

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #66 - Side B

Subject: Marie Shields Barrett

Place: Portland, Oregon

Date: November 24, 1990

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: ... tules so much, that it is all beat to pieces. This is Edward Gray with Marie Shields Barrett at her house ---

MARIE SHIELDS BARRETT: Barrett.

EDWARD: Barrett, in Portland, on 11-24-90. I've got a few questions, not a lot. But anyway, your father was born; Thomas Jefferson Shields was born ---

MARIE: Right.

EDWARD: --- in 1849. He came with his family to Oregon in 1852?

MARIE: Right.

EDWARD: How many was in his family, do you know, Marie?

MARIE: At that time he had an older sister, and an older brother.

EDWARD: And his mom and dad?

MARIE: Yes, uh huh.

EDWARD: Mom and dad, and an older brother and older sister, and himself.

MARIE: He was 3 years old.

EDWARD: He was 3.

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Do you know what wagon train he came with?

MARIE: No I don't, but his father was the captain of the train.

EDWARD: Oh, he was?

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Did his father ever leave any diaries or anything?

MARIE: I don't know about that, because after my father was living in Eastern Oregon, he didn't keep in touch very much.

EDWARD: Where did they come to, where did they settle, do you know?

MARIE: They settled at Waterloo, out of Salem --- out of, I can't think --- I know he went to Lebanon Academy when he went to school.

EDWARD: Oh, your father did?

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Lebanon Academy. Waterloo is no longer there, but I've got an idea where it is.

MARIE: I've been past it once when I went with a group, uh huh.

EDWARD: What was his father's name?

MARIE: James Shields.

EDWARD: James Shields. And his mother's?

MARIE: Matilda Crowley.

EDWARD: Yeah, okay. C R O W L E Y.

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Shields. And then his brothers?

MARIE: Ben, he just had one brother, and I imagine that was Benjamin Franklin, I don't know.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARIE: And then his sister Mary Ellen.

EDWARD: Mary Ellen Shields. So they settled around Lebanon?

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And did they, see 1852, they could get 320 acres then.

MARIE: I imagine they, I think they had what they called a donation claim.

EDWARD: Right. And that I can look up too.

MARIE: His father also helped write the Oregon Constitution.

EDWARD: Oh, really?

MARIE: Uh huh. His name is in the blue book, used to be.

EDWARD: Wow. His father, James Shields.

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I'll look up that stuff too. I'll send you all this stuff too, Marie, you'll get a kick out of that.

MARIE: Okay, that will be fine, uh huh.

EDWARD: Can you give me a brief history of Thomas Jefferson Shields background while they were in the Willamette Valley? You said he went to ---

MARIE: Lebanon Academy.

EDWARD: --- Academy.

MARIE: But I don't know what he did after he was grown, because when he was 21 he went to California, Northern California, I think Surprise Valley.

EDWARD: 1870, approximately.

MARIE: Uh huh. And he said that he went there for his health, because this was a damp climate. And then he never did live west of the mountains after that. So I don't know much about it.

EDWARD: Surprise Valley, that's in Modoc County, I believe. Right?

MARIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: How long did he stay there, do you have any idea, Marie?

MARIE: Well, let's see, he was married at 31 in Lakeview, Oregon. He worked in a general merchandise store as a clerk.

EDWARD: In Lakeview?

MARIE: No, I think that was in Surprise, in oh, what's the name of that --- Alturas.

EDWARD: Alturas. I was going to say Alturas.

MARIE: I think so. But now I'm not sure, because all of that stuff --- You see after my brother died, why my nephew sent all that stuff to the Burns museum so they'll, probably a lot of that will be there.

EDWARD: Good, good, it's saved, it's saved. Most of it is just thrown away.

MARIE: I know a lot of it. It's lucky that they saved it. My cousin's wife said that he sent her a lot of the stuff from there.

EDWARD: So he went to Lakeview and he married Julian Garrett in 1880, is that right?

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Why, do you know why he decided to go to Silver Creek?

MARIE: Well the whole family, you know, all the Garrett's went there. They all came out with a group. My grandfather and, well in fact I think most of them, they all came together. And I don't know why they decided to come to such a far away place, you know. And there was no highways or anything very well.

EDWARD: Nothing.

MARIE: And then they moved to what they called the Upper Valley, out of Silver Creek, and had a dairy ranch. They had cows, and they packed butter, and shipped it to Canyon City. Took it to Canyon City, I guess. But I don't know --- and my father made what they called butter firkins, a big barrel shaped thing, and that's what they put the butter in.

EDWARD: And they put that in a wagon and ---

MARIE: That must have been what they did, and then hauled it to Canyon City.

EDWARD: Because Canyon City was about the only town ---

MARIE: Well that was the county seat then, and Harney County was part of ---

EDWARD: Grant.

MARIE: --- Grant County. Uh huh.

EDWARD: Did --- but he never mentioned --- the Garrett's went to Silver Creek too?

MARIE: Yeah, they lived there. They lived near my folks until 1900, when they moved to ... Valley.

EDWARD: Did they ever mention the Cecil's?

