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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #63 - Side A

Subject: Andrew Shull

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Interviewer: Marjorie Shull

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MARJORIE SHULL: My husband, Andrew Shull, will endeavor to name the homesteaders that was in Catlow Valley when he came to Harney County, January 2, 1912, 68 years ago. Many times when we have come into Burns, by way of Frenchglen, he has pointed out places where people had homes. It was amazing to me how well he remembered so many places, nothing there at all now. Even with emphysema, he will try to tell the names as he remembers them.

ANDREW SHULL: I'll give you the names of the homesteaders in Clover Swale and North Catlow first. We'll start with --- Clover Swale was Augustine Gilbert's homestead. They had a brother Lou Torio and that was kind of the first place.

And then you had Clarence Mace, Jack Robinson, Steve and Dino Kerns, and the O'Malley family, Tucke family, and Barber family, Dave Crow, Jesse Bradeen, and then the Duhaimes. There was three brothers and the old lady, goes by the name Duhaime flat to this day.

And Oscar Downs' Keg Springs Valley, that's north of Walls Lake. And then you come back to Pickett's Gull Valley. There was Carl Nelson and the Jacquot family, the old lady and three boys. And Tom Bailey homesteaded the Pickett's Gull Spring later. They still own it.

Then you come on down to Water Hole Canyon, and that is Charlie Downs, and below him is the McLeod family, and then the Porter family, Ty Shull, Shorty Thompson, he's about 7 feet tall. Bill Stoten, and Dave Stearns, Clarence Poe, the Hill family, and Bartholemew and the Huffman

brothers, Bob and Roy.

Mrs. Blazedale, and Height and Moore, on the end of the point that we call Rock Creek Point, and Al Ohms and a fellow by the name of Korns, he died. And Mrs. Korns later married Al Ohms. Leo Winn and Mrs. Ohms were cousins.

Then you had the Wenzel family, Leo Winn family, Riecken's Corner, and a post office, a store and a blacksmith's shop. Mrs. Blazedale, Mrs. Meriggioli, Kelly, Bess Myers, Bob Lawrence, Fred Lawrence ---

I don't know whether I named the Wickerts and Heights, Swetts, Solomon, Whistling Smyth, Billy Carroll, old man Lemon. And then there was Hanson, and Moore, and Mel Kundert, Mayme Storts, Ada Storts. And then you have the Hebener family, the Jewett family; they were south of the Rock Creek Road. And then you had --- Joe Riechen --- Mrs. Riechen kept house at the "P" Ranch for Bill Hanley.

Alfons Mayens was a trapper. Lou Herron was north of Rock Creek. A horse kicked him and broke his leg, then he fell in front of the front wheel, and it ran over his neck, and broke his neck.

Chester Nye, and the ... Poindexter had a homestead right where the Taft Miller Reservoir is today, the Rock Creek Reservoir. And then we come on over to Beckley, Harvey English, old man Ward, George Johnson, Dave Crow, or Dave Downs, Glenn Edwards, Vern Edwards [William Friend Edwards], Walter Beckley, Ray Beckley, Willis Beckley, the old man and the old lady, and Ernest and Edith. That was the Beckley family.

And then there was Mrs. Bass Haynes. She lived down in front of the schoolhouse there, the Beckley schoolhouse. And George Johnson, Stankey, the barber, and then some people by the name of Stewarts homesteaded Blitzen. And they proved out on it and sold it to a California guy by the name of Smith. And Smith in turn sold it to the Bradeen's, and then Bradeen's left Blitzen and went to Frenchglen. And Duvall run the store, and he finally sold out to Cliff and Kathleen Smyth. That's the wife's folks.

And old Joe Butler had a homestead just on the west side of the Butler Hill there; you can see it yet. And then there was Frank Clayton, and Hi Clayton, and the Koontz brothers, Bob and John. George Bohon north of the north field, right along side of the field, and --- I don't know whether I mentioned him or not, but there was Harvey English, he had a homestead north of Beckley.

I think I mentioned old man Ward; he had a homestead east of Beckley. It's hard to remember the ones that I haven't mentioned, and the ones that I have. Anyway, we'll get on over around Ragtown. Lots of people over there.

