

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #78 - Side B

Subject: Loyal Rhodes

Place: Bend, Oregon

Date: March 20, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

Release Form: No

(NOTE: This portion of the interview is in the middle of the tape on Side A.)

EDWARD GRAY: This is Ed Gray again on 3-24-1991; the following tape is an interview with Loyal Rhodes, whose father homesteaded near Stauffer, Oregon, in Bill Brown country. ...

LOYAL RHODES: ... runway at the last homestead, the one that we proved up on, it was the other one. After we proved up, we got another 340 acres. There was a runway went up over the rim there. And we tracked Bradley, we went and got that horse and went up over that rim, just one-horse track. And he had shoes on, had light shoes on, and most of the people didn't shoe their horses out there. We knew that that was that horse. And we went as far as Silver Lake. He got there and moved out of Silver Lake and, you know, everybody just, oh just forget it. Nobody knew where he went. Never did get the horse.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's where he was from.

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: The Bradley's were from Silver Lake.

LOYAL: Yeah, but he never, nobody ever got their horse back. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Well, a horse to them, to you, would mean about like a car right now, right?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Somebody steal your car you get kind of p.o.'d.

LOYAL: Well, yeah, you know. You break a horse, and you don't want somebody to steal it, because there's a lot of other horses out there that aren't broke. They can go get one of their own, you know. You just don't steal horses out there.

EDWARD: Did you ever go up to Bradley's cabin?

LOYAL: Yeah, I've been there.

EDWARD: What was it like, just a little shack, or ---

LOYAL: Oh, it was probably 10 x 12 x 16, something like that.

EDWARD: Little tiny.

LOYAL: Yeah, just tiny.

EDWARD: Was it made out of boards?

LOYAL: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Unfinished?

LOYAL: Yeah, just old rough boards. Bat, most of that stuff out there was bat and boards.

EDWARD: Yeah. Wonder if it came from the ... mill?

LOYAL: I doubt it, it probably, it might have though.

EDWARD: It's a long ways, isn't it?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did you ever go to Link Hutton's house?

LOYAL: Oh yeah, I've been up there.

EDWARD: Was that a nicer place?

LOYAL: It was a nicer place. He had lots of money, Link did. He had a pretty good-sized spread out there.

EDWARD: Did you ever go to Dobkins place?

LOYAL: Not that I know of no. I don't know too much about Dobkins.

EDWARD: Sutherland, yeah Sutherland, James Sutherland, and America Sutherland?

LOYAL: No, I don't remember.

EDWARD: Don't remember them?

LOYAL: No.

EDWARD: She was a sister to Link, America. That was her name.

LOYAL: America?

EDWARD: Yeah, America Sutherland.

LOYAL: I probably did know them when we was out there. But I don't really remember them now.

EDWARD: Yeah. Do you remember, recall Tom Hutton?

LOYAL: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: Was he older, or younger?

LOYAL: He was younger.

EDWARD: Do you have any idea what happened to the Hutton's?

LOYAL: No, I don't.

EDWARD: Nobody does.

LOYAL: No, I don't, really.

EDWARD: They just seem to be just swallowed into the earth or something, just disappeared.

LOYAL: Went away. Yeah, I don't know. You know there was a Perry out there too.

EDWARD: A who?

LOYAL: John Perry.

EDWARD: Perry?

LOYAL: Yeah, he had ...

EDWARD: Okay.

LOYAL: And that's where John Perry lived. He had a boy that just absolutely, just disappeared. Nobody ever knew what happened to that boy.

EDWARD: Was he herding sheep?

LOYAL: No.

EDWARD: He just totally disappeared.

LOYAL: He was a well driller. He drilled a lot of wells out on the desert.

EDWARD: What, in the 1920's?

LOYAL: No, it was after that.

EDWARD: After, later.

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: After 1930 then?

LOYAL: Yeah, he came to town, and he built an apartment house down here on Riverfront.

EDWARD: Oh, oh.

LOYAL: And from there, after he built that apartment house he went down to California and got married and came back. And he just simply took off, and nobody ever --- And his folks never heard from him or nothing.

EDWARD: Oh, he didn't take off in the desert?

LOYAL: No, no.

EDWARD: Oh, I see.

LOYAL: But he was raised on the desert.

EDWARD: Yeah. Any other stories about that Wagontire area that would be of interest to Oregon history?

LOYAL: Well, I don't know as there is, only --- I got some pictures I want to show you.

EDWARD: Yeah, I want to get that map too. Oh, just one other thing too, Loyal. You ever hear --
- I don't know where this came from --- of a singing Bill?

LOYAL: A singing Bill?

EDWARD: No?

LOYAL: No.

