

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #66 - Side A

Subject: Ray Shaver & Russell Emery

Place: Bend, Oregon

Date: August 16, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: This is Ed Gray, I'm with Russell Emery again in Bend, at his house, and Ray Shafer --- how do you spell your last name?

RAY SHAVER: Shaver, S H A V E R.

WOMAN: S H A V E R.

EDWARD: I've got his name. Russell, I thought you said Shafer, Shaver.

WOMAN: Everybody does.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RUSSELL EMERY: I thought you ought to have it.

EDWARD: Yeah. I got a list of the people who worked around for Bill Brown, but I don't have your name on there, but I've heard your name.

RAY: Well I never did work for Bill Brown.

EDWARD: Yeah, right.

RAY: I worked for Sammy Boyce, and he worked for Bill Brown.

EDWARD: That's right. Ray, when did you work for old Sammy Boyce out in Dry Valley?

RAY: I went out there in 1936.

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

RAY: Running wild horses.

EDWARD: And that corral is still there?

RUSSELL: Yeah.

RAY: Yeah, was that corral still at Dry Valley?

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

RUSSELL: Oh, is it there yet?

RAY: Well, not the old original one, I don't believe.

EDWARD: Oh, okay.

RAY: There is a corral there, but it's not --- the corral that was there when we went down there was what we called the ---

RUSSELL: Stockade.

RAY: Stockade corral, you know, the posts stood up and down. The one that is there now it's not a stockade corral.

EDWARD: This one that I saw is east of his house.

RAY: Yeah, that's right. And that's the corral that they built after ---

EDWARD: Oh, that's later, okay. Before we get too far, did Sammy Boyce --- you know Bill Brown owned some property down in that country, believe it or not, he had some.

RAY: Down around Dry Valley?

EDWARD: Yeah, just west of it, and south, Juniper something.

RAY: Little Juniper, Big Juniper?

EDWARD: Big Juniper.

RAY: Well Little Juniper is the closest to Dry Valley.

RUSSELL: Yeah, it's right there ---

RAY: Right there at the edge of Dry Valley.

EDWARD: Okay, well then it must have been there.

RUSSELL: And then the Horsehead, and that other mountain ---

RAY: Yeah, Horsehead. Big Juniper, and Little Juniper, and Horsehead, a mountain there they called Horsehead.

EDWARD: Did --- I have the interview that Richard Cowan did with Grant Barney and Sammy Boyce in 1979, about Bill Brown. But did Sammy ever mention to you of Bill Brown running horses, wild horses in Dry Valley? No? Did he ever mention to you of hiding

---

RAY: His still?

EDWARD: No, no, I know he had a still.

RAY: Well he hid it too.

EDWARD: Yeah. Did he ever mention hiding Lena Bunyard Hutton, Link Hutton's wife, second wife, in his attic?

RAY: I never remember nothing about that.

EDWARD: There is two houses there.

RAY: At Dry Valley?

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Well now the last one, Russ and Mary, and Bea and I went over there, that's been four years ago?

RUSSELL: Three years ago ---

RAY: The one that Sammy had, the little old shed, well it wasn't as big as Russ's garage, that Sam and I lived in when we went down there. It was just a little old cabin with just single walls.

EDWARD: It's white.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay. That was his original camp.

RAY: That's what we lived in. But he did have a good house he built there, but they tore it down.

EDWARD: Oh, they tore it down.

RAY: That house is gone, but Hannah's house is still up there.

EDWARD: Now there is another little bunkhouse ---

RAY: That little bunkhouse is what we lived in.

EDWARD: But it's not painted white. I'll have to show you --- I'll show you a picture.

RAY: Oh, it was.

EDWARD: We'll figure this out.

RAY: Okay.

EDWARD: But Sammy Boyce's original big house is tore down, right?

RAY: Yeah. It was when we was out there.

EDWARD: Okay.

RAY: That's been three or four years ago.

RUSSELL: Two or three years.

EDWARD: What do you know about Ray Jackson?

RAY: Well I knew old Ray pretty well, probably maybe not as good as Russ did, but I was around him for five, oh five or six years. But what I was going to tell you, the reason I think old Jackson killed himself --- well a lot, or Sammy Boyce says he didn't. He says that guy that worked for him shot him.

EDWARD: Henry Welcher.

RAY: That guy was --- worked there. I didn't remember his name.

EDWARD: That's why I asked you, Russell, maybe you remembered that name.

RUSSELL: I think that was his name.

