was Shorty somebody.

EDWARD: Gustafson?

JACK: Don't know.

EDWARD: Neth, Frank Neth, Shorty Neth.

JACK: Anyway, he drove the horses to Silver Lake, up to the Evans Well.

EDWARD: Evans Well?

JACK: Yeah, that's --- Well I think Winslow, that's where his --- I kind of think that's where his headquarters was, Winslow.

DORIS: Do you know where Evans was?

EDWARD: No.

JACK: Well, you know, you know coming off of ---

DORIS: From Brothers ---

JACK: Horse Ridge, you come off Horse Ridge and you --- the old

DORIS: Millican.

JACK: Well before you get to Millican, on Highway 20. Oh, the old China Hat Road came through there.

EDWARD: Oh, oh way --- oh that's way west. I was thinking way east.

JACK: Right.

DORIS: It isn't very far off of Highway 20 though.

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JACK: No, it isn't. I think Leslie owns it now.

EDWARD: You know Harve Winslow was Bill Brown's nephew?

JACK: Right.

DORIS: Was he?

EDWARD: And he stole from Bill --- oh --- sad.

JACK: Yeah, I knew he was a nephew. But I do know, like I say, that's the only thing I know that this Shorty ... maybe Neth, could have ---

EDWARD: Yeah, it was Shorty Neth.

JACK: This was in the middle of the winter.

EDWARD: It's strange.

JACK: Because he shipped --- see my dad had Percheron horses.

EDWARD: Had what?

JACK: Percheron.

EDWARD: What in the heck, I'm glad you said that. I was going to ask Fred Baker and Lyle but I forgot. What the heck is a Percheron horse?

JACK: It's a workhorse.

EDWARD: Not a Clydesdale type, is it?

JACK: Oh, no. A Percheron, they bred a lot of Percherons too, like thoroughbreds. It makes a pretty good size one, that made a very good, a lot of stamina, saddle horse.

EDWARD: Do you think Bill Brown could breed a Percheron horse to a wild horse mare, broomtales, whatever you want to call them?

JACK: Well, he didn't buy stud horse, he bought mares, fillies, you know, my dad.

EDWARD: But do you think that's possible?

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JACK: Oh yeah, I'm pretty sure.

EDWARD: Because Bill Brown was --- two people told me that's what he did. How do you spell this Percheron?

JACK: Well, now Percheron is not spelled the way you think it is.

EDWARD: Right, I know it.

DORIS: Per-cher-on.

JACK: Per-cher-on, yeah. Because we looked that up one time.

DORIS: My brother wrote that in his book, you know, and I --- first thing I knew it was spelled wrong. Shall I get my dictionary?

EDWARD: Per-cher-on.

JACK: Percheron.

DORIS: P E R C H --- I'll get my dictionary.

JACK: It isn't spelled like, maybe it's not like it sounds.

EDWARD: Where did this horse, this Percheron horse come from? Is it foreign, or something?

JACK: I think it --- well I don't know ... I don't ...

EDWARD: I don't know nothing about that. But Bill has been noted to use that to breed with wild horses?

JACK: Well Percheron ...

...

EDWARD: What did you think of the Bradley family?

JACK: I liked the Bradley family.

EDWARD: Good people?

JACK: They were. Like I say, I didn't know the father, but I knew the girls, I knew the mother.

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EDWARD: Did you ever meet Hosmer?

JACK: Not to my knowledge, no.

EDWARD: Shoot, shoot, shoot. Hosmer ---

JACK: See I can remember; I can vaguely remember when he was killed. I'm not sure when he was killed.

EDWARD: 19---, December 29th, 1925.

JACK: Well, see I was only ---

EDWARD: You were just a little guy.

JACK: Yeah, I was born in '23.

EDWARD: What about Link Hutton?

JACK: I don't, I never met the man.

EDWARD: What did you hear about him?

JACK: Well ---

EDWARD: Come on.

JACK: They always told me he was a tough man.

EDWARD: Yeah, he was a ---

JACK: He wanted it his way, about things. Like I say, I don't know too much about him.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JACK: Other than ...

