

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #68 - Sides A/B

Subject: Mabel Moffet

Place: Drewsey, Oregon

Date: April 26, 1972

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen; I'm interviewing Mabel Moffet on April 26, 1972, at her home in Drewsey. Okay. Now your mother was Jane Drewitt, and you were born in Idaho, and when you were about three years old then you came back to the Drewsey area.

MABEL MOFFET: About three years old, between three and four.

PAULINE: And you said your mother worked then in the area?

MABEL: Yes. She worked out here for Stallards, and she worked for Duntens.

PAULINE: Then after she married Mr. Drewitt, did he have a ranch here in the area?

MABEL: Well they had a ranch up on the river, and they lived there for quite a while.

PAULINE: By the Malheur River?

MABEL: By the Malheur River, up above Milldale.

PAULINE: Then when you were old enough to start school, did you first come into Drewsey, or did you go to school from ---

MABEL: Oh, we lived out on Otis first, I guess it was. I went to school out to Otis at first. Out here, you know where Otis is, ... Valley. Went to school there, and then I went to school up at Calamity, up at Wolf Creek, I should say. Up at Atkins, over --- Jack Atkins' place is?

PAULINE: Yeah. I don't know just where they live.

MABEL: Went to school there for a while, then we went to school here at Drewsey.

PAULINE: Did you ride to school, or go in a buggy, or what?

MABEL: When I went up on the ranch I stayed with Mama's cousin there for a while, and went to school on horseback then, from there over to the school on Wolf Creek for a short while, not long. But a short while I went to school on horseback, and took Mama's cousin's boy with me. And he rode behind me on my horse.

PAULINE: Was this during the winter?

MABEL: It was in the winter, late fall and early winter.

PAULINE: Someone was telling me the other day, that out in this area they had school for about three months in the fall, and then three months in the spring. Do you remember that?

MABEL: I don't remember that, no I don't. That must have been when I was quite small.

PAULINE: When you were at school in Drewsey, was it a very big school then?

MABEL: Yes, it was a good-size school then; they had about three rooms then in the schoolhouse. They had the high school, and the grade school, and the upper grades, so they had quite a few here at that time.

PAULINE: Well can you tell me some more about the high school? I heard a little bit about it, but the people that talked to me didn't really know very much about it. Do you know how long they had a high school here?

MABEL: No, I don't remember, to be exact, how long they did have it.

PAULINE: This was before you got that age; you went to high school, didn't you?

MABEL: Yes, I wasn't high school age at the time. So I don't remember just how long we did have it. They had quite a few youngsters here at the high school, but I don't remember how long it ---

PAULINE: Well Drewsey was quite a big larger then.

MABEL: Oh yes, it was. It was quite a place here at one time. A lot different than what it is now.

PAULINE: I've heard something about the fact that the cowboys, especially from the PLS Company would come and spend the winter here.

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: Was that because the weather was pretty nice or ---

MABEL: Well, I think so, and then they had the cattle, you know, and they had to feed.

PAULINE: They fed cattle then near here?

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: That's what they did.

MABEL: Yes, they did, well in different places here, you know, and wintered their cattle here, fed them. Used to be a big Company, you know, quite a lot of cattle, and quite a few worked for the Company.

PAULINE: Do you remember anything about the newspapers that were in ---

MABEL: Yes, they used to have a press down here. Down here on the street, a newspaper. That's been quite a while ago, too.

PAULINE: Someone was telling me that there was a "Pioneer Sun", and then there was -- I can't remember. Harry Clark was telling me the name of one, but I can't remember what he said it was.

MABEL: That run the press?

PAULINE: Uh huh. Roy Beede.

MABEL: Roy Beede and his father, Ed Beede.

PAULINE: Uh huh. I haven't talked to Roy yet. I talked to him a couple years ago for Pioneer Day, but I've got to catch up with him again, get him cornered. Do you know of

anyone that has any copies of any old Drewsey newspapers?

MABEL: No, I don't, I just don't know. Someone might have, but I don't know.

PAULINE: I've never seen one, and I've never heard of anybody having one, but I think it would be real interesting to see one.

