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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #54 - Side A

Subject: The Great Ball Game

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: June 13, 1974

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

Release Form: Yes

MARCUS HAINES: This is Marcus Haines on this 13th day of June 1974, and I am down at Clarence Young's home with a group of fellows who played in a ball game here in Burns many years ago. There are four of these fellows (Darrell Howser, Eldon Sitz, Pluribus Tiller, Wally Welcome) who were on that team, are going to discuss, talk about, and I think they are the only four who are left in town, anyway, that we know of. So Wally is going to read an account here that was in the newspapers, and after that is done, why we are just going to go ahead and reminisce here a little bit. Would you like to go ahead, Wally?

WALLY WELCOME: Why we are taping this particular game, I think as far as Harney County is concerned with the baseball, that this was the best game, the most exciting game, and probably the most important game that was ever played in Harney County. And I say this because when you look at the Bend team that year, who you will find out when I read this, were undefeated except for the team from Portland. And Burns had a team and all of them were from Harney County and Burns, and they had had a few games, but not, didn't play nearly the number of ball games that Bend

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did. And so this game was played on the Sunday after the Round Up was over, and they had a \$500 baseball tournament. And the teams that participated were the Grant County All Stars, and the Pendleton Indians, and the Bend Elks, and Burns. And Burns beat the, they played the mornings of the Round Up. In other words, on that Thursday morning, Burns played and defeated the Grant County All Stars, and on Friday morning Bend defeated the Pendleton Indians by, they were ahead by 20 something to nothing, and they stopped the game at five innings. That's how one sided that game was. So that matched on Sunday, the 12th of September 1926, the two teams in the finals, which was Burns and Bend.

And a group from Bend had come over the night before and they were betting all kinds of bets, I mean they were so sure the Bend team was going to win. One of whom was Hugh O'Kane, that owns those buildings where the Cashman Store was in Bend, the McGill Drug and office buildings upstairs, which was one of the key blocks in the town of Bend at that time, and the building is still there. And another one was Charlie Carroll, and if you want to think back of the amount of money that they came over with to bet, (\$1700) and they were a betting 4 to 1, 5 to 1, that Bend would double the score. That Curley Fuller would strike out 20. He was pitching for the University of Oregon, and they had had Art Parker out of Jefferson High School, who had signed with the Los Angeles Angels of the Coast League, and that was the type of ballplayers that were imported into Bend.

So, when they came over that particular day, there was a large crowd and the game was played on, at that time, which is a field originally known as Miller Cove, and later they called it the North Burns Field, and it's still the Veterans Memorial Field today.

So at this time, I will read an account of this, which was taken from the Burns News a week later:

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"Upsetting betting odds of 4 to 1 and an ample Bend confidence engineered by defeat of the Portland Union Pacific team and a win over Harrisburg for the state semi-pro championship, Burns, Sunday defeated Bend Elks by a score of 5 to 4 in the finals of the \$500 baseball tournament held here in connection with the Sixth Annual Harney County Round-up.

"Victory came to Burns in a frenzied last half of the ninth, when Sheriff Clarence N. Young, first baseman, broke a 4 to 4 tie by scoring the winning run on a passed ball. To stage a batting rally in their half of the ninth, Bend had to displace Geenty, regular catcher and had sent Dripps in as a pinch hitter. This strategy enabled Bend to score two runs but succeeded only in tying the score. Jess Tetethrow took over the receiving job for Bend. Young, first man up in the final inning, swung at three, but made first and second nevertheless, because Tetethrow, in the unaccustomed place, dropped the third strike an overthrow in an attempt to cut off Young at first. Young was placed in a position to score when advancement was made possible a minute later while Siler, batting for Musick, being put out at first, Fuller to Allen.

"Several hundreds of Bend dollars are reported to have found Burns pockets as a result of the 4 to 1 bets made by Bend supporters. Lesser amounts wagered 2 to 1 that Bend would score a 2 to 1 ratio over Burns, also stayed in Burns.

