

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #65 - Sides A/B

Subject: Georgia Sitz & Effie Williams

Place: Drewsey, Oregon

Date: April 8, 1972

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: ... Pauline Braymen. I'm interviewing Effie Williams and Georgia Sitz at the home of Mrs. Williams near Drewsey on April 8, 1972.

EFFIE WILLIAMS: And then my brother Frank was married and lived out at the --- he operated a stage station, you know, kept the travel.

GEORGIA SITZ: Was that where Lee called Gates, was that the place Lee referred to as Gates?

EFFIE: No, Gates was beyond there. But I don't remember who was on that place where Frank was. I can't remember ...

PAULINE: It was near Drewsey?

EFFIE: It was 6 miles west of Drewsey.

PAULINE: Six miles west of Drewsey.

EFFIE: On that old road, you know, Ontario/Burns road.

GEORGIA: Is it out where Leathers lives now? Was it out close to where Leathers lived?

EFFIE: Yeah, it's right there. ...

GEORGIA: Out there across from the Beede place that Glenn owns. That's where it was.

PAULINE: And so you came out to see your two brothers that were here and decided to stay. Did you teach school or something, or did you help with the stage office or

something?

EFFIE: No, my brother Frank was married, you know, and I stayed with them until I got married myself. And I taught just a small school out west of town. One winter, one term, and that was the extent of my teaching. Then I got married in 1900 --- almost for-get sometimes.

PAULINE: What was your husband's name?

EFFIE: Sylvester Williams, or S. S. Williams.

PAULINE: Were you living here, did you live here?

EFFIE: We settled on part of this ranch, but you don't know where Lee lives ...

PAULINE: No, not really, sort of. Now they live on down the highway a little ways, and then you turn off.

EFFIE: Yes, on down the highway. What they used to call the Duncan Ranch. Mr. Duncan owned a ranch, and then my husband bought it, you know. Well his father bought it. His father was the stage contractor, mail contractor, you know, so he bought the ranch. And then when he passed away, why my husband and his brother, you know, fell heir to that. And then we acquired, after we were married, this place up here and built this house in 1914. And I've lived here most of the time ever since.

Well for twelve years I spent the winter months in Portland, after my husband passed away. ... in Portland, I spent the winter months down there, and I think most every summer I came back up here for a while. So, since then I have --- and then my daughter, I had two daughters living down there, this one and my oldest daughter. But after she passed away ---

She and her husband went to Fort Knox during World War II, you know, and I was left there, would have been left alone, so I came back up here, and been here ever since.

PAULINE: How did your husband happen to come to Harney County, do you know?

EFFIE: Well, his father was in the stage business, you know, was awarded the contract from Ontario to Burns, and so my husband, you know, worked with his father. And when his father passed away, I believe it was '96, why he took charge of it, the stage line, and he got that contract. And then after we were married he quit staging for a couple of years, I think, and then he took it up again for, I think, one contract he carried out. And after that why he spent the rest of his days right on the ranch.

GEORGIA: That contract was over in John Day country wasn't it, the one he finished out?

EFFIE: No that was later, that one. He and my brother Frank staged them out over there. ... contract I guess.

PAULINE: What ---

EFFIE: But my husband and his father, oh, they had the stage contract, mail contract all over Idaho, and Utah, Arizona.

PAULINE: And they took passengers and the mail. Did they take passengers as well as the mail?

EFFIE: Yes, passengers and freight.

PAULINE: What kind of rigs did they have? Was it a stage like you see on TV, when they say, oh here comes the stage?

EFFIE: A good deal like that.

GEORGIA: Old time concord coaches.

EFFIE: I've forgotten what they called those.

GEORGIA: Concord coaches.

PAULINE: Concord coaches.

GEORGIA: Concord, yes.

EFFIE: I don't think there is anything else very exciting.

GEORGIA: You know when you spent two or three winters over at Drewsey sending Lee

to school, didn't you? They had to ride horseback to the lower ranch, and that's quite a ways up to the school.

EFFIE: Yes, but --- I think at first they only had six months of school. ... grade school, and then back to the ranch.

PAULINE: They came into Drewsey.

EFFIE: That wouldn't be very interesting, I don't think.

GEORGIA: When Lee first went to school, he went up to Cass, wasn't it, up here at Culver? I mean for his first year.

EFFIE: No, he went the first year to Emma Muller.

PAULINE: Well Georgia, when did you come out? Did you come later?

GEORGIA: Yes, I came later. I've almost forgotten, I came out two or three times, you know, didn't I? The first time I came out, do you remember the date, is when Lee was just

EFFIE: Twice you came out. You stayed a year the first time you came, and went home. Then you and Mother came.

GEORGIA: Yes.

EFFIE: I remember you came back when Frances was, with the baby, you know, just a week old, something like that.

GEORGIA: Well, I forget when you first came.

EFFIE: Lee would have been a year old. So it must have been --- he was born in 1902. I suppose you came sometime in 1902.

GEORGIA: I believe that was in '01 when I first came wasn't it, or was it 1902?

EFFIE: Why no, Lee was born in 1902. ...

GEORGIA: I thought I came west to teach school, but I got married instead.

PAULINE: Instead. Well, did you teach school at all?

GEORGIA: No.

PAULINE: You just got married?

GEORGIA: Yes. I know when you came west, you know, we had to come --- we'd leave Ontario in the morning, we'd leave at 9 o'clock in the morning and we'd get to Drewsey late in the morning. Come over Bendire Mountain, and of course there was no highways then, you know, on horse driven stages. There was the Concord coaches, you know.

EFFIE: Did you stay at Fopian?

GEORGIA: We stopped there for lunch. Julian Byrd, I remember, was on the stage. He used to be editor of the Burns Times. And he used to tell ... he brought me up from Missouri. But that was an awful dirty place. But we didn't eat much, but we stopped there anyway, you know.