MABEL: It would be. But I don't know of anyone that has any.

PAULINE: Did you make your own clothes when you were a young girl, or young woman?

MABEL: Oh, my mother sewed for me. She made most all of her clothes. With five girls of us, and two boys, she kept kinda busy sewing.

PAULINE: That would keep her busy. Did she have a sewing machine, or did she do it all by hand?

MABEL: No, she had a sewing machine.

PAULINE: I've often wondered if it wouldn't be like when the material came into the store, everybody in the community had a new dress off of the same bolt. Is this what happened, or ---

MABEL: Well they had some -- I guess would be. Uh huh. But they had quite an assortment, so they wouldn't all have some just alike. But maybe parts of some of them would happen to be just alike, but --- Kind of like it is now.

PAULINE: Well maybe times haven't changed, because I went down and bought this at the department store, and I see everybody in town has something like that.

MABEL: That's right.

PAULINE: Yeah. Then did you go to high school at Crane?

MABEL: No, I didn't go to high school.

PAULINE: You didn't go to high school. Did you just get married right out of high school or did you work some place for ---

MABEL: Well, I didn't go to high school at all.

PAULINE: I meant out of grade school.

MABEL: Yes, just about. I was married when I was 17, just past 17. I was married quite young.

PAULINE: Was the Moffet family an old family here?

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: Can you tell me anything about them? How they happened to come here?

MABEL: Well, I really don't know how they happened to come here. They lived in this vicinity here when my husband was, oh, just a young fellow too, you know, and I don't know.

PAULINE: What was his first name?

MABEL: His name was --- they always called him "Bummer", but his name was William. But nobody ever called him that.

PAULINE: Called him that.

MABEL: He never knew what his name was, hardly.

PAULINE: It's M O F F E T.

MABEL: Right.

PAULINE: Well where did you live then, after you were married?

MABEL: Well we were here in town for a while, and then we moved up to the ranch on Griffin Creek and we lived there for a while. And we were at the ranch, his folks' place on the river for a while. And then Bummer's father and my stepfather were in the sawmill business, and we owned the sawmill for a while then.

PAULINE: Okay, tell me about that. Where was it?

MABEL: It was up here in the Swales, that is about three miles, four miles from out of the Swales in the mountains.

PAULINE: Now this would be Bummer Moffet and ---

MABEL: Bob Moffet, my father-in-law.

PAULINE: Your father-in-law, Bob Moffet.

MABEL: Bummer was the one that stayed with my stepfather, and they run the mill, worked there.

PAULINE: Okay, I remember that ... this is up on, where you come up on the Swales.

MABEL: Yes, up above the Swales, in the timber, about three mile, four mile out of the Swales. Then we lived here in Drewsey, we used to live in this house right over here across the street first, and then we moved up there. We were just kind of here and there for a while.

PAULINE: Did they --- when they had the sawmill, did they --- most of the lumber was used locally, or did they take a lot of it out of here?

MABEL: No, it was used here locally.

PAULINE: Did they have finished lumber, or was it pretty much just rough?

MABEL: Mostly rough.

PAULINE: Do you know about what year it was that they had this sawmill?

MABEL: No, I don't remember just exactly how long it's been. It's been, it was quite awhile. Don't remember what year it was now, that they got the mill, and they were there for a few years, and then they sold out.

PAULINE: Was it before 1930, you think, or ---

MABEL: Well I imagine it was. They had it before my oldest girl was born, and she's 53, so that would be ---

PAULINE: That'd be 1920's, during the 1920's. That's close enough. Kind of gives an idea of about, you know, the general time. ... isn't really important. That must be one of Mardell's boys up there.

MABEL: That's Mike.

PAULINE: Yeah, I thought it was.

MABEL: Looks like her, doesn't he?

PAULINE: Yeah, it sure does. What's he doing now? I haven't seen him for a long time.

MABEL: Well he's going to school at Treasure Valley, and working. He's working at the service station, and working in the store part time. Anytime he isn't in school he's working one place or the other.