EDWARD: He up and disappeared out there too. Of course, a lot of these guys might have just left, you know, said to heck with it. Singing Bill, he was supposedly a rustler. They probably stole

a lot of Bill Brown's horses.

LOYAL: Well, there was a guy out there by the name of Cecil Albert. Now he got to old Bill Brown pretty good.

EDWARD: Cecil Albert?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: He ripped off, stole his horses?

LOYAL: No, somebody stole a bunch of sheep off of Bill Brown. And he, old Bill Brown gave him a checkbook and signed all those checks and sent him down to California to find these sheep. And he never found the sheep, but he come back with a brand new Hudson automobile. An old one, you know, in those days, real old, but he came back with a new Hudson automobile.

EDWARD: This Cecil did?

LOYAL: Yeah. Yeah, he just ripped old Bill Brown off something terrible.

EDWARD: Why in the world didn't Bill Brown do something? I don't understand that.

LOYAL: Well --- did you ever hear the story about him when he was engaged to that woman?

EDWARD: Oh, the Shields girl?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOYAL: Tore up the necklace he gave her, yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. That necklace was stolen two years ago. I was in the house that it was stolen from.

LOYAL: Is that right?

EDWARD: And I got the picture of that girl. Its Marie Shields, I mean Myra Shields, yeah.

LOYAL: Yeah. She didn't want to have Bill Brown's brand on her. And she missed the boat; you know that. Old Bill Brown was a good old boy.

EDWARD: Did he ever come into your, come over to your father's place --- mother and father's place and eat?

LOYAL: Oh yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Just sit around and talk?

LOYAL: Yeah. Old Bill Brown was just a common old guy. Real nice old man.

EDWARD: Did he walk a lot?

LOYAL: Yeah, he just walked. He took great big strides. Boy he'd just walk --- walked everywhere he went, never rode.

EDWARD: Never rode a horse?

LOYAL: No, never.

EDWARD: Did he ever drive a car?

LOYAL: No.

EDWARD: Somebody drove for him, I think.

LOYAL: Yeah, well in those days there wasn't too many cars.

EDWARD: No, that's true.

LOYAL: There was a few old Dodges that run around, and an old 1918, '16, whatever it was, you know. There was a guy that had a mail route out there. I can't remember his name, seems like it was Griffith, but I'm not sure, but anyway he had an old Dodge. That once in awhile, I guess, Bill would come into Bend on that old stage line, then go back. That's the only time I ever seen, ever heard of Bill ever riding in a car.

EDWARD: Oh, from Bend to Hampton or something?

LOYAL: To Bend too.

EDWARD: Oh, I see, yeah.

LOYAL: The mail come into Bend, see.

EDWARD: Yeah. Did he ever pick up mail at the Stauffer Post Office? I suppose he could have.

LOYAL: He could have, but I don't think he did. See his headquarters was over at Buck Creek.

EDWARD: Right.

LOYAL: And most of his mail and everything went to Buck Creek.

EDWARD: At Fife.

LOYAL: At Fife, yeah.

EDWARD: Another thing I almost forgot. Did you ever hear any stories from anybody on the Overstreet shooting?

LOYAL: I remember something about that, but I don't remember enough to even remember to talk about really.

EDWARD: Yeah. I cannot pinpoint yet, where that happened. I think it may have been on Lost Creek. Because if Bill Brown first settled at Lost Creek, in about 1881, did he ever mention to your dad or mom, or anybody where he first came and pitched a camp?

LOYAL: No. But I think probably that was out at Lost Lake. And that's what the Lost Creek Valley was named after. There is a lake at the east end of that valley.

EDWARD: Is that ---

LOYAL: A little creek run into it.

EDWARD: Is that Lost Creek that runs into it?

LOYAL: Yeah, yeah. And one time, now this is pretty true, I think, that some cow people didn't like sheep coming in there, you know. And they made Bill get down and bark at his sheep, but they didn't only did it one time. I don't know who the guy was he killed, but he killed a guy.

EDWARD: Overstreet.

LOYAL: Probably Overstreet.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOYAL: I'm sure it was. But I can't really pinpoint it.

EDWARD: Yeah, and that's the trouble. Pinpointing the year, and where that happened. It was probably 1885.

LOYAL: Well, I think that happened before we ever got out there.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

LOYAL: You know.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOYAL: But we heard about it. Now see because it is hearsay.

EDWARD: Oh yeah. Did anybody ever point out where that happened?

LOYAL: Yeah, right up on Lost Creek.

EDWARD: Right on Lost Creek.

LOYAL: Yeah, right on Lost Creek.

EDWARD: Somebody said that's where Bill Brown shot ---

LOYAL: Yeah, right in that territory.

EDWARD: Do we call that, Loyal, do we call that a lake or a sink where the Lost Creek just sinks?

