

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #73 - Sides A & B

Subject: Roy Heinz

Place: Hines, Oregon

Date: June 2, 1976

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

(This interview was done with Heinz at the time he was honored by the Harney County Pioneer Association as Pioneer President. Oral permission was given for inclusion of the interview with the Harney County Library Oral History Project.

Heinz was born in Harney County, worked as a rancher, sheep shearer, store keeper and government trapper, and was active in the Harney County Historical Society at the time of his death March 17, 1981 at the age of 81.

Family History: Grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Parker and J. J. and Mary Heinz. Parents: Olive Jane Parker and John William Heinz. Brothers and Sisters: Marian, Stella, William, Arthur, Percy, Leslie, Grover. His mother's brothers and sisters were Elmer Parker, Bertha Oard and Alice Presley. Roy's mother's grandmother was Elizabeth Jane Kelso.

Roy married Anna May Waddel on June 30, 1921 at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Their daughters are Teressa Arntz and Geraldine Schillinger. Her sisters are Bessie Gillis,

Genevieve Tracy and Dorothy Curtis.

His sister Stella died in the flu epidemic in 1918. Percy was killed in a car wreck in about 1957, and Marian died in 1978.)

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Okay, I want to get all the particulars about you. I think I'd like to start with your parents and when they came to Harney County.

ROY HEINZ: Let's see, our dad must have came here in '88.

PAULINE: And what was his name?

ROY: John William Heinz.

PAULINE: Was he married to your mother when he came here?

ROY: No, no, he was only nine years old.

PAULINE: He was only nine years old.

ROY: And my mother was only six when she came up from LaGrande. My dad of course, came from Ohio out here. They drove a team.

PAULINE: What was your grandparent's name?

ROY: He always went by J. J., but his name was also John Heinz. And Grandma Heinz name was, Mary. But I don't know her maiden name. And I know I've heard it.

PAULINE: And your mother came from LaGrande when she was six years old?

ROY: Yeah, let's see. She's eighteen years older than I am and I'm seventy-six. That would be eighteen and seventy-six would be ninety-four, and she came here when she was six. She must have come here in '88, too. About the same time, I imagine. But I think a good many of them come right along about that time.

PAULINE: What was her parents' name?

ROY: I think her, was everybody named John? I think her dad's name was John although he died, oh, before he was too old, you know. And they were just really young kids. And I think ... was the baby. Her name was Jane, well that was her maiden name, Jane ... Let's see try ... Jane. I don't know how you spell that. But Grandma Kelso, that's all she went by. And, of course, my mother stayed with them and she buckarood for them. My mother did.

PAULINE: Does your mother have, did your mother have some sisters that grew up and married and lived here?

ROY: Yeah. I think they all grew up and married here. Then, of course, some of them moved. There's Alice Presley, and Bertha Oard. Of course, her girls all grew up here, you know. Like Baird's wife and Melba McComb. They're all in Burns, and Ilda and Ruby. Ruby isn't here anymore.

PAULINE: Okay, getting Alice Presley tied in there, that makes me clear on how this thing; how the history of John Parker ...

ROY: And then there's my Aunt Florence up in, the sister next to my mother. She moved to California and then she passed away down there. And they had one brother. And I don't remember now if he's living or dead or not. But he was at Redding, California.

PAULINE: Okay, your folks and your mother's folks settled down there at Lawen.

ROY: Yeah.

PAULINE: Were they in the Lawen area or is it part of the refuge? Were they clear down on the lake or were they at ...

ROY: No, do you know where Henry Otley had the place where he built his home, when he got married? Well, that was the place where, that I know of where, my mother's folks lived. Down on that place. And I should have remembered who ... But I think, but I really don't know. It might have belonged to Pete Oard, but my mother's ... her Grandma Parker was, she worked for Pete Oard, he run sheep out there. And kept the house up for him well, and her and the girls. And they stayed there after her first husband had died.

And then the granddad, of course, Heinz, I don't know. I think he settled first down there at the mouth of the river. Down there by the old Showen place there. Right across from where your folks used to live there. Just west of that. And then they had a place out there, of course, four miles north of Crane. But they, I don't know, unless just for, well they had to move out of the lake on account of the water, you know. And so they'd get swamped down there every year, down there. So they'd move up there to the foothills. And like most of ranchers did at that time.