EDWARD: All right, now we're going to get down to business here, real quick like. This ain't going to take long, Doris.

DORIS: Okay.

EDWARD: I'm getting starved anyway. Okay, Little Garden, what

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--- whoops is that on? Yeah. What is Little Garden, Jack? That's up here a ways, north.

JACK: ... well actually it was, I mean it ... back into the Devils Garden. I don't think --- the only access to it would be from the north side.

EDWARD: Right. Beyond Derrick Cave?

JACK: No.

EDWARD: No.

JACK: On this side of Derrick Cave.

EDWARD: This side of Derrick Cave.

JACK: Yeah. Just as soon as you hit the forest up there, then you swing back along the lavas.

EDWARD: Have you ever been in this Little Garden?

JACK: Yes.

EDWARD: How, is it about 200 acres, 100 acres, 500 acres?

JACK: Oh hell, I don't know how many acres. I would say there was more than that.

EDWARD: And it's grass?

JACK: A lot of grass on top of lava.

EDWARD: Have you ever heard of East Garden?

JACK: Well not, only this is the country from the East Garden right over here.

EDWARD: No. Little Garden --- figure this out here. I would say, near a mile long, not quite, three quarters of a mile.

JACK: Little Garden?

EDWARD: Yeah.

JACK: Well, going into it, I go into it ---

EDWARD: You drove into it?

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JACK: Yeah. The road, it's accessible. You go in, you have to come back out.

EDWARD: Four-wheel drive is what it says.

JACK: Yeah, pretty much so.

EDWARD: I mean this ---

JACK: You just go up to where ---

EDWARD: It's in there quite a ways too.

JACK: Yeah, I don't know how many miles I drove into it. But it is more than a mile ...

EDWARD: A mile and a half about.

JACK: At least. See I drove in there during --- oh I think the first day of elk season, you know, the elk is supposed to come back in there.

EDWARD: One-Way in, one-way out.

JACK: That's right, you have to come back.

EDWARD: But you've never heard of East Garden, which is about a half-mile southwest, more south than west of Little Garden. Never heard of East Garden?

JACK: No.

EDWARD: It's about a 40-acre grass bed thing.

DORIS: Where is the garden where, Harrison ...

JACK: Devils Garden, that would be right straight ---

DORIS: Is that the regular Devils Garden?

JACK: Devils Garden, that would be right ---

EDWARD: Harrison place?

JACK: Yeah. Well, the Harrison place is out of that.

EDWARD: Johnny Harrison's history is in here too.

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DORIS: Oh, is it?

EDWARD: And the pictures. See he had a place up at --- this is off the topic --- he had a place up at Big Marsh.

DORIS: Oh, did he?

EDWARD: And had a cabin. I got pictures of it before they burnt it. Sorry, before they burnt it down. Okay, the reason I'm asking, Jack, about this Little Garden is, I want to come back and go in there somehow. I don't have a four-wheel drive or --- I can bring a three-wheel --- could a three-wheeler make it?

JACK: Oh, I think so. I got a four-wheel drive.

DORIS: Jack could ...

EDWARD: Oh, I may be back, what did I say, July 6th or 7th, or something like that.

JACK: It's a ---

EDWARD: I've got to go in there, I'll tell you why in a second.

DORIS: its Evelyn Reeves ... He knew Evelyn Reeves.

JACK: Oh, is that right.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, I interviewed her. She's the only person that

JACK: I'll tell you Evelyn Reeves could tell you some history.

EDWARD: Well, she's dead.

JACK: I know she is.

EDWARD: Yeah. Oh, I got all her things.

JACK: I'll tell you another one that could have told you a lot, this here ...

EDWARD: No, but I met her.

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DORIS: But she's been gone ---

EDWARD: Oh yeah, she's been gone a long time.

JACK: She could sure tell you something.

EDWARD: The slides are in there. Not much though. Anyway, the reason I'm asking about this Little Garden, in 1931 --- my hair is a mess --- in 1931 the state police guy was poking around trying to find where these rustlers were putting these darn horses they were stealing from the ZX, and Bill Brown, and everybody else.