"So did some jeopardized on the optimistic Bend belief that Curley Fuller, former high school all star hurler, would strike out at least 20 Burns batsman. He succeeded in striking out 7. O. J. Morton, Burns pitcher, struck out 5. Bend's pre-game confidence was given its first jolt by Marshall, first man up. He scored. Stokoe's error at third placed him at first, and an overthrow gave him second. Taking advantage of first inning stiffness, he stole third. He came home on another overthrow.

"Bend was held scoreless until the fifth inning when their batsman obtained a belated start

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and scored twice. Ford hit to Hagey in left field, one base. He scored from first on Captain Kennedy's two base hit to Tiller in center field. Kennedy then advanced to third while Stokoe was going out, Marshall to Young, and scored on Allen's one base hit to Hagey. This one score lead was overcome by Burns in their own half of the same inning, and at the same time took a new lead of 4 to 2.

"Edwards led off in the attack with a two-base drive to Tetethrow in right field. He took third on a passed ball. Musick struck out. Morton was hit by a pitched ball and went to first. Two on base, one out. Here came Marshall to usher in a period of gaiety unmatched save by Young's scoring of the winning run.

"He circled the bases bringing Edwards in and Morton, score 4 to 2. The fifth was an outstanding inning for another reason. It marked the first and last attempt of Bend to attempt to steal second base on catcher Musick. Pete Allen, Bend first baseman was the victim. Musick's throw was low and fast and was in Marshall's hands with Allen ten feet off base. Marshall waited and put it on him. Musick was not called upon to demonstrate the throw again.

"Both teams were scoreless from this point until the first of the ninth which witnessed the scoring of two runs by Bend, and resulting in a 4 to 4 tie. Dripps, batting for Geenty, hit over Hagey's head in left field for two bases. Fuller made first on a slow grounder to Young, Dripps taking third. Kennedy, following suit, a one base hit to center field, scoring Dripps and advancing Fuller to second. Kennedy took second and Fuller third when a ball was called on Morton. Stokoe struck out. One out, two on base. Parker hit a fly to Tiller in deep center. Before it could be returned after this out, Fuller crossed home to tie the score. Allen closed the inning with a fly to Tiller.

"Fuller, Bend pitcher, struck out seven, walked three, hit two. Morton struck out five; he

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gave no passes to first. Bend obtained 11 hits, Burns 2. The victory was particularly satisfactory to Burns, as pitcher Morton and each of the other members of the team are actual residents of Burns.

"The lineup in the batting order for Bend: Kennedy, center field, who is a manager; Clyde Stokoe, third base; Art Parker, shortstop; Pete Allen, first base; Brown, left field; Tetethrow, right field; Woods, second base; Dick Geenty, catcher; Curley Fuller, pitcher.

"For Burns: Dick Marshall, second base; Eldon Sitz, short-stop; Darrell Howser, right field; Earl Hagey, left field; Plurb Tiller, center field; Clarence Young, first base; Glen Edwards, third base; Ernest Musick, catcher; Mike Morton, pitcher."

Do you want these headlines read from these other papers? "Wide Publicity Earned Through Baseball Victory; Burns and Burns baseball players earned statewide publicity through the defeat here Sunday of the Bend Elks baseball team, 5 to 4 in the final game of the Round-Up Association's \$500 tournament.

"Crack Bend Elks Nine Beaten By Burns," said a headline carried by the Oregon Journal in Portland Tuesday morning. The Portland Telegram carried an account of the game furnished then by Earl Hagey. The Portland Oregonian, which furnished an account of Burns' victory over the semi-pro Elks Nine by Charles B. Foley.

The Burns team of 1926 was managed by Clifford L. (Teddy) Reed, who passed away in Burns on or about July 12, 1972. I was an honorary pallbearer at his funeral. Teddy Reed played baseball at Oregon State in about 1910 and 1911. Teddy took a degree in pharmacy in 1911, as I recall it. Felder Jones was Oregon State's coach at that time. Felder Jones was manager of the Chicago White Sox who defeated the Cubs in the World Series of 1906. Teddy also played varsity basketball at Oregon State. He was an excellent player but was somewhat overshadowed by his more famous brother, Nollie Reed, who played on the same teams.

