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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #61 - Sides A/B

Subject: Andrew Shull

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: 1980

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

Release Form: No

MARCUS HAINES: Andrew, to start off here, when did you come to Harney County?

ANDREW SHULL: January the 2nd, 1913.

MARJORIE SHULL: 1912, wasn't it?

ANDREW: 1912. I thought it was later than that, but I was going through some old newspapers down there and here it was, so we've got it here someplace. I cut it out.

MARCUS: Oh?

ANDREW: I cut the piece out of the paper. Yeah, I come in 1912.

MARCUS: Where did you come from Andrew?

ANDREW: Butterfield, Missouri.

MARCUS: So you're a Missourian then?

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: And then you come out, see "Tice" [Tison] Shull was your uncle?

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: Is that one of the reasons you came out?

ANDREW: Well, I was an orphan kid, you see, and my mother remarried and they had three girls. I was getting to be a pretty good sized kid and they, my aunts and uncles, they didn't seem to think that I was getting along with my stepfather. I can't remember having any "defugalty" with him. But

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anyway, they got it in their heads that I ought to come out here with Tice. He was out here, him and Minnie, Corey Smyth's wife. So my mother, she decided to let me come, so I came out here with Tice.

MARCUS: Did you stay with Tice quite a little bit when you first arrived here?

ANDREW: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: And then you were around the Riddles too, weren't you?

ANDREW: I worked for him till I got to be, oh I think the first good job I had after I came out here, I worked for him. Then I got a job with Frank Kueny. The time they built that dipping vat up there, and dipped all those sheep.

MARCUS: Where was this at, Andrew?

ANDREW: Well, Kueny, see ... there's a flat up there. They call it Coal Pit Flat, and Kueny bought 40 acres there, and there's a nice spring right in the middle of it. So Kueny bought that.

MARCUS: Now this is on the Steens Mountains?

ANDREW: That's right back up from Roaring Springs.

MARCUS: Oh, okay.

ANDREW: And that was their shearing camp there, where he sheared his sheep. Well Hollis' [A. H.] sheep had had the scab, you see, and killed all the mountain sheep. And Hibbard killed the last one in 1908, right here it is, and it hung in his office for years, a small one. And ticks, oh you never saw so many ticks. There's a mound there that's, it's there yet. It must be a hundred feet long, and twenty feet wide, and twenty feet high, and it's pure ticks. And they dipped; well the sheep men came from all over the Steens Mountain as far as ... Brown's, and dipped those sheep there. And they built a cement dipping vat, see, and then they piped the water from the spring down to the vat.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ANDREW: And of an evening when they'd clean it out, why they'd use these five gallon gas cans, and they'd get fifteen or twenty of them guys in there, and they'd clean that out pretty quick, throw them ticks out. So Kueny --- the chute come around, you see, crooked, and then down and that was

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lined with the five gallon cans, the bottom, you see was slick. I always told people that I give 60,000 sheep the push. If things backed up, why I'd push him just a little and in he'd go. And that's right. Kueny used to laugh about it. And that dip would hit you in the face once in awhile, drops, you know. So, I wore a piece of canvas under my hat, this side of my face. Shoot, that damned dip would burn you, you know.

MARJORIE: You stayed with Riddles a lot, too. You stayed with Riddles a lot and worked for them, too.

ANDREW: And then after that I was around Riddles an awful lot.

MARCUS: Well, getting back to this dipping, you dipped 60,000 sheep right there at that one spot.

ANDREW: There was 60,000 sheep dipped there that spring.

MARCUS: And about what year would that have been again?

ANDREW: That was 1914.

MARCUS: 1914. That's real interesting; I've never heard of that before. Have you John?

JOHN SCHARFF: Oh yeah, back then everybody...

ANDREW: Yeah, the old vats there yet, John.

MARCUS: I didn't know it.

ANDREW: The old vat's right there yet, and there's a pipe buried there, and I think it's an inch and a quarter, or an inch and a half pipe, from the spring to the end of the vat. And that pipe is still there, oh, it must be 300 feet. And well, I'll tell you, I remember hearing Kueny saying after that, he said, "You never saw sheep do so good when they got rid of those ticks." They ate them up.

In those days, I remember one time Walt Riddle and me was going from Frenchglen up to Riddles, and we was looking through his horses on Crook Creek Point, and they were wild and in good shape. And when we gathered the horses in the spring there was these horses dead, and around them was these big old seed ticks, you know, where they'd come out and ... Oh gosh, they was that thick. Well, the ticks killed them, you see. Bunch of those horses that winter killed, the ticks killed them. They wouldn't have died otherwise.

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MARCUS: When I was a kid, we'd get the horses in the spring and those gentle mares, that's the first thing we'd do is...

JOHN: ... get those ticks off ...

MARCUS: ... Hell, they'd be like the end of your finger.

ANDREW: Yeah. They were thick all over the ground, and lots of them would bust, and they'd be wet places in my hair.

MARCUS: Now Andrew, I haven't seen the ticks bad out on the ranges here for, well 20 years, or such a matter.

ANDREW: I haven't either, but now ---

MARCUS: I don't know what has happened to them, but they sure don't seem to be around.

ANDREW: Buck Weiser tells me up around the Smyth Flat and in there, that they're getting quite a lot of ticks in the summertime.

MARCUS: Oh, they are kinda coming back there.

ANDREW: Kinda coming back. But I think that the horses and the sheep was carriers of those dang ticks, and they just multiplied by the jillions, you know.

MARJORIE: Maybe the dry years kind of killed them out.

MARCUS: We had Don Baker out on Jack Creek there to the old Dunn property, you know, William Dunn's homesteaded ---

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: You know where it's at; about the spring of '51 or '52 and those ticks --- we finally had to get the old fella out of there and take him to town, those ticks like to ate him up.

ANDREW: Who was out there?

MARCUS: Don Baker.

ANDREW: Oh.

MARCUS: Yeah

ANDREW: Oh, around where cattle water, like ---

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MARCUS: Well, he was staying there at the house, you know, and just riding around and moving the bulls, and kinda looking after things out there alone, and by golly, well, we had to bring him in.

ANDREW: You bet.

MARCUS: And I think that was about the last year of ticks. We ran on one of those lakebeds there, and I was riding a buckskin horse. We worked a little on the ground and come back to get on him and the ticks was just; you'd just see them black, coming up his legs.

ANDREW: Yup.

MARCUS: And that hasn't happened since then.

ANDREW: Yeah, I've seen that too.

JOHN: ... Marcus?

MARCUS: '52, I think.

JOHN: '52.

ANDREW: All those watering places back there, Warren and I stayed all night at Scotts Cache one night. Finally, I got up and built a big sagebrush fire; well you couldn't sleep, and you'd pick off 50 or 60 ticks off of your underwear, and throw them in the fire. We never slept a bit. Oh, it was terrible.

MARCUS: Well, when ... first moved out to Star Mountain, by golly, you didn't dare lay down on the ground now, the ticks would just pick you up and go with you, it was terrible. They disappeared out there and Charlie told me that they had ...

ANDREW: That's when that tick fever was so bad, you know, before that. There's a lot of, Skull Creek in certain spots, and they packed out plenty of shearers out of that Skull Creek country, that basin there. They caught it around there.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ANDREW: I remember Laucirica had one spring three different guys got tick fever there, working in the lambing camps. And there was a Bitterroot Valley over there in Idaho, oh they --- one side nobody lived on, they had to move out it was so bad.

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MARCUS: You've seen a great change in Harney County since you've been here.

ANDREW: Oh yeah, quite a change.

MARCUS: You bet you have.

ANDREW: Course I'm not a pioneer, you know, but I was around with fellows like Riddles, and then there is Potter, and Bill Buffington, Cummins, and the Smyth's, who had the valley. And old man Riddle was the best source of back history that I've ever run into, that is Stilley Riddle. And he remembered things in detail, you know, had a wonderful memory. And get him to talking after the course of an evening, you know, gosh he'd tell you things that nobody else ever told me, or ever heard.

MARCUS: Now he came in here with the Smyth's in '72, didn't he?

ANDREW: The Smyth's, '72.

MARJORIE: Was '72, or '71?

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: '72 I think, wasn't it?

ANDREW: And this Riddle, Oregon, you see, that's named after the Riddle's.

MARJORIE: They came the first time in '53, I think.

MARCUS: Old Rye Smyth tells about being on the Elliott Train that came through here in 1853, he was nine years old. Were some of the Riddles in that bunch, too?