PAULINE: Now where was this place Fopian? How do you spell it? Do you know?

GEORGIA: F O P I A N O wasn't it? Italian name, you know, Fopiano.

PAULINE: Yes, it doesn't matter because, I mean I take this home and then I listen to it back and write it up, and the ones that

--- oh, if there's, you know, some really good conversation on it ... unless it's just really good ... So I don't worry about that.

GEORGIA: See Mom was 17 when she came out here to visit her brother. And that was quite a thing in those days, coming on the train. How long did it take ...

PAULINE: Five days on ---

EFFIE: It would take a long time to come. We had stopovers, you know.

GEORGIA: I came by train, too, you know.

EFFIE: I know I spent one night in Salt Lake, and one night in ... Two stopovers is what ...

PAULINE: I think I didn't have the recorder working properly when we first started, so I didn't get on where you came from. Do you want to tell me again so that --- Where did

you come from?

EFFIE: We came from --- I came from Sandsport, Missouri. I was born at Columbia, Kentucky. And then we moved away from there and settled at Sandsport --- near Jamesport. I think I was 9 years old when we left Kentucky, when I was 9.

PAULINE: Were you born in Kentucky, too?

GEORGIA: Yes, we were both born in Columbia, Kentucky. And was you 9 or 7, Effie, when you came?

EFFIE: I was 8 or 9. We came in the fall and I was 8 years old.

GEORGIA: I must have been 11. There were 2 years difference in our ages.

EFFIE: ... About 22 months difference.

GEORGIA: If Mom hadn't come out here, see, I mean the rest of us probably wouldn't have come.

...

GEORGIA: I didn't like the country. Mom wouldn't have if her brother Frank hadn't been there. And Frank was married to my dad's sister when they had that stage stop out here, you know, where the Leathers place is here, where you start up over Stinkingwater, up to the right.

PAULINE: Yeah.

GEORGIA: That was where the stage stop was, where all those hot springs are.

EFFIE: That's where they lived. They kept the travel too, you know.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: We've seen lots of changes in this country since the horse and buggy days, you know. And of course there were Indians, you know, this was part of an Indian Reservation at one time.

PAULINE: This is what Mrs. Howard was telling me, and she said that they came in and

camped on the sunny sides of the hillside in the wintertime.

EFFIE: First Indians I had ever seen.

PAULINE: What did you think of Indians coming out from back East?

EFFIE: I didn't think much of them.

GEORGIA: She said she was riding horseback sidesaddle coming in from the station there ... coming toward Drewsey, and she met Indians and she was just scared to death. She thought sure she was gonna be scalped. ...

EFFIE: ... I was so afraid, but one of the Indians says --- told me that horse would throw me off. So I decided then that they weren't hostile.

PAULINE: If they were willing to joke a little bit. What did you think of Harney County? You started to say you didn't really like it too much.

GEORGIA: No, I didn't. I thought it looked terrible the first time I ever came west. But I don't know, I went back and stayed there and came back again. I always did like the mountains here, because we had no mountains, no wasteland back there, you know. And, but a ---

EFFIE: They had lots of timber.

GEORGIA: Yes. ... It was pretty country.

...

PAULINE: I've never been in Kentucky, but I've been in Iowa and the corner of Missouri.

GEORGIA: Oh, you have?

PAULINE: I can imagine just a little bit what a shock it was to come out here.

GEORGIA: Yes, uh huh.

EFFIE: The prettiest part is in northeast Missouri, you know, not far from the Iowa line.

PAULINE: Well my husband was born and raised in Shenandoah, Iowa.

EFFIE: Oh, was he?

PAULINE: Which was in the southwest corner of Iowa.

GEORGIA: I've been through Shenandoah.

PAULINE: This is where he was born and raised.

EFFIE: And if you'd like to know about my children and grand-children ---

PAULINE: Yes.

EFFIE: --- and great-grandchildren.

PAULINE: Yeah. All right.

EFFIE: Well I had five children; three of them are living. And I have five great-grandchildren, no five grandchildren.

PAULINE: Five grandchildren.

EFFIE: Five of my own children, and five grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

PAULINE: Are your children --- I know Lee Williams is one of them.

EFFIE: Lee and Drex Williams.

PAULINE: And Drex.

GEORGIA: Why don't you give them to her in the order in which they were born, or do you want them that way?

PAULINE: That's fine. That's a good way, yeah.

EFFIE: Did you want the date of the birth?

PAULINE: No, the order in which they were born ...

EFFIE: Lee Williams, and then Francis Williams, and George Allen.

PAULINE: George Allen.

EFFIE: George Allen.

PAULINE: George Allen.

EFFIE: And then Drex, D. W. Drex or D. W. Williams. And then Rotha.

PAULINE: How do you spell that name?

EFFIE: R O T H A. Rotha May.

PAULINE: R O T H A.

EFFIE: Uh huh. Her name is French now, Rotha May French.

PAULINE: That's pretty, real pretty. And you say three are living, right? Lee and --- The ones that are still living are Lee ---

EFFIE: And Drex.

PAULINE: And Drex.

EFFIE: And Rotha.

PAULINE: And Rotha. And lets see --- You married a Mr. Sitz, but I don't remember which one.

GEORGIA: J. L., John Lewis.

PAULINE: John Lewis Sitz.

EFFIE: And did I tell you how long we lived down --- lived down on the other place? Fourteen years.

PAULINE: I don't remember whether you did or not.

EFFIE: And this place was built in 1914, I told you that that. We moved up here to be near the school.

PAULINE: Let's see, you were married about 19---

GEORGIA: 1906, March 26, 1906.