PAULINE: Well one thing I've been asking the ladies to tell me is about how they coped with the fact that, you know, it was so far out to get supplies. You'd couldn't just, you didn't have to go out to get fruit and vegetables, and almost any kind of supplies that you needed. And how did you manage to know, you know, you'd have to shop and get a whole lot of stuff in advance. How did you ---

MABEL: Well they had a store down here; they kept quite a lot of grocery stuff. Course there was hauled in --- freight used to be, long time ago freight teams, you know, brought it in. They'd freight it in here, and then leave it. Come down here to the store and get supplies when we lived up on the river. Then the fruit, we could get fruit over at John Day, you know, there was lots of fruit over there. We knew people over there, and some of the relatives had orchards, you know, and ---

PAULINE: Gardens have always grown pretty well over here in this area, haven't they? Do you usually put in a big garden?

MABEL: Yes, they did. My folks put in a big garden. Had a garden most everyplace they lived, so that was a big help, too. Raised your own garden, was a big help.

PAULINE: What about canning? Did you try to can a lot of stuff?

MABEL: Well yes, quite a bit.

PAULINE: Bessie Duhaime was telling me about, it was kind of difficult to can on the old

wood stove ... was that what she told me.

MABEL: Well a little more work, a little bit harder, to can your fruit during the hot weather, it was pretty hot canning fruit, taking care of it.

PAULINE: Had a big fire going all day in the hot weather.

MABEL: That's right. Yes, you bet.

PAULINE: Well people in the community pretty much helped one another out, and kind of traded work and this type of thing.

MABEL: Yes, they did. They helped one another, which was a big help for everybody. They kinda had to. Help was kinda scarce, you know, and kinda --- Those days there wasn't pay there is now.

PAULINE: Well it's really hard to find someone who wants to work on a ranch.

MABEL: That's right.

PAULINE: They don't want to dig ditches, and postholes and that sort of thing anymore.

MABEL: No, it's hard work.

PAULINE: Well can you see a lot of change in the way that you lived when you were first married, and the way that people are living now in this area?

MABEL: Oh yes, I can. Uh huh.

PAULINE: Course there are ---

MABEL: They had to travel horse and buggy and all that, and sleds, sleighs, you know, in the wintertime and all. You never see that anymore, hardly.

PAULINE: No. Well the automobile really has speeded us up a lot.

MABEL: Yes, it has.

PAULINE: Made us a lot busier than we need to be.

MABEL: Well that's right. ... a cramp.

PAULINE: That's miserable to get one isn't it? I'd get one in my toe once in awhile.

MABEL: It's terrible.

PAULINE: Oh dear, I had a question that I was going to ask; now where did it go? Oh yeah, do you remember your first automobile ride?

MABEL: Well I should, but I can't think right offhand, now. I think it was when my husband's folks got a car.

PAULINE: Did you like it?

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: So far I've asked everybody that I think of this question, and so far only one person didn't like it very well.

MABEL: Oh, is that right?

PAULINE: This one lady said she was just scared to death.

MABEL: I enjoyed it. It was different than what I'd been used to, but I really liked it. I think it was the very first car that they got.

PAULINE: Well I want to get this straight, cause I get home and I get to trying to sorting the family out; sometimes I have a little difficulty. So your husband's folks were Bob Moffet?

MABEL: Right.

PAULINE: What was his mother's name?

MABEL: Bob Moffet's mother?

PAULINE: Uh huh. No, uh ---

MABEL: Oh, Bummer's mother?

PAULINE: Yes.

MABEL: Her name was Minerva.

PAULINE: Minerva.

MABEL: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And you raised your children out in the Drewsey area?

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: And they went to school at Drewsey, and then Crane?

MABEL: Right. Jeannie went to school in Portland for a couple of years, but she went the rest of the time here. She stayed with my sister-in-law there in Portland, and went to school. She wanted to take her, so --- she didn't have any children, and she wanted to take Jeannie down there. Jeannie wanted to go, so I let her go. So she went to school about two years in Portland, and then finished up here at Crane.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Did they ---

MABEL: You know Jeannie?

PAULINE: Jeannie, yeah. What's her ---

MABEL: Otley.

PAULINE: Otley, oh yes. Uh huh. You know these people for years, but you don't always get all the family connections.