ANDREW: Oh yes.

MARCUS: In that Elliott Train?

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: They were, I didn't know that. I knew they traveled around together quite a lot, but I didn't know ---

MARJORIE: I think there was some of the Cummins too.

ANDREW: You see this fellow that took the Sod House up, John ... John ... they called him. And he married Stilley Riddle's sister, you know, one of them.

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MARJORIE: Oh she was his mother. Stillely (Tobias) Riddle's sister was his mother.

ANDREW: Yeah. He homesteaded the Sod House, but he didn't stay very long; he went to Deer Lodge, Montana, and got a hold of a big ranch there, made an awful lot of money. Riddle's used to go up and visit with him. Their father was a Cote.

MARJORIE: Well Andrew, didn't you stay at Diamond with Uncle Bub (George) and Uncle Pres too, one time, and worked for a while?

ANDREW: What?

MARJORIE: You was at Diamond one time and worked at Uncle Bub and Uncle Pres?

ANDREW: Yeah. Oh, these people had a rugged time.

MARCUS: You betcha they had a rugged time.

ANDREW: You bet they did.

MARCUS: You talk about, the people now talk about how those --- I was talking to folks the other day, they said, "Well, how'd they ever raise a baby?" And I said, "Well, ..."

ANDREW: He just had to live or die.

MARCUS: You bet. A lot of them didn't live. But these kids are a little tougher than they give them credit for, you know.

ANDREW: Well, you take there at Andrews, Juan Redon's wife, Aunt Nellie, they called her, she was a mid-wife for pretty near all the kids in that country, wasn't she?

MARJORIE: Well, yeah. My mother helped too; you know.

ANDREW: Yeah, she was there when Margie was born.

MARCUS: I have a tape made with Ethel Clark, she told me she was born in the creek there nearly. They went for Aunt Nellie, but Nellie didn't get there in time.

MARJORIE: Well, my mother assisted Mrs. ...

ANDREW: Yeah, Aunt Nellie lived right up the creek about a mile.

MARCUS: It's a pretty good story; you'd enjoy hearing it. I've got that on a tape.

ANDREW: Yeah.

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MARCUS: You'll have to come down sometime and I'll play you some of those tapes. You'll enjoy hearing them, I know. I've got to get one with the woman, the shop down here, what's her name, Alice?

ANDREW: Yeah.

JOHN: Alice Tudor.

MARCUS: Alice Tudor, yeah.

JOHN: Her sister homesteaded in Little Blitzen. I think that cabin is still there, or part of it.

MARJORIE: Andrew, your homestead was in Little Indian, wasn't it? Or Big Indian?

ANDREW: My homestead was at the mouth of Big Indian.

MARJORIE: Well, those places in Catlow Valley, like Riecken's Corner and Ragtown, and you didn't even know they was ...

MARCUS: No, no you wouldn't.

MARJORIE: Blitzen ---

ANDREW: Well, I want you to take this down, because there's nobody alive that remembers those people like I do. I remember, not only that, but I can tell you where they were at.

MARJORIE: Well, tell him then.

ANDREW: There was quite a bunch of people, you know, at Clover Swale. I knew everyone of them.

MARJORIE: Tell him who was at Clover Swale.

JOHN: ...

ANDREW: But Margie, the way she has got that wrote up there, why she'd about have to read that for you.

MARJORIE: Well, you tell them.

ANDREW: No, I can't ---

MARJORIE: Well, you told me. That's what I put down, what you told me.

ANDREW: But that's something that nobody would believe, just going through the county; they

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wouldn't believe that. I don't think that there is any of those old shacks or houses left except that stone house that Tice built, and the Wickert buildings, I think, are still there. But at Rieckens Corner we had two little rock houses, and one was a blacksmith shop, and the other had the post office and a little store, and he lived in it. But that's gone.

MARJORIE: Now tell him who the people were at Clover Swale, you told me.

ANDREW: Well, at Clover Swale you had Taft Miller, Dave Bollenbaugh, that's the first ones you come to. And then you had the Duhaimes, and they called that place yet, they call it Duhaime Flat. Then you had Dave Crow, Augustine ... Gilbert, and Jack Robinson, Clarence Mace, Dino and Steve Kern.

MARJORIE: Kern.

ANDREW: Kern. And the O'Malley's, and the Barber family, and the Tucke family, you remember them?

MARCUS: You bet.

ANDREW: Some of them are married to ... Springer's daughters.

MARCUS: Yeah, some of them are right here in town with us too.

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: One of the girls out at Castles, out here, one of the girls is married to a Castles.

ANDREW: Well, they were there. And Jesse Bradeen, Bob Bradeen.

MARCUS: Well, old man Stoten, and ...

ANDREW: Yeah, there was Stoten and Shorty Thompson, he was six foot seven, we called him Shorty. He was a Portland barber. And Dave Stearns, and Clarence Poe, and Tice, and Porters out above Tice's. And then the McLeod family, and Charlie Downs, Oscar Downs at Page Springs.

MARCUS: Koontz boys.

ANDREW: Huh?

MARCUS: The Koontz boys.

ANDREW: Oh yeah, well I got that in there about Bob, him and Billy Carroll got in the well.

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MARCUS: You got the story in there, well real good.

MARJORIE: You can't hardly read that, some of that was written while I was in the car.

ANDREW: I don't know why those people did that. They started a great big well up here, you know, I guess six, seven feet across. They get out about twenty feet, and they'd see that they was digging too much dirt out of there, so they come in with it, smaller. And you see, Bob was already down below, Billy ... to let him down, and it was pretty hard digging. So Billy Carroll was gonna go down on this rope and help Bob. Suddenly the rope either come untied or broke, I can't remember which. And he fell and broke both legs right here. Well, they didn't know what to do, so Bob, he --- I know a lot of guys that can put their feet against one wall and their shoulders against the other and they can work themselves up. So he tried it. But when he got up to this wide place --- when he come in, he made it fine. But when he got there, he was a short fellow anyway, why he couldn't reach, and he fell back. And I think the well was between 50 and 60 feet deep.

So they stayed there for six days and nights. Bob said, "Well, I guess I'll have to try it again." So he worked his way up to this wide place, and he didn't know what to do. He couldn't reach it see. So his brother John, they was supposed to come over for Thanksgiving, and they didn't come. So he thought he'd go over and see what was the matter. And when he got there why Bob heard this noise, this team of horses, and this hack. So he was a hollering and he looked down there, there was Bob down there. And he was kind of excitable anyway, Johnny was, so Bob told him, he said, "Take the lines off the horses and tie them around the ... and tie them good and let them down to me." So he did, and Bob climbed out. So then he told him to go get help. So he first went to Solomon's, they wasn't very far away. And in just a little while there was a lot of people there. And so Bob went back down and tied this rope around Billy and they pulled him out. And they got a good rope, and then they pulled Bob out. And his legs, gangrene had already set in, you see. It seemed like the rope had skinned on one leg, and the bone was stuck out. But all they could think of was ice, bring me some more ice. He was dying for water, you know.

So old Chino had a pretty good buggy team there at Roaring Springs. They got that team

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and started to Burns, and they drove all night. And I guess the next day they had to take his legs off.

MARJORIE: Who was the doctor then, do you remember who it was?

ANDREW: But anyhow, that was quite a thing. Just imagine being down in a well like that for six or seven days and nights, and one man with two broken legs.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, terrible. I can remember going to see Billy with my mother, they took me in, and he was in the hospital in the King house, right across from the courthouse. And that must have been 1914, along in there sometime.

ANDREW: Something like that. I can't remember the exact year, but it was about 1913, or 1914.

MARJORIE: Would it have been Dr. Marsden was here then, or what doctor was it?

MARCUS: Yeah, Marsden was here, and Geary too, I think. And I don't know who did the surgery, there were a lot of doctors around here then, you know.

ANDREW: Boy, there's a bunch of those old doctors, their pictures are up here in the hospital right now.

MARCUS: Yes, they are.

ANDREW: That one little fellow, ... McLeod's boy, his stomach just deteriorated and all just grew together, and they got this doctor. The old lady shot herself in the knee with a .22 --- and this boy was laying there dying, and Charlie Wade took him over there in a buckboard from the P Ranch. And he told Charlie Wade, he said, "This boy is gonna die." Well, he said, "Why don't you operate?" Why he said, "I can't operate here, just haven't got nothing." Finally, they talked around and they did, they operated right there on the eating table, on the dining room table. And that boy lived for several years after that, a long time. Oh, they did some wonderful things.