PAULINE: Okay, so you were born down at Lawen. And you went to school at Lawen.

ROY: Yeah, Lawen and Saddle Butte, it's all Lawen country, or better known as Lawen Country, I suppose.

PAULINE: Are you the oldest of the kids?

ROY: Yeah, I'm the oldest ... I guess I was born at that place where my mother's, my grandmother lived. I guess I was born right, just a couple of yards west of there. And there used to be an old house there. And, but it's of course long gone. And then my, oh, I imagine the other kids were too. My sister, I know, was born there. Because I can best remember that, why when the next morning, of course a little after she was born, you know,

why some of the folks asked my brother Marion, if he liked his sister, and he said he was going to break her head. Just like a doll. And so I remembered that place then.

PAULINE: Can you list your brothers and sisters for me?

ROY: Yeah, there was Marion, and Stella, of course she passed away of the flue in '18. And then there's course, Bill and Art, and oh let's see, then there was, Percy. Of course, he was the one that run into the bridge out there by your place. There's Leslie and Grover.

PAULINE: Okay, where does Chester fit into this picture?

ROY: He's an uncle.

PAULINE: He's an uncle. Okay.

ROY: I'm three days older than he is. He's my dad's youngest brother. There was twelve in that family.

PAULINE: I supposed he was your brother.

ROY: No, but lots of people did. And him being younger, 'cause he's a year younger than Marion is ...

PAULINE: Okay, is Marion still living?

ROY: Yeah, he lives at Eugene.

PAULINE: And he lives in ...

ROY: He was up here and him and I run around together this spring.

PAULINE: And where does Bill live now?

ROY: LaPine.

PAULINE: LaPine. And of course Art lives in Burns.

ROY: Yeah.

PAULINE: And Percy's deceased.

ROY: Yeah.

PAULINE: And Leslie?

ROY: He lives in Burns.

PAULINE: He lives in Burns. And Grover?

ROY: Yep, and he's in Burns.

PAULINE: Okay.

ROY: And they're about all here. Well, Bill and Marion of course are ...

PAULINE: Did your folks run cattle or did they try to farm or what did they ...

ROY: They just ranched down there. Oh, they had cattle. That's what they done mostly. Just run a few cattle. And my dad of course run, like a good many of the other settlers, they freighted every spring and fall. They'd haul freight in for the local stores, like Lawen, Narrows, and even Burns.

PAULINE: How big of team did he drive?

ROY: Eight horses.

PAULINE: Eight-horse team?

ROY: Yeah.

PAULINE: And just one wagon then?

ROY: Two.

PAULINE: Two wagons.

ROY: Two wagons, eight horses. And my granddad freighted for a few, for a while. And then some of the boys, my dad's brothers took over and they tried to team. And they'd

make one trip in the fall, and one in the spring, early summer, when the weather was good.

'Cause the roads get pretty, almost impassable in the bad weather, you know.

PAULINE: Did you ever go along on a freight trip?

ROY: Once, when I was pretty small. And we went to the south end --- over to Albertson and they got a load of wool. And they went out, through by Crowley and Skull Springs and came in down by Harper with that load of wool. And then they hauled a load of freight back. So they'd make it pay both ways. And my mother and us kids went along and I think that probably Stella was a baby. It was that long ago. I couldn't have been over four or five years old, six I think. Six years, I was four years older than her. About five or so in there.

Anyway we was in the hotel and we stayed there about a day or two while they were getting all loaded up and getting all unloaded with wool, and loaded up with freight. And they had a charivari there and I had never heard of one before. When I was a little kid there like that it like to scared me to death.

PAULINE: What were some of the things they did? Do you remember anything in particular that they did besides make a lot of noise?

ROY: Well, that was about the size of it, I think. They hunted up all the old tin cans they could. Big cans so they could make a lot of racket. The charivari, oh they probably went in and had drinks. I suppose the women had, I don't know, candies, or cookies, or something, soft drinks. And then of course sometimes I guess they gave them some presents at that time.

PAULINE: Kind of like a shower?