MABEL: No, that's right, that's right.

PAULINE: I know people still introduce me as Pauline Ausmus. It's really funny, cause I'll call up and say this is Pauline Braymen, and they don't know who it is. And I find myself doing the same thing, kids I went to school with, I just can't get used to the idea that ---

MABEL: When they change their name, it's kinda hard to get used to.

PAULINE: Yeah, it is. Did the kids board over in Crane?

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: And come home on weekends?

MABEL: Right.

PAULINE: Did you go to get them, or did they have a ---

MABEL: We went to get them most of the time. When my girls went to school I had a

car, and Margie drove, so we'd go get them. Sometimes somebody would bring them home, and sometimes we'd take some of the other youngsters. We'd kind change off, which was nice I thought, for everybody. Where they had to make a trip going and coming, you know, why we'd kinda share with one another.

PAULINE: What about community events in Drewsey, like Fourth of July celebrations? I know the Grange has been a really a big social tie.

MABEL: Uh huh. Oh, they used to have picnics here, you know, and they'd have dances, and Fourth of July they'd have quite a little celebration sometimes here. Sometimes they'd go out, you know, ... to spend the Fourth. But when they did they used to have quite a good time here.

PAULINE: Somebody was telling me the other day they usually made a two-day celebration out of it.

MABEL: Yeah, right. Two, sometimes three.

PAULINE: Well did they have horse races and games and ---

MABEL: Yes, they used to have horse racing and dancing. Used to have a racetrack down here, down this way, and I can kinda remember that, course I should remember it I guess. That's been quite a while ago, too.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MABEL: I guess this place was quite a little place. There was lots of people here, and two hotels.

PAULINE: Uh huh, yeah. Do you know what their names were? What the hotels were, the names?

MABEL: Bartlett's, Mrs. Bartlett ran this hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett down here. Then the other one, Mrs. Hamilton. And some-body had it before that, I don't remember who it was, but as far back as I can remember Mrs. Bartlett had them.

PAULINE: Well now Harry Clark was telling me something about --- he called him "Doctor" Bartlett.

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: Was he, was Mrs. Bartlett's ---

MABEL: That was her son.

PAULINE: Her son was a doctor?

MABEL: Yeah, two of them were.

PAULINE: Two of them?

MABEL: Two of her sons were doctors.

PAULINE: Oh, well he talked about them, and I got their names down, and then I had it figured out that it was a man and wife team, but it wasn't then.

MABEL: No.

PAULINE: I'm glad to get that straight. That would be a terrible mistake.

MABEL: No, there were two of them, and they were both doctors.

PAULINE: Well do you remember what their names were? I've got it written down, but just to be sure now.

MABEL: One was Curt Bartlett.

PAULINE: Curt, yeah.

MABEL: And the other was Carl Bartlett.

PAULINE: Okay, how do you spell that?

MABEL: It'd be Curtis, wouldn't it? Wouldn't it be C U R T ?

PAULINE: Yeah, but I mean the other one. Coral or?

MABEL: Oh, Carl?

PAULINE: Carl, Carl, okay. That's --- because I got --- I know what I wrote down when I talked to Harry Clark was "Cora".

MABEL: Oh.

PAULINE: It's Carl.

MABEL: Carl, uh huh.

PAULINE: That's why I thought, hmm, must be a man and his wife. So I'm glad to get that straightened out. Yeah, that's how this all works together. Because I pick up a little bit here and a little bit there, and sometimes I get ---

MABEL: It's kinda confusing sometimes.

PAULINE: Yeah. And they were doctors. That made Drewsey pretty well off with having two doctors at one time.

MABEL: Well there have been different doctors in here. I don't think either one of them doctored here too much. I remember they were --- Curt was in Baker, uh --- Carl was in Baker. He was there quite a while, and then Curt was in Ontario. Course they probably did doctor some here, but I don't remember too much about it, but there were different doctors in here.

PAULINE: What about, do you remember anything about when Dr. Hibbard would bring you --- drill over and come over and do dental work in the community?