MARCUS: Yeah, Dr. Marsden, I've got quite an article written by his driver, Dennis O'Brien, you ever know or hear of him?

ANDREW: No, I never heard of him.

MARCUS: Well, he tells about driving a stage to Diamond and around, and then he drove for Dr.

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Marsden.

ANDREW: What was his name?

MARCUS: O'Brien, Dennis O'Brien.

ANDREW: No, I never, I can't remember that.

JOHN: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

MARJORIE: I could read these off to you, the way he told them to me if you want me to.

MARCUS: Well, why don't we talk here awhile?

MARJORIE: Okay, he gave these to me.

MARCUS: Well, we'll get together and you can just read the whole thing onto a tape, and then we'll have it all. It's kinda nice to just sit and reminisce here a little.

ANDREW: Well, the reason I thought I'd like to give you that, is that I was there see, and the Hebners, the Hebners arrived here yet, you see.

MARCUS: Yes.

ANDREW: And I don't think there's anybody else that could do that.

MARJORIE: Now Lou Herron ...

ANDREW: Huh?

MARJORIE: Lou Herron, you gave me that name, Lou Herron, he had a homestead here.

ANDREW: Lou Herron worked for old Chino and he took a homestead right north of Rockford. So, he was hauling juniper wood out of Jack Mountain up there about where Tom Bailey's homestead is. And old Chino had a lot of big horses, workhorses, and he had broke them. Well, he worked them pretty late, and it was pretty cold, so he got out and was walking along side the wagon. And one of these horses happened to look back and seem him, and kicked him, and broke his leg. Well, when he fell, he fell right in the track and the team kinda spooked anyway and run the front wheel right across his neck and also the hind wheel, loaded with juniper wood and broke his neck. And they went on down the road there and stopped, the team did, and the next morning

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some of them homesteaders saw them over there, and they went over to see what was the matter and there was Lou Herron dead. Yeah, he's buried right north of Rockford yet; he's still there.

MARJORIE: Chino didn't own Roaring Springs, but what'd he do, lease it or how'd he happen to live there?

ANDREW: Old Chino?

MARJORIE: Uh huh.

ANDREW: Well, what Walt and Fred told me was that when French got killed Chino was the boss, you see, the buckaroo boss, had been since '83. And so all the changing around and he didn't like it, and he wanted to retire anyway, so they told him to go to Roaring Springs, and take care of the Roaring Springs ranch and just live there, and that's what he did. And he put the hay up and he also put-up Home Creek and Rock Creek, and whatever hay the Company had to stack, why he'd stack it for them. But he was there a long time at Roaring Springs. He was there till Swift, till Craven come, in 1950.

MARJORIE: The Walls were the ones that had Roaring Springs in the beginning, wasn't it?

ANDREW: The Walls homesteaded the Roaring Springs to begin with; they homesteaded it.

MARCUS: Now that makes me think of the question I wanted to ask you, up at Walls Lake ...

ANDREW: That was named after these Walls, you see.

MARCUS: Yes. Well, now I'm hearing there was a stage stop there, did you ever know anything about that?

ANDREW: At Walls Lake?

MARCUS: Yes.

ANDREW: Stage?

MARCUS: A stage stop.

ANDREW: No.

MARCUS: The Dunbars have found it, and they've been wanting me to go up there with a metal detector and, I had never heard of it.

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ANDREW: No. The only stage stop or post office was Rieckens Corner. You see in that time the only road there was, the road from Rock Creek, from P Ranch to Rock Creek. Well, it got down there just east of where Wickerts, and the road turned left and went to Roaring Springs, and the other one went just about to where the Wickert buildings are, to Rock Creek. Well then when the homesteaders, why they had a road from, oh well it was you might say from Walls Lake right south to Beckley, and Beckley to Blitzen. And then on down past Garrison Lake, and past these homesteads into the mouth of Long Hollow. That's the way the people traveled, right down through the valley. And so this road crossed Rock Creek road, you see. It went to Beckley, and right up here is Rieckens Corner where I had those two little rock houses. And Leo Winn was a stage driver for a while, and ... Rath was a stage driver for a while, and Ed Tullock and old man ... had a contract from Blitzen to the Narrows. No, there was no stage stop there.

MARJORIE: Somebody probably lived there for a while.

ANDREW: Huh?

MARJORIE: Somebody might have lived there.

ANDREW: Not since I came here.

MARCUS: Do you know where the post office was called Tiara up in that country?

ANDREW: What?

MARCUS: Called Tiara, it was up near Walls Lake.

ANDREW: Cadaro?

MARCUS: Tiara, T I A R A.

ANDREW: No, they might have had an application and a petition to try to get one, but there never was one there. The only one, the last post office in Catlow Valley that anybody ever --- they got a petition and got it, was Berdugo. That's between Ragtown and Blitzen, and Mrs. Kembert that post office and it only lasted about a year, and they discontinued it because they had the Beckley, and they had Blitzen, and then this post office, they called it Berdugo after old Chino [Berdugo].

MARCUS: It started over there near Roaring Springs, didn't it?

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ANDREW: Huh?

MARCUS: It was moved from over around Roaring Springs over to Ragtown.

ANDREW: Well, Ragtown was out in the sink of Rock Creek right straight south of Rock Creek, that was Ragtown.

MARCUS: Yeah, I know, but I mean Berdugo the post office was moved...

ANDREW: No, the post office was between Ragtown and Blitzen.

MARCUS: Yeah.

ANDREW: Right there on a little knoll. I think the building was a stone building, and I think there's some signs of it yet. But it only lasted about a year, and that's the last post office that was established in Catlow Valley.

MARJORIE: What about Sageview?

ANDREW: Well, Sageview, that's Riecken's Corner. They call the schoolhouse where Meriggioli lived there, that was, that was Sageview. There was a lot of people in there.

MARCUS: Well, when did you go over to the South End land, over to Andrews and that country?

ANDREW: 1926.

MARCUS: And prior to that you were around in Catlow Valley country, around the Riddles?

ANDREW: Well, before that, you see, from '12 to 1926 I was around the Riddles, and I worked for Kueny an awful lot. I'd go to work in March and work up to maybe the first of August. In 1915, he went to the San Francisco Fair, and he had four bands of sheep. So, we had that little old car, an old Winfield, and we hauled groceries from the VT at Crane, and we had a supply camp on the mouth of Big Indian just above where the road crosses there, there is a little meadow. They had three or four tents there, and we fenced it to keep the cattle from tearing it up, and that was full of supplies. And I tended camp, I went to work, I think, in March and I tended camp until about the first of September till he got back. And I was tired and wanted to quit anyway.

MARJORIE: You had cattle then too, didn't you?

ANDREW: I always had a bunch of cattle along with Riddles and Tice.

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MARJORIE: You remember Edith Beckley?

MARCUS: Edith? Married Arthur Page? Yes.

JOHN: I had a letter from Edith a little while ago.

MARJORIE: She's still alive.

MARCUS: Oh, she's still alive, huh?

JOHN: Yeah. She had a brother lived up there at Anacortes. Yeah, we hear from her every Christmas. See Arthur died on the 31st day of January, which would have been in 1938.

MARCUS: That was just about yesterday then, wasn't it, about 42 years ago?

JOHN: Yeah.

MARJORIE: Well, you knew Arthur Page too, didn't you?

ANDREW: Oh yeah.

MARJORIE: And the Beckley's too?

ANDREW: I worked there for Tom Allen for about a month and he put me to packing rods and flags for Arthur Page. He was doing a lot of surveying there on the water at the P Ranch. He had a homestead on Home Creek. Yeah, and then when Craven come, you see, he started in to colonize that Diamond country and then sell it out. Well they, the Beckley's and Arthur Page, bought some land in Diamond there, you see. Then when they left there, I think they went to Anacortes, Washington. I think that maybe Ernest and some of them are still alive.

JOHN: Yeah, Ernest, Ernest is. He lives there with...

MARCUS: You know, I had, believe it or not, here the other day, talking about 38 years made me think of this story. A fella told me, he said, "I have a grandfather who is 95 years old," and he said; "he's building a log house now. He lives down in the valley. He did a lot of that work around Sun Valley." And he said, "He comes up here once in awhile, would you like to have him come and talk to the Historical Society, he loves to do that." And I said, "Yes, I'd like to." And he said, "He was in the Spanish-American War, and served on two boats." Well my dad was in the medical corps and died 38 years ago, and he was 74 years old when he died. And here's this old guy along

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here, seems he was born in '85, you see, and the war was over in '98, I think, wasn't it?