PAULINE: 1906. And did you always live up there where you do now? That's where you ---

GEORGIA: No, we went to Ashland and spent one winter there, you know. We --- in fact, we sold the ranch but we had to take it back. And then when we came back, we --- I owned a house in Drewsey where the Johnson's, she teaches in Burns, Mrs. Johnson lives there now. I lived there ten years, and then we moved back to the ranch, you know.

We had to take it back. The sale didn't go through, you know, at first. So I have five children.

PAULINE: Okay.

GEORGIA: We both have the same number of children.

PAULINE: Yeah, better write the name up here so that I don't get these mixed up.

GEORGIA: Georgia Sitz.

PAULINE: Georgia, okay. Start with the oldest one.

GEORGIA: Glenn. Lewis Glenn is his name, and he was born in 1907. And Helen Mabel, she's the second one; she was born in 1909. Helen was born in Burns, Glenn was born at Drewsey. Then James was born in 1914, in Boise, Idaho. And Norman was born on the ranch in 1917, on May the 24th.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: I told you when Glenn was born, I think.

PAULINE: Now Glenn, Helen, and James, and Norman.

GEORGIA: Yes. And then Marjorie was born in 1921, May 5th, 1921. She'll be 50 years - -- that's my youngest. She'll be 50 years old the 5th of May. And Glenn will be 65, the oldest one. Yeah.

PAULINE: And then you have some grandchildren too.

GEORGIA: Yes. I'd have to count them. Let's see, Norman has four, and Glenn has two. That was six, wasn't it? And James has six. Six, let's see --- and Marjorie has two, she had three but one passed away, she had three. 'Course the one passed away though. The other two are in college in Missouri, you know, and that's the youngest one. Am I telling it so you understand?

PAULINE: Yeah, that's fine.

GEORGIA: And there's Helen. Oh yeah, Helen. Yeah, she was born in 1909.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: And she was born in Burns.

EFFIE: And how many children has she?

GEORGIA: Helen has three, three boys; my girls had three boys. So that's, be six wouldn't it, six grandchildren there? And Betty has six, that's twelve. And Jerry has two; that would be fourteen. ...

EFFIE: Now she's talking about her children now, isn't she?

GEORGIA: My grandchildren. And the great-grandchildren was ---

PAULINE: Fourteen grandchildren then.

GEORGIA: Norman four, Helen three, and Marjorie three, makes ten, doesn't it?

PAULINE: Yeah.

GEORGIA: Glenn's two, makes twelve, and Betty's six makes eighteen. Is that all of them?

EFFIE: Yeah, I think so. And then the great-grand children are Sherri, and you know John Furillo has one. There is two in California. And Sherri --- three. I guess that's all my great-grandchildren. Is that all my great-grandchildren?

ROTHA FRENCH: No, Jerry ---

GEORGIA: I mean the other.

ROTHA: You know, the Cronin's, the two boys, that's it.

GEORGIA: These are my grandchildren. ... These are my grandchildren. Don't you see? ... Sherri's a great-grandchild, you know. She's Jerry's child.

ROTHA: But there's Dan and the other one, they're Jerry's.

GEORGIA: Well, I know. ... And then John Furillo in Chicago. He has one, that's four. And Richard has one, that's five, isn't it? Is that all?

...

GEORGIA: One of them is in California. And the other one's in Chicago now, in school, at college. And Bill Sitz, that's Norman's, I told you about Norman's four children, didn't I? And he was married ... at St. Louis, you know, at Washington University. He's studying to be a doctor. I don't need to tell you about that, I guess.

PAULINE: ... to have living great-grandchildren. ... Well I'd like to hear more about the stage business and what it was like.

EFFIE: About what?

PAULINE: The stage business. Can you tell me some more about that, either one of you? Or both of you. Things that happened

GEORGIA: ... 'Course we'd leave about 9 o'clock in the morning, Effie?

EFFIE: We left at 9 o'clock in the morning.

GEORGIA: And get to Drewsey next morning. You know, take a day and a night.

EFFIE: And get into Burns the evening of the second day.

PAULINE: The second day. So it was two days.

EFFIE: ... Oh, I remember the first year.

GEORGIA: ... Came through Westfall, then the old stage line, you know. And I was 2 or 3, and I remember Julian Byrd. ... he said this is the Wild West. He knew I was afraid, you know. And I always felt kinda funny coming over the mountains at night, you know, with the big --- pull horses on the stage then, didn't they.

PAULINE: But at night, how did they see where they were going?

GEORGIA: Well, they'd stop at stage stations. Fopians was one, and how many places - -- they stopped two or three places between here and Ontario, didn't we?

ROTHA: Mom and Lee were talking about that the other night, how many stops. The Giddings place was one of them --- was one, too, wasn't it Mom?

EFFIE: Yes, and Arnolds and Beulah.

GEORGIA: And Beulah. Yeah, and that's two. ... Fopians was three. I think --- Fopians was the first place we stopped out of Ontario, wasn't it?

EFFIE: No, I think it was down at the hot springs.

GEORGIA: Oh, yeah. The hot springs, uh huh, yes.

EFFIE: I believe their name was O'Neil.

GEORGIA: O'Neil's, uh huh, that was a nice place. Uh huh, O'Neil's.

EFFIE: They always seemed to have stations, different kinds of --- stations.

GEORGIA: They had to change the horses and we'd stop there to eat, you know, for their food.

EFFIE: Different contractors would have the horses kept, you know, in different places.

PAULINE: Usually how many --- did they run teams of six horses, or ---

EFFIE: No.

GEORGIA: I think four, wasn't it?

PAULINE: Four.

GEORGIA: And oh, they'd drive them so fast down the big old steep mountain. I was afraid, weren't you?

...

ROTHA: I think that was when Granddad Williams ... was for a horse stop, wasn't it? Change horses, or was it?