MABEL: No, I don't remember that. Dr. Hibbard, the old ---

PAULINE: The older one, yes, Llewellyn's dad. Wasn't his name King, I think? I think it was.

MABEL: No, I don't remember that.

PAULINE: Have you had any --- many social clubs, or has most of the social activity gone through the Grange?

MABEL: Lot of them, I think, through the Grange.

PAULINE: Uh huh. What about law enforcement? Did you always have a sheriff years ago?

MABEL: Yes, I think they did. Marshal, they used to have a marshal here, you know, years ago. And the old jail sets over here.

PAULINE: It's still there?

MABEL: Still sitting there.

PAULINE: I don't think you've had anybody for years there.

MABEL: No, it's been years.

PAULINE: Do you remember who any of them were?

MABEL: The marshal?

PAULINE: Un huh.

MABEL: Well I can't think right offhand. Should know. I've heard them talk about them, but I can't think right offhand.

PAULINE: Well I'll ask someone else. I thought maybe if you had a name or two why that would give me a clue, you know, to ask someone else about it.

...

PAULINE: ... a doctor, or ---

MABEL: They were all born here.

PAULINE: Right here at home?

MABEL: Right here at home.

PAULINE: Did the women in the community take turns helping one another, or did you have a doctor come?

MABEL: Yes, they was --- women helped one another, they had the midwife and all. That kinda helped, and was good. It was kinda hard to get out to doctors those days.

PAULINE: Yes, I imagine it was. Ida Cross was telling me about her husband was born -- they lived out at Trout Creek, you know, out in Silvies Valley, and her mother decided to go into Burns for the birth of the baby, but she didn't make it. So he was born someplace

in route. She told me just where it was, where he was born. I thought things really haven't changed. That happens today once in a while.

MABEL: Once in a while that happens. Like my daughter, for instance, when Charles was born, Margie, you know, down at the store. Charles was born while they were on their way to Burns. And he was born here in town before they got to Burns. And they had to call a doctor. He was almost born in a snow bank.

PAULINE: Oh dear. Well at least he ...

MABEL: That's right. He was born in December and there's lots of snow then. When you live up there on the ranch it's kind hard getting out, but they made it down this far, but they didn't make it on to Burns. He was born before they could get any farther.

PAULINE: Well before the roads were, you know, now we've got this paved highway out here now. It takes about an hour to drive to Burns, or a little less even if you really plug right along. But before the road was paved, how long did it take to drive into Burns, and what was it like?

MABEL: Well it was kinda rough sometimes, you know, it was --- the roads, especially in the winter, when it was kinda bad. The road where it is now used to cut off around the mountain, over Stinking-water Mountain, you know, it went around the mountain. So it would take a little while to go over there. But I don't know just how long it would take, but it would take a little while with the buggy and team, and the pack, whatever with the team anyway to go. It'd take a little while.

PAULINE: I don't imagine people went in unless they just really had to do business ---

MABEL: Not very often unless they had business, you know, or something else. When we used to have, the doctors used to have to come out here sometime, you know. They didn't have a doctor here.

PAULINE: Do you find that a lot of the young people are staying in the Drewsey

community now, rather than moving and going away? I know the other day when I sat down there with Mr. Clark in front of the store, I saw a lot of young people come in and out, and around and ---

MABEL: Well there is quite a few young people. The ones that used to be here, there's not many of them left here anymore that used to be here. But in my group, anyway, they're just about all moved away and gone, or --- everything. But there is quite a few young folks around, when you get them all together.

PAULINE: Gathered in one spot. I hadn't been out here, actually, for about --- for over ten years since I had come out, and visited out here with anyone. And I thought it was kind of interesting to see the young people driving in and out, and young mothers with children. And I was wondering if some of the sons and daughters were sticking around now rather than moving off into other jobs.

MABEL: Well I think most of them are around here. There are several of the boys that got married, and are here. Then married girls out, most of them, a lot of them have. Well it don't seem like there's too many around here now, but what is single ones; seems like they're most all married now. There's a few, but not too many.

PAULINE: Well now let me see. I would like to get a list of your children, just for the record.

MABEL: Oh, the names of them?