JACK: Huh, I never heard that one.

EDWARD: And he found this gate, now this is 19---, August 9th, 1931, Oregon Journal. This gate --- and they had dynamited through this lava, and they were putting horses in there.

JACK: Huh, I never heard that.

EDWARD: They were rustling these horses.

JACK: Well, Lyle should have been able to tell you that.

EDWARD: I forgot to ask. But I'll see him again; he's in good shape. And I'll guarantee you that I bet you most of them were Bill Brown's.

JACK: Could have been because that would have been a straight shot in.

EDWARD: Yeah, right. Now there is no way in the world I'll ever find where this one is at. I mean they all look the same after awhile.

JACK: Well, you know there is an old story, you know, in this lava mountain up here. They claim, I don't know ... horses, that they bring horses, in the wintertime they bring horses over the snow ... at about 320 acres ... But they had them come in on top of the snow. They wintered these horses ...

EDWARD: Probably.

JACK: That was ... That's an old tale, I don't know whether it is true or not.

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EDWARD: Well, this is true. And I'm taking a pretty wild guess, these are quad maps, you know, that it has to be Little Garden. Because in this report it also states about a half a mile away was a 40-acre, and there it is, the East Garden. Little tiny ---

JACK: Let me see that.

EDWARD: That has really got to be strange in there, Jack. I mean this is all lava, isn't it?

JACK: Yeah. It's covered, you know, it is not the type of lava
--- now where is your Devils Garden in there?

EDWARD: Devils Garden is off to the left. Okay, up there at the top, doesn't that say Oregon's biggest juniper tree?

JACK: Yeah.

EDWARD: You know where that is, don't you?

JACK: Sure, yeah.

EDWARD: Okay, that's north.

JACK: That would be north, yeah.

EDWARD: This top is directly north.

JACK: This is the way you would have to come into the Little Garden, this way.

EDWARD: Huh. Well, it shows a four-wheel, four-wheel drive only road into that Little Garden.

JACK: Oh, we can get in there, I know how.

EDWARD: See that --- right over there someplace. I can imagine that's a real beauty road.

JACK: I don't know whether she, I doubt if she can tell you, Rube Long's wife, you ever talk to her?

EDWARD: Well, I'm going to try to get to see her. We don't talk much about Rube Long, do we Jack? That thieving coward. I know he --- I was telling Doris earlier, I talked to too many older

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people, they know about that.

DORIS: Most people don't know about Rube though, really.

JACK: No.

EDWARD: Well, they ---

JACK: Old Russ and Lyle will tell you a lot of stuff.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, yeah. Old Russell told me a --- he loved it.

DORIS: Well, I, you know, I always say about Rube though, you know, when he had 4-H Club, and he had --- if you wanted him to do some-thing like catch his horse ... he'll show you how he trained them, and this or that. He always had time to do this.

JACK: He always had time to do anything like that.

DORIS: Yeah. But then, he didn't work much I don't think.

EDWARD: I don't think he turned a ---

JACK: We can go into the Little Garden, I know.

EDWARD: Okay, what I'll do, Jack, is call you --- I don't know when I'm getting back to Eugene.

JACK: Well, let's hope we're through haying.

EDWARD: Well, how long is that going to take?

JACK: Well, if it don't rain we should be through with it in less than two weeks.

EDWARD: Oh, it isn't that far from the ranch over here. I'm going to be up by Crescent Lake all summer, writing.

DORIS: How can you ride with a bad knee?

EDWARD: Write.

DORIS: Oh, write. Okay. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Yeah. Oh, no, huh uh.

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DORIS: Writing, okay.

EDWARD: I've had six knee operations.

JACK: Do you have a cabin up by Crescent Lake?

EDWARD: I've got ten acres there, then I take care of this ranch on --- where Evelyn's parents had a cabin, about a mile and a half away down the creek.

JACK: She, you know, I think she owned quite a bit of property up in that area.