EFFIE: ... No, they kept horses over at the Giddings place, on the same ranch, you know. 'Cause the man they bought from, a man named Giddings, we always kept the horses over there. And the man would walk across to our place and he would stay overnight and eat their meals. See they'd change drivers, ever so often.

GEORGIA: The old Patterson stage station was right there, and I believe that was the last stop, wasn't it, before Drewsey.

...

ROTHA: 'Cause Patterson's was the ones running it.

GEORGIA: Yeah, they were the ones that run it.

PAULINE: Well, did they have about thirty to forty miles between stops? Or would they be that far apart?

EFFIE: How far?

PAULINE: Oh, thirty or forty miles. Or would they be further than that apart?

EFFIE: Well, I don't know how far it would have been from Arnold's ... to the Giddings' place.

GEORGIA: Well now from Ontario wouldn't they call it 150 miles? Isn't that what we called it then, from Ontario to Drewsey?

EFFIE: I guess it's a 100 miles from there. ... was fifty miles from Drewsey to Burns, you know.

ROTHA: I see they went over ... Westfall, was it Mom, and then over the Bendire Mountains?

EFFIE: Well, over the Bendire Mountains before they got to Westfall.

GEORGIA: We went from Drewsey down to Beulah first.

PAULINE: I'll have to get a map out when I get home and look this up, 'cause I've been hearing a lot about this Bendire Mountain. I'll look it up on the map.

GEORGIA: 'Course Westfall isn't a town anymore, you know.

PAULINE: No, no but it's still on the map.

GEORGIA: It's not far from Harper's, you know, and down this ---

ROTHA: What did you think, Mom, when you first got on the stage? Was Dad driving

then? Was Dad driving?

EFFIE: No.

ROTHA: Who was driving that time?

EFFIE: Oh, I don't remember, it was a long time ago.

ROTHA: Was it Frank?

GEORGIA: Oh no, it was somebody that used to work ... that was Lanstear, wasn't it?

GEORGIA: When I came --- 'course when you came ... And my brother put his big fur overcoat --- He and Vince were in together, partners on the stage line from Burns.

EFFIE: Not at that time.

GEORGIA: When I came, I mean. And he put his fur overcoat on me to wear over the mountains because it'd be so cold at night, you know.

PAULINE: So your brother came out too, then?

GEORGIA: He was already there.

PAULINE: He was already here.

GEORGIA: ... Frank and Addison.

EFFIE: And Ad and Holloday had stage contracts all over the ---

GEORGIA: All over the West.

EFFIE: At one time from Burns to Canyon.

GEORGIA: I guess they kinda run in our family. My son has the stage line from Ontario to Burns now, and he's had that ever since '45.

PAULINE: That's ...

GEORGIA: Norman Sitz, that's my youngest boy in Ontario. He's in the sale yard there in Ontario and Weiser.

EFFIE: I've heard Mother say that when Ad ... was a little boy, his ambition was to go West and drive the stage, you know, horses and ---

GEORGIA: You said he wanted to drive stage, was it? ...

EFFIE: I said that when he was small, to go West and be a stage driver.

GEORGIA: Kinda run in the family.

EFFIE: That's the only thing he ever did.

PAULINE: Did you ever hear anyone tell about the water being so high over the road, closer to Burns that they had to take the mail to a certain point and then go on a boat on into Burns?

EFFIE: Yes, I've heard that.

GEORGIA: I've heard that too.

EFFIE: They used to carry the mail across this river down here in a boat. The water would be so high that they'd go clear into town, practically. And different places too. They had very few bridges then, you know. They did have a bridge across this stream, at least when I came here. And before then there probably wasn't a bridge there. Hasn't been a bridge too long, I guess. But even with the bridge, you know, they had to --- during the spring of the year when the water was so high ---

GEORGIA: They even used the boat, you know, to get the mail clear across into town.

ROTHA: If you've ever been over here when we have spring runoffs, well, you remember the year when we had all these floods, why, of course we're sitting high here, but from the bridge clear up past the store there, as far as the post office was all under water.

GEORGIA: Believe me, ever since Norman's had the stage line sometimes they had to go to Canyon City, didn't they, a few times. That was when the highway washed out down around Vale somewhere, wasn't it, bridges out? ...

ROTHA: That must have been the year we had that tragic flood.

GEORGIA: I guess it was. We used to, years ago, have so much snow here it'd be four feet deep on the level, you know. Years ago, you know.

ROTHA: I marvel at the way those stage contractors kept their contracts. You know they had to get in there; they had to deliver the mail. They weren't lenient with them. They didn't have any days off, or this or that; they had to go through, the mail through. And I've often thought how much snow was over Stinking-water. It used to be ... And how they ever managed I don't know.

EFFIE: And Bendire Mountain too.

ROTHA: I've head Dad tell about he'd walk a lot of the way just ahead of the team. The teams or other.

GEORGIA: I remember the first year we were married, Ruth witnessed it, you know. ... and it was four feet the first of April, was four feet of snow on the, you know, the Stinkingwater Mountain. ... 'Course we haven't had snow like that for years, have we?

PAULINE: No, it's been a long time.

GEORGIA: Yes.

PAULINE: I can't remember.

GEORGIA: No ...

PAULINE: When I was a kid, they had more snow than we do now.

ROTHA: You know, you marvel when you stop to think, the mail had to go through, and there was no ifs, ands, or buts.

PAULINE: And they put it through.

EFFIE: And if they didn't, they were fined.

ROTHA: And I often think about, well, you know, well you've heard your dad tell about how cold it used to be, thirty, forty below. How they ever managed ...

GEORGIA: I should say; we used to have some cold winters. ... And the wages used to be when we came here, \$30, and the teachers would get \$30 a month, the schoolteachers. Kinda different now.