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Teddy operated a drug store in Burns for many years. He would have been a great coach in my opinion. He picked this Burns team from a league of about four or five teams which played in the Burns area in 1925 and 1926. Teddy was not only a keen judge of baseball talent but a great teacher. He taught me almost everything I know about baseball. The above article about the game probably was written by Doug Mullarky, later executive secretary for Governor Earl Snell. Doug was new in Burns at the time and did not give Teddy Reed the credit he deserved in selecting and managing this team.

DARRELL HOWSER: Wally, you remember one of the incidents in that ball game out there? Just after it started a little bit, Clarence Young hit a ball and went to first base, and he and Geenty had a fight the first time they met? Do you remember that?

WALLY: Yeah, I'll never forget it. I can remember Clarence was sheriff at that time.

DARRELL: That didn't make any difference to Geenty.

WALLY: I remembered you mentioned it.

MARCUS: I'm going to ask Clarence why he got in a fight with this fellow. Tell us, Clarence.

CLARENCE YOUNG: Got stiff-armed. He was running down to first base, come right over the bag, and took me when I was, no chance to get him out, he had a hit. And was just walking along, and you get stiff armed there, and not looking for it, you get a pretty good jolt. So, I undertook to put my arm around his neck and go to the ground, and stick his head in the ground. But he was a football player and a little too much of a man to get him to the ground. And before either one of us got too far, too many had a hold of us and had us separated.

DARRELL: Wally, do you remember the umpire that was umpiring that game?

WALLY: Yes, his name was Cedrick Bartley, and he had a cleaning and pressing shop, which was in that old, actually in that old Dalton building, was right back of where the J. C. Penny store was.

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And Cedrick Bartley, they didn't use, they didn't keep track of the balls and strikes in those days, they used their fingers. They didn't have a counter. And anyway in that key situation back there anyway, Morton was a little bit temperamental, you know, he was heavy, a little bit temperamental, and Morton struck Bend, one of the heavy hitters, struck him out. That would have been two out. And anyway, but Bartley said strike two, and everyone knew it was strike three, and they had a lot of commotion and everything. But he didn't change his mind. So, he got another pitch and that's the one, Darrell you remember who hit the ball.

DARRELL: Yeah, it went clear out on the hill for a home run. Just right. That was a bad one.

(Laughter)

WALLY: You remember that Plurb?

PLURB: Yeah.

CLARENCE: That was Dripps, wasn't it, that hit that, wasn't that Dripps that hit that?

WALLY: Dripps hit it, I'm sure Dripps hit it. It was a long ball hit, but Morton was a little sore when they had to give him that. But he struck him out and put in a little fat, yeah.

DARRELL: Put it right over the plate, and boy that went. Well, that was a bad break for us, but then, we got a break on the Bend Elks there too, once, when Marshall come up to hit, you know, and he hit one out there on the right fielder, or someplace out in there, and it rolled into a rat hole and they couldn't find it. I don't know whether we scored a run on it, I think we did. I think we scored.

WALLY: Yeah, that is what put Burns in the lead, you see. Burns scored three runs on that. See Bend had taken the lead 2 to 1, and then when that came up it was two on, and that was probably a good double. That would have probably scored two men. But he wouldn't have gotten a home run.

DARRELL: It was kinda weedy out there and it went down a rat hole and he couldn't find it.

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WALLY: You remember that Plurb?

ELDON: Dick Marshall, in that game, he got on my nerves, to start out with. He'd boot them, the chances would come out there, and Dick would boot them. He'd throw the ball before he'd get it. And finally, I went over to him and said, "Will you just simmer down here. We're going to take these guys." And tried to talk him out of it. And that's when he come in and got the home run, it was right after that.

DARRELL: Right down a rat hole ...

ELDON: And I know afterward, and he hunted me up, and he said you sure ---

DARRELL: Well, I tell you, there were a lot of happy people, Burns people there after that game. There was one little incident there that I remember so much as the old man Jetley, you remember him? Old man Jetley there. He was quite a baseball fan and all his boys were, you know. He had a straw hat on with a stiff brim on it, you know, and when the last out was on there, he threw that straw hat right up in the air, and when it come to the ground he jumped on it with both feet. I tell you that was the most happy crowd I ever saw.