LOYAL: No, they called it Lost Lake.

EDWARD: They call it Lost Lake.

LOYAL: Lost Creek Lake. And that's what the name of the valley was named after too, Lost Creek Lake.

EDWARD: Okay.

LOYAL: Lost Creek Valley.

EDWARD: I'm pretty sure that's where that shooting occurred.

LOYAL: Well, I think it is too, but I --- like I say that happened before we got there.

EDWARD: Yeah, about, probably 1885. Now that guy he shot is supposed to be in the Silver Creek Cemetery.

LOYAL: Well ---

EDWARD: I've been there too. But that helps. I think you're right; I think it was Lost.

LOYAL: Well, I think it's true, yeah. Like I say, it's all hearsay as far as we was concerned, you know.

SIDE B

EDWARD: This is Edward Gray; I'm talking with Loyal Rhodes in Bend on 3-20-91 about Bill

Brown. Okay. What was your parent's names, Loyal?

LOYAL: My dad's name was Benjamin.

EDWARD: Benjamin?

LOYAL: Benjamin Franklin.

EDWARD: Rhodes.

LOYAL: Rhodes.

EDWARD: And your mom's?

LOYAL: Pearl Adelia.

EDWARD: Pearl Adelia, that's a pretty name.

LOYAL: Pearl Adelia.

EDWARD: What was her maiden name?

LOYAL: Ashby.

EDWARD: Ashby. And they came to the Stauffer area in 1912?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: And where did they come from?

LOYAL: Gibson City, Illinois.

EDWARD: They came straight from Illinois to the Stauffer area?

LOYAL: No, no, they didn't.

EDWARD: Okay.

LOYAL: I'll tell you what happened. In those days they sent all this literature, just like they did down here at Christmas Valley. Sent the literature all over the world, you know. So, it came back East, and my dad was kind of an adventurer, you know, he was the only one at that time that had any inkling to come out to the West. So, he came out to the West, he left us all there at Gibson. He came out, and he come as far as Spokane, and he got a job working in a wheat factory there, wheat warehouse. Then he moved to Sprague, Washington. Then he called and had my mother come out. So, we lived at Sprague, Washington for, oh a year I guess, or something like that. We lost one

sister; I lost one sister there. She is buried in Sprague, Washington. And then I had another sister born there while we were there. She's still alive; she's 79 years old.

And then we, Dad in the meantime had come on out and filed on this homestead out here. Then he went back to Sprague and worked to get the money to build the fences and whatever they had to do to prove up on the homestead, you know. So, when he got the work done on the homestead, to prove it up, you know to keep it a going, then he'd go out and work for Bill Brown. Now this is after we had all moved out on the desert.

EDWARD: That would have been after 1912?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: He worked for Bill Brown after that?

LOYAL: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: What did he do for Bill Brown?

LOYAL: He done everything. He got to be kind of a foreman at the Gap Ranch. I suppose you've heard of the Gap Ranch.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

LOYAL: Yeah. Well, my mother cooked there, and my dad worked there. Took care of the harness and whatever he had to do. And my mother cooked there. And we didn't go to school, it was in the summertime, you know.

EDWARD: Did your dad; did your dad only work there during the summer?

LOYAL: Well, sometimes he'd work in the wintertime too. But my mother didn't, she stayed home at the ranch, and us kids went to school.

EDWARD: And you went to school at Stauffer?

LOYAL: Well, it was a mile and a half from our place; it was a mile east of Stauffer. There is nothing there, only the drilled well is still there, and a few boards. I know right where it's at; I found the well here the last trip I was out there. It is a drilled hole about that big around, and it has a little moisture in the bottom of it yet. But that was a mile and a half, and we walked most of the time to

school. My dad, and a bunch of the homesteaders out there, they did build a barn to hold about three saddle horses. And then we got to riding horses to school, because there was a barn, and feed them, you know. Then after school was out, my job was to go rustle the cattle, because we turned them right out on the open range.

EDWARD: Now whose cattle, yours?

LOYAL: Ours.

EDWARD: Yours, the Rhodes cattle?

LOYAL: Yeah, we had milk cows, and some beef cows too.

EDWARD: You just left the cattle go?

LOYAL: Yeah, uh huh.

EDWARD: When did you round them up, in March, April?

LOYAL: No, no they come home every night.

EDWARD: Oh, oh, I see.

LOYAL: We didn't have that many cattle. They came home at night, all of them, you know. Until the ZX moved in there, that's partly what broke the people on the high desert, when ZX come in there with all their cattle.

EDWARD: Run them off the range, didn't they?