PAULINE: Yes, quite a difference.

ROTHA: Something else you might be interested in, my mother was a charter member of the Presbyterian Church over here when it was formed.

PAULINE: Yes.

ROTHA: And there were six others besides my mother in it.

EFFIE: Mr. and Mrs. Highsmith, they were teachers, and Mrs. Upson was a teacher. She didn't teach in Drewsey, she taught out at ... and Mrs. Highsmith's brother. Mrs. Brown, she was a --- had a store over here ...

PAULINE: About what year was this?

EFFIE: Oh, what year was that? Oh that was in --- it was between, I don't remember the exact date. It was between '12 and '14 that this church was built over here. I've just forgotten, and no one seems to have a record of it.

ROTHA: And Fatgast was one of the, wasn't he one of the charter members too?

EFFIE: Well, that was Mrs. Highsmith's brother.

ROTHA: Uh huh.

EFFIE: I taught, I think, three or four terms over here. Lee and I were talking about it yesterday. He was in school then, he remembers it quite well.

GEORGIA: I joined the church in Missouri when I was just a girl.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

GEORGIA: And they didn't have any churches in Drewsey when I first came here, when we first came west.

EFFIE: Now they've built the Catholic Church up, that stands up on the hill. I think it's still there.

GEORGIA: Then I was --- I was First Christian in Portland, then when I first came west ... I'm not sure what year it was now, and then I transferred to the Burns church.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EFFIE: I expect someone in Drewsey told you all about that.

GEORGIA: Have you seen Castolia Drinkwater yet?

PAULINE: Not yet. I'll probably go down tomorrow afternoon and catch her. 'Cause I already --- well Mrs. Howard had written that --- and answered my letter, and Mr. Davis, so I thought I'd get them first. And then I talked to you yesterday, so if I get three in a day, it's ---

GEORGIA: It's quite a job, isn't it?

PAULINE: Yeah, it's about all I can do. 'Course I thought I'd go to Castalia's tomorrow, and maybe Mrs. Moffet.

GEORGIA: Oh, Mabel Moffet.

PAULINE: Yeah.

GEORGIA: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And I don't know who I'll do from there, I thought I'd get on the telephone tomorrow afternoon and call some of these people.

GEORGIA: Oh, sure.

ROTHA: Have you talked to Harry Clark yet?

PAULINE: Not yet, but from what I hear I should.

ROTHA: Well, my mother said that now when she came to town, Percy was a good-sized boy, so he should have remembered a lot.

PAULINE: Yeah, Percy told me quite a bit.

GEORGIA: I remember, I think he has a good memory too.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EFFIE: I think he is 80 ...

PAULINE: Well, I could figure out from this, he didn't say what year he was born, but I

think I can figure out from the date of the interview about how many years.

EFFIE: I should have told him ...

PAULINE: Well, then Ida Howard was telling me about a minister coming in and baptizing people in the river at one time. Was this before your time?

EFFIE: I remember that, and the one that was baptized was Dr. Stanley.

GEORGIA: Stanley, was that his name, Stanley?

EFFIE: Stanley. Oh, and he had the smallpox. I don't know whether he was --- and he went in the river ... into that cold river. I guess he wasn't being baptized.

ROTHA: He's probably out of his head.

PAULINE: Sounds like it!

...

GEORGIA: There were lots of saloons in Drewsey when we first came.

EFFIE: I think he was intoxicated, you know.

GEORGIA: I had never seen the saloons like that before.

EFFIE: I've never known anyone to be baptized in the river, but I know I was baptized in Burns, at the Baptist ---

ROTHA: You mean Presbyterian, or Baptist?

EFFIE: Baptist Church.

PAULINE: I think it was a Baptist Church before --- it was the Baptist Church before --- from what Mrs. Carey told me anyway, that it was a Baptist Church before.

ROTHA: Before it was this other one. You know, I think it was quite a revelation to my mother and Aunt Georgia when they came out here, the church grown people --- and that's where church social and what have you, and they came in, there wasn't ...

EFFIE: There wasn't a church in Drewsey.

ROTHA: --- Drewsey, and all the drunkenness and all the cowboys that used to meet

over here. And wasn't there a saloon about on every corner, at least that's what I've always heard.

...

EFFIE: Better not say anything about that.

PAULINE: Oh, I don't know, I think that's pretty interesting. What I'd like to know is what some of the names of these saloons were. What did they call them?

GEORGIA: Well, one was Olsen, and I used to remember --- Olsen and Smith. Of course J. D. Smith owned them last.

ROTHA: He'd of been a partner, wasn't he? Mr. Smith was another man. Who'd Lee say he went to work for Mom?

EFFIE: Who was that?

GEORGIA: Jarvis.

EFFIE: Was it Harry Carey?

...

GEORGIA: Anyway, there was one under Olsen. ...

EFFIE: I don't believe I'd say anything about that.

ROTHA: Carl Riley, didn't Carl Riley own ...

EFFIE: People might get offended at it.

ROTHA: Well, it's all part of history; I don't know why they should.

PAULINE: What I was getting at was I thought maybe they had real fancy names for them, you know, like the Pink Pussycat or some-thing. They just called them saloons.

ROTHA: It was the name of the people.

PAULINE: People, uh huh.

GEORGIA: Used to be lots of drunkenness though, and several men killed over there. Weren't they? John ... wasn't he? So that was from drunkenness.

ROTHA: Mom always used to say they had knives at the dances.

GEORGIA: And they used to dance till sunup, you know. Oh, what's her name in Burns, that lady ... Eggleston. You know her, don't you?

PAULINE: Oh yes, Barbara.

GEORGIA: They used to come over and --- she was a musician, isn't she, and her husband, she and --- Daryl ... They used to come play for the dances, years ago.