MARIE: Oh yeah, I knew the Cecil's.

EDWARD: And they were there before?

MARIE: Yeah, Mr. Cecil, I think, was the first homesteader in that valley.

EDWARD: Wilson?

MARIE: Wilson, I don't know.

EDWARD: John Wilson?

MARIE: I don't know.

EDWARD: Oakerman's?

MARIE: Yeah, I knew all the Oakerman's.

EDWARD: Bakers?

MARIE: Yeah, I knew quite a few of the Bakers. In fact ---

EDWARD: They were the early ones.

MARIE: Yeah, they were, uh huh.

EDWARD: Before your dad.

MARIE: Yeah, I think they were, uh huh. I know Mr. Cecil was.

EDWARD: What did your dad say when they first moved to Silver Creek? Oh, by the

way, was your dad's original homestead just below the cemetery, the Silver Creek Cemetery?

MARIE: No, I don't know about that. They did live up the valley before they moved down there. But I don't know --- Henry Street owned the cemetery, he donated it to the ---

EDWARD: The cemetery is kind of on a little hill, and you look down on a little ---

MARIE: Yeah, right down there is his house, uh huh.

EDWARD: Yeah. When your mom and dad moved there, how did they first live, what did they do? Do you know if they had a tent, or did they ever mention anything about that?

MARIE: No, I don't know how they --- any of the families lived when they first moved there. I know that my dad built that log cabin that they lived in.

EDWARD: And then he built a house later on?

MARIE: Yeah, another house, uh huh, which was really not too much of a house. My grandson thought that that was the cabin. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Oh, it was that bad, huh?

MARIE: Well when he saw it, you know, he didn't know. He was just young, and he didn't know ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARIE: He said did you live in the white house? And I said no, I never lived in the white house. My brother built that after, long years after I moved away.

EDWARD: Now Myra was the first one born. Was she born in that log cabin, do you know?

MARIE: No, my mother went back to Surprise Valley to, I guess, I don't know, wherever it was --- Cedarville.

EDWARD: Cedarville, yeah.

MARIE: Yeah, my mother went back there for her to be born. And I think --- no, I think

she was born before they moved out there, and she went back for Ernest to be born.

EDWARD: Ernest, yeah.

MARIE: That was two years later.

EDWARD: Okay, I see, right. That makes sense.

MARIE: I probably got everything crazy ---

EDWARD: Where were you born, Marie?

MARIE: I was born right there in that house in the valley, uh huh.

EDWARD: In the house, the second house?

MARIE: Yeah, uh huh.

EDWARD: The log cabin, then the house.

MARIE: Yeah. And a midwife ---

EDWARD: Who else was born in that house? Was Ruby?

MARIE: I think Ruby was born before they moved in that house. But Virgil probably was.

EDWARD: Virgil and you?

MARIE: I think so, probably, I'm not sure. A lot of things I never asked.

EDWARD: Yeah, oh yeah. I wonder if that house is still standing? I'll find out. They first lived in there --- I know the Bakers and Cecil's were there. Now we'll come back to old Bill Brown. Do you have any idea how your father got to know Bill Brown?

MARIE: I think that time he gave himself up to my father is the first time he got acquainted ---

EDWARD: The first time?

MARIE: --- with him, as far as I know. He went out after he killed this man, Overstreet ---

EDWARD: Overstreet.

MARIE: --- who was buried in the Silver Creek Cemetery. And he came and waited out on the little hill there back of the house, which would be close to where the highway goes

through now, you know.

EDWARD: The main highway?

MARIE: Yeah, uh huh. And he waited out there until he could see smoke at the house, because he didn't want to disturb them before he came in and gave himself up.

EDWARD: So you think that's the first time that your dad saw Bill Brown?

MARIE: I believe it might have been.

EDWARD: It could have been.

MARIE: My dad always thought that it wasn't his fault, you know. He always thought that.

EDWARD: Yeah. What, do you know what year that was? Was it before 1890?

MARIE: Gosh, it must have been before that.

EDWARD: Its been said, and I'm going to have to go to Canyon City or something, but it has been said that it was 1886, but that's questionable.

MARIE: '86, I don't really know what year it was. I never thought to ask.

EDWARD: Yeah, well it wasn't important, you know.

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: This Johnny Overstreet ---

MARIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- what did your father feel about this Bill Brown shooting Johnny Overstreet?

MARIE: Well this man that, I guess it was a sheep war, and this other man, at least they thought that he was in the wrong, and they thought that he shot --- that this, I think Overstreet was just his hired man, wasn't he?

EDWARD: Overstreet was evidently hired to Ike Foster at the Riley-Hardin Ranch.

MARIE: Not Ike Foster, somebody else Foster.

EDWARD: Was it?

MARIE: Because Ike Foster was our neighbor.



EDWARD: He was? Wasn't Ike Foster the foreman for the Double O Ranch?

MARIE: Well now, maybe so.

EDWARD: I think so.

MARIE: Maybe he was.

EDWARD: You remember the Riley-Hardin Ranch?