LOYAL: Yeah. They did go around your place. We had a good well and water. They'd just, around our fences and eat up all the grass around, so we couldn't turn our cattle out. If we did, when they rounded up, they'd take whatever they got and took them all up to Paisley. Then of course, that was before you had trailers or anything. They'd go --- write you a letter and tell you, well we've got four or five head of your cattle down there, you better come and get them. So, we'd take a saddle horse and go down and get them, 60 miles.

EDWARD: They probably did that on purpose.

LOYAL: Well ---

EDWARD: You think?

LOYAL: I'm not sure, but they sure did turn a lot of cattle loose in there, thousands of head, thousands of head.

EDWARD: And this was during --- was this summer range?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: I see, okay. And then the winter range the ZX took their cattle back to Chewaucan and

LOYAL: Yeah, took them back, and took ours with them ---

EDWARD: Right, right.

LOYAL: --- you know.

EDWARD: And if you had a homesteader that didn't want to fight much, he'd just probably say leave them.

LOYAL: Well, they'd give you, they'd write and tell you we'll give you \$10.00 for them, whatever, \$5.00. They'd just --- we'll take it. But that's all we had, just a few cattle. Then we finally got a couple hundred head of sheep. And they run wild too, they'd run out, then come home every night.

EDWARD: How --- when did, how long did your dad work at the Gap Ranch, do you have any idea, Loyal?

LOYAL: Well, it's hard to say, probably 5 or 6 years.

EDWARD: From end of 1912 to 1918, maybe?

LOYAL: Well, yeah, but more like 1918, you know. Because dad had to do quite a bit of work on the homestead, prove it up, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOYAL: But Dad helped Bill Brown with all of his lambing. And that's where we got our 200 sheep, was from Bill Brown.

EDWARD: I see. Was that for payment?

LOYAL: No, we'd pick up the lambs that the ewes wouldn't have anything to do with; we called them bummers. And I'd take a wagon over there, and I'd follow these sheep and I'd pick up these

bummers. I picked up 200 head, brought them home and fed them cows' milk until they could go on their own.

EDWARD: Would that be in, lambing is in what, March?

LOYAL: February and March.

EDWARD: February and March.

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Where did Bill Brown have his lambing sheds, do you recall?

LOYAL: Actually, he didn't have much for lambing sheds. He lambed right out in the open.

EDWARD: Right out in the desert?

LOYAL: Yeah. And a lot of that was done over at Benjamin Lake, out of Benjamin Lake, and that's just a little ways beyond Brown's Well.

EDWARD: Right, right. And Brown's Well was owned by Bill Brown.

LOYAL: Yeah, it was. Yeah. Well, Bill Brown owned pretty near everything in those days.

EDWARD: Did --- how many sheep men and buckaroos did he employ, do you have any idea, at any given time?

LOYAL: Well, we'll take it from here. He had one; two, three, he had three big corrals built in that territory around Stauffer.

EDWARD: Around Stauffer, okay.

LOYAL: They'd be eight or ten miles apart, you know. Then he'd have maybe ten cowboys, ten or twelve, whatever it was, you know, and they would round these horses up, bring them all in and put them in these corrals. They'd brand them and take care of them, you know. And then they'd turn them right back out and the cowboys would go after them on horses.

EDWARD: The Horseshoe Bar brand.

LOYAL: Horseshoe Bar on both jaws.

EDWARD: Both jaws?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did --- how long did he have his horses, do you have any idea, Loyal? Did he give them up after World War I?

LOYAL: Well, he sold a lot of those horses in World War I to the French, French government. In those days it was all cavalry with horses, you know. And most of those cowboys would ride those horses twice, then the government man would come in and buy them and take them out.

EDWARD: They'd break them just twice?

LOYAL: Just rode them twice, and they wasn't broke.

EDWARD: No, they must have been wilder than ---

LOYAL: Oh, they was wild as a March hare, you know.

EDWARD: How did they load them --- they got them to the corrals, and then they loaded them --- how did they transport them out of there?

LOYAL: They run them mostly by cowboys cross-country.

EDWARD: To Lakeview or something?

LOYAL: No, they had to take most of them to Burns.

EDWARD: To Burns?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Then they loaded them in trains or something?

LOYAL: Well, they --- let's see when did they --- I forget when the train come into Burns. But it came from Ontario to Burns and stopped there, see. Then they loaded these horses there and shipped them.

EDWARD: Shipped them.

LOYAL: I suppose Chicago, or somewhere.

EDWARD: Is that how Bill Brown took care of his sheep too, did he herd them someplace, or ---

LOYAL: Yeah, that's the only way you could do it. You didn't have trucks or anything to transport them in, in those days, you know.

EDWARD: Who --- where did these horse buckaroos, and cowboys, where did they stay? Just stay

out in the desert; just roll their blanket out?