JOHN: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, he couldn't have been 14, 15 years old. I couldn't believe it now, you know. When I stopped, when I thought about my dad. He died in November of 1938 that would be 42 years ago, rather than 38. He died in '38, would be 42 years ago this coming fall, 39 last month.

JOHN: He showed up to talk to the ---

MARCUS: No, this was just the other day. He said that Hollywood had made a half an hour movie on him. He said, "I've never seen it, but I wouldn't know whether to recommend it to you or not." But that was something I thought.

JOHN: Who was that, Marcus? Some local fella that ---

MARCUS: Brian Metke, one of the teachers out here.

ANDREW: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Well, how many Riddles were around here? I hear of a new one ever once in awhile.

ANDREW: Riddles?

MARCUS: Yeah.

ANDREW: I think they're about all gone.

MARCUS: Well, I mean how many were here to begin with?

ANDREW: Oh ---

MARJORIE: A lot of them was born right there in Happy Valley where the Riddle Ranch is.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what I thought. Did they start the Riddle Ranch?

MARJORIE: Yes.

ANDREW: They homesteaded the Riddle Ranch, yeah, the same time that the Smyth's homesteaded Happy Valley and Diamond, yeah. But Ben Riddle was the first one that homesteaded up there on the Blitzen. And then that was about '96, well maybe even '95. Anyway, he was the first one. Well, then Walt and Fred had the Glendale Farm leased down there at Glendale, and they went broke. So then they come out here and went up on the mountain and took

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that desert land entry, that old Fred had there, you know. Well, then Ben was already over on the creek, and had the place fenced and the house built. So then right below, down the creek below Ben was Scott Catterson, took a homestead. And he built that house that's there yet, that log house with the lumber upper story. Scott Catterson built that. And he built that big willow corral and fenced that big bend in the river there, he called it the "Big Bend," he fenced that. Well then he got an idea he didn't like it, so he wanted to take Mud Springs up there, Catterson homestead. You know where it is John? So all Fred had was the desert land acreage up there, so he bought Scott's improvements. Scott relinquished that place, and they moved down on the creek, and they're still there.

MARJORIE: Believe it or not.

ANDREW: But there was Ben, Walt, and Fred was the only Riddles that was ever in the country since I came.

MARJORIE: When was it that Stilley would have sold that place, that Riddle's sold out, is when they left and went back over to

ANDREW: What?

MARJORIE: When Riddles sold out is when they went back to middle Oregon and in there.

ANDREW: They sold to Dennison first.

MARJORIE: Oh, did they?

ANDREW: They sold out to Dennison.

MARJORIE: No, I mean Stilley Riddle in Happy Valley. You remember when he sold out?

ANDREW: No. Stilley Riddle, you mean Happy Valley.

MARJORIE: Yes.

ANDREW: Well he sold to French and ---

MARJORIE: You don't know the year though?

ANDREW: So he got \$40,000 in gold money. And it was getting late in the fall of the year, Walt

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and Fred told me this, and it was getting late in the fall of the year, and Pete French says it's too late, Stilley, to make that trip, you better stay here all winter. Stay right here. So he did, he stayed there all winter. But along the last of January, the first of February, why here come Tebo with a letter from French, and he wanted to borrow that money to meet expenses until spring come. So he just gave him the money, \$40,000 in gold money. And he told him; French told him in the letter that he would have the money on a certain day next spring, in the spring if he'd let him use it now. So he took that money and ---

MARJORIE: He let French have the money?

ANDREW: Yeah, he just loaned it to him. I don't know whether he paid him any interest or not, they didn't say anything about that. But the day that he told him he'd have the money back, here come Tebo with the money, with the gold. And it wasn't long then till he loaded his family up and went to Glendale.

MARJORIE: Well, I know that was all after the Indian War.

ANDREW: Huh?

MARJORIE: That was all after the Indian War.

ANDREW: That's after the Indian War, yeah.

MARJORIE: But what year it was, I don't know. But they had originally come, you see, there was a lot of Riddles.

ANDREW: I think he told me that too. Stilley Riddle, I think he told me that same story.

MARJORIE: Riddle, Oregon, in fact, Riddle, Oregon was named after them. And they came in the early days and a lot of them settled there.

JOHN: When did Ben Riddle, he died first, didn't he?

ANDREW: Who?

JOHN: Ben Riddle.

ANDREW: I can't remember the exact year, but ---

MARJORIE: I've got it down.

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ANDREW: He was sick, Ben was, and he'd been to Hot Springs and he had been different places.

MARJORIE: I've got ...

ANDREW: He went to the ---

MARCUS: No, it's still playing, go right ahead (tape recorder was making suspicious noises).

Don't be scared of it now.

ANDREW: He went to Hot Lake, you know, what is it, LaGrande?

JOHN: Yeah.

ANDREW: Corey went with him, Corey Smyth. And he said he didn't, wasn't wounded or anything, he was just like he always was. By gosh, he heard a shot and he destroyed himself. But I can't remember the year.

MARJORIE: Well, he was dying.

ANDREW: Huh?

MARJORIE: He was dying.

ANDREW: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Well do you; tell us something about the old man Barton that was down in Barton Lake country there, do you know anything about him?

ANDREW: No. The first time I was ever to Barton Lake, Corey and Minnie was a living there at Happy Valley. They call it Corey's house yet, that little house. I was over visiting them, and I was riding around there with Corey, and I don't know much about Barton Lake. There's nobody there, it was just, the fences are all down, was full of hogs. It was just a big swamp, you know, Barton Lake. That is where those people live there now, that was all swamp and ---

JOHN: What year was that, Andrew, that you was there?

ANDREW: Oh, that was probably about 1914.

MARCUS: Well, now the Wards were, they were in there someplace.

ANDREW: The Wards?

MARCUS: Yes.

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ANDREW: Well, I didn't, they left before I came, you see.

MARCUS: See the one bridge was named after some of them there.

ANDREW: Yeah, Dalla Turner was at Coon Town.

MARCUS: Oh?

ANDREW: Orland, Orland's dad and Elba's dad.

MARCUS: Yeah, I have a, I have an account of Coon Smyth's experiences in the Indian War.

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: And he tells about, he came, he started over to see the old man Barton, at Barton Lake, when he ran into the Indians up there, and that was in '78. See he had just arrived in the country; he didn't know anything about Coon Town at the time.

ANDREW: Yeah. He established that afterwards.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's right.

MARJORIE: Well, my Dad's Aunt Jane and John Miller, they had a place before the War in Diamond, but I don't know, I can't ever find out where that was. But they all settled there in Diamond and Happy Valley, and you see, there was nine children, except one girl that disappeared, they don't know what happened to her, Lizzy, Elizabeth.

MARCUS: What family was that Marjorie?

MARJORIE: The Smyth family. But I don't, did you ever hear where Aunt Jane and John Miller would have had a place? I don't know whether they had it homesteaded, or whether they just, you know, how they used to do, squatter's rights. Well they all lived there, every one of them had places before the War, see. And that was the reason a lot of them left, was because of that Indian War. The father getting killed, and then Dad's father and Dad's grandfather, you see, was killed.

ANDREW: You see ---

MARJORIE: It was kind of a tragedy. Well they had lots of tragedies there.

ANDREW: Lots of people get the wrong, the wrong impression, the wrong thought. When you're talking about French. They get the idea that French built up all those ranches. The only place that

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French built up himself was the P Ranch. You see Catlow Valley, he bought all those ranches in Catlow Valley; he bought Barton out, he bought Stilley Riddle out, and he bought Cummins out there at Cucamonga, you know, there down the road by the schoolhouse, he bought him out. And Bill Buxton was just over the point.

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MARJORIE: Well that's what is really hard, to go back before that Indian War to get things straight there. Because, you see, that really upset a lot of people. And of course, Dad's folks all had such tragedies. Little brother was drowned in the creek there, and his father and grandfather were killed, and it was just a string of tragedies.

MARCUS: Yes, you bet.

MARJORIE: But I would like to know where they settled, Aunt Jane and John.

MARCUS: I guess these sources are about gone.

MARJORIE: Oh yeah, that's right.

MARCUS: Myrtle Smyth was a Barnes, you know, but ---

MARJORIE: You see Myrtle was born after that War too.