EDWARD: She didn't own a lot of property, her husband Reeves ---

DORIS: Clarence.

EDWARD: Clarence Reeves did. But she had ---

DORIS: She did too though, her parents, long years ago.

EDWARD: At one time, yeah, they owned part of the old town of Crescent Lake, on the railroad.

That's all gone now.

JACK: Right, right.

DORIS: Oh.

EDWARD: See they had a store and tavern.

DORIS: Yeah.

EDWARD: I've got some pictures in there. There is Evelyn right there, as a little kid.

DORIS: Is that Evelyn?

EDWARD: That's her dad's cabin.

JACK: She was married to this --- Smoots.

DORIS: She was married to Smuts, Smoots first.

EDWARD: She was married four times.

DORIS: Oh, was she?

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EDWARD: Yeah.

DORIS: I think she had a lot of money too.

EDWARD: Oh, she --- it's hard to explain. She had some really nice places on the creek, and she still has one.

JACK: Well, who owns the house right on the highway, on 58?

DORIS: The one she ---

EDWARD: Oh, that's the one, yeah that's the one I'm talking about. It's her stepson, or her --- it's not Edward, because Edward, her brother didn't get along. Stepson ---

JACK: Well, see she ---

DORIS: I know she had some nieces or something she used to talk about.

JACK: She --- when Harry Smoots was living, that's where they lived.

DORIS: Yeah.

EDWARD: ... you agree. I generally keep my mouth shut, and let people talk. Then I'll try to straighten things out. Clarence Woodard worked for, it sounds like this, old Bill Kittredge, from 1913 to about 1925 ---

JACK: Quite a while, yeah.

EDWARD: A long time. A hell of a cowboy.

JACK: A good one, I think he was. I think he was ---

EDWARD: Old Russell Emery related some stories about him, and Slivers, and they'd get drunk every once in awhile. Just cowboy drunk, you know, big deal.

JACK: Yeah. I didn't, like I say, I told you I didn't know Clarence well. But I know we were getting ready to leave Warner Valley, and he came down there and talked for quite a while, and more or less implied ... get on our own.

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EDWARD: You and Doris?

JACK: Yeah. And we were leaving, the next day we left.

EDWARD: Now who had the MC then, old Bill?

JACK: Bill ... I think the locals down there may be getting to him, see.

DORIS: Oh, is that right?

JACK: Yeah.

EDWARD: I heard Bill Kittredge was damn near shot when he was down there.

JACK: ...

EDWARD: Yeah.

JACK: Oh, I wouldn't doubt it.

EDWARD: Yeah.

JACK: Oh, they fought.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, big battles.

JACK: I wouldn't doubt it. Because the year we left down there, see he --- I don't know, see he bought, well I don't know what they call the Robinson place. And then he bought rights up on Deep Creek to build a dam.

EDWARD: Oh boy, here we go.

JACK: And whatever the dam covered; I don't know how many gallons. But very, very nil price per acre then. He had so many years to do it in, and the time ran out. That was the year we left, '54 I think it was. Time was running out then. And Plush was against it because they were afraid of ... And Robinson was against it because of the value of the land up there in Big Valley was worth a lot more money then --- and they never built the dam. But now I think they was probably sorry; this generation is probably sorry the dam wasn't built.

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EDWARD: No water. Hart Lake ... I was there in '90, dam near gone.

JACK: They're gone are they?

EDWARD: Almost.

JACK: Why we haven't been down there for years.

EDWARD: Mud flat.

JACK: Well, that's ... down there. ... They were trying to buy that, some of those ranches right around Adel, they were trying to buy the MC Ranch. And the Nature Conservancy ... it sounded like, I listened to the radio on the tractor this morning, and it just sounded like to me maybe they were going to get it.

EDWARD: Bill Kittredge, I know that Clarence worked for him. But the thing was, I can't really say, I'm not going to, because I got a hold of Clarence Woodard's son in Norwalk, Connecticut.

JACK: Clark Woodard.