MARIE: I remember hearing about it.

EDWARD: Hearing about it. That's right, because Hanley bought out Riley-Hardin.

MARIE: Uh huh. Yeah, I knew Bill Hanley too.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. He bought him out in 1904, something like that. So you were just at little, a little girl.

MARIE: Well I, you know, I knew Mr. Hanley even after I was married; he used to come through there.

EDWARD: So your father, feeling about Bill shooting Johnny Overstreet, did he ever say anything; ever hear anything?

MARIE: Well he took Mr. Brown's part all the way. It was some-thing --- But during the time that he was holding Mr. Brown, they had a --- there was another cabin on our place, it was called the Mansfield Cabin, and he had him down there. And some of the neighbors came and paraded around the house, threatening. And my dad just protected him.

EDWARD: The Mansfield Place?

MARIE: Yeah, it was called the Mansfield Place, I don't know why. It was part of our place later.

EDWARD: I wonder if that was Mayfield's Place?

MARIE: No, this was Mansfield.

EDWARD: It was Mansfield.

MARIE: Uh huh. I don't know who lived there before; I guess Mansfield's did. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Yeah, evidently. Now did --- what was your father --- he didn't become Judge until 1889.

MARIE: Uh huh, county judge.

EDWARD: So --- county judge. So was your father, what was his role, was he kind of a --  
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MARIE: Oh, he was a justice of the peace.

EDWARD: Oh, I see.

MARIE: That was all, you know, justice of the peace in those days just did everything.

EDWARD: Right.

MARIE: When they were away from this county seat.

EDWARD: So he was the justice of peace ---

MARIE: He performed five weddings.

EDWARD: Okay, before 1889. So he was a justice of the peace, and that's why ---

MARIE: That's why Mr. Brown gave himself up to him.

EDWARD: I see. See, I didn't know that.

MARIE: Oh yeah, uh huh. That's the authority he had.

EDWARD: Yeah, he was the head honcho.

MARIE: Yeah, I remember we had the state seal there, an old fashioned state seal. My brother and I used to sit, put the official stamp on things for fun.

EDWARD: How long was he justice of the peace, Marie, for a long time?

MARIE: I don't know, but it must have been quite awhile, uh huh. Probably nobody else wanted the job.

EDWARD: Well where did your dad get all of this political knowledge?

MARIE: I don't --- he was a well-educated man, he was a teacher. And, you know, like he

taught elementary school, and that's what he did in the, you know, in the wintertime, or the --- I think about seven months of the year that he taught. He taught my oldest brothers, my oldest brother and sister.

EDWARD: He taught school in Suntex?

MARIE: Well no, Suntex was --- I think it was called Curry, I think it was Curry, but I can't think what it was.

EDWARD: Oh Curry, could have been. C U R R Y.

MARIE: Uh huh. I think that's where he taught.

EDWARD: Because he was teaching school in the 1890's, I know that. Huh. So anyway, did he go to, did he go to Canyon City and help Bill Brown out over this shooting?

MARIE: He took him; he took him in there. Took him to Canyon City, as, you might say he wasn't arrested, but he, you know, had given himself up to my father because he was justice of the peace.

EDWARD: Do you have any idea, Marie, where this shooting took place?

MARIE: No, I used to know, but I don't know now.

EDWARD: Oh.

MARIE: Somewhere out on the range.

EDWARD: I want to try to find this place so I can take pictures, and nobody can actually pinpoint what spring. Was it on Lost Creek, was it on ---

MARIE: I don't really know. I know my father would tell about, at the trial, why this man said that he had --- instead of saying he dropped down and dodged the bullet, you don't dodge a bullet you know. And he said, "drapped", I "drapped" down and dodged the bullet. I heard my dad say that. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Well I've got to find that out somehow, I want to go there.

MARIE: I think it was out there on the range somewhere, where the --- see everything

was free those days. You didn't pay for any range use or anything.

EDWARD: Right. I've got ---

MARIE: I expect everything I've told you is wrong, because it is all hearsay for me.

EDWARD: Oh, no, no, no. He came from a, evidently a well educated family.

MARIE: Yes he did, uh huh. I think his brother was there at one time too.

EDWARD: Yeah. He, his one brother was a doctor, and his sister, this is Bill Brown's sister was a doctor.

MARIE: His sister was a doctor.

EDWARD: Yeah, was a doctor.

MARIE: Mrs. Winslow.

EDWARD: Whew. Okay, anything else about the old Johnny Overstreet shooting?

MARIE: I just don't know anything about that, except just what they told me.

EDWARD: Well, it sounds like Mr. Brown had the right to blow this guy away. (Laughter)

MARIE: Well, yeah. My mother said it put an awful strain on him, and wondered if that was why he was so, kind of crazy there for a while. She said, "He'd say, it's such a strain on the mind."

EDWARD: Yeah, evidently it was.