ROY: It was probably like shower now days. Kind of arrived from that. Instead of banging

away so much they just had a shower.

PAULINE: What about your school days? Can you remember anything interesting that happened while you were going to school?

ROY: Oh, gee, I don't know. I started to school when I was seven. And I went to school down there below, well, about two miles from Lawen. Down by where Scott Hayes place --- the schoolhouse used to stand down there, you know. You probably know where it is. Down there by the old Scott Hayes place. And there was a big old house there; they called the Campbell place. And we used to live there. And I don't know, I think we just rented the house and we lived there, or they just lived there to keep it up or something, in the wintertime and we'd go to school. And of course we used to live down there by the old Showen place on the mouth of the river on my granddad's place and go to school until it was spring. We just kind of alternated back and forth to go to school. And we'd skate down at the river there. It would freeze up and we'd skate to school about half the time. And lived way out there, we walked three miles, out there from Herman Ruh's place, you know, by the river. Way out west there by Dog Mountain. From where we lived down there it was about three miles to school.

We had a lot more snow to wade through then than they have now. But we'd go every day. But I think after my first year in school, they moved that schoolhouse, from down there up to Lawen. And my dad helped. Lee Carpenter was the mover, you know, and my dad and I helped him. And I think it was just more or less donation work, you know, to get the school up there. And they laid down planks --- they put a heavy plank under the building, and they laid down planks --- on the ground and then they put a big



roller in between the two and they'd pull it up so far with the team. And the stake drove way out there on a cable. And they'd pull it up so far and then they'd have to stop and go back and get the planks and the roller and start all over. It took quite awhile to move it. I can remember I watched them do it.

Then I went to school, I went to school in Lawen, and there a few times to Helene Swain's. And at that time there was about thirty of us went to school there. I don't think they had that many since. She taught down there for a number of years, at Lawen.

PAULINE: Well, I understand you did some haying too, as a kid. I understand they put you in the hay fields pretty early as a kid.

ROY: Oh, as soon as we, oh I don't think we were over ten or twelve years old, and we used to go out there and we'd help to set the net. It may take two or three of us to do it. We'd have one pull back ride horse and pull back net then about two would set it, you know. The ones keep the chains straight. And people would be scared to death now if they thought their kids was going to be out there working around the horses and that machinery, and we used to do it all the time.

PAULINE: Well, it's against the law now. You can't do it now.

ROY: Yeah, well, that was one way of kids learning how to run things. To be able to go get a job just as soon as they were oh, like me, I went to work down to Frank Catterson's, south of Lawen, down by the old Jordan place there. I went to work down there when I was about fifteen years old. And I started stacking hay when I was seventeen. All in one big stack. And I stacked hay for, up here on the Company Ranch, down at the Green house and at the Island. There were three crews there. In that one year I stacked over

five thousand ton of hay there for Frank Catterson. When Allen Jones, and Hokes ... forget what his first name was --- first one and then the other run that Island Ranch at that time. And I stacked there, for ... I was boss stacker for Catterson. And the hay was higher than your head some of it. And it took about three of us to pull them big shocks of hay apart.

PAULINE: That head stacker really had to know what he was doing because he said where the hay went, didn't he? He'd put his pitchfork down and that's where they'd dump it.

ROY: Yeah, and hold it and raise it up this way when you wanted to dump it, you know. And of course the fellow that drove Jim pull up to you, you know, why, he was a watching' for our signal. And he'd give it a jerk and stop it right there. Yeah, and it was quite a job. And so many times you'd have new stackers. Somebody trying to learn, you know. And then it would make a little extra work for you, because I'd have to change sides with him, in order that we wouldn't loose the side out of the stack. And 'till we'd get him kind of broke in, how to do it.

I remember one stack of hay we put up down there along, between the ... where Ormand and Standley had that in the big stack there and then back over by the Red S Field where the fence went down through there. I think it's still there yet. And we put up one stack right along side of that. And that stack was a hundred and ten feet long and had over a hundred and twenty ton of hay in it. Just a big stack.

PAULINE: Was that all one year's crop?