MARCUS: Born in '86, yeah. Eight years after.

MARJORIE: A lot of that she hadn't, like I asked her about the grandmother, she was so young that she didn't remember too much.

MARCUS: Didn't remember.

MARJORIE: Remember too much, you know. And a lot of things I asked her, now she didn't remember about the little boy drowning, of course that happened before she was born.

JOHN: I had a visit here a couple of years ago with Mrs. Reynolds, she was a Kiger. She lives out of Corvallis, and I asked her if she had ever come up here to see the place. She was born after they left here, and she wrote that little book, you've probably seen it.

MARCUS: Yeah, I have a copy of it. I had Edna read it out on a tape for me; I have the whole

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thing.

JOHN: And she said no, she said her father loved this country so much, and talked so much about it, she figured she might be disappointed if she come and looked at it. And she never come up.

MARCUS: That's a real good story.

JOHN: Yeah.

MARCUS: Andrew would enjoy hearing that too, and ---

MARJORIE: He heard lots of history from Stilley Riddle. And of course Stilley was here, you see, before the War. Came with the first ones that settled. And Andrew knew him real well.

ANDREW: Some of those old fellows, now Rye Smyth he wouldn't talk to you much about old history, he just would tell you he didn't remember.

MARJORIE: Sometimes he would...

ANDREW: But Stilley Riddle, and Walt and Fred Riddle, they knew a lot of old history too, and they'd talk about it in detail.

MARCUS: Yeah, there's lots of people. You know, I thought, I'll go see Sadie Williams, she can tell me all about how Princeton had been moved around. Well she didn't know as much about it as I did. You just, you don't know where you're gonna find this source of information from. Some people can remember it, and other people don't remember a damn thing.

MARJORIE: My folks were very; they didn't talk much about things before the War. I think they wanted to forget about it, but they did tell me a few little things. And then when I stayed with my grandmother in Portland and went to school, she told me, it was a bad time for them.

MARCUS: You bet it was a bad time for them. Real, real tough. This Dolly, this woman you're talking about ... this Dolly Kiger, she's writing about her mother, her experiences here and how she rode from Happy Valley to Fort Harney on the running gears of a wagon, and they wrapped gunny sacks around the wheels so they wouldn't be making noise on the rocks there, and so they could get out of there. And then one of her children was born at Fort Harney. And then the Indians came in and really cleaned them out down in here and stole Mrs. Kiger's wedding dress. So, after things got

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settled down, they moved some Indians in there. She went down with her husband and looked in and here was this squaw with her wedding dress on.

ANDREW: Did she retrieve it?

MARCUS: No, she said she didn't want to have anything to do with it. She never went back. He sold out to Pete French then, and they left. And I've forgotten which Kiger that was; it was an unusual name ...

ANDREW: Well, let's see. There was Reuben and ---

MARCUS: That's it. It was Reuben, yeah.

ANDREW: Yeah. And what was, I can't think of the other one.

MARCUS: Old Doc.

ANDREW: Yeah, they called him Doc.

MARCUS: Yeah, according to his second nephew or something, this Warren King, you know, said he was the biggest liar in Harney County.

MARJORIE: Well, Dad went with Bob and ... Diamond some, and then he used to go on those cattle drives when he was just a little fellow, eight and ten years old. They called him Dad, that was his nickname.

MARCUS: Oh, it was?

MARJORIE: He never went by that later, but that's what they used to call him. He was just a little ---

ANDREW: He said he was seven years old when he worked for Hardin and Riley here at the Double O.

MARJORIE: Well Dad was, I think, about seven when his father was killed.

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARJORIE: And Uncle John, you see, oh really young, but then of course Grandmother was pregnant, and Uncle Charlie was born after she left here. But Grandfather was killed in April, I think. April, or am I wrong? When was that War?

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MARCUS: June of '78.

MARJORIE: June.

MARCUS: Yeah.

MARJORIE: And Uncle Charlie was born in July. But she had gone to LaGrande.

MARCUS: I had a show out here at the Sod, at the schoolhouse last night, and that's what it was about, it was about the Indian uprising that Myrtle has told me with slides, and then Dell and Fred Witzel. And sometime when you folks feel like coming down to the house I'd like awful well for you to hear and see it.

MARJORIE: Yes, it'd be nice.

ANDREW: What gets me about those people, where John Witzel was shot there, going up the trail, they only had one gun. One old ... was all that they had. And the Chinaman he fell off down there, you know, crawled in the culvert and they killed him right there. And so I forget who it was that they had to kill, but French had the gun, and he'd give them just one shell at a time. And French said, "Give me them shells." Oh, he said, "I'll give you one at a time. You get the shells, you'll go on and leave us."

MARJORIE: You mean Witzel said it.

ANDREW: And that's where they shot Fred --- Don Witzel was right there, you know. And they didn't have any guns.

MARCUS: No, they had two or three Indian fighters along with them, and a fellow name of Sid Thomason. And all there was, was the Indian fighters and no guns, they couldn't understand that either.

ANDREW: The time that that Indian pretty near caught Shirk, you know, at the junction right in there on top of P Hill, right there in those trees. And Shirk turned around and started back down the road to go to Home, Creek, he didn't have no gun.

MARCUS: He lost his gun when they spooked him; he had his six-shooter. He had given his rifle to these fellas that were killed down there getting their wagons out, you know. Yeah, I read that in

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David Shirk's "Cattle Drive," I don't know if you've ever read that or not, but it was real good. And the horse jumped and his six-shooter flew out of the scabbard, and then this one Indian took after him and run him so far, and he decided the next time he shot he'd fall off and play dead, and then mug him when he come up to scalp him. But he looked back and the Indian was off of his horse. He said he didn't know whether the horse fell with him, or what had happened. But he said he was off his horse when he looked back.

ANDREW: Well, the horse fell with him, you see, but he was gaining on Shirk.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what he said, he was riding right up on him, but his horse was getting winded, big heavy, big man I guess too. And packing a lot of weight and ... put it right on his tail and take a shot at him once in awhile. That would make you lean forward and spur it ... back wouldn't it?

ANDREW: Sure would.

MARCUS: Well, did you ever spend the winters up on the Blitzen there with Ned and them?

ANDREW: Oh yeah, I stayed up there two or three winters with them. And one winter I didn't hardly have any snow, and had green grass all winter. And they wintered those cattle out mostly, and then when they got to Ben's place, they bought Ben's place from their father, why he put up quite a bit of hay, you know. Oh, I suppose they would be 125 ton. Well, with what hay they put up, they had quite a bit of hay. And yeah, I stayed there with them two or three winters, and it got pretty monotonous.

MARCUS: Yeah, I'll bet.

ANDREW: I remember one winter it was, it snowed us in November, and it didn't go off till pretty near the first of April. Lot's of snow. The deer, the snow crusted and the deer run on top of that snow, and wouldn't even break through, they was so poor.

MARCUS: Well, Walt must have about went out of the cattle business that year, didn't he?

ANDREW: Yeah, they lost lots of cattle.

MARJORIE: ... some cattle one year, and all of them died.

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ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: ... Walt's cattle.

MARJORIE: Well, the folks ...

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

ANDREW: ... I was working there for them for a few days. We was up on the ... the Seaward cabin. And we was talking about Walt and Fred, he said, "They're awful good boys," but he said, "I don't go along with starving those cattle through the winters." He said, "We've got lots of hay here, we've got hay left every year." Well then when Bub died I remember two or three winters why Walt took the cattle over to Fred's, and by God, Fred would feed them, and Walt would bellyache about the bill he'd get.

MARCUS: I'll bet.

ANDREW: Boy, he was a great hand to feed cattle. They was fat.

MARJORIE: Well, you know, people didn't in those early days, feed cattle ... because when I was a child all the cattle was out, and you fed your horses grain a lot, and your milk cows and things like that. But you didn't feed your cattle like they do now.

ANDREW: But even Bill Hanley, he wintered lots of cattle outside, at Diamond Swamp in the wintertime, it'd freeze up solid and then them tules and flag down next to the ice was green, you know, and heck they was eight, nine feet tall, a regular barn of the place. And that thing would be loaded with cattle in the wintertime. And so the swamp in the Five Mile CCC Camp, I guess it goes by that name now, but it was the hog house. That spring there, Hanley had a deal there where he fattened hogs, and that was the end of the fence, you see. All that, from there to Witzel and all that, that was all open.