LOYAL: Well, they had horse camps all over the desert.

EDWARD: Oh, they did?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Like little cabins?

LOYAL: No, they were tents.

EDWARD: Tents?

LOYAL: Yeah. They were tents in everyplace, spotted around. And they had a camp tender; he would bring in slabs of bacon that wide, and that long.

EDWARD: Four feet or so, just huge.

LOYAL: Just bring it in there and leave it there. And when the cowboys come in it was still there, nobody ever stole a bit of it. The only thing they wanted you to do, eat all you wanted, stop and feed your horse and water him, don't take anything, and do your dishes. You was welcome to stop in.

EDWARD: So anytime you went to a Bill Brown camp you could eat, but just don't steal anything.

LOYAL: That's right, don't steal anything. But you was welcome to eat all you wanted to eat. But don't take any of it with you, you know.

EDWARD: Who were some of his buckaroo bosses; do you recall Loyal, any names? What about the Houston's?

LOYAL: The Houston's wasn't really too much on Bill Brown's side. Houston's was mostly on the north side, see. And the Houston boys was pretty young in those days too.

EDWARD: Okay.

LOYAL: You know.

EDWARD: Fred, Frank ---

LOYAL: Well, there was Frank and Sumner.

EDWARD: Sumner, yeah.

LOYAL: Yeah. Now they owned the GI Ranch at one time.

EDWARD: Right, right, later on.

LOYAL: Yeah, later on, right. Then Johnny Pausch was a big head out there all his life, you know. He owned the GI Ranch for years.

EDWARD: Right. Did the buckaroo bosses and the cowboys, did they get along pretty good, or did they have their squabbles?

LOYAL: Who now?

EDWARD: The buckaroo, Bill Brown's buckaroos bosses, and his cowboys, did they get along?

LOYAL: Oh yeah, yeah. I forget what Bill Brown's nephew was up there; he was his main boss.

EDWARD: Winslow?

LOYAL: Winslow, yeah, Harvey Winslow.

EDWARD: Harve Winslow.

LOYAL: Harvey Winslow was his nephew. And he was the main boss. He was the main boss of the cowboys.

EDWARD: Of the cowboys.

LOYAL: Yeah, not the sheep men.

EDWARD: Not the shepherders.

LOYAL: No.

EDWARD: Did --- did Link Hutton ever work for Bill Brown?

LOYAL: I don't believe Link Hutton ever did work for Bill Brown; I don't believe he did. See he was up on Wagontire.

EDWARD: Right, the east side.

LOYAL: Yeah, right.

EDWARD: East side. What about horse stealing? Did your dad ever mention anything like it?

LOYAL: Yeah, there was a few of them stolen. Most the time Bill Brown never did contest anybody that picked up a horse of his. When I was a kid out there I picked up one of his horses one time, a little stallion, and I broke it. And I got a hold of Bill Brown and told him I had it, and he

said, "Well," he said, "just keep it, and if I ever need it, I know where it's at." And that's the end of it.

EDWARD: How could --- do you think he kept track of all his horses?

LOYAL: How could he keep track of 10,000 head of horses?

EDWARD: They were running all over the place.

LOYAL: No way, no.

EDWARD: I don't see how --- he must have had a lot of cowboys working for him.

LOYAL: Oh he did, he had an awful crew working for him.

EDWARD: When did they pick up the horses, Loyal, at a certain time of the year? Or did they just ---

LOYAL: Well, they picked them up in the spring.

EDWARD: Springtime.

LOYAL: Yeah. After the colts were born, you know. Well, up there, it isn't like raising horses professionally. Your stud was running with the mares all the time, you know. So you had colts most any time, you know.

EDWARD: All over.

LOYAL: But when they'd get the most of them out there, when they'd round them up and brand them and take care of them, you know.

EDWARD: So in the spring, and early summer?

LOYAL: Yeah, that's right. And it was dusty; you could see those horses going from miles and miles. Set a big stream of dust, you know. Be a couple cowboys right ahead of them, leading them in. And they'd follow them cowboys.

EDWARD: They would?

LOYAL: Oh yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Was it --- how did they get them to do that? Water, water holes or something, or they'd just follow them?

LOYAL: They just --- well they had a string of cowboys behind them, pushing them, and two guys up in the front, and they knew where the corrals was. The guys on horseback, they'd just go right in, ride right in the corral, and these horses would follow them right in.

EDWARD: Were there a lot of wild horses in that country by Stauffer, and --- when you were there? Or did Brown own them all?

LOYAL: Brown owned them all, really, he did.

EDWARD: They were kind of just wild, right?

LOYAL: They were wild.