ROY: Yeah, we just built a new stack there, and they had an awful lot of hay in it, too. That ... hay there in that big swamp the Big Red S and the little one, too. And the grass in

there grew as high as the tulles. Pretty near as high as a horse's back. They called that sugar grass.

But during that drought, around about '30-'29 or early '30's, they lost pretty near all that grass. It got too dry and it dried out. And it hasn't come back very good. In fact, about all they got in there is slough grass now, where they used to have good hay.

PAULINE: Well, the country changed quite a bit, I think. You know, just from talking to people about it ...

ROY: Well for instance, I was telling folks here not too long ago that have come to me. But our winters have changed so. We used to have more snow down at Lawen, than they ever have up there now. And up here, borrow-pits and that would drift full ... and then get in the road and get them ... full of snow. And the snow would drift into the haystacks, into the side of the haystacks and the corrals. And the stock would walk over the top across the fence, you know. And get into the corral enough to ...

I don't know just how they did manage it, to keep them out of there put them in a different field, I guess, or something. Because they'd just walk right over the top of that crusted snow, when it drifted that way. And I know even down, even around Lawen Country, used to build these bobsleds. And they'd feed with them, 'cause they were lower than the wagon. And, of course they pulled around through the snow better than a wagon. And we'd feed pretty near all winter on a bobsled. Now, if you have enough snow down there to run a bobsled on it for two days you'd be lucky.

PAULINE: Yeah, that would really be pushing it.

ROY: Yeah. And it's just changed that much. I don't know how a country could change

that much. Maybe it'll change back, someday.

PAULINE: Well, they say things run in cycles so ...

ROY: Well, I suppose.

PAULINE: I was talking to Howard Miller here one time and he said when his granddad or father, I've forgotten which it was, I think it was his grandparents that came in. But they came in really early. And those first few years that they were here, the winters were so mild that they didn't even bother to put up hay. 'Cause there was, you know, open winters. And then wham --- about '88 ---

ROY: '89 and '90 was a hard winter.

PAULINE: And they were hit with that hard winter and lost so much stock because they weren't prepared. Those first few years they were here in 1884, it was just open winter.

ROY: And that lasted on up to, I must have been four or five years old. The folks moved the cattle and was going to move them out to the hills, you know, to turn them out, you know. We had had some pretty nice weather but it came, oh gee, about eighteen inches of snow, you know, down there around Saddle Butte. And it just happened to be the only year they ever put up any hay on the ranch there. And they hauled out some hay and they got the cattle out there at the ranch and they fed them there for about two weeks.

And the Company turned out a lot of cattle, out there by Windy Point. And they got, I remember one bunch they got, they lost a lot of cattle in that spot. And there was about eighty head of them in that one fence corner that died. Just no feed and got caught there --- tried to come back to the ranch, I suppose, where they had been fed. And they were, got caught in the fence corners there and died. They've changed so much. And now we

don't get enough snow ...

PAULINE: No. Well, you've done, in your lifetime, a lot of trapping too, haven't you?

ROY: Yeah, oh I've done a little trapping pretty near all the time. We trapped down there at the lake for muskrats and one thing and another. And I got started in the latter years, trapping coyotes. The last two years, three, we trapped coyotes and I was teaching my brother Art, how to do it. And they got, let's see, two years ago, we got eighty-seven. And last year we got seventy-three, I think. But we waited a little, oh maybe two or three weeks later than we should have, to start. And then, of course, I sheared sheep for twenty-eight springs.

PAULINE: Now, that is something else I think we should talk about, too. How old were you when you started shearing sheep?

ROY: Seventeen. I sheared at Riverside and I sheared, the first year I went down there, sheared a hundred and ten thousand head there. But there were twenty-two shearers and I was just learning.

PAULINE: Oh, wow!

ROY: Twenty-two shearers and I was just one of them. And the next year we sheared about, of course that would be in '17 or '18. And in '18 then they sheared about ninety thousand, and I don't think they sheared over about ten thousand at the most ever since, because they quit trailing the sheep off of the Steens Mountains. They trailed them plumb down to Riverside to shear them.

PAULINE: And then they started just shearing them ...

ROY: They made a portable plant and they moved the plant, instead of moving the sheep

so far. Because, gee, there's nothing but a dust trail down there on both sides.