EDWARD: Henry Welcher.

RUSSELL: I remember his first name was name ---

RAY: But Sammy loaned Jackson some money. He'd sold a bunch of horses, a 140 head, we took them into Burns to put them on a train and they went to Arkansas. An Arkansas buyer bought them. Jack St. Clair and I, and Sammy Boyce took them horses to Burns. Well shortly after that I was there at the Petersen, what they called the Petersen Place, up there on Egli Ridge.

EDWARD: I know exactly where it is.

RAY: Pumping water for the --- see he had horses that come in there to water at that well, gentle horses, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: And I don't know where Sam and Jack was at, but old Jackson rode in there one day. The only --- he didn't drive, he didn't have a car or nothing. When he went any place, unless somebody took him, he just rode this old horse. And he come in there, and he stayed all night with me. And then, well I think the next day Sam and Jack was due back, they did come back. Anyway he come down there to borrow money from Sam. And Sam loaned him some money. Well before, when him and I was there together, we was talking, but he mentioned the fact that he said he'd never go on welfare, he said, allege to cheat, and that's what makes me think ---

EDWARD: Allege to cheat?

RAY: Allege to cheat, yeah, in other words --- he said I'll never, I'm never going on welfare, he said, the allege to cheat, that's what he told me. So that's what makes me think that he shot himself.

EDWARD: Do you know that his brother ---

RAY: No, I didn't even know he had one.

EDWARD: He had a brother named W. L. Jackson, was the editor of the Albany

newspaper, probably had some money. Why --- Ray Jackson, you know why he moved out to Wagontire?

RAY: Well now before he come, well I think Russ might know more about that than I do too. See he taught school at ---

RUSSELL: Silver Lake.

RAY: No, Paisley.

EDWARD: Paisley and Silver Lake.

RUSSELL: Paisley and Silver Lake.

RAY: And he told me how ornery them boys at Paisley was, well maybe Silver Lake too. He said he used to take a six-shooter and a baseball bat to school with him.

EDWARD: Put it on the desk.

RAY: Yeah. Well anyway he told me about that. Well I think the reason that he, I think him and Frank Dobkins --- see him and Frank Dobkins went out there together, I'm pretty sure, and bought property together out there, when they first went out there.

EDWARD: Jackson went out in 1917, by trial transcript. Dobkins went out and bought from Emery --- Emery, from Everett.

RUSSELL: From who?

EDWARD: He bought from Everett Emery. He bought the old Hutton place in 1926.

RAY: Oh, some relation of yours owned that?

RUSSELL: Brother.

RAY: Brother?

EDWARD: Brother?

RAY: Well I didn't know that. I thought he just bought from Hutton. But I do know Jackson told me, I forget how many years he had been there, I'd have to say '36 and '37 when he borrowed that money, I forget which one. But anyway, like I --- because we'd

stay up there, and Jackson would be down there, you know, at the Petersen Place, there off of Egli Ridge. But he did tell me that when Frank first bought out there, and it wasn't from Emery, it was from Link Hutton. Of course at one time old Frank had three or four different places. He had that big white house ---

EDWARD: Yeah, that's the old Sam and Caroline Hutton place, that's Link Hutton's mom and dad's place. Yeah.

RAY: And then they had what they called the Burnt House. And I think probably the house that was there for, before the one that he lived --- and that's where he lived, burnt down, and they had that god damn fire, when it burnt, you know, Hutton's. Hutton set the fire ---

EDWARD: In 1926, yes.

RAY: And I imagine that house burnt down then, I don't know. They called it the Burnt House.

EDWARD: That's where, that's --- Russell I was just telling you, remember it had the apple trees in front of it, right on the main road.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Right next to the main road.

RAY: Yeah, just barely off the road.

EDWARD: That's where I camped two weeks ago, yeah.

RAY: And then old Jackson, on north farther, he had a big white house which Homer Carlon and ---

EDWARD: Carlon, and Austa, in 1939.

RAY: And that's where he died, in that house.

EDWARD: That's right. In 19---, February 1938.

RAY: Yeah. Is that when he died?

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Well that's --- well I know it was along in the fall.

RUSSELL: Where is your can at? Bring your can with you?

EDWARD: I want to see ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Yeah, Austa, you see Austa and --- I interviewed Austa.

RAY: Did you?

EDWARD: She is my head honcho over there in Burns. You know she gets a kick out of that.

RAY: I haven't seen her for ---

EDWARD: Oh, she's full of ... and vinegar.