WALLY: When Darrell mentioned, was talking about Dick Marshall, Plurb, you want to tell me what, at that particular time, what Dick did in Burns, and what you were doing then?

PLURB: Dick Marshall was the manager of the Safeway Stores, and he had played baseball in Utah, in colleges in Utah. He was real fast, and a pretty good batter. So we had, I'll tell you, my thinking is we had one of the best infields that just could happen around when you name them. Those fellows like Eldon, what's that fellow's name on third?

DARRELL: Glen Edwards.

PLURB: Glen Edwards, and Marshall, and Clarence, they all had arms, good arms. And they just, and so the highlight of the game to my thinking was when Mike Morton threw a soft one in there as

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he usually does. That fellow nicked the ball and rolled it out to him, and scooped it up to third baseman, the third baseman to the second baseman, and the second baseman to the first, and three men were down. The only triple play that I ever saw in my life. And one of the highlights of that ball game. And every time it's mentioned I always think of that triple play. So this to me, set our crowd wild, they just stormed. And the manager of the Bend Elks came to them in the huddle and he said, "You guys think you are playing a bunch of hicks," but he said, "you better get going!" So they said, well some of them said, "Oh well, we will score fifty runs now this time. They will never get us out." But it didn't work that way. Finally, beat them 5 to 4.

MARCUS: Well Tiller, you made a spectacular catch. You have told me about it, out there in center field. Tell us about that one.

PLURB: Well, it seemed like that long toward the end of the game, or maybe the end of the game. My recollection isn't too clear on it. But I had to come in hard and fast to get it. It seems like that ball was just dancing in the air, and I run just as hard as I could go, but I brought it in. So this was sort of a highlight for me, too.

MARCUS: You picked it kind of out of a cow track out there, I think you told me.

PLURB: The ground was all rough, and every time you was, you know, running hard like that you couldn't tell where that ball was going to be, but we got it. And the town just went wild, as Wally has said in that report. A lot of the fellows, some of the fellows had to borrow some money to go home on, they lost all they had.

CLARENCE: There was a lot of money to get out of town.

WALLY: Well Pluribus, you know what a fine in-field they had, and actually Ernest was in the battery with Morton, and Ernest Musick, but also had a good outfield because Tiller and Darrell both had good speed, and both got good jumps on the ball, I mean in the outfield. And Hagey, to

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get it when he got it, that was a good outfield. I mean they covered a lot of ground. And as I say Plurb and Darrell both had good speed in the outfield, and they covered a lot of ground. That was a pretty well balanced ball club all the way around. There wasn't any weaknesses in it.

Eldon had a terrific arm, you know, a terrific arm as we have mentioned. But at that time, I mean when Dick Marshall was manager of Safeway, and Plurb Tiller was assistant manager of Safeway at that particular time.

MARCUS: Wally, tell us a little something about Mike Morton. He was the most deceiving pitcher I think any of us ever tried to hit.

WALLY: I think that Darrell and these fellows can tell you more about Morton's pitching than I ever could, so I'll let him ---

MARCUS: Well I never hit him when I played against him. So who wants to talk about him?

DARRELL: Always to my notion he was a good one-team pitcher, now I'll tell you. Hardly anybody could hit old Mike for one game. But after you played against him for a while, you got to know what he was throwing. But against Bend, they were used to the fastball pitchers from down in the valley. Here he had a big old ... curve, you know, a slow ball. And they'd get up there and they would strike at it before it ever got to the plate, you know. And then after he got two strikes on them there, then he'd wind up with an underhand, you know, and come right up and go down, you know, and a fastball, and there they were standing looking at it when it went over the plate. But of course, Bend had an excuse for that, because they said we got him in from the Chicago White Sox, because he wore a pair of, or Red Sox, yeah, because he wore a pair of red socks out there, and we imported him to pitch for them that day. But Mike was a, of course beyond his prime, all of that, but he was a pretty smart old pitcher.

MARCUS: What was his baseball career? Does anybody know?

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DARRELL: I never knew.

PLURB: It was rumored that he played semi-pro back in the east, all right. You could tell that he had because he was a heady old fellow. That's what got him by, really. He was a great asset. He was the depot agent at Crane, Oregon when that ball game was played.