MARCUS: Yeah, there's sure a different --- well in those days you kinda rode the numbers, you know, you sold by the head and all, but when you got to selling them by the pound, that's a different ball game.

MARJORIE: Well, it started getting dry too, and they had that terrible drought, and the depression

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at the same time.

MARCUS: That was a bad one, wasn't it?

MARJORIE: All the little springs on the hillside started drying up. There was no water.

MARCUS: You know these young people ---

MARJORIE: They don't believe it.

MARCUS: --- young people have known nothing but prosperity all their lives, you know.

ANDREW: That's right.

MARCUS: And you can't convince one of them what we went through back there 50 years ago.

MARJORIE: We've had some wonderful winters the last few years, and not like we used to. When I was a child we had winters, and we had spring rains for weeks, and about the time we started to shear we'd have a rain and it'd last for 6 weeks. And in the summer we'd have rain and thunderstorms, and then it got drier and drier, and we didn't have it. We didn't have the snow.

MARCUS: Yeah, we've seen quite a change in the country around here.

MARJORIE: Well, what was it Peter Skene Ogden wrote in his history, something about ---

JOHN: Things were pretty dry then.

MARJORIE: Well, wasn't it? I don't know whether I have it right or not, but Andrew was talking about it.

ANDREW: Well, he was here in '18, and he come back in '32, wasn't it John?

JOHN: Well, let's see, he came through here in '26.

ANDREW: And one of those times he had a hard time finding water for his oxen, and the next time it was so muddy he couldn't go no place.

JOHN: John Work came in here in '32, and he tells about the late spring ...

MARJORIE: Well ---

MARCUS: You know when Ogden tells about seeing all the buffalo skulls laying around here in '26, when he came through, I like to tell that about some of these BLM'ers around, that's around, telling the story there. I said, "It got so dry around here it starved the buffalo to death ..."

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ANDREW: Well, you know, they ---

MARJORIE: Well, I have the wrong dates, I guess, Peter Skene Ogden went through this country in 1818, no water for the oxen. In 1831, '32, and '33, he came through again and all mud, and couldn't get through. That's the wrong dates then, was it '26?

ANDREW: You know, they laughed at the idea there was ever any buffalo in this country. Well, when they plowed that up in there that spring, you know, and put grain in there where the Bunyards and them people are, they plowed those big old skulls up by the hundreds. They died there for water, you see.

MARCUS: Elk and bear skulls, and wolves ...

ANDREW: That's what old Louie said, you know, the Indian. He said the place you could get a drink was Malheur Cave. But the buffalo and the elk and bear all died for water. Well, they was in there, you know that big slough there, that was probably the last water, you see.

MARCUS: Here last fall Opal Cooley and Walt was down to one of our Historical meetings, and we got to talking around there, and Opal said that when she was a kid there was some old Indians that used to come through and stay with them traveling on through to McDermitt there. And she said they used to tell her dad about crossing the Snake River in their moccasins.

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: Getting pretty damn dry when the Snake River got that low.

ANDREW: You bet.

MARCUS: And then Doc Hibbard told me, and Alfred Marshall and others, that when they first knew Mud Lake down here it was sagebrush stumps was all sticking up through it. Dry enough it all had grown back to brush.

ANDREW: Well just like those sand hills at the P Ranch ... they called the sand hill field. Well how would any sand hills get in there now, you see, but it showed you the whole thing dried up, and the brush all died off, and it started to blow and it made those sand hills.

MARCUS: Yeah.

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ANDREW: Oh, that P Valley, and even down as far as Buena Vista, it's not level. There's bumps, and hills, and sand hills and everything else in it.

MARCUS: Oh, yeah.

ANDREW: And when you get there to Buena Vista, why you see out where the canal was, there is nothing, you see, that's high ground.

MARJORIE: Well, you know, that Ten Cent Lake, when I was a child, people was talking --- well I remember it from my folks, you know, we'd go some place in a buggy or something, well they thought that lake, they didn't know if there was any depth, what the depth of that lake was. Nobody ever sounded it out, and there in the two years that we had the dry years it dried up and there were wagon roads across it, you see, and they thought it was a big lake.

MARCUS: Yes.

JOHN: I think it was in the '60's when they thought that about Goose Lake Valley and then when it dried up there in the '30's ... we were down there in '32, they had pictures ...

MARCUS: Well, it was dry all the time you were around in Lakeview, wasn't it John?

JOHN: Just a little water coming from the west side. Kinda like Malheur Lake, just a little water coming in.

MARJORIE: There was a piece in the Times-Herald that Uncle Rye had written. It was from the Oregonian, he'd been down to Portland. Did you see that paper?

MARCUS: I got a copy of that.

MARJORIE: That tells a lot about the War and how they killed the horses and the cattle.

MARCUS: Yes, I've got that, and I showed that last night, but it's fading so badly that you can't read it anymore. And I'm going to get somebody to write it out on the typewriter.

MARJORIE: I imagine that there was a lot of cabins and things that were burned at that time too.

MARCUS: Oh yeah. There's bound to be. They just cleaned up everything as they went, you know.

MARJORIE: Well, you see Uncle John was born over there at Fort Harney.

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MARCUS: Coon Smith tells in this story, he wrote this up. See he died in 1923.

MARJORIE: Who, Uncle...

MARCUS: He wrote that up and gave it to Carrie, and then Mervil Hutchinson, do you know Mervil? Do you know who I'm talking about, that would be Ralph Hutchinson's youngest boy, he had the polio and was paralyzed from here down.

MARJORIE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: He lives in Nyssa and is an accountant and he's done real well. And he finally got that from Carrie, and he typed it up, and I think there's twelve pages of it. And he tells about what...

MARJORIE: Now who's Carrie?

MARCUS: Carrie Kidwell.

MARJORIE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: You knew Carrie Kidwell?

MARJORIE: Yeah, that name's familiar.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's right, you're kind of --- they were born and raised there at the Narrows.

MARJORIE: Well, you see, in those days you traveled by horseback, or buggy, or teams, and we didn't go all that much, you know.

MARCUS: Well, see, Coon Smith ...

MARJORIE: I knew all the old timers' names through the folks.

MARCUS: ... and Carrie was his daughter.

MARJORIE: Oh, I see.

MARCUS: Yeah.

MARJORIE: Well, Coon Smith wasn't any relation to ...

MARCUS: No.

JOHN: ... Smith, was S M I T H, wasn't it?

MARJORIE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Yes. Well, they had the post office there at Coon Town, and it was Smith then the

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town was Coon Town.

MARJORIE: That was where all ... Coon Town.

MARCUS: Yeah. Myrtle straightened us all out on that last night. I get quite a kick out of that.

MARJORIE: Myrtle's mother, she ran the post office though, didn't she?

MARCUS: No, Coon Smith had the post office.

MARJORIE: Oh, did he?

MARCUS: Yeah, according to her. And some people, you know, they'll say, "Well that isn't right!" They hear the tape and --- well you go talk to Myrtle about it, and that stops it right there, you know you didn't argue much with Myrtle. They begin to believe it right away. I said, "I'm just listening here." If you don't believe it you go talk to Myrtle, because I don't know a thing about it, and that stops it. Yeah, she tells about it.

MARJORIE: Now, she was about ten years old when the Grandmother, when Dad's grandmother died, she lived at Diamond. That was her place at first. That's where my grandmother and grandfather lived too, at Diamond ...

MARCUS: Oh it was?

MARJORIE: And in this --- when we took the census, I have a copy of that, why she was living there then. And I think that Bub was about 17, and Chris was maybe 12.

ANDREW: Well, Bub was 17 at the time of the Indian War.

MARJORIE: Bub?

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: Where did Bub get run over with the cattle?

ANDREW: Oh, that was at the Crowley Ranch.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, Charlie Chaplin was telling me about that.

ANDREW: Yeah, it was Cassie and Fred was driving the wagon, and they had the camp outfit in it, and Bill Buffington and Bub was driving the steers. They had about 350 head. So it was late, and that lane there why Cassie and Fred had to pull the wagon across one end of the lane, and they

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was swept in the other end of the lane, and they had these steers in the lane. Something spooked them in the night, and here they come. Well, Bill Buffington he got out of the tent, and crawled under the fence. But Bub got hooked up someway in the tent and couldn't get out, so the whole dang thing, they run over him. And I think that's what caused his death was they tramped him awful bad in the stomach, you see, and it turned into cancer. He was only 56 years old when he died.

MARJORIE: Well, it didn't kill him.

ANDREW: He wasn't old.