EDWARD: He picked up the colts and ---

LOYAL: Yeah, and turned them right back out, and they was wild. At one time he was supposed to have 10,000 head of horses out there.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

LOYAL: See they called him the horse king.

EDWARD: Yeah. But he, Bill basically took care of sheep.

LOYAL: Bill Brown did himself.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOYAL: In fact, Bill Brown would herd sheep, his own sheep, herd them.

EDWARD: He had about 2,000 to a flock, right?

LOYAL: Yeah, 2,000 to 3,000 to a band of sheep. And a lot of times he'd herd one of those bands all by himself.

EDWARD: He'd sleep in a tent I suppose.

LOYAL: Sleep in a tent just like the rest of us.

EDWARD: Did he ever have a camp tender, or sheepherder's wagon?

LOYAL: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, he had some of those?

LOYAL: Yeah, oh yeah. He had camps all over. Some of them were buckaroo camps, and some

of them were sheep camps. But he had men that did nothing but keep those camps full of water and grub.

EDWARD: What did he pay these guys?

LOYAL: Not very much, in those days.

EDWARD: \$25.00 a month?

LOYAL: Probably, probably all they got. They didn't get very much.

EDWARD: Did your dad; did your dad ever say to you what he made a month?

LOYAL: No, if he did, I don't remember, you know. But it wasn't very much.

EDWARD: But your dad, your father, basically stayed at Gap Ranch?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: And your mom.

LOYAL: Yeah. And of course, Dad stayed out at Benjamin Lake pretty much all summer with the sheep out there. After the lambing he'd take care of them and keep them moving, you know. But --

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EDWARD: Did you ever hear of a rustler's hideout?

LOYAL: Not really.

EDWARD: Did you ever hear of East Garden?

LOYAL: East Garden, no.

EDWARD: Okay. It's in the lava beds over there, east of your homestead.

LOYAL: Well, the lava beds were mostly south of our place.

EDWARD: South.

LOYAL: Southeast.

EDWARD: Southwest, excuse me.

LOYAL: Or west, southwest.

EDWARD: Yeah, southwest, excuse me, Loyal.

LOYAL: They were out towards Fort Rock.

EDWARD: Right. Never heard of a rustler's, rustler's hideout. When did --- first of all, when did you guys leave that area, your parents and yourself?

LOYAL: Well, my dad got awful sick, and we left the desert about 1924.

EDWARD: That late?

LOYAL: Yeah. And the last year I was 15 years old, I stayed on the desert all by myself that one winter and took care of the stock and fed them.

EDWARD: '24 and '25?

LOYAL: Probably '23 and '24.

EDWARD: Okay.

LOYAL: Anyway, I was 15 years old. And I stayed out there one whole winter, took care of the stock, 15 years old. My dad didn't want me to stay out there, he was going to get somebody, but he didn't have any money, you know. And I said, "Don't worry about it Dad, I'm going to take care of it." And finally, there was a guy come in there, him and his wife, he had a baby, they did. He lived down, he went out to, towards Brown's Well, ... place. Of course, it was vacant, he moved into there and he stayed there about a month. And finally, I'm, I'm living up here all by myself. I asked him one day, I said, "Why don't you and your wife just come up and move in with me?" He said, "Do you think it would be alright?" And I said, "Why wouldn't it," you know. So, they moved in, and they stayed a couple months there.

EDWARD: What in the world, Loyal, do you do out there by yourself? I mean, what --- I mean all day, you got 24 hours a day.

LOYAL: Well, I'll tell you, when I was a kid growing up out there --- like the Stauffer boys, you know, there was three or four of them, you know, and we all had our own ponies. We didn't have one we'd go get one, you know, and break it. We could break our own horses out there, you know. And we rode and chased wild horses most of the time.

EDWARD: Just fun.

LOYAL: Just to be doing it.

EDWARD: Fun.

LOYAL: Yeah, just fun.

EDWARD: Rabbits.

LOYAL: My dad was gone one time, and I got a hold of Ted and Fred Stauffer. There was a little bay horse in there that looked like he was about two years old, and I wanted that horse so bad. I got the Stauffer boys and we went out and we corralled him at my dad's corral, you know. And I had a little buckskin pony, he wasn't very big. But I went in there with these wild horses, and I roped, roped this horse, and I roped the stud, a big white stud by mistake, you know. He just tore my dad's corral all to pieces. They all went out, took my rope with them, you know.

EDWARD: Got out.

LOYAL: He got out. So, we got, we gathered again, the Stauffer boys, and we rounded them up and put them in his dad's corral, Charlie's place. And I got my rope back and got my horse. But the horse was already broke. He was older than he looked, and he must have been an Indian pony that got loose from the Indians, the only thing I can figure.

EDWARD: Somebody had already broke it.

LOYAL: Somebody had already broke him, and he had no brand on him.