MARIE: Uh huh. I know later on he --- he was telling about this thing, in love with this beautiful girl, was my sister. And Ruby was working for him, you know, at the Buck Creek Ranch, she and her husband. She was doing the housekeeping and he was telling the story to people about this beautiful girl rising up among the sheep, you know, as a vision of this beautiful girl. And somebody said, "Well how long did that last?" And he said, "Oh about three months." And Ruby said she heard him, and she said, "Mr. Brown it was nearer three years." Ruby was about 8 years old, you see, she knew everything that was going on. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Oh, by the way, who did Myra marry?

MARIE: Joe Vanderpool.

EDWARD: Joe Vanderpool, Joe Vanderpool, out of Prineville?

MARIE: They were from the valley, but I don't know what place down in the Willamette Valley. ... homestead ...

EDWARD: What did your --- can you, I know this is hard, Marie, but do you remember anything your father or mother said about Bill Brown during all the long years you've lived, and they lived? Anything stand out in your mind about old Bill, besides ---

MARIE: Oh, nothing, you know, mostly the things you'd hear about him was about, was from people that worked for him, and things like that.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARIE: We had some homesteaders that lived close to us, and the people were from Boston. And then, didn't even know, he didn't have any means of transportation or anything. And he went over and herded sheep because he didn't have anything else to do. And he'd write letters to his wife there, and she would read the letters to us. And he'd say, I told old "B" to go to "H". (Laughter) And then people said he'd carry raisins and strychnine in the same pocket, you've heard the story I suppose.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

MARIE: And I don't know, I don't really remember much about him.

EDWARD: Did you ever see Bill Brown personally?

MARIE: Yes, he was at the Electric Ranch when my sister worked there.

EDWARD: Right.

MARIE: And my sister and brother-in-law. And they had the store, he had a store, you know, and he had people come and help them-selves at the store. And, you know, they just stole from him, the people. People were starving and everything, and he didn't care I

guess.

EDWARD: Yeah. Where was the store located?

MARIE: It was right across the road from the house, uh huh.

EDWARD: Right across the road. Was there by any chance --- oh, don't know. Was there by any chance, do you remember, a garage?

MARIE: Garage?

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARIE: I don't even remember whether he had a car or not.

EDWARD: Probably not.

MARIE: And I was only 13.

EDWARD: Yeah, 13, that would have been in 19---

MARIE: Yeah, he must have had a car, but I don't think he drove it. He must have had a chauffeur. Oh, he did have a chauffeur, I guess.

EDWARD: I don't think he drove too much.

MARIE: No, I don't think he drove.

EDWARD: Where was the store? Right across the street.

MARIE: Right across the road, uh huh.

EDWARD: Was there --- do you know what happened to the store?

MARIE: No, I don't know. I never knew whether it was torn down or what.

EDWARD: I've been trying to find pictures, but whew --- Was it a small building, or ---

MARIE: Oh, it was just like a long building with a ---

EDWARD: About the size of your garage maybe?

MARIE: Oh, it was bigger than that.

EDWARD: Bigger?

MARIE: Oh yeah, it was probably twice that big.

EDWARD: So that's about 14 x 24, or something like that. So a little bigger than that.

MARIE: It was probably twice that big, uh huh.

EDWARD: Did, was there a schoolhouse around there then, in 19---

MARIE: I don't know where the schoolhouse was, I don't remember. See I used to go to the Street place, and then Henry and Ruby had a homestead there, and I used to go down through that valley, you know. But after they moved to Silver Creek I never was at Buck Creek anymore.

EDWARD: The Joe Street homestead was down the creek from Bill Brown's house, right.

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And you know that old coal cellar is still there.

MARIE: I don't know.

EDWARD: Yeah, it's still there. Joe Street built that, way long time ago. In between that, Joe Street's place, and Bill Brown's place, there is another house that's on the creek.

MARIE: Lemon, ... Lemon.

EDWARD: Lemons, it's still standing.

MARIE: Is that right?

EDWARD: I forgot those pictures; I was going to bring those pictures of it. They're still standing, that Lemon place.

MARIE: I was, the last time I was there I guess was probably, as I say, when I was 13. I remember that Mr. Brown was over there, and his desk was just a mess, you know. And he said, "Ruby will you go over and get my glasses?" And she said, "Where are they Mr. Brown?" He said, "Oh ... find them."

EDWARD: What was the inside of Bill Brown's house like, Marie?

MARIE: It was nice.

EDWARD: Did he have nice furniture, and ---

MARIE: I can't remember about the furniture. I remember the house was nice, and the rooms were nice. And of course my sister was a good housekeeper.

EDWARD: Did Ruby Shields Street; is she the one that took care of the house?

MARIE: No, yeah, they worked for them for a certain length of time, I don't remember how long.

EDWARD: I think they were there quite a while.

MARIE: It seemed to me like they were.

EDWARD: They were there in the 1910's, right?

MARIE: Well 1910, let's see.

EDWARD: 1910's.

MARIE: 1910 they were married, so it was in 1911. And then when I was 13, so that would have been 1913 that I was still, that they were still there. I don't remember when they left.

EDWARD: What about Lena?

MARIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: She was, was she the cook?

MARIE: No, Lena was married to Harve Winslow, his nephew. But I remember that she was there sometimes, but I don't remember under what circumstances.