DARRELL: That's right, he was the depot agent.

CLARENCE: That's right, he was the depot agent. Well, let me say something about Morton.

Morton, the pitcher, was 38 years old, and Musick the catcher, was 44. And I had caught Morton a good deal before this, during most of these playing, and Morton had the best control of any pitcher that I ever caught with. And I caught, played baseball from 1906 to 1932, except maybe three or four years out of that. He had perfect control, and a good delivery, fast delivery. And the other thing, before I forget about it, when I got that, scored that winning run, B. B. Clark who had wagered most of the money in the game, run in and kissed me when I come --- And that was true!

ELDON: Just before Marshall got that home run, is when I told him to settle down. And the next guy knocked one out to me, and it was one of these ground huggers. And I made up my mind that I was going to get that ball if it was the last damn thing. I stooped down and picked it up, and shot it to Dick, and he shot her to first and we got a double. And they came back in and that's when old Dick picked up and knocked his home run. Now it's just how those damn things break.

CLARENCE: Let me say one more thing while ---

PLURB: While he is thinking, maybe we can talk about something else. I don't think that anybody that knew anything about that ball game ever heard the town go so wild as they did after that. They fell down out of those stands, what we had there, and my family was uptown, and they could hear this screaming clear uptown. And they knew by that, that we must have won the ball game. And so each of the players got their cut of the \$500 purse, which was 70 percent to the winner, and 30

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percent to the loser. So the town really went wild that night after that ball game. Did you think of what you was going to say, Clarence?

CLARENCE: Uh-huh. Outstanding was this Edwards at third, and Sitz at shortstop, and Marshall at second. There were several double plays, and along with those made, and there wasn't, not an overthrow to first base. Some of them was scared all the time. But they was right in there. One or two was a little high, but perfect plays by that infield is what won that game for the Burns from the Elks. No errors.

MARCUS: There was no errors played on you folks ... played a perfect game.

WALLY: Bend made the errors.

DARRELL: Who was the telephone operator at that time? (Note: Herbert Graves was the telephone operator, according to Wallace Welcome.) ... Anyway, Sadie was setting; they lived right in the Foley house there. And she was setting in the car with them there, and he said, "I'll never go to a ball game with her again. She might beat me to death." ... Well, he married Roselle Graves.

PLURB: Well, we talk about the different plays and the outstanding plays, but we'll have to admit, and I think all of us do, that we were up against one of the toughest pitchers we ever faced. Lefty [Curly] Fuller came down from beating the champions of the Columbia League, I think it was 7 to 4, and he struck out 17 men or something like that. And they, or whatever it was, he was really on top. For my part, I just couldn't touch him. I almost got a Texas leaguer, but the guy got the ball. But he sure made me look silly the first time I was up.

DARRELL: A left-hander, he was pretty hard to cope with.

WALLY: Yeah, that was the best ball team Bend ever had by far. And some of them were imported, you know.

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DARRELL: Oh, most all of them were. Paid players, they were all paid players. They got jobs in colleges, and Portland high schools and places like ---

WALLY: But I think that game, there has never been another game in Burns with that much excitement.

MARCUS: Well, there has never been a better Burns ---

WALLY: Or that many good ballplayers.

DARRELL: I don't think we ever lost a game that year. We played, of course, we didn't play any, you know, professional teams like that. But we played Grant County several times, and I don't remember, I remember John Day and different one, I don't remember now just who all.

WALLY: Drewsey.

DARRELL: Well we played all those small towns.

MARCUS: Plurb, where did you play most of your ball at, while you were in school?

PLURB: I really, when I was school age, why we moved away from civilization and went down into southeast Missouri. And when I came out of there I came out with Malaria Fever. And it took me about two years to get my feet back on the ground. And by that time we had left Missouri and came to Idaho, and I never returned to school. So most of my ball playing was right here in Burns.

MARCUS: Well you learned most of it right here then. You hadn't been here long then either, in '26?

PLURB: Not, just a year, '25 I came.

MARCUS: Where did you play, Eldon?