EDWARD: Did --- when you lived there, did you ever meet Harold Bradley?

LOYAL: Oh yeah, knew Harold Bradley real well.

EDWARD: Did he live out there someplace?

LOYAL: Yes.

EDWARD: At Bradley Spring?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: That's on Lost Creek.

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: That was the Bradley place?

LOYAL: That was up toward Wagontire more.

EDWARD: Right. Did --- he delivered mail?

LOYAL: Not Bradley, not Harold I don't think.

EDWARD: Yeah, later on. What do you know about Harold Bradley and Link Hutton? What do you know about Link Hutton? Come on Loyal, tell the truth. (Laughter)

LOYAL: Well, I think Link Hutton is dead --- what is his last name?

EDWARD: Hutton.

LOYAL: Hutton.

EDWARD: Yeah, Hutton.

LOYAL: Yeah, Link Hutton. To be honest with you, I think Link killed him.

EDWARD: Yeah, he did. Just up and shot him.

LOYAL: Shot him, yeah. I'm sure of that.

EDWARD: Do you know what the reason was?

LOYAL: Yeah, I think Bradley was chasing his wife.

EDWARD: That's right. (Laughter) And he got off Scott free, self-defense.

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Is that what you heard, self-defense?

LOYAL: That's right. As far as I know they never did a thing, not one thing.

EDWARD: You ever met Link Hutton?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: How big a guy was he?

LOYAL: He was a pretty good-sized man.

EDWARD: Like six foot?

LOYAL: Oh, yeah, I would say he was pretty close. He was as big as my dad, and my dad was five foot nine.

EDWARD: Heavy guy?

LOYAL: He was a little heavy, yeah. But, you know, we never knew those people on Wagontire

very much, you know. We never really went up there very much. It's just like --- across on the north side of the highway, we never went over there very much.

EDWARD: Kind of stayed in your own little area?

LOYAL: Yeah, yeah. See there was about thirty homesteaders lived in that little valley.

EDWARD: Thirty?

LOYAL: Uh huh. At night we could count twenty-nine lights.

EDWARD: So, you were pretty close to one another?

LOYAL: Yeah. Well, a homestead, after you prove up on it and get another, then you got a section of land.

EDWARD: Right, yeah.

LOYAL: 640 acres.

EDWARD: Right because that desert out there ---

LOYAL: Yeah. So pretty near everybody had 640 acres, but it was right next to each other, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah. What --- this Harold Bradley, he was pretty young when he was murdered.

LOYAL: Yes, he was.

EDWARD: About 23 or 24.

LOYAL: Yeah, if he was that old.

EDWARD: Yeah. But did he ever work --- what was his job, do you know?

LOYAL: Oh, he worked for Bill Brown part of the time.

EDWARD: He worked for Bill Brown part of the time?

LOYAL: Well, everybody did.

EDWARD: Everybody did.

LOYAL: Everybody worked for Bill Brown.

EDWARD: I can imagine. What else would you do?

LOYAL: Well, there was nothing else out there.

EDWARD: No.

LOYAL: Like I said, you know, if it hadn't of been for Bill Brown those people wouldn't have been there as long as they was, or they'd have starved to death.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOYAL: Well, my dad was kind of a foreman for Bill Brown. Somebody had stole a brand-new set of harness from Bill Brown.

EDWARD: Stole them?

LOYAL: Stole them, yeah. So, he was pretty fussy, you know, and he told dad he said, "You go see if you can find that harness." So, Dad he went around to everybody's, you know, and of course he didn't say he was looking for the harness, you know, but he saw this set of harness laying under the bed of a guy out there. Can't remember the guy's name. But dad went back and told Bill Brown, he said, "Found your harness." He told who it was, and Bill Brown said, "Well, morally certain he must have needed them, or he wouldn't have stole them."

EDWARD: That was the end of it, right?

LOYAL: Yeah, never did a thing.

EDWARD: Do you think Bill Brown thought he had so much money he didn't have to worry about somebody stealing? Because ---

LOYAL: No, I don't think Bill Brown ever thought he had the kind of money he had, you know. But he always had money. He could write a check on a napkin or anything, and the bank would take it, you know. He had the money. And he'd write it on a tomato label, or anything, and they'd take it.

EDWARD: Did you ever know a P. L. Forbes?

LOYAL: Yes, sure did.

EDWARD: Good.

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: What was he --- did he work for, he worked for Bill Brown?

LOYAL: Yeah, everybody did.

EDWARD: Everybody did.

LOYAL: Everybody did.

EDWARD: But who was P. L. Forbes?

LOYAL: Well, he was kind of a high ...

EDWARD: A religious guy?