There's the Tulloch family, the Byram family, Frank Kudlata and his mother and sister. His sister married Bob Johnson, the foreman at the Rock Creek Ranch. Then May Byram married Austin Deboy, and had a homestead at Rye Grass. Then Walt Bussey, Tex Daniels, Hurricane Hutch, and Mrs. Kiphart run the Berdugo Post Office, and it lasted about a year. She was the only postmaster it ever had.

Old man Ingall and his boy, they were good musicians. They played for the dances. Old man Ingall was an old time fiddler, a good one.

There was a Rudy family, and --- come on back to Blitzen, there was the Moore family, Mrs. Lewis and her sister, and the Pih family. Then there was two or three families right along the west side of the Dry Creek field. And they were back up here two or three years ago from California, and I can't think of their names. But there were three brothers that had homesteads right along the fence.

Then there was Rankin and Butler, there was a jog between the Dry Creek field and the west field, and they had homesteads in there. And McBurney had a homestead right south of Blitzen.

Then we'll go on down to around Catlow Valley Lakes. Ray Garrison homesteaded the Catlow Valley Lakes. Bass Haynes west of him, and the Cope brothers; they had homesteads right straight off the mouth of Long Hollow, and the road went between the cabins --- Bass Haynes. And

then you had Frank Henry, Joe Henry, Zeb Lewis, and Joe Lewis, west of Spangleburg. Old man Pih, they finally wound up with the Pih place, where Billy Brezniak lives today. Perry Lowe had a homestead between the mouth of Dry Creek and Home Creek. Duane Bailey had a homestead right up above Three Mile, just above the head of the spring. You can see the house yet.

Raz Lewis was supposed to have a homestead at --- south of the Catlow Valley, what they called the Raz Lewis Flat or Raz Lewis Trail --- I'll have to play this back, because I'm sure I didn't get them all. I'm doing this from memory, I didn't write it down, and I'm pretty sure that I missed some of them. But you wouldn't think that there has ever been that --- to look at Catlow Valley today, it would be hard to tell anybody that there was that many people in it at one time.

There was a Teeters family, and then the woman that married Old Chino, she had a homestead. And Old Chino had a homestead on the mouth of Dry Creek.

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Then there was Hanson and Young, and they were supposed to have --- There was a couple of girls that came out with them that was supposed to be their sisters. I supposed they was, but they had homesteads. Mel Kundert had a homestead. And then there was a fellow by the name of Louie Rath, he finally drove stage from The Narrows to Beckley, or Blitzen rather, and he had a homestead between Beckley and Riecken's Corner. His wife left him. They had a little boy and he stayed with Rath. They batched about three years, and then they drifted out of the country. And those people used to get two or three-horse wagons, or four-horse wagons, and they would go to Pendleton and work in the grain fields, and make some money, and come back and they'd have money for the winter. Lots of those people had, at that time, which was a pretty good little stake.

Old man Beckley told me he had \$8,000 cash when he came to Beckley. They run a store there, and a post office. And they finally starved out, and then they went to Diamond Valley and bought some land from Craven. Mrs. Olsen had two boys and a girl. And Mrs. Olsen and the girl were both wonderful singers. They could all sing.

And then there was a family by the name of Jones. Katie still lives here in Burns. Now I

don't know if she's married again, she married Bill Harris to start with. She's married again now, Bill's dead.

I think I mentioned Harvey Poindexter. He had a homestead where the Taft Miller reservoir is. That was his home. Was a pretty good homestead too. There's quite a bit of meadowland on it. Bill Draws had a place there, and he worked for us. We were building on that Buena Vista grade, and I was driving the wagon. And I told my uncle, I said, "He's going to blow me and the wagon and the horses and everything else up. He throws caps, and powder and everything in there with the drills, and the hammers, and I'm not going to drive it any more." And he didn't kill his self that time, but later on, he was doing some work and he had a battery and he didn't disconnect the battery, the plunger was down, so when he connected the wire to his powder, why it just blowed him up. He really picked his bones, I'll tell you that.