PAULINE: Oh Henrietta, you're talking about. Yes, uh huh.

ROTHA: And what was her husband's name? It's been so long ago, I've forgotten.

GEORGIA: Isn't that funny, I can't remember either. And Daryl and Dale are her sons. I think Daryl --- is he still in Burns? I ... he was in Portland now. Marsha's her granddaughter. Marsha's the one that rides the English saddle.

EFFIE: That does what?

PAULINE: Rides English style, in an English saddle. And I've watched her practice.

ROTHA: Doesn't she look like a proper Englishwoman?

PAULINE: Oh very proper, her posture and everything. It's really ...

GEORGIA: Oh, I used to know everyone in Burns; I'm terrible, you know. Now when I go over there they speak to me and I have to ask --- well, you don't see them often. Well, so many of the old timers have passed on, you know.

EFFIE: You know there used to be quite a lot of people in Drewsey.

PAULINE: Well, this is what they've been telling me.

EFFIE: Drewsey was incorporated at one time.

ROTHA: There was a dentist over here, and a doctor, and they had a newspaper. And how many stores, general merchandise stores, were there?

GEORGIA: Just Brown's, I guess, and the Four Seasons.

EFFIE: I think to be incorporated you had to be a population of three hundred, three

hundred people.

GEORGIA: That old Odd Fellows Hall was built in 1900, wasn't it? Or 19---

ROTHA: '18 something, wasn't it? It's on the building ...

GEORGIA: It was new when I first came here.

PAULINE: I don't know, maybe Ida told me that.

ROTHA: It was on the front of the building for a long time.

...

EFFIE: Mr. Bill Baker built it.

GEORGIA: The Odd Fellow Hall?

...

PAULINE: You said 1900.

GEORGIA: I thought it was 1900. I think it's on the front of it.

EFFIE: Well, I knew it was soon after I came here. I came in '99. Bakers came here --- soon after I did.

ROTHA: What were the merchandise stores though? You remember, you and Aunt Georgia?

EFFIE: Cassie's daddy, Ace Johnson, ran a --- he had a store.

GEORGIA: He had a store.

ROTHA: Yeah, Johnson's had a saloon.

PAULINE: Is that Castolia's dad?

GEORGIA: Yeah, her dad.

...

GEORGIA: I think Dailey, and who was the first --- the other man that was in with Dailey? Porter-Sitz bought it from? Isn't it funny, I used to take inventory ---

EFFIE: ... Maybe I'll think of it later.

GEORGIA: Robbins, Dailey and Robbins, I think.

PAULINE: I've heard that name.

EFFIE: Yes.

GEORGIA: John Dailey.

EFFIE: Abner Robbins, Porter was in it too.

GEORGIA: Porter bought it, you know, when Lewis ... I imagine your folks here, your grandfather knew him; the older folks would know him.

PAULINE: Well, I always heard it called the Porter-Sitz Store.

GEORGIA: Yes. It was built in 1885. I was just one year old then.

EFFIE: That was after Dailey and Robbins sold out to Porter and Sitz.

GEORGIA: Yeah, that's what I said. Dailey and Robbins sold out to Porter and Sitz.

ROTHA: Was there a dentist there when you folks first came?

GEORGIA: I don't remember any dentist, do you?

EFFIE: No, there was just traveling dentists, you know.

ROTHA: I can remember when I'd go over there and he pulled that tooth for me, one of these molars, I can remember that. Who did that work? He was in that little old freight building where Merlin McMullen used to live, or as I remember it was. I wasn't very old. Probably ate too much candy. I had a decayed tooth that was aching. I guess Dad got tired of hearing me howl. ... Yes, there was a dentist over there. ...

EFFIE: I know a dentist came through and he tried to pull a tooth for me without any anesthetic. ... It had been aching, you know.

ROTHA: Have you found anyone that has a newspaper?

PAULINE: Not from Drewsey. I would really like to see one.

GEORGIA: I don't know if there's any there or not. There used to be one there in our old house at the Hot Springs. It burned down, you know. You see, one of them was a --- Ed

Beede was the editor. What did they call that ... "Drewsey News" was one of them. What was the other?

EFFIE: "Pioneer Sun."

PAULINE: The "Pioneer Sun", yeah.

GEORGIA: Pioneer --- someone has probably told you that.

PAULINE: Now I didn't know about the "Drewsey News" though. They told me about the "Pioneer Sun". Do you know who edited the "Drewsey News"?

EFFIE: Ed Beede, wasn't it?

GEORGIA: Ed Beede, I think.

ROTHA: Did the Beedes used to live up here where Friedman's live now? That's what I was thinking.

GEORGIA: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And who had the "Pioneer Sun"?

GEORGIA: Pardon.

PAULINE: Who had the "Pioneer Sun" then?

GEORGIA: I think that was Beede, too.

PAULINE: I'm thinking that's what I've heard.

GEORGIA: Yeah, I think it was.

EFFIE: And wasn't there a family by the name of Keith that lived

GEORGIA: Name of what?

EFFIE: Keith, some such of name like that, I believe it was Keith.

...

PAULINE: Well, I'd sure like to --- if you hear of someone ---

GEORGIA: You know Roy Beede lives in Burns now.

PAULINE: Yes, I know he does. I talked to him a couple of years ago and he was telling me a little bit about it.

GEORGIA: Ed Beede's son, you know. He could tell you all about the papers, you know.

SIDE B

ROTHA: You know people never value anything like that, then when it's all over and done with, you wish you had something.

EFFIE: Then it's too late, you know, so many of the older people who lived here ---

...

ROTHA: You've seen pictures of the old three-room schoolhouse we used to have over here. They had a high school here.