EDWARD: Right --- and Norwalk, Connecticut. And it seems that maybe old Clarence might have gotten involved with old Punk Robinson and V. L. Robinson, I can't remember his nickname, brothers --- and stealing horses.

JACK: Huh.

EDWARD: And Kittredge took them in and said, okay, you know, it's going to be alright with me, and he worked his butt off there for 12 years or so.

JACK: Oh, I know it. They said he was a good worker.

EDWARD: And him and Slivers got together and bought that old Sam Hutton place. And then Clarence got involved with Leona Neasham Miller Hutton.

JACK: Is she still living?

EDWARD: No. Clarence --- she died in 1958, he died in 1964 in Alturas, California and is buried

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there.

JACK: Clarence Woodard is buried in California?

EDWARD: In Alturas.

JACK: Huh.

EDWARD: Clarence met Leona --- Leona, it would take me all day

--- fled from one place to another. Sammy Boyce's and --- well whatever, it goes on and on. And they met down there in Arizona and got married in 1927 and stayed together until she died.

JACK: Never had children?

EDWARD: No. And he did, he had a huge farm in Blythe, California.

JACK: Well, I know that. I think, I don't know whether he had sold it then, see this was in '54.

EDWARD: I don't think so; I think he still had it.

JACK: He still had it.

EDWARD: But they were going to retire, and she died. They were on the Rogue River, for example, but he didn't want to come back to Oregon. He was --- but see Link Hutton died in 1950. People were scared to death of Link Hutton.

JACK: Oh, I know they --- Well I think he always seemed to have, I don't know whether he ever did the killing himself, or hired it done.

EDWARD: He --- I think, I'm not sure how I'll put it --- I got a pretty good idea of how I'll put it in the book. But he just --- upright murdered Harold Bradley. It is thought that he put James Burk up to killing Dobkins. No way to prove it, it's a theory.

JACK: Oh, I think, I think that was --- I think everybody thought that ---

EDWARD: Because Harold --- James D. Burk, I mean I got, I showed Doris the file on Dobkins, it's that thick. And Burk had already shot and assaulted a police officer in Klamath County. He had

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just gotten out of the state pen.

JACK: What he --- he just got a ...

EDWARD: He got --- he was given life, but he was paroled in 1950, ten years.

JACK: That's the year you say Hutton died?

EDWARD: Yeah, Hutton died in 1950. Born in 1872, so ---

JACK: I never, see I never saw them then. But I do remember, I can't remember the dates, but I can remember when Bradley's were killed, and Dobkins was killed.

EDWARD: They're over there in Silver Lake there, their burial plots. It's a real interesting story. And Bill Brown didn't have nothing to do with it, but he knew all these guys, knew everyone of them.

JACK: It's too bad, well she won't tell you anything. How about May O'Keefe, would she tell you anything?

DORIS: I mentioned her name.

EDWARD: I spoke to May O'Keefe for this book, but that was four years, five years ago.

DORIS: That's the May O'Keefe in Bend. See there is two May O'Keefes.

EDWARD: Oh, this one was in Silver Lake.

DORIS: Yeah, this is a Godon, May Godon, she was a Godon that used to ---

EDWARD: Oh, I know, okay. I just went by their ranch, or nobody was there. It looks like it is empty half of the time.

DORIS: Yeah.

EDWARD: Had four cattle out there, going ---

DORIS: I was going to run down there. We lease that; we have some cattle up there.

EDWARD: They don't look too good. They look all burned out.

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DORIS: Do they?

EDWARD: Yeah. The minute I drove in, they come running.

DORIS: Yeah, but they were ---

JACK: I think they're getting ready to move.

DORIS: Yeah, we haven't had them in that one pasture very long.

JACK: Hell, there is no grass this year, so you got to ---

DORIS: I was going to go down there this morning, because I haven't been down there for quite some time.

EDWARD: Oh, they're still there. They --- how you guys doing, they come running over, you know.

DORIS: Oh yeah, they're friendly.

JACK: But May O'Keefe, I don't know whether she could tell you

--- See they were ---

(END OF TAPE)

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