RAY: Yeah, she must be up the creek.

EDWARD: She's 86, I think. She and Homer stayed at the Burnt House in 1935. In 1934 they stayed in the big white house on the hill, that's burned down too.

RAY: Yeah, it's gone.

EDWARD: It's gone too. I'm going down to Klamath Falls Sunday to get a picture of that from Emma West, Mrs. Jack West. She's still kicking. So anyway, in '35 Frank Dobkins brought in an old homestead across the valley, and that's what they lived in.

WOMAN: Excuse me, excuse me. Ray, will you have coffee for lunch?

RAY: Yeah, that will be fine.

WOMAN: And what will you have?

EDWARD: No ---

WOMAN: I don't have that.

EDWARD: Water.

WOMAN: Okay. Well that's what I ---

RAY: Well don't make coffee just for me, because I can drink water.

WOMAN: Well I have it made; I have it made.

RAY: Well I'll have coffee then.

EDWARD: So what --- Jackson, what did Boyce say about Jackson, R. B.? Now you're saying he ---

RAY: He says --- I was in that house after Jackson was dead, because he had a couple old dogs, or one old dog I remember. I had to shoot the dog, and Frank and them guys that was left there didn't want it around, so I took the old dog out and shot him. But anyway, Sam told me that there was a hole shot through the window, but I don't remember that. And like I say, I was in that house afterwards, right afterwards.

EDWARD: Right afterwards.

RAY: Yeah, because I talked to that guy that, that Henry ---

EDWARD: Henry Welcher.

RAY: --- Welcher. In fact I think I stayed all night down there with him one night. And he was feeding those cattle. And I know it was, there was snow on the ground.

EDWARD: Oh boy, that was right after, probably March or April of '38.

RAY: Yeah, if it wasn't in November or December.

EDWARD: Because he shot himself, you see in ---

RAY: October ---

EDWARD: February.

RAY: February.

EDWARD: Of '38.

RAY: Well it would have been March and April, because there was snow on the ground.

EDWARD: You talked to this Henry Welcher guy, what kind of guy was he?

RAY: Oh, well see that's --- how many years is that, 37 or 38? He --- really I didn't know

him too good, because he wasn't there too damn long. See he --- I don't remember, I think he come there a haying.

EDWARD: He worked for Jackson for about a year and a half.

RAY: Well, I didn't remember him being there that long. Of course I wasn't up around ... I wasn't up on the mountain there too damn long. (I'll pick them up.)

EDWARD: Oh, wow --- (drops papers).

RAY: I can't remember, like I say, it's been so damn long.

EDWARD: Oh, yeah.

RAY: But I didn't know him real well. But ---

Edward: This Henry Welcher?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: He left soon after.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did you ever meet Buck Burk?

RAY: Just met him, and that was all. I seen him several times, you know, but the only time I ever seen him --- and I don't know whether I even said hello to him. Frank Dobkins and I was in Burns, I think we went to a rodeo, and he was in the Palace Cafe.

EDWARD: It's still there.

RAY: Huh?

EDWARD: It's still there.

RAY: That old Palace Cafe is still there?

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Well we seen him in there. And then I seen him several times a horseback up on the mountain. But I didn't --- they was two factions out there, Jackson and Dobkins ---

EDWARD: Versus ---

RAY: --- versus the Hutton's and --- and they didn't, Hutton's and old heavy Arnold, old T-Bo, and Punk Robertson, they kind of one side, and Carlon's and Jackson's, and Harold, Ray, and ---

EDWARD: Dobkins.

RAY: --- Frank was kind of the other side. And Sam he ---

RUSSELL: In between.

RAY: --- yeah, he was kind of in between. Him and Punk Robertson was kind of partners.

EDWARD: What --- I've been at the gate that Dobkins was killed, and I've got the transcripts for most of that stuff. What --- who brought in, or who brought in Buck Burk?

RAY: Punk Robertson.

EDWARD: From the penitentiary?

RAY: From the penitentiary. That's where they got acquainted; old Punk was in there for stealing horses.

EDWARD: Right. He stole ---

RAY: And he was in for shooting a cop in Klamath Falls, I think.

EDWARD: He shot a deputy sheriff, and blew his arm off in 1925, and he was in the state pen for 10 years, got out in '35. Came to Wagontire to buy the Luther Addington's place. Gave Buck --- this is Buck Burk.

RAY: Well Addington's was right there, down by the store.