MARCUS: No.

ANDREW: Well, that's how that happened.

MARJORIE: Andrew has gone on lots of those cattle drives.

MARCUS: Andrew, did you ever go on any hog drives for Clerf when they went to Winnemucca, they drove hogs down there?

ANDREW: Who's that?

MARCUS: When Clerf had the Alvord, he used to drive hogs down to Winnemucca, Charlie Chaplin tells about it.

ANDREW: No, I can't remember that, that was before my time.

MARCUS: ...That was along in '15 and '16.

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: Charlie went down there in 1914 and he helped. He went on the drives.

ANDREW: Yeah. Hogs?

MARCUS: Yeah, hogs. Buckaroos, he said they were easier to drive than cattle.

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: He said that they would feed them and just about the break of day then, these damn hogs, he said, there was hog pushing everyplace, they wanted to get up, and just start easing them off. And then when it got hot they would lay down. And then they would go until dark, and they

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would feed them a little bit and they'd sleep all night. They didn't have to night herd dogs. That's what they liked about them.

ANDREW: All I know about the hogs, was ... was cleaning out the hogs. And he made a drive or two from the Sod House clear down to where your mother lived there. And from there to the P Ranch, and there was quite a lot of hogs in Three Mile and Home Creek. So, he sent word up that we had some cattle down there, to come down and get the cattle, and help us clean up the hogs. So, I took my horses and went down to P Ranch. Judd Wise was the ranch boss and we camped down at Brenton's Cabin. And we caught eleven hundred head of them hogs. And them old boars, you could lasso them, you know, and your rope would come down and catch on those tusks, and it was pretty easy. But the sows, by gosh, you had to be, you pretty near had to get them around the flank or between the front legs or something or they'd get out of the loop. And I'll never forget ... we had these big covered wagons, and they had a gate there, and they shoved these hogs in there, and every time we'd catch a hog somebody would get ripped with them tusks. Well, he said the only way to do this, was they had a claw hammer and they'd grab one of those old boars up, and the first thing he done was take that claw hammer and knock those tusks off. They just knocked the tusks, and then they'd throw them in there. They got eleven hundred hogs out of that P Ranch.

MARCUS: Holy smokes.

ANDREW: Eleven hundred.

MARJORIE: They got pretty wild, didn't they?

ANDREW: And we didn't get them all either. By gosh ---

MARCUS: Well, they got around the pike too, didn't they Andrew?

ANDREW: Oh yeah, them old wild boars, lots of them wouldn't run from you a horseback. They just turn sideways and ready to fight, and some of them would run. But a lot of them old timers they wouldn't run. And they had a big hog there at the P Ranch, gentle hog; he was a Jersey Red or something, great big hog. And one of them wild hogs come in there and got into a fight with that tame hog, and he had some little old tusks about that long. But by gosh he was cutting his throat, he

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had him all ... and that big old hog, he just gave out, he couldn't fight. And finally old John Borax, he was on ... John Borax, and he seen it, and he got a club or rifle and run this wild boar off, or he would have killed him. He was cutting his throat, he was after his windpipe, you see. Yeah, he'd of killed him pretty quick. And then he got awful poor, that hog, before he got over that.

MARCUS: Well, were you around the P Ranch when old John Borax got the Texans behind the trees there and shot the bark off around your head? Tell us about that one.

ANDREW: Well, they --- old John, you know, he was there because the Corbett's wanted him there. He was a good harness maker.

MARCUS: Yes.

ANDREW: And he repaired the harness and took care of the hogs, and he was a great friend of the Corbett's, Henry Corbett, you know. Well, he told them they was robbing the Corbett's, and they got into a row with this Frank Pate and this Sim Pate. Because Sim Pate, he eventually went to Klamath Falls, and he was a mean sucker. And he got a job-tending bar and he killed some guy. And they sent him to the pen, and I think he died in prison, or something. And old Frank Pate, he never was no good no place, you know.

MARJORIE: Was it Sim Pate that killed the man?

ANDREW: Huh?

MARJORIE: Sim Pate killed a man?

ANDREW: Killed a man in this saloon, and he wanted to kill some-body all the time. And so they jumped onto old John and he got a hold of this six-shooter and they was a hiding behind the trees and the bark was a flying. But they beat the old feller up, and the next place he landed was the Grain Camp. I forgot who was at the Grain Camp then. They had all that land in grain there. They had a big camp there. That's something that you'd never know was there, was that Grain Camp. You'd never know there was any camp there. They had managers out there that you could tie up 75 little workhorses, and I don't know how many tents, in that little cove there, but that was the Grain Camp. You'd never know there was anything there.

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JOHN: Now this Pate was the one that homesteaded up there in the Steens Mountains.

ANDREW: Yeah, that's old Frank.

JOHN: Frank Pate?

ANDREW: He wound up at the ZX, you know.

JOHN: Yeah, I remember that.

ANDREW: On a pension at the ZX. I don't know why they kept him. That was the meanest guy to a horse and cattle I ever saw. I never saw a guy as mean as that fella was to a horse. All those good horses at ... you know, was a good one. They had some fine horses in it. And he'd put these little razor bridles on them, and he'd just delight in jerking those horses till their mouths would just be running blood. He ruined every one of them.

MARCUS: My gosh, they ruined the whole ... there before they got through, when they came up, didn't they? That was probably the finest string of horses in the country.

ANDREW: They had the worst looking bunch of saddle horses you ever saw. And old Bill Thompson that got killed up there on the river by that gate, and he had a bunch of saddle horses, some of them weighed 1600 pounds. That's something they never did figured out how he got killed there. But there was a fella told me there was an awful lot of horse tracks there. I think he caught some of them guys doing a little something and they just rode him down, is what I think. I think they killed him right there.

MARJORIE: Who was that, Andrew?

ANDREW: Bill Thompson.

MARJORIE: Oh.

ANDREW: They called him Windy Bill.

MARCUS: He was staying in the Sod House ...

ANDREW: Yeah. In some ways Craven was a great guy, in other ways he was no good.

MARCUS: No, no, he sure wasn't. He got a pretty liberal education about the first year or so he was here in the cattle business, didn't he?

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ANDREW: My god, them cattle, you could walk from one dead cow to another there in the big meadow.

MARCUS: You see the same thing up on the Buena Vista.

ANDREW: Sod House, 400 of them little calves died there in that big place there where they water. I tried to get some of those calves to go and raise them, and they wouldn't let me have a one. And I wanted to go to P Ranch and skin them cows, and they wouldn't let me skin them. They dug those cows over there in that big slough John, you know, that runs along there. Them ledges are made out of dead cows and covered up with a little dirt.

MARCUS: How many cattle do you suppose they lost that winter?

ANDREW: Well, they said 8,000.

MARCUS: 8,000.

ANDREW: That's hearsay, you see.

MARJORIE: What year was that?

JOHN: '18, wasn't it?

ANDREW: '18.

JOHN: '17 and '18, or '18 and '19, can't remember which one.

MARCUS: I thought it was earlier than that. Charlie Ward and Dora was at Buena Vista that winter. They were married in 1915, and then they; I think Charlie left about 1918 as I remember ...

JOHN: Well now '15 was about the time Corbett's bought that, wasn't it?

MARCUS: What?

ANDREW: Corbett's bought, I mean sold out to ---

MARCUS: Yeah, I think they had a little supply of hay around there. I think about the next year after that, probably about '16 or '17 there is what it was. I can remember --- I tell people this talking about the ravens and the magpies, you know. We would get in the buggy and drive up to the Buena Vista, and Charlie would load Mama up with leppy calves. And those cattle were laying on the feed ground, half dead, three-quarters dead, little calves sucking these cows that were dead, and the

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maggies and the crows were eating their eyes out, and they were still throwing their heads around trying to knock them loose. I seen it, Andrew.

ANDREW: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well, you bet. Oh, I tell you, it was terrible.

JOHN: Well, of course now the summer of '18 was one of the driest years of record. And when, I know I talked to several sheep men in the Steens Mountains, and they said the skunk cabbage didn't get six inches high. And I know it was true in the Blue Mountains, the lambs died by the hundreds.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOHN: And then the, that spring I worked in a lambing camp, and the first lamb that was born ... just about a half inch of snow. ...

MARCUS: Do you remember Jim Noriel?

ANDREW: Oh yes, Noriel Lake.

MARCUS: Yeah, he homesteaded down in there, didn't he?