ELDON: Emmett, Idaho, ... about two years is all I had down there until I come up here.

MARCUS: I know where Darrell got his.

DARRELL: I'd never played but one year in high school until I come here.

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MARCUS: Yeah, you got it right here in Harney County.

DARRELL: Yeah, that's right. Long years ago. Remember old Bill Gould?

WALLY: He was playing for the single men when they played the married men.

DARRELL: That's right, I was playing for the single men. ...

MARCUS: I think I heard Clarence Young say here the other day that Bill Gould was the best pitcher he ever saw in his life. Is that right?

CLARENCE: One of them. I caught him the first game I ever played in 1902. And the big kids and the little kids was mixed up and played.

DARRELL: I don't know whether we ever played Catlow Valley or not. I don't think Burns did.

WALLY: Burns, in 1916, yeah they did.

DARRELL: Back in there I think they did. But you know that Catlow Valley, they had a good ball team.

WALLY: And my uncle played, Pat Donegan.

MARCUS: Used to play with him at Frenchglen.

ELDON: Yeah, they had some; they beat Burns over the Fourth of July 1916. Charlie Reed.

WALLY: Sunset had a ball club.

CLARENCE: Yeah, they had a good team, that Sunset team.

WALLY: You think of Sunset now, out there in Catlow, you don't think of there was anyone ever out there. I think Charlie Reed pitched for Sunset too, didn't he?

DARRELL: Yeah, Charlie Reed was a pretty fair pitcher.

MARCUS: He didn't weigh a hundred pounds.

CLARENCE: He knew the game. Charlie Reed knew the game. And that Dawson, from over there in Drewsey, he was a catcher too. He had lots of confidence.

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MARCUS: The Jetley boys were good ballplayers.

CLARENCE: Yeah. Hans was really the best player in the Jetleys.

...

WALLY: I remember one game when the Young's, and Clarence was here. I remember Bill and Clarence, and Jim were playing. And they was one fielder short, and his kid brother Joe, they put him out here. You remember that? Down at the old fairgrounds. And Joe was just a kid, and someone hadn't showed up, and Joe played a couple of innings. Bill left that same year. In fact, Bill was catching that year, I think.

DARRELL: Well, we had a lot of fun.

MARCUS: Well, Clarence told me not long ago, about a trip over to, I think, Prairie City to play a game of ball with Baker, I think. Tell us about that. You had a little trouble getting over there as I remember the story, Clarence.

CLARENCE: In 1911 they had a tournament in Prairie City, a three way, Burns, Prairie City, Sumpter. And it was in September right after this Tri-State League closed, and Sumpter had all the players from out of that Tri-State League. And Prairie had two of their local men, and the rest of them was out of the Tri-State League. And Burns went over with all local men. And at that time, Bill Gould was our pitcher, the only pitcher we had, and we played Prairie the first game.

The game stood 3 to 1, up to the ninth inning. And in the first of the ninth, the first man, first hitter in the Prairie team, stepped into the ball and got first base on a hit by a pitched ball. Come a big argument about him ducking into the ball, but the umpire didn't see it that way. Well, the next man got a hit and that put two men on bases, and the top of their, the second man up. Well, he hit a foul ball, and anyway, and had two strikes on him, and he finally hit a ball on the right field line. It was foul by ten feet, and the umpire called it a safe ball. We stopped and argued there for

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about ten minutes, but there was no changing the verdict. It was a fair ball.

Well, we finally got one man out and I think bases were loaded. Next batter, he hit a ball out in the front of the plate about two feet. Of course, it was a little dusty around there. Musick picked up the ball and threw it to first base, and got a double play. The umpire called it a foul ball. There went another beef for half an hour. And finally, they got a strike or two on him and the man up got a hit and scored those three men and beat us.

Well, the next day Sumpter and Prairie played. Practically all were professional men. They was playing in the Tri-State League, most all of them. Some of them played professional ball with Portland. They had a catcher and pitcher out of a Portland team. Well anyway, Sumpter beat Prairie 3 to 1, and it was up to --- And we played the Sumpter team and they beat us 5 to 3. And I don't recall any difficulties about those games. We got another umpire.