EDWARD: She married Paul Wilson.

MARIE: Yeah, she married Harve Winslow, that was Brown's nephew, you know. Then she had two children by him.

EDWARD: Oh, I see, I see, okay.

MARIE: And then later on she married Paul Wilson. Lena is over 100 years old. She is still ---

EDWARD: Just, she just died this summer.



MARIE: Did she die?

EDWARD: This summer.

MARIE: Josephine didn't tell me about that.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARIE: But she sent me a picture of her, when she was a 100. No, it wasn't either; it was when she was, her golden wedding with Paul. I remember when she married Paul Wilson, and I thought --- and she was six years older than Paul, and I thought --- my niece and I thought that was the most disgraceful thing we ever heard of, for a woman 26 years old, marrying a boy of 20.

EDWARD: She, Lena Street Wilson, died just, yeah, last summer. But Paul Wilson is still alive.

MARIE: Yeah, and Paul is only six years younger than she, so she was 101, so ---

EDWARD: Yeah, he is 95. And, oh, what's her name --- Ella, no, no, no. Elda, Elda ---

MARIE: Elda is her daughter, yeah.

EDWARD: Wilson Voight is taping ---

MARIE: Have you, have you visited them?

EDWARD: Yeah, I've talked to them on the phone.

MARIE: I've been to Elda's house. And Helen, Helen Winslow Moon is still alive.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

MARIE: She was ---

EDWARD: She wrote me some stuff too, but I haven't got it, because the weather in Burns has been so bad.

MARIE: I know.

EDWARD: It has been like 21 below zero.

MARIE: I know my daughter-in-law still lives there.

EDWARD: It says in 1913 that Henry and Ruby Street bought the McGee Ranch.

MARIE: Yeah, at Silver Creek.

EDWARD: Yeah. So maybe they left.

MARIE: They bought it from; it was road land they bought from William Hanley, really. McGee's owned it later.

EDWARD: Huh. Do you recall anything else about Bill Brown there on Buck Creek, the house?

MARIE: Well I remember that when I went out in the back yard and picked some chokecherries.

EDWARD: Those trees are still there.

MARIE: Are they?

EDWARD: Yeah, still there, those cherry trees, yeah.

MARIE: I don't remember very much about it.

EDWARD: I wonder why he built that house there. Do you know?

MARIE: I don't know, and I don't know why he put a nursery in it. Seemed like he never was going to get married.

EDWARD: The nursery was upstairs, right?

MARIE: Uh huh. Yeah, there was just --- it was a two-story house; it was a nice house.

EDWARD: Beautiful house. Like I told you, the GI Ranch owns it now.

MARIE: Oh, is that right?

EDWARD: And they remodeled it and put a new roof on it.

MARIE: Oh, uh huh.

EDWARD: You would think it would have burned down or something by now, you know.

MARIE: No, not necessarily.

EDWARD: It's still standing.

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I didn't go inside, but I'm going to this summer.

MARIE: It was; it was a nice home. Much nicer house than most of those houses around there were, you know, a lot of them were just kind of shabby.

EDWARD: Oh, little shacks.

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Were you ever at Henry Street's homestead?

MARIE: Yes.

EDWARD: Was it a log cabin?

MARIE: No, no, he built a house there, had dormer windows and everything. And it was pretty well built, and pretty nice. And he didn't know what type it was, but somebody else, one of the homesteaders wrote up a story about it, and told what kind of a house --- I can't remember now. But he didn't know what style of a house he was building, but he built it.

EDWARD: Was it two-story?

MARIE: Uh huh. Had two dormer windows up at the top. They didn't stay there very long, they moved to Silver Creek soon after that.

EDWARD: If you go from Bill Brown's Buck Creek house, down creek, go down the road, down stream, and then you come to Joe Street's place.

MARIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Which Wesley Street later owned, and sold to Barney.

MARIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay, then you go from Joe ---

MARIE: Barney, what's his last name? Oh, Barney was ---

EDWARD: Grant.

MARIE: --- it was his last name.

EDWARD: Grant, yeah Grant Barney.

MARIE: I remember him.

EDWARD: They're still alive.

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I talked to them.

MARIE: I remember him.

EDWARD: You go from Joseph Street's homestead, follow the creek, and the creek kind of poops out.

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Was Henry Street's house ---

MARIE: It was about a mile, I think, from his folks.

EDWARD: That place is still standing.

MARIE: Uh huh. Was it a pretty nice looking house?

...

MARIE: ... Ruby and Henry's place, they had a --- I guess it was a schoolhouse where they had the dances, I don't remember.

EDWARD: You went from your dad's house on Silver Creek by buckboard?

MARIE: Well I remember going in a, oh we went in a Model-T Ford. And sometimes --- I remember, the one I remember the most when I was about 14, was we went on a big sleigh with a four-horse team. My brother and some of the other men drove the four-horse team.

EDWARD: Boy, you wouldn't forget that, would you?

MARIE: With a big sleigh.

EDWARD: And you went from Silver Creek over to Henry Street's?