ANDREW: Yeah, I drove up through there. Oh, it's been five or six years ago, maybe more, and some of them old boards are laying there where we had the tent, and they're laying there yet.

MARCUS: Where was that, Andrew? I don't remember where.

ANDREW: Right straight out --- it's all greasewood in there now.

MARCUS: Yeah.

ANDREW: You see ... the Buena Vista, you see, the Buena Vista canal came around here and dump the water into, they called that Pelican Lake.

MARCUS: Oh?

ANDREW: There is billions of pelicans there.

MARCUS: Now that's what we call Noriel Flat and all that.

ANDREW: ... highway right now, where the ditch runs into the lake. They ... and they took off again. You see, when it got so full, why it would run out and go down past John Crow's. And when it got down to Noriel Lake, same deal. Right there, just about where the Rockford ... is there,

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why it run into the lake. And when they got so full, why then it come on down and took off again. You've seen it there John, lots of times. Walt and Fred told me that that was one of the first ditches that French ever built, was that Buena Vista Canal. To take care of that water, all that Grain Camp and the Buena Vista swamp, and meadows, all under water. And that was built with scrapers and teams, that canal. And I suppose later when they got machinery, they enlarged it, you see.

MARCUS: Well, that Buena Vista Lake, we used to hay up there when I was just a kid. That was always full of water there in the summertime. And I remember we used to go out there and kill ducks and ... for the hay crew.

ANDREW: ... when it got up so high it would take off again.

MARCUS: They went back out again.

ANDREW: The canal went right on. Oh, you could see it there yet. I showed it to Marjorie. Pelicans, oh God there would be hundreds and hundreds of them pelicans.

MARCUS: They called it Pelican Lake there, huh?

ANDREW: Yeah, they called it Pelican Lake. That's what they called it.

JOHN: I think I was telling you about Jim Noriel was down in Chile.

MARCUS: Now what?

JOHN: Jim, what was his name, Jim Noriel?

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOHN: See, he went to Argentina and established a cattle ranch down there, and then they had to change the government, and he just barely got into Chile. And then he married a woman, I forget now which country there, and went to work for Anaconda Copper Company there. And Lorna Cagle's father, who was the superintendent of the mine where he worked, why when she was up here where she first taught school, and she sent them six or seven, I think it was, seven Steens Mountains books. And she said that Noriel was there at their place, and he saw that, and he said that's where I used to work. And he was a man then in his 80's, she said, that had retired.

MARCUS: Well Andrew, you worked with Juan Redon?

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ANDREW: Huh?

MARCUS: You knew Juan Redon real well, didn't you?

ANDREW: Oh yes, I ---

MARJORIE: You never worked with him though.

ANDREW: I never worked with him.

MARCUS: You never worked with him. He was considered the best roper that ever hit the country, wasn't he?

ANDREW: I think so, yes. But there was a lot of good ones.

MARCUS: Yes, yes there was.

ANDREW: I was over to White Horse at that Centennial, and they announced that they was gonna have them rope some calves out there. Everybody come on out and look. And Joe Fine acted like he was going to go out there. Said, "You going out?" And I said, "Hell no." I said, "If Juan or Fred Brown, or George Sebring, the old Summer Lake Indians was there, I'd go out." He said, "You're not gonna see that anymore." So, he sat down too, he didn't go out either.

MARJORIE: Well, my dad was really a good roper, he could just rope so easy and throw that rope out, it was no effort.

ANDREW: Well, I did see this, I used to trap down in there around Massacre Lake and ... and Home Ranch, and Big Springs. And I did see this Jim Kahan, he was a Klamath Indian, he wasn't a Paiute, and he had a ranch at Summit Lake, right along the edge of the lake. That Summit Lake is a good, nice place, you know. And I watched him rope once. And George Sebring told me, he said, "I worked with him five years, and I never seen him in the wrong place once, he was always right where he belonged." And something would break out right, he was right in his face. And boy, I tell you, he could throw the length of that rope, and you'd swear he was never gonna get them turns, but his hand was never that far from the saddle horn. Half the time he had the rope in his hand, he never lost no rope. Just like this picture of Buck Miller, you know, lassoing that calf, his hands back here, and everything about it's wrong, you know, when you compare it with somebody like

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that. That old Indian's hand was always right there by that horn. You'd swear he was going to lose his rope, but he never lost no rope.

MARJORIE: Well, in those days, everybody got a lot of practice.

ANDREW: Yeah.

JOHN: Yeah, that's the way ...

ANDREW: I tell you ...

MARJORIE: That's right, that's the way they lived.

MARCUS: Yeah, they used a long rope then, didn't they? They didn't have a corral to run something to the other end.

MARJORIE: Well, like Andrew, he had to run cattle. He had to trap a little bit to keep a going; he had to work in haying to keep going. He had to herd sheep some to keep going.

MARCUS: Sure.

MARJORIE: And everybody that I knew that had cattle was doing something else to keep going. Well, the folks they run, of course, the hotel, and the store, they had the store at Andrews and the store at Fields.

ANDREW: But he wasn't much of a horseman.

MARJORIE: But nowadays, the ranchers are all multi-millionaires.

ANDREW: This Fred Brown ---

MARJORIE: They didn't get it the hard way.

MARCUS: No.

ANDREW: Got that place where Catherine is now. And he was no horseman, but I'll tell you when it come to roping, I never saw anybody that had him beat. You see what happened when French got killed, old Chino didn't want to work there anymore; he wanted to quit. So, from then on, till Charlie Ward, they had a lot of bosses, you see, buckaroo bosses. Fred Brown, Nolen Currey, even Ross Dollarhide run it for a while, and they didn't stay very long. And they wanted old Chino to come back all the time, and he didn't want to come. They bothered him; you know.

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You see, people like old Juan and old Chino; they didn't take orders from nobody, they just run the cattle. And ever once in awhile there would be somebody trying to get their job, but they never got no place.

JOHN: Did you ever know a fella down here by the name of Johnny Reeves?

ANDREW: You bet. Yeah, he died over there; he had a little place on the John Day.

MARJORIE: Would you folks like some tea or coffee?

MARCUS: No, we're gonna have to go here pretty soon, it's gonna be dinnertime soon.

ANDREW: Well, I want you to get that homesteader business.

MARJORIE: No, I'm gonna keep that, Andrew.

ANDREW: Huh?

MARJORIE: I scribbled that pretty bad. I'm gonna keep that. If Marcus has some tape I'll read it off to him.

MARCUS: Yeah, I'll come back with the tape and you can read it on the tape ...

ANDREW: ... something ...

MARJORIE: He could tell you just as well, but he won't do it.

ANDREW: That's something that's gone, you see.

JOHN: ... getting it up here and having it reproduced.

MARJORIE: Well, I'd rather just keep it. It's just scribbled. I don't like to scribble. But I wrote a lot of it going in the car.

MARCUS: When did Charlie Ward take over, do you know? I wondered about that the other day, and I don't know.

ANDREW: Well, he did the same thing that old Chino did. You see Chino and his brother-in-law came into this country with about 60, or 70, or 80 head of saddle horses. Some of them were broke, and some of them wasn't. And they tried to sell them. And they wound up out here to --- oh where you turn off to go down to that ranch --- well that's funny, once in awhile there is something that I know so well I can't remember it --- Pine Creek.

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MARCUS: Oh, over here?

ANDREW: Yeah. Well, they was broke, so it was getting November, December, and this guy had about 800 or 900 head of cattle, and they worked for their board all winter there, and wintered his horses. And that was in the '80's. And I see in a lot of these books they got it that Chino came with French. He never come with French. That's the way he came to the country.

MARJORIE: Well, it's pretty hard to get everything just so.

ANDREW: And so that spring, when it got spring, why they was broke, and he wanted --- he had to have a job, so he went to the Island Ranch and went to work for John Devine at the Island Ranch. And he told me this himself. And that spring why French bought 5,000 head of cows from Devine, and they left everyone of those cows right there at the Island and branded them with the FG and put the brand on the left shoulder. Well French seen old Chino a working, so he ... him, you see. So, he told him, he said, "If you ever quit here," he said, "you go to the P Ranch and stay there until I come, if I'm not there." So that fall he went to the P Ranch. He didn't take the outfit then, but he cut ice all winter he told me, and dug cows out of the mud and out of the slough. He was telling me about it, you know. He had a horse that would just pull the biggest bull out of the mud you'd ever seen. He said, "He'd pull her right out." Well, Charlie Ward was the same way. He come ...

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