MARCUS: Well, Clarence, you had quite a little trip over there, didn't you?

CLARENCE: Yes, in those days we had the cars, and it took all day to go to Prairie City. Of course, the two cars that went ahead, they got over pretty well. But the group I was in, five of us, four of us and the driver, an old car from Burns Garage, and it had ten blowouts. And I was the biggest man there, and I done most all of the pumping, pumping those tires up. We left here at 6 o'clock in the morning, and we never got to Prairie until 10 o'clock that night. And my hands had so many blisters on them, every time the ball hit my hand; it'd bust a blister in those ball games.

MARCUS: Clarence and I had dinner together the other day, and he was telling me about that. I thought that was pretty good history in its self. You darn right.

CLARENCE: Well, Burns started to play ball, they kind of quit there in about 1902 for a year or two, until Sunset Valley come in. That would be in 1907, I believe. Early spring there, and these homesteaders were all ballplayers from the middle states, and throughout the whole country,

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coming in here homesteading. And they was playing ball there in the sunshine, and they was looking for somebody to play ball. They come up here, "What's the matter, ain't Burns got a ball team?" Well we finally told them to come up and we'd get a, we'd have a ball game. So there was a bunch of us kids in high school been playing a little ball. So they came up there and they beat us. Then they wanted us to come down there. So the old ballplayers all got out and practiced a little bit, and went down in Catlow, or I mean Sunset Valley. And the Sunset team, a bunch of homesteaders, beat the old players. And so we come back to Burns again, had another game, and I believe Burns won that game. Most of these young kids on the team didn't play, most all the old has-beens and the old boys. Well then we went down to Sunset again for another game, and one of these young fellows that went with them as a sub --- So this team ... the Sunset team was one man short, so the manager asked if Burns would furnish the team. Yeah ... was the manager. Says, "Yeah, we've got four or five, we'll let you have one." Pointed to me, he said, "You can have this man, he's a pretty good ballplayer." And so the score was 8 to 7, in favor of Burns in the ninth inning. So last half of the ninth, and two of their men got up, got on base, one on second and one on first, and I come to the bat. And I don't know, had one or two strikes on me, and I swung at one, and hit it out over the left fielder for a home run. They won the game. After that, I never played on any other team, just the Burns team.

MARCUS: They didn't give you away after that, Clarence. Where did you play in Sunset?

CLARENCE: Well right over, just to the foot of the hill, the old road. Where the old road, just out in there a ways, out in that greasewood, or salt grass flat. And down in there, they had bleachers and played in there. I played in there, oh a couple of seasons, I guess. We used to play Harney. Harney had a pretty good ball team. Harney beat us in 1908, up there. I think that was the only time though they ever beat us, ... They had a pretty good team then. Had those two, I can't

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remember those names. Two brothers homesteaded out there in the valley, towards the east side there.

ELDON: East side of the valley?

CLARENCE: Yeah.

ELDON: Was it Jones?

CLARENCE: Jones and there was Holmes. The fellow, a kid named Holmes, you remember him, don't you? He was a natural ball player, played the outfield. Bonneville --- he was a professional.

ELDON: I wonder who caught him?

CLARENCE: Oh a fellow named Sullivan.

DARRELL: (Reminisces)

MARCUS: Well that was quite a pastime in those days. Baseball, racing once in a while, and go to a dance, and that was about the size of the entertainment. You didn't have radio and TV, and all that.

DARRELL: Ball games about every Sunday, and horse racing was about all you had. A few house warmings around different places.

MARCUS: It just doesn't seem possible; you pass through the country now, to think that there was people who were capable of playing the ball that we've been talking about, to live in the outlying areas of Harney County.

DARRELL: Well, they was mostly outsiders.

MARCUS: Yeah, they came in, but there is certainly no evidence of them anymore.

ELDON: Clarence was speaking about those two fellows; it was Dillons, Jerry, and Jim. When those fellows come to the country, they worked for my dad. He was the first guy they ever worked for in Harney County. And every year when it came haying time, why somebody would come and

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want them to go haying. Well, you just wait till we find out if Rube's got his hay up. As soon as his hay is up, we're through there; we'll come and help you. bl