EDWARD: Right.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And Buck Burk gave Luther Addington \$300.00 in 1937 to buy that Addington field, 600 and some acres. But him and Arnold and Robertson were all kind of buddies.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And he left Arnold's house and met up with Dobkins and Homer Carlon, and of course then he shot Frank Dobkins and killed him. Do you know if Punk Robertson is still around?

RAY: Oh, Punk must be dead. Because he was older than, quite a bit older than Sammy Boyce, and Sammy is about the same age as Russ.

EDWARD: Oh, okay.

RAY: So old Punk, I imagine, god I seen Punk in 1950, and he was an old man then, down at the auction yard in Redmond.

EDWARD: Oh. Did he have any children?

RAY: I don't think he had ever been married.

RUSSELL: Don't think he had ever been married.

EDWARD: Never married, huh?

RAY: He had a brother.

EDWARD: Bill.

RUSSELL: Bill.

RAY: Wasn't one of the boys was named Roy too, wasn't it?

RUSSELL: Bill is the only one I ---

EDWARD: Bill, I know there is a Bill Robertson.

RAY: Well maybe, well maybe it was Bill. I was thinking there was, one of the brothers was ---

RUSSELL: He was ...

RAY: --- had a brother named Roy, but I could be mistaken.

EDWARD: Did you ever meet Link Hutton, Ray?

RAY: I seen him hundreds of times.

EDWARD: Just seen him.

RAY: But I never did talk to the man. To tell you the truth I was half-ass scared of him.

EDWARD: A lot of people were. What kind of imagine did he put towards people? Was he a tough little son-of-a-bitch?

RAY: Well now old Dobkins --- or not Dobkins, but Ray Jackson, I think the same day that he come down there and stayed all night with me, when he was wanting to borrow the money from Sam, told me he met Link coming down that road off the mountain. It would be a running, let's see, 395 runs more or less north and south, and that road, that lane, was just kind of a lane ---

EDWARD: Yeah, and that lane is ---

RAY: And he said he met old Link, and old Link got out of the car and said, "Jackson get off your horse, I'm going to kill you." And he said, said to him, "Well if you're going to kill me, you can shoot me off the horse." He said about that time he seen the dust a coming, another car a coming, it was just a little ... Instead old Link just jumped in the goddamn car and took off. He always drove a pretty damn new Ford car, I remember that.

EDWARD: He always had new cars, it seemed.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: So he told Ray Jackson that he was going to kill him?

RAY: Yeah, he said, "Get off your horse, I'm going to kill you." And Jackson says, "Well if you're going to kill me," he said, "you can shoot me off of the horse."

EDWARD: He said later on in his life --- Link Hutton died in 1950, a heart attack in Burns.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: His grandkids, step-grandkids told me that he said sons-of-bitches will never fool with me, I'll shoot them.

RAY: His step-grandkids?

EDWARD: He said ---

RAY: Oh, them?

EDWARD: Yeah. Anybody, never going to fool with him, he'd shoot them.

RAY: Well, I believe that. Because that's just the reason I stayed clear. Because I knew he shot that, one that carried the mail.

EDWARD: Harold Bradley, yeah.

RAY: And then Jackson told me about that deal, telling him to get off his horse, going to shoot him. And he said he would have, you know --- I said, Jackson, I know damn well he would of. But he said about the time that he was going to do the job they seen this car coming down that same lane, that the dust, you know, came. Then he jumped in his car and took off.

EDWARD: Why do you think Frank Dobkins was killed?

RAY: Well Frank was the kind of a guy if he, if he thought some-thing, he'd say it. And I -- well he jumped that night ... that Burk, Dobkins jumped him that night, told him he was nothing but a god damn thief, and a bunch of stuff.

EDWARD: Now that was in Burns, at the Palace Cafe?

RAY: At the Palace Cafe. And Frank told everybody he ... around the country that if they was stealing, just like old Punk got sent to the pen for, stealing horses. Then he was stealing --- And then Frank had two old guys out there, one of them by the name of John Ruminer, and the other one's name was --- I can't think of his name. Did you never know John Ruminer?

RUSSELL: No, I didn't know him.

RAY: He, they stayed in that big white house.

EDWARD: Yeah, on the hill.

RAY: On the hill, you said burnt down. Okay, they stayed --- old John was a World War I

vet, and he had a vet pension. And he, they stayed up there and him and --- I wished I could think of that guy's name, I thought of it not too long ago. But anyway, they was trapping a few coyotes, you know, and then old John had that pension. And he drove a new Ford pickup ...

(END OF TAPE)

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