PAULINE: That would be awful hard on the sheep, too.

ROY: Oh, and they go so far to feed, you know, it's hard on the sheep to drive them that far. And then turn around and come right back with them. And I sheared around nine thousand head one year. Sometimes I didn't get near that many. That just happened to be one good year. And I sheared in Nevada, California, Oregon and Montana. But that was a good deal because, well, like your Uncles, Standley and Ormand (Ausmus) we all, well I think Standley learned just after I did and Ormand was going when I started. You could go out there and in three months time you could probably make yourself five or six hundred dollars, you know. And otherwise you'd have to have yourself a steady job year around to make that much, in those days.

PAULINE: Yeah, that was good money in those days. That was; that's almost two hundred dollars a month.

SIDE B

PAULINE: Can you tell me how much you got paid for shearing sheep?

ROY: Well, the first time we had eight cents a head.

PAULINE: How many could you do, in a day's time?

ROY: Oh, about an average of probably a hundred and thirty or forty a day. Some of them averaged a lot more than that, but I was just learning.

PAULINE: After you were at it for twenty-three years how many could you do in a day by the time you retired?

ROY: Oh, probably an average of a hundred and sixty to a hundred and eighty.

PAULINE: Yeah. Did the pay ever get any better or ...

ROY: Yeah, in the latter years we got, it went up to fifteen. It went up to twelve cents, and then to fifteen, and the last I sheared on the big job was twenty cents. But we did a lot of traveling around for that too. There would be days we wouldn't be working, you know, going from one place. Especially coming from California up here and then going into Montana.

PAULINE: Well, what did your equipment include? You needed a ... you needed a searing knife?

ROY: It was a electric clippers. And not too much different than the, oh, they were bigger than the barber's clippers, you know, but a little different, but work on the same principle. And you needed at least one of these; of course you had to have one, and quite a few tools. That is, extra blades to put on, you know. And of course, you had to have your bedroll and clothes and that was about the extent of what you needed.

PAULINE: Well, in the earlier days back in 1918, 1919, I was trying to think when you said you started shearing. You were seventeen. You were born in '99.

ROY: Yeah, December 20 ...

PAULINE: And you were seventeen. That's about 1926 that you started then. Did they have electricity? You couldn't plug into electricity out there?

ROY: Well, when we first started, we had a line shack and it was run by a gasoline engine, motor. They finally changed over to electricity, but at that time they didn't have electric motors, you know, for our plant to, that could put out enough for one of them shearing

crews. And it was portable. I followed that for twenty-eight years.

PAULINE: Well, in later years you'd have an electric plant that you'd take along.

ROY: Yeah, oh like the Dewey Quier run the crew and Frank Steele. Well, of course Dewey, he had motor and the plant. They had the whole plant, the motors and all. And we had to have, each man had to have a motor, and a hanger. But that was all, that was his job to have that stuff there. And we would help him set it up and that would furnish the power for us for shearing with. I sheared all over California. That is, from Sacramento up this way I sheared sheep down there one fall in Sacramento. I think Sacramento is a part of the town now, is Sacramento. One of the girls was asking me about something else ...

You know when the train first come into Crane? My dad and my two uncles and myself, we cleared seventy-eight acres of that ground that Crane stands on. We grubbed the sagebrush off of it. And they were building that road out there, by the stockyards and they had these wheel scrapers. And the girls were asking me about this the other day. And this, I was so amused by it, you couldn't forget it because every noon and evening when it come time to quit them mules would just stop and they'd all start braying.

PAULINE: They knew it was time.

ROY: 'Cause they hauled the wagon. And they just, they knew it was quitting time and how they knew I don't know. I couldn't have guessed that quick. But they knew right on the minute. And they had a whole string of them, you know. Oh, goodness, I don't know, it must have been fifteen or twenty of them. And then two fellows to load it. Just like a great big Fresno only it had two wheels on it, you know, like wagon wheels. And they could set that so it would scoop up dirt and then they'd lift it up, and they'd take off with it and it



would be on the wheels. And they moved that dirt from out there where you cross the railroad track, from the stockyards, I guess they did lots of work that way with those horses.