PAULINE: Well Percy Davis was telling me a little bit about this high school, and --- but I couldn't get too much from him. He said they tried to start it, but it didn't last too long, and it didn't go too long.

ROTHA: Was that what the Highsmiths were teaching? Were they teaching at ninth grade or what?

EFFIE: No, that Mrs. Stevenson taught the high school.

PAULINE: Do you know about when this was, and about how long they had a high school?

GEORGIA: I don't believe more than one year.

EFFIE: They have pictures ...

...

PAULINE: I think the best thing is to get someone who was going to school at that time, because they'll remember better. Percy said that he went to The Dalles one year for high school, then he finished up in Burns. And he didn't think the high school in Drewsey really

ever got off the ground, particularly.

EFFIE: No, I'm sure it didn't amount to ... 'Course I didn't have any children in high school then.

ROTHA: See Lee was just in grade school when this picture was taken. I don't know how --- I guess Midge's picture was there too, Midge's and Lee's both were.

GEORGIA: We went for three months in the spring, and three months in the fall, I remember at Drewsey, didn't they?

EFFIE: Who?

GEORGIA: At Drewsey, they used to have just three months of school in the spring, and three in the fall, don't you remember? ... It's the longest term they had for a long time. I guess all the country schools ...

ROTHA: And what was the name of the Indian lady, Mom, that used to come down to see, come down, and I guess she used to wash clothes for you? Was that Bertha?

EFFIE: What?

GEORGIA: Bertha and Ida both used to work for us.

ROTHA: Now which one was it that passed away over here at the hospital?

EFFIE: Bertha.

ROTHA: And she was a 100 or something, wasn't she?

PAULINE: I don't remember.

GEORGIA: And George Washington was little, they used to grub willows for us, and they used to dig potatoes, you know. We used to raise so many potatoes. And the Indians would dig potatoes for us and grub willows.

EFFIE: The Indians cleared the sagebrush off of all the land on this upper ranch.

PAULINE: In other words, you hired him to do this.

EFFIE: Yes.

GEORGIA: Ida and Bertha, I guess they both did, didn't they?

ROTHA: Bertha was the one that was in the hospital across from Mom there, I think. And she was a 100 and something. ...

GEORGIA: And Billy Washington was their brother ...

ROTHA: I can remember, oh, I don't know, I couldn't have been, I guess I was around 14 or 15 when some of their descendants came back down here to see Mom. They wanted to come back and see my mother because, you know, just visit with her. You remember that, Mom?

EFFIE: Yes, I remember.

ROTHA: I don't remember what their names were though.

PAULINE: But they used to camp out above Drewsey here.

ROTHA: Right up past the "Y".

PAULINE: Uh huh. In tepees and ...

ROTHA: But there were, when you first came here, there were quite a lot of Indians around here then, weren't there? Remember the one that was drunk and fell off his horse down at the lower ranch?

EFFIE: And found him dead the next morning in the ditch.

ROTHA: And the other Indians were quite hostile, they thought that my dad was somehow to blame. He got drunk, come down and fell off and I guess froze to death. I don't know what happened to him. They weren't very friendly about it.

EFFIE: Well, the man that found him, you know, down at the --- they saw him there the evening before, the night before, sometime in the night anyway. He was off on his horse and they put him back on the horse, started him for Drewsey. But --- or told him to go to Drewsey, but the next morning when --- instead of going to town, I guess they tried to cross the bridge again and fell off his horse and killed him, froze to death.

GEORGIA: They used to like apples and watermelons, and we used to raise so many of those, you know, and they said they sure liked those. I know that Ida and Bertha, we had given them food, they liked food. They were pretty nice.

EFFIE: They used to go around places and chop wood for them, you know, for their meals.

GEORGIA: These squaws would just sit down, out flat on the ground and dig potatoes. Used to raise --- used to supply Harney County with, you know, vegetables and fruits, you know. So the Indians liked to do that, you know. Well, there aren't many left in Burns even now, are they?

PAULINE: Well, not as many as there used to be. A lot of the older ones have left and gone. But I'm really glad to see some of these younger ones, they're really working to upgrade their living conditions and get a little better education for their children, and I'm really encouraged to see this.

GEORGIA: Well, then they're helping the Indians a lot in Burns then, aren't they?

PAULINE: Yes, but I think what's happened is that the Indians themselves are trying to better themselves. This is going to make a difference, it really is.

GEORGIA: They didn't used to have any chance.

PAULINE: No, and they didn't seem to, didn't even try.

ROTHA: Now the ones at Warm Springs seem to be a different ...

PAULINE: Yes, in fact, you know, the Indian children that went to Madras High School when I was in high school were, you know, like student body presidents, and cheerleaders, you know, and things like this. And the Indian children here just --- they got so far in school and then dropped out. But I'm really glad to see some of the changes that are being made over there, and it's coming from the Indians themselves. Some of the mothers are working in the schools as teacher's aides in an effort to let children see, you

know, that well, you know, there's my mother helping in school; school must be important because here's my mother here. And I think it's going to work.

ROTHA: And it's so wonderful that the townspeople are getting interested in ---

PAULINE: Well it's about time.

ROTHA: It really is. When you look over what they've done at Warm Springs, those Indians over there are really self-sufficient.

EFFIE: I suppose the children, well I know that they just grew up over there without any schooling whatever, you know.

GEORGIA: People didn't used to take any interest in them, did they? The white people didn't try to help them.

EFFIE: Well the Indians seem to be contented then. Don't know if they were or not.

PAULINE: Well of course they can't live anymore like they did then, either. They were more free then than they are now. You just can't go out and pitch a tepee anyplace anymore.

EFFIE: Well, no.

PAULINE: Can't live that way.