MARIE: Yeah, but we went out by the Gap Ranch, and that way instead of going over

Buck Mountain.

EDWARD: Oh, yeah Buck Mountain, right.

MARIE: But when I went in the Model-T Ford I remember that I went with my niece and another girl, one of the neighbors, and we went in that Model-T Ford across there. But that was, must have been in good weather, because there wasn't any snow on the ground or anything.

EDWARD: You took; they took a four-horse team and a sled all that way?

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Just to go to a dance?

MARIE: To go to a dance. Oh, they did that all the time. Every-thing like that, that's where you got your entertainment. (Laughter)

EDWARD: And you went to a dance at ---

MARIE: At Buck Creek.

EDWARD: At Henry Street's house?

MARIE: No, it was, must have been the schoolhouse or something. Because there was lots of homesteaders in that country then, you know, it probably was a mile or two from their house.

EDWARD: Boy, I don't think that schoolhouse is standing anymore.

MARIE: Well I'm not sure it was a schoolhouse, but I ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARIE: --- I don't think it was a grange hall. I don't think they had a grange out there.

EDWARD: No.

MARIE: They had a grange at Silver Creek.

EDWARD: Did --- do you remember Fife, Marie?

MARIE: Yeah. But it isn't where it is now. It was, it was --- when you first came off of

Buck Mountain, it was the first place you came to.

EDWARD: That was Fife, huh?

MARIE: Uh huh. But they moved the post office.

EDWARD: Whose post --- where was the Fife Post Office located off of Buck Mountain?  
Was it on Buck Creek?

MARIE: Well, I can't remember, I just remember it was after we came over the mountain,  
it would be the first building that we came to over to the right hand side of the road.

EDWARD: That would be before you got to Bill Brown's house?

MARIE: Yeah, before you got to any of the places down in the valley.

EDWARD: Was the post office ever in the Bill Brown store, do you remember?

MARIE: No, I never knew of it.

EDWARD: Never knew of it.

MARIE: Huh uh.

EDWARD: Did Fife, later moved out on the flat.

MARIE: Yeah, wherever it is now, I don't know.

EDWARD: Well it is long gone now.

MARIE: Oh, it is?

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

MARIE: They don't have it anymore?

EDWARD: It was discontinued in 1936, I think.

MARIE: Oh, I see, uh huh. Well you see all of that area was full of homesteaders, and of  
course when the homesteaders moved away, why they had to discontinue a lot of those  
post offices and stuff.

EDWARD: Do you remember Dry Lake, recall Dry Lake, Marie?

MARIE: So many Dry Lakes, I don't know. (Laughter)

EDWARD: That's true. Stauffer?

MARIE: Yeah, I know where that was. We used to go on the Bend-Burns highway.

EDWARD: Right. What was at Stauffer, do you remember anything about Stauffer?

MARIE: Well it was a stop, that they stopped and ate, I think. Had their lunch whenever -

--

EDWARD: Okay, there is one place that I'm trying to write about, and see what happens.

Hardin, Oregon, did you ever hear of that?

MARIE: Yeah, I've heard the name, but I don't know where it is.

EDWARD: Okay. It's about ten miles northeast of Bill Brown's Ranch house.

MARIE: Oh, I didn't know that.

EDWARD: There's --- it used to be on the stage road. They had a post office there in 1882, and the buildings are still standing.

MARIE: Huh.

EDWARD: I've got to take pictures of that too. Let's see, a couple other things. Oh, yeah, names. Frank Dobkins, ever hear of him?

MARIE: No, I don't think so.

EDWARD: And Link Hutton?

MARIE: Yeah, I know the Hutton's.

EDWARD: Where are they? Do you know where they live now, Marie?

MARIE: I have no idea where any of them live. Probably all dead.

EDWARD: Yeah, I think so. (Laughter)

MARIE: Yeah, well they were a lot older than me, and I'm 90.

EDWARD: Yeah, I think they're gone.

MARIE: Yeah. Link had one daughter, Veva, that was younger, you know, and she'd be an old lady now. Because she was probably a few years younger than me. But she ---

EDWARD: She'd be an old lady.

MARIE: Yeah. Even my second cousins, and my nieces and nephews, you know, like Josephine they're in their 70's.

EDWARD: Yeah, see that's hard for me to ---

MARIE: It's hard to believe, but it's true, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARIE: When you outlive everybody, why they ---

EDWARD: Boy, you don't look no 90 years old, Marie. You look like you're about 50.

MARIE: Oh, good! I'm glad to hear that. (Laughter)

EDWARD: I want to ask you something. I ask all these characters like you, what makes you live so long anyway?

MARIE: I don't know. I guess just inheritance from --- my father lived to be 93, and my mother lived to be 89, almost 90.

EDWARD: I can't figure that out.

MARIE: I don't know.

EDWARD: Something in the blood.

MARIE: I don't know, there is some inheritance, I guess. But I don't go to doctors very much. I went to the hospital so many times when my husband had cancer, you know. Spent so many days over there at the hospital, and I got --- I knew what they were doing for him wasn't doing him any good, I mean he wasn't going to live through it. So I hardly ever go to a doctor, so maybe that's one reason.