Where there wasn't too much rock or something.

PAULINE: Are Teressa and Gerry your only ...

ROY: Yeah, that's the only daughters --- only children I have. Then I got eight grandchildren. Actually it was nine because Tony's twin passed away, you know, when he was just a few hours old. And then I have six great-grandchildren.

PAULINE: Well, when were you married? Can you tell me that?

ROY: Yeah.

PAULINE: Your wife.

ROY: I lived with my wife's folks two years before we were married. And we went to school together two years before that ...

PAULINE: What was her name?

ROY: Anna May Waddel. And we were married in, June the 30th, 1921. And we were at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, at that time. We moved up there in the fall and moved back again the next fall. And I run the ranch down there by Saddle Butte for the next twenty-five years. Had it a little longer than that but ... And of course, this year sold out to the government. Right there on the north end of the dike. They call it the shooting area now.

PAULINE: Oh yeah, I know where the sign ...

ROY: Yeah, it's right there below Saddle Butte. And then of course the two girls went to school in Crane except the first year, Teressa went to school up there. And they spent all their school years there. And we finally moved out to Crane, and lived there for a few

years.

I run the store at Crane, I had the store at Crane for three years. I still have, I still have some papers here that's got Heinz Cash Store.

PAULINE: Heinz Cash Store?

ROY: Yeah.

PAULINE: What did you sell? Just general merchandise?

ROY: Well, groceries and horse feed, and not very many clothes or anything, just mostly groceries.

PAULINE: Was it in business before you ran it? Did you take over from someone else or ...

ROY: No, no, the stores had quit and they burned up the old Vale Trading Store there, you know, and Denman Hotel. And they left them without any store. And it went on there for about a year or two, and then I kinda decided that they, maybe we could do all right there. And we did all right, of course, it wasn't nothing big.

PAULINE: Do you remember the day of that fire? I've forgotten, when the Denman Hotel and ...

ROY: Gee, I don't know.

PAULINE: Your papers are dated 1940, so it must have been about 1940 when you were in business.

ROY: Yeah, that would be, let's see, yeah, because I started trapping, I had some folks run the store. And the girls had come down and helped some. And I trapped for the government on the lake, started in '41, the fall of '41. And I trapped up until 1950.

... (Pause in Tape)

ROY: One time, I caught almost 19,000 muskrats that the government didn't keep. Caught 3,500 out there one fall --- one winter that is. There was an awful lot of muskrats out there on that lake then. In fact there were too many. And, seems like I've done so many things.

PAULINE: Yes, you have, you've had a very varied life from a store keeper, to a sheep shearer, to government trapper and ...

ROY: Well, I, seems like I tried to work where the best pay was. Lets see, in '40, '41 that little place I had, Dewey Quier had just showed me how to catch those coyotes. And during the month of October in '41 I caught a hundred and seventy-eight coyotes. And now we can trap, we trap three months to catch probably eighty. You know, an average of that. So there had to be more coyotes than there is now. But there was a reason for people not noticing them so much, because there was so many rabbits and birds for them to eat that they never bothered the stock. And now it's only a few rabbits and the birds are so short so they get hungry, they eat something.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well, this is a weird question to ask you but it comes to mind, talking about coyotes. Do you think, or do you have any possible cattle mutilations, do you think the coyotes are doing that?

ROY: No.

PAULINE: You know what I'm talking about?

ROY: You mean with those cattle that were killed? No, I don't think so at all.

PAULINE: Have you observed, do you, you know the carcasses laying out, where does

the coyote usually start to work on him?

ROY: Well, they usually won't start for a week or so. Especially if somebody is bothering around. I noticed that, being a trapper, I've noticed that a lot of times. For instance, down there at the Narrows, they had a mule die down there in the lane and they drug it out to west of the road about right where that cattle guard is there. And I, of course already had some traps set out in that country and so I, but there didn't seem to be anything working on it. So I just kept a watching that mule. But finally after about a week or ten days they began to come in and go to working on that thing. And they had trails in and then I set the traps and I caught eight then.

And then they had, I noticed, that numerous times that if anybody's monkeyed around the carcass at all, like dragging it off, why, they won't bother it. They maybe will come look in there but they won't ... as far as mutilating the stock --- that's pretty far fetched, I think.