ROTHA: Like out at the Hot Springs where, that Uncle Lou had for a number of years, the Indians used to live out there. You'd find these bowls and mallets, and so many Indian things. And of course we didn't, any of us, appreciate it. And now I think all the rock hounds have picked them all up out there. Did Glenn ever salvage any; did he have some? Did Glenn ever get some?

GEORGIA: We had some, yes, it seems to me ... It's too bad too, that people didn't save more of those. 'Course the rock hounds coming in took so many of them. Of course lots of arrowheads and everything.

PAULINE: Well this is something. When I was a kid we never looked for arrowheads ---

never thought anything about it. And now we get in the car on Sunday and go out, you know, and just lope through the sagebrush ... and I think if we had looked when I was a kid we might have half a chance of really finding some out there.

ROTHA: They claim, though, that the best way is to find places where you think they possibly have lived and then dig down. They say that sometimes you dig down several feet, you know, down through the soil, to find these things. But I just think out there at the Hot Springs they were plentiful, you know, and we just didn't appreciate it.

GEORGIA: It's too bad, isn't it, one just didn't realize, think about these things. This swimming pool out there was quite a place.

ROTHA: Yes, that was. That was really something.

GEORGIA: Out by the Hot Springs, you know.

PAULINE: Now this is --- you're talking about out by Crane?

ROTHA: No, no, there was a hot springs here. You went up past O'Toole's, went out from Drewsey like you were going up the market road, and where the road forks it goes out by O'Toole's and you went across the bridge there. Was that Stinkingwater Creek Aunt Georgia, where that bridge was?

GEORGIA: Yeah.

ROTHA: And then you went around the corner, and then you went through ... And Uncle Lou grew watermelon, cantaloupe and strawberries out there. See it was alkali water, hot water.

GEORGIA: I used to put up so many strawberries.

ROTHA: And you had a hot swimming pool ... People used to come there to swim, so many people.

GEORGIA: That's where I learned to swim.

ROTHA: It was about six miles from here, but everybody would go out about --- almost

every night. And we used to go out when we were haying, go out there to swim. It was wonderful. And Uncle Lou had a green thumb; he could just grow about anything, and enjoyed it.

GEORGIA: He liked to do that ...

ROTHA: We had quite a large swimming pool, and we had it boarded up on the sides, excavated it, and had boards on the sides. And then I guess it was just sandy bottom, wasn't it? And the water was so hot ---

GEORGIA: Yes, I know. They say they are good for medical --- They had a hot springs down at ...

ROTHA: Well down at Vale, too.

GEORGIA: Yeah, there's some around --- Yeah, I'm getting so I can't think. But if you go there for rheumatism or anything like that, hot baths, you know, and everything. Had bathtubs in the bathhouses.

ROTHA: I think Uncle Lou cleaned it once a week, wasn't it, and when he first turned the water in ... he kept it closed for a couple of days there until it cooled off.

PAULINE: Too hot ---

ROTHA: Well, even if it wasn't too warm it was weakening, you know, warm mineral water.

GEORGIA: Now it used to be big crowds, they'd come up from everywhere to swim there, you know.

PAULINE: Is it --- is there any ---

GEORGIA: No, it's gone away now. I don't know; the pool washed out the boards. Nobody to take care of it, I guess. ...

ROTHA: Did Uncle Lou put that reservoir in there too?

GEORGIA: Yes. ...

PAULINE: You speak of Uncle Lou, which ---

GEORGIA: That's my husband.

PAULINE: That's your husband.

GEORGIA: Lewis Sitz.

PAULINE: Okay.

ROTHA: He was Uncle Lou to all of us. My Aunt Georgia and Uncle Lou, and her family, and my mother, I mean our family, they spent almost every Sunday together, didn't we? Kinda grew up together.

PAULINE: I'm trying to keep this straight, otherwise I'll have, you know, like three or four different people doing something that really only one person did. ...

GEORGIA: I don't know if any of your folks were --- maybe some of you were --- I don't know whether --- they perhaps ... they would remember out at the swimming pool.

ROTHA: I just wish that, you know, that you could have come around when my dad was still alive, and he could have told you more ---

GEORGIA: He knew so many Indians.

PAULINE: Well, I hope by talking to Velfa Richardson, I think, said that she thought she could tell me some, that they had the stage for a while.

GEORGIA: Who was that?

PAULINE: Velfa Richardson.

GEORGIA: Oh.

ROTHA: Oh.

PAULINE: I think it is --- so I'm, hoping, you know, to be able to get more information on this.

ROTHA: Mom, do you remember how many years Granddad ran --- operated the stage from Burns to Ontario?

EFFIE: No, I don't know.

ROTHA: And you don't know ---

EFFIE: He had passed away when I come ...

ROTHA: He was passed way when he was just a young man.

PAULINE: And the two sons continued?

ROTHA: No, just Dad. Was Uncle Hyde in on it too? Just Dad?

PAULINE: Let me go back to my notes ...

GEORGIA: How many years was he manager on the stage line?

EFFIE: Just one contract, I think.

GEORGIA: At the time I came out here ...

ROTHA: What was Granddad's first name? Was it Hiram?

GEORGIA: I think so.

ROTHA: Hiram.

PAULINE: And Frank, and Addison was a ---

GEORGIA: Holloday.

PAULINE: Holloday, yeah.

GEORGIA: Frank and Ad were Hollodays. Hiram ...

ROTHA: ... and about carrying the mail when he was 16, and that was down across Arizona. It was at nighttime, and how the rattlesnakes would sing.

PAULINE: Oh, my goodness.

ROTHA: And he said it was just a regular chorus, you know, just singing al the time, and that was at night. I suppose he was carrying the mail for his dad, or did he ... 16 ...

EFFIE: ... Nevada, Wyoming, and Idaho.

ROTHA: I remember them telling about having to go out, oh, that was my dad too, telling about ...

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