EDWARD: Maybe that's it. I always think it's that Eastern Oregon air.

MARIE: Well it could be, it could be, because it sure was dry, and cold, and crisp, and clear.

EDWARD: Okay, you were born in 1900?



MARIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Your father stayed in that area on Silver Creek until his death?

MARIE: He never lived anywhere else after ---

EDWARD: He never left since 1882. And he lived in that second house?

MARIE: Uh huh, and died there.

EDWARD: I think it is still standing, I hope.

MARIE: It was still standing when Lance went by there. As I say he thought that was the one that ---

EDWARD: I hope it is.

MARIE: That was a little white house back in the field there that my brother built, had built. It was a nice house there.

EDWARD: Did your mother pass away in that house too?

MARIE: No, she moved to Burns when ---

EDWARD: She moved to Burns.

MARIE: --- they lived down at the old Burns place, down on, about a half a mile out of town. It wasn't really out of town, but it was inside the city limits, on the road to Seneca.

EDWARD: What did your --- how did your father make an income? I mean what ---

MARIE: Well ---

EDWARD: After, when you were born let's say, right in 1900?

MARIE: Well they had a few horses, and a few head of cattle, and they also, if they got, you know, if they raised a good crop they'd sell some of the hay. And my mother would sell chickens, and eggs, and things like that.

EDWARD: It was tough, wasn't it?

MARIE: It was, uh huh. And you know when she went to Seattle, or to Kent, Washington to live with her, with my oldest son, for the winter you know, she was just so anxious to

get back she could hardly wait. And here she had a modern house and everything to live in, but she was so anxious to get back, she could hardly wait to get there. Of course she lived with Ruby for a long time after my father died, she lived with Ruby the rest of the --- She came down to visit, and stayed with us, you know, a few months in the winter, in the summer.

EDWARD: Wait a minute. Did Henry and Ruby have any children?

MARIE: No, they didn't have any children. They just helped raise everybody else's.

EDWARD: I didn't think they did. Now you were born in 1900. When did you leave that area?

MARIE: Well I went to Spokane to go to school when I was 16. And then I went to Idaho and was married there when I was 19, about 19 and a half.

EDWARD: So you left ---

MARIE: And then we went back, my husband and I went back over there and stayed for one year when I was --- We came to Portland when I was 24, I think it was. Of course we had our oldest son then. And then we moved to Olympia and lived there, that's where our family was raised.

EDWARD: So you left the old Shields homestead country in 1916?

MARIE: Well yeah, to go to school. Then of course I'd come back in the summertime.

EDWARD: But that was, you never really went back to stay, did you?

MARIE: Well not ---

EDWARD: I mean year after year.

MARIE: Well not permanently, no.

EDWARD: Yeah, permanently.

MARIE: Permanently, uh huh.

EDWARD: Did any of the other, Ernest, or you know, Virgil ---

MARIE: Ernest left home when he was about 17, he never did live there again.

EDWARD: He never did?

MARIE: And Virgil was in World War --- we were in Spokane when he enlisted in World War I. And then after he was married --- well after he came out of the service he came back there. I remember him sitting out on our old porch there, and he said --- he saw an old binder that my father had, and he said, "That same old binder is setting out there in that field. It was there when I left here," he said. "I wouldn't live here if you give me this whole valley." And he did, he stayed there. And then of course he took care of my folks when they were older and everything. But I remember I thought that was sad that he felt that way about it. But, you know, when you come out of World War I it was awfully hard on somebody that had been over there handling those people, and everything.

EDWARD: Pretty tough.

MARIE: But anyway, he did, he went to, went back to Spokane, and then he worked for a theater chain. He was a bookkeeper for a chain of theaters for a ... Mr. Grumbacker had, had theaters here, little theaters. And then he came back to the ranch later on, and he still lived there when he died.

EDWARD: What happened to Elmer when he was approximately 10 years old?

MARIE: Yeah, he --- he didn't feel very well, and he was lying down, and my father picked him up to take him to bed, and he died in his arms. And --- but the doctors afterward thought it might have been appendicitis.

EDWARD: Appendicitis.

MARIE: See that was a couple of months before I was born. And it was an awfully sad blow to my mother, you know, and my dad. Because they figured they should have been able to do something. But they didn't even know that there was anything seriously wrong with him.

EDWARD: That's about, I've interviewed probably a hundred people at least, and that's the fourth or fifth time I've heard where a young sister or brother died from appendicitis. There was nothing they could do.

MARIE: People didn't know, you know.

EDWARD: No, there was nothing they could do at all, not in that early day.

MARIE: Nope.

EDWARD: No way. Now Elmer is buried in ---

MARIE: He's buried there. He is the first one --- we always went up to that old cemetery, and there was a little fence around his grave, and everything.

EDWARD: Oh, a little iron probably ---

MARIE: This was a picket fence my dad dug around there.

EDWARD: Picket fence, oh I see.

MARIE: And they always kept it painted and everything in those days.