PAULINE: Yeah. You said Margie was the oldest?

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: That's --- she's Duntten now.

MABEL: Duntten, right.

PAULINE: Okay. What's his name; then I'll ----

MABEL: Byron.

PAULINE: Byron. I didn't know that. Learn something new every day.

MABEL: A person can.

PAULINE: Yes. Then Genie.

MABEL: Eugenia.

PAULINE: And she's Otley now. Which Otley?

MABEL: Howard.

PAULINE: Howard. Okay.

MABEL: Then Hilda, and her name was Langenfeld. L A N G E N F E L D.

PAULINE: F E L D. Do they live in Harney County?

MABEL: They have the Orbit Inn over there.

PAULINE: Oh! What's his name?

MABEL: Dan.

PAULINE: Dan. Okay.

MABEL: Oh, and then Mardell.

PAULINE: Mardell. ... Say his name, because I can't.

MABEL: Jim.

PAULINE: Jim.

MABEL: Uh huh.

PAULINE: I knew it was something like that. I mean I knew it. But I couldn't --- Saw him yesterday, he said hello to me.

MABEL: You know it is aggravating, when you know somebody's name right there and can't think of it to save you. I do the same thing.

PAULINE: Okay.

MABEL: You know the Otleys, don't you?

PAULINE: Yes, I know. I don't know any of them real well, but

--- I've known the name all my life, and they all know who I am.

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: They all went to school with my dad down at Lawen; they grew up together, so --- Course they lived in a different area than we have, so I haven't had too much close contact with them. But I probably know Hazel about as well --- Hazel and Homer and his boys as well as anybody. Well can you think of anything else that you remember about anything?

MABEL: Just anything?

PAULINE: Just anything.

MABEL: I can't think of anything right offhand.

PAULINE: I'm going to have to go back and talk to your mother some more about her father. He sounded like a really interesting person.

MABEL: Yes. I can't remember him too much. I don't know how old --- I couldn't have been very old.

PAULINE: ...

MABEL: I was about 9 or 10 years old when he passed away. Your mom was out here with me, you know, for a while, and I hadn't saw him for years, so I really don't know too much about him. I can kinda remember him, but not enough to know.

PAULINE: Well she speaks of him so highly, and evidently he's raised his children alone.

MABEL: Well, just about, cause they lost --- my mother lost her mother when she was 5 years old.

PAULINE: That's what she said.

MABEL: And then there was the three of them, and Mom was the youngest one.

PAULINE: I'm not sure that she told me about --- she told me about a brother, that was evidently just older than she was, but I don't think she mentioned ---

MABEL: She had a sister, older, and her brother was older than --- and then Mama. And possibly was about two years difference I would imagine in their ages.

PAULINE: Well just the way she talked I didn't get the --- I always thought there were just the two of them.

MABEL: No, there were the three of them.

PAINE: So if her sister was older, why then she wouldn't have been playing together like her brother and she were.

MABEL: No.

PAULINE: She was telling me about the ride in the --- said every-thing that they could get and climb on --- said cow, dog, or a cat, or a horse, or whatever that they could climb on. They had quite a time.

MABEL: I've heard her talk about it --- just the two of them, and they just --- made their fun.

PAULINE: When did they pave the road into Drewsey from the highway?

MABEL: Let's see, when did they pave that?

PAULINE: It hasn't been an awful long time.

MABEL: Not too awful long, no it hasn't.

PAULINE: I was trying to think if it was paved when I was out here in '69, or '59.

MABEL: No, I don't think so. I think it's just in the last --- I can't think when they did pave that. It hasn't been --- well now the last few years. I don't know just how long it has been. That was sure a big help to Drewsey when they paved that.

PAULINE: Oh, the dust alone!

MABEL: Oh yes, I'll say. And it was a little bit hard to get in. Pretty slick.

PAULINE: In the wintertime.

MABEL: Uh huh. So it was a big help when they did that.

... (Discussion about cats and weather.)

PAULINE: They said in the paper that this was --- there had only been three other winters, or springs I mean, as cold as this one had been in the past 40 years.

MABEL: Oh, for goodness sakes.