PAULINE: Well, I'll have to agree with you. But that's what the official line is, that it's predators that are doing this.

ROY: No, it's not. It's not them that's doing it, because, for instance, down there on this side of Saddle Butte there Jiggs Catterson lost a cow down there in the Moon Field.

PAULINE: Yeah.

ROY: And we happened along there the morning that his son found it, and he was pretty hot under the collar of course, and I couldn't blame him. He definitely said then when he was talking to us that it was cut. It wasn't torn like a bird or coyote or anything would do it, would tear the hide, you know. But that was just clean cut.

So no, I kinda go along with the theory that that was some cult, you know. You've heard about it. But it, and the funny thing about it, it didn't leave ... I think it was done by helicopter.

PAULINE: Yeah.

ROY: Because there's no car tracks there.

PAULINE: Well, this is the thing, you know, it's not happening just here. It's happening all over the western United States. And Colorado has been hit harder than any other place, I think. They just don't come up with any clues at all.

ROY: And it, of course, when we just happened to get hit in the last couple of years with it, you know. I don't know if there's any this year or not.

PAULINE: Not yet, I don't think, not yet. I hope we don't have any more. We lost two.

ROY: Yeah, I knew you folks lost two. Well, they, they didn't, you probably observed those. And didn't they look more or less like a clean cut than a being just tore open.

PAULINE: No, I didn't look at them myself. But my husband found the last one. The sheriff was, found the first one before we did. But the second one Allan found and it looked like it was cut to him. And he had the Vet come out and the Vet said it was cut. And they took a piece of it and looked at it in the microscope and said no, it was chewed. But you know ...

ROY: Well, if it was chewed and one by a coyote then they wouldn't have to have a microscope to see it.

PAULINE: Well, this was my idea that was if it was chewed you wouldn't have to look at it under a microscope to see that it was chewed.

ROY: That is true.

PAULINE: But at any rate, under the microscope they said that they could see where the hairs were kind of, you know, some of them go this way and some of them go this way along the side of it. It wasn't clean cut like a razor sharp would be. But at any rate ...

ROY: Because they didn't have a sharp knife.

PAULINE: Maybe that wasn't too sharp. I wondered what you thought about that. Well, I'm going to have to take off here pretty soon.

Can you think of anything else that we should include in this history of your life for Pioneer Day?

ROY: Oh.

PAULINE: Did you go to high school?

ROY: No.

PAULINE: You didn't go?

ROY: I started to go the year they had the flu and they, of course they stopped the school and I never got started back again.

PAULINE: Well, from the description of your work it sounded like ...

ROY: And there's only one incident that I remember, my granddad and Mrs. Middleton lived out there by the Hot Springs. They fenced their places which was grain fields, with rabbit wire. Wire fencing, that is. And it came to Juntura before the railroad came on and we had to go to Juntura after it. And I was about fourteen then, I think. And I drove the team down there and loaded that wire. Of course, my granddad handled the team and my uncle too. There was three of us. And there was a fourteen-year-old boy driving a team of

four horses down there with a load of wire. Of course, we learned how to do that when we was kids. And it wasn't no problem for us.

PAULINE: Well, you knew what you were doing.

ROY: Yeah, we learned how to do it. And it was just one of the things you learned as you grew up. And then if you get the same situation now a days these boys would know how to do it too. But then, times have changed.

PAULINE: Yeah, they certainly have. I'm not saying not for the better either, but I think some of our work values have deteriorated. I don't think that young people have the ...

ROY: Yeah, I think so. It don't seem to work out a lot.

PAULINE: Of course, I'd hate to have to work as hard as my grandmother worked to keep house, you know. I'm too lazy for that sort of thing, and I don't want to do that at all. I'd rather do this.

ROY: I don't know what made me do it, but I must of picked the hardest jobs for a man to do. But that's where the best money was. So, of course, that was what I was interested in. Well, the old folks, they put in a lot of long hours. They didn't have all the modern machinery so they did it the hard way. I did work three months up here on the railroad, up here in Silvies Valley when they was building that railroad up there. Worked three months on the roadbed.

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