Did I get the Hi Clayton and Frank Clayton family? Grant Chritchfield had a touring car, and he had a homestead out toward Ragtown, that is between Beckley and Ragtown. He used to run kind of a bus line or stage line between Burns, and Catlow Valley. That dust on that road was two feet deep, and everybody in that car, you couldn't tell who they were they were so covered with dust. And everybody wore one of those old linen dusters, and they'd have ten pounds of dust on it. Their hair was full of dust.

Nolen Currey had a homestead on Skull Creek. And Chet Currey had a homestead on Long Hollow. They proved out on them. And then there was several homesteaders on Long Hollow.

Well, I've got a heck of a bunch of them, and I've probably missed some. After all, I'm 82 years old, and that's been a long time ago that those people were there. But lots of people tell me that there was never nobody there. Well, I know a damn sight better, and I could show you right where every damn one of them lived too.

Later on Jim Noriel, he worked for the "P" Ranch, he wanted to be a buckaroo. He took up Noriel Lake, that's there by Saddle Butte, north of Buena Vista, and the Buena Vista Canal dumped into it. And then when it got so high, why then the water ran out of it. Same as that Pelican Lake

back to Buena Vista. I've seen thousands of pelicans on that lake at Buena Vista.

Now then, I've got a correction or two to make. And I missed some of them. I mentioned that Chet Currey had a homestead on Long Hollow. Well, Chet's homestead was in Rogue Canyon. And then I think I missed Babe Bollenbaugh, and a fellow by the name of Bakopanos. He was a Rumanian, the same as the Pihs. And then Alma Anderson and husband, and Frank Henry, I missed him.

Chenault, Millering, I missed them, and Kelly, up by Riechen's Corner. Mrs. Munson, finally --- I think she and Munson separated and she married a Howard Anderson. Howard is here in Burns now, and they homesteaded. Howard had a homestead up on the mouth of Home Creek. Munson's had a homestead in there close to the Wickerts. I remember we baled the hay at Rock Creek. Bill Hanley got an idea of baling that hay and selling it to the homesteaders, and they'd come to get hay and they had a little wagon, or little buggy affair, and all they could haul was about two or three bales. ...

I think that I've got enough of them. But then there's another family at Ragtown, the Barsdale family. There was a man and his wife, and a boy and a girl. And her name was Bargo, and she was back in this country a few years back, and she was making inquiries about different people, if they were still alive. And they live out around that Pendleton country some place.

Old man Lanfear, I guess he is about 90 years old isn't he --- 98 --- up here in the hospital, or the rest home. He had a homestead in close to the Sageview schoolhouse. And then there was a Butler family, Frank, and Bill, and Josh. They had homesteads south of Ragtown.

Josh Butler started Frenchglen in the winter of '13 and '14. Built a tarpaper shack with a couple of rooms upstairs, and they served meals. And then Herb Layton had a homestead east of Bill Stoten.

Well, they had some bad times back in those days. I remember that they didn't have the money to have a school in Frenchglen, and they tried to sell the bonds to pay for the expense of the

school. Walt Riddle bought the bonds, and for a couple of years that was the only way they could have a school.

Another homesteader was Fred Brown. He owned the place where Catherine Fine lives now. That was his homestead, and he took that up in about 1903. He used to --- after Old Chino left the "F. G." outfit, why he ran the buckaroo outfit for about two or three years, and when he quit, why he took this homestead up. And he dates back a long ways.

Then in Frenchglen, that grade, we camped there in the dirt, dirtiest place I was ever at. And started that road with horses, and scrapers, and shovels and picks. That's how that road was started, and it was a couple years before it was finished. Ty Shull is the man that built that road to start with. And we never had a surveyor on it. But when they did put a surveyor on it, why, that's when they told us it was a seven percent grade, and didn't vary. And he surveyed that with his eyes. Art Page told him, he was the Hanley surveyor, and he says, "Hell, you don't need a surveyor," he said, "I couldn't do any better with these instruments than you have done." That was in 1913. That was the dirtiest place I ever camped. And the wind can blow there too, don't think it can't, and there's nothing there.

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