PAULINE: And it predicted 30 more days of it.

MABEL: Oh!

PAULINE: So, I don't know.

MABEL: This spring is just like last spring, isn't it? Somebody said it was just the same.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well long cold weather.

MABEL: Yes. ...

PAULINE: Do you know a fellow by the name of Alex Murray?

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: Does he live ---

MABEL: He lives right cross the street over here, but he isn't home today. He is out. I don't think he is ...

PAULINE: He was one of the ones that Eunice told me about that I should see.

MABEL: Yeah, he can tell you quite a bit.

PAULINE: I was wondering if he was home, you know, whether he was home during the daytime very much or not.

MABEL: Well he is most of the time.

PAULINE: So I'll catch him another time.

MABEL: Yes.

PAULINE: I made up my mind that it's going to take a couple of weeks, to come out several days a week to catch everybody.

MABEL: Yes. Sometimes they ... Yeah, he'd probably tell you quite a bit too. Been around here quite awhile. Well, I wasn't very much help to you.

PAULINE: Oh yes you were. If you didn't do anything except get me straightened out on these Bartlett's. That's worth the trip out here. Every little bit and piece fits in, you know. Some of the things that people tell me are the same, about as what someone else told me. They add a little more, you know, and so that's what makes it so interesting to do.

MABEL: I wished I could remember a lot more to tell you.

PAULINE: Well I want to ask you another question about this sawmill before I go, though. Did they use the horses for power, or how did they ---

MABEL: Yes. Well they had horses to haul the logs in. They cut the logs and hauled the logs in with the horses.

PAULINE: Then how did they power their sawmill to get it to work? You know, to get the machinery to work? Or did they do this by hand? Did they saw them by hand?

MABEL: No, they had the ratchet and awl they set up, the mill set up ... by --- how they'd run the mills, you know ---

PAULINE: Steam power?

MABEL: Had a steam engine.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well I didn't realize there was as many sawmills in Harney County, until I started on this project, but my goodness, there were mills everywhere.

MABEL: Yes, there was. I don't know how long they were up there now. I know that they started in there before I even had any children. And then when Jeannie was a baby --- small, I guess, when we left the mill up there. So it's been quite a while ago. You know, that was quite interesting; they'd cut the logs and haul them in with the horses, you know, and then haul them right down to the skidway where they could get them right into the mill and saw them. Mostly rough lumber. ... Mostly rough lumber.

PAULINE: Uh huh. About how many men did you have working in the mill?

MABEL: Let's see. There was about three or four, I think, about four probably. Four, maybe four or five, somewhere along there. Sometimes they'd need an extra one, they'd have another one or so.

PAULINE: Did you do the cooking for the crew?

MABEL: No. Some of the time I did. Yes, some of the time I did.

PAULINE: Did you live right up there close to the mill?

MABEL: Uh huh. Right close, and my folks lived there too. We had a little cabin up there right by their place. Quite a change then and nowadays, wasn't it?

PAULINE: Yes, it is. That's what's so interesting. You know, Ora Dickenson was telling me, and listing off the ones that were down closer into Burns. And then he mentioned the Ott's Mill that he knew was out here.

MABEL: Oh, yes.

PAULINE: But his was the only one he could think of out here, but he knew about that one. But there was, oh, half a dozen mills, little mills here, there, and the other place.

MABEL: Oh, I'll tell you a mill up there, and then they had one up here in Milldale, you know, and then they moved that. Let's see, they had --- they moved Milldale up here.

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MABEL: They moved that from --- Let's see, they had a --- They moved Milldale up here, I guess, and then they moved from up here back up on Calamity someplace up there. And then they moved from there, they sold out. And it seemed like they had a --- I'm not sure whether they got a mill after they left here or whether they just --- after they moved away from here. But yes, there have been sawmills, different ones around. Not too many, I guess, but then they had sawmills here and the other mill, the three different

places.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Mabel, I sure appreciate you taking the time to talk to me.

MABEL: Well that's all right. I'm not very much help, I don't think.

PAULINE: Yeah, you have though. It's surprising when I go to write this all up how much

...

MABEL: Well, yeah that's ---

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