EDWARD: How far was the Shields homestead to the cemetery?

MARIE: About six miles.

EDWARD: Oh it's that --- so the Shields homestead was near highway ---

MARIE: Well it's ---

EDWARD: --- 40?

MARIE: Well we sold; my dad sold the right of way, you know, through the ranch there.

EDWARD: Oh, you were that close to the --- where Riley?

MARIE: Yeah, the old highway, you know, went across over on the other side of the valley, about a mile at the end of that lane there. But my dad, and my uncle, and the Oakerman Ranch and all of us, they all sold the right of way to the --- for the highway they have now.

EDWARD: I see. So I'm about five miles off.

MARIE: Took us about a half a day to go to Burns. And now it takes about a half an hour, or less.

EDWARD: Yeah. Do you know --- you know where the Riley Store is?

MARIE: Yeah, that's my --- my brother built that, or he built the first one.

EDWARD: Who did?

MARIE: Virgil, my brother.

EDWARD: Your brother.

MARIE: Yeah, the first one. And then when McGee's, or --- what's the name of those people that own it now?

EDWARD: Oh, I don't remember.

MARIE: Anyway, anyway when they built a new store. My brother put down a deep well there, Virgil. And when the ... were over there, the hot water from that deep well, it never phased it, so it must have been an underground stream. It was the best water you ever tasted.

EDWARD: Oh, isn't that good. Okay. I'm going to be over there this summer, Marie. I'm going to find all this stuff. I know where the cemetery is, that's no problem. Did you ever go to the place, the location of where Bill Brown shot Johnny Overstreet? Did you ---

MARIE: No, I don't know where that was. I knew it was out there on the desert somewhere.

EDWARD: By Wagontire Mountain, someplace.

MARIE: Oh, was it by Wagontire?

EDWARD: Somewhere. But that doesn't tell ---

MARIE: No, I don't know.

EDWARD: Shoot, shoot, shoot. I think --- okay, Henry and Myra didn't have any children. Henry ---

MARIE: Henry and Ruby.

EDWARD: Ruby.

MARIE: Myra and Joe had six children.

EDWARD: They had six.

MARIE: Uh huh. None of them ever lived there though. Edna lived with Ruby and Henry awhile, but they moved to California when most of their children were young. They lived in Oakland.

EDWARD: Did Ernest, did he marry?

MARIE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Did he have any children?

MARIE: Yeah, three.

EDWARD: Are any of them still around?

MARIE: They don't keep in touch with me.

EDWARD: Oh, they don't?

MARIE: No, I ---

EDWARD: Well what a bunch of hooley!

MARIE: Who?

EDWARD: I'll say what a bunch of hooley.

MARIE: Yeah, it's too bad, because Rose, his wife, she lived to be 90 years old too, 91. He, Ernest died a long time before she did. But she wanted the young people to keep in touch with us, but I wrote to my --- they lived at Grass Valley, California before she died. And the other one, Margie Thompson, she lives in ---

EDWARD: Margie Thompson, that sounds familiar.

MARIE: It's just out of San Francisco. Mill Valley.

EDWARD: Is she still around?

MARIE: I don't know, you see I don't hear from any of them. But of course she would be an old lady now too, because she's 17 years younger than me.

EDWARD: Oh gosh, old lady.

MARIE: And then Vernon is; he lived in Los Angeles, their son. But of course he is one year younger than Margie, and so they're all --- but they don't keep in touch with me, and I wish they did.

EDWARD: Well they didn't stay around Silver Creek Valley anyway?

MARIE: None of them ever did. None of them ever lived there.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's right, okay. But Virgil did, right?

MARIE: Yeah, Virgil did, and they adopted a son, his name is Ross. They didn't have any children, but they adopted Ross.

EDWARD: Who did Virgil marry?

MARIE: Zola Babcock from Halfway.

EDWARD: Whew --- Halfway, Oregon. Holy, that is out in the "booneys"!!! Zola ---

MARIE: It's close to Baker.

EDWARD: Oh, I've been there.

MARIE: She was a schoolteacher out there at Silver Creek, that's how he got acquainted with her.

EDWARD: Oh. And I wonder ---

MARIE: She lived to be 85 years old. I guess it is the air. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Oh, yeah. I don't want to live that long, not in this mess. Did --- I wonder if their child has any photographs.

MARIE: You mean Ross?

EDWARD: Ross.

MARIE: Ross gave Virgil's things to the Museum.

EDWARD: To the Museum, okay.

MARIE: So I don't know.

EDWARD: I bet you there might be a lot of stuff, a lot of things there.

MARIE: There could have been quite a little bit there, uh huh.

EDWARD: I've got --- is that thing still running?

MARIE: Just about ... about that.

EDWARD: There was this man that wrote this book about Bill Brown, was it just about Bill Brown?

MARIE: I don't remember that. I might have part of --- I probably; in my books here I might have some quotes from that. Because I know somebody else quoted that expression, and I said well that's what made my --- I think it was Eldon, you see, my oldest son, you see ...

(END OF TAPE)

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