LOYAL: Yeah, pretty religious man. But he was a crook, he was a crook. But he was a religious man, and his wife --- he's got a daughter that lives at Madras right now.

EDWARD: Oh, really?

LOYAL: Yes. Her name is Helen.

EDWARD: Helen?

LOYAL: I can't recall her last name right now.

EDWARD: Well, P. L. wrote a book, a little book.

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: He had about six pages of Bill Brown in it, and it was really interesting. Then he turned it in this religions thing. But he's got a daughter, huh, Helen?

LOYAL: Yeah, uh huh.

EDWARD: Madras.

LOYAL: Now P. L. Forbes bought the Stauffer place from Charlie Stauffer.

EDWARD: Oh, that's right. Because the Forbes were postmasters there.

LOYAL: Yeah. Yeah, he bought the Stauffer place. And when we moved out of our place, he took our place too.

EDWARD: Did he buy it, or just take it?

LOYAL: Bought it. I don't remember what he gave Dad for it, but he bought it.

EDWARD: Not much.

LOYAL: But it was right next to Stauffer's, so that give him 880 acres right there all in one bunch.

EDWARD: This P. L. Forbes.

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: What did P. stand for? Peter or --- (Note: Percy)

LOYAL: Philip, I think.

EDWARD: Philip.

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Well, I've got to get a hold of his daughter, because they might have some pictures, I don't know.

LOYAL: You want ---

EDWARD: Yeah. Just a few more things, Loyal. Hopefully we can --- R. B. Jackson, do you know who he was?

LOYAL: No, sure don't.

EDWARD: No, he was later. What about an H. H., last name's Thompson?

LOYAL: No, that don't ring a bell either.

EDWARD: Okay. Well, let's hit old Sammy Boyce. Do you remember Sammy?

LOYAL: I remember Sammy Boyce, yeah.

EDWARD: Where was his place at?

LOYAL: His place was east of Wagontire.

EDWARD: East of Wagontire?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: East of Wagontire Mountain?

LOYAL: Well, you know where the store is at?

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOYAL: Okay, he's back north, I think it's to the first road, then you go straight east.

EDWARD: Good, I've got the map for that.

LOYAL: Have you?

EDWARD: Oh, he was that close to Hutton and ---

LOYAL: Yeah, he wasn't too far from the Hutton's.

EDWARD: Oh, I see. See I thought he was over in your country.

LOYAL: No, no, no. He was off of Wagontire.

EDWARD: Sammy Boyce, he --- no he just passed away, what three weeks, I think. He --- what did he do over there? I mean just had a homestead.

LOYAL: He had a homestead; he had a big homestead. He run some cattle. And the last time I was out there, well, it's been years ago now, but he had a stack of metal bigger than this whole yard, just stacked up there. Dozen trailer loads: I mean semi-trailers.

EDWARD: Just axles, car parts ---

LOYAL: Axles, and old binders cut up. He had a cutting torch and he'd cut this stuff up and put it on this pile. I asked him one day, I said, "Why don't you get rid of that, Sam?" "Ah, cost more to take it out of here than it's worth." I don't know whether it was good junk in there. ... I've been to his house several times.

EDWARD: Did he ever mention anything to you about Link Hutton, or Mrs. Hutton?

LOYAL: Not really, no.

EDWARD: Okay. I wonder, what kind of house did he --- that's what I wanted to ask you.

LOYAL: Here?

EDWARD: What kind of house did he have out there at Wagontire?

LOYAL: He had a pretty fair house.

EDWARD: Two-story?

LOYAL: I believe it was two-story, I believe it was.

EDWARD: Pretty good size, huh?

LOYAL: Yeah, uh huh. Yeah, he had a pretty good spread out there for a homestead.

EDWARD: I hope I can find that this summer. How did --- Frank Dobkins, you ever hear of him?

LOYAL: Yeah.

EDWARD: What things did you hear about old Frank Dobkins? Anything exciting?

LOYAL: Not that I know of. Dobkins, I think he came from Sisters, or went back to Sisters, I think.

EDWARD: Dobkins?

LOYAL: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: No, he was shot and murdered too.

LOYAL: Yeah. Yeah, but I think at one time he lived at Sisters.

EDWARD: Yeah, and Silver Lake.

LOYAL: And Silver Lake too, I think.

EDWARD: Yeah. Did --- what was their problems over there? Why did Dobkins get murdered, and Bradley get murdered? Was it over water, what was their problem?

LOYAL: No, Bradley got shot over that woman.

EDWARD: Oh, the woman. But his father was beat to death and killed too.

LOYAL: Bradley?

EDWARD: Ira Bradley.

LOYAL: Well, I don't remember Ira Bradley being killed.

EDWARD: Yeah, 1930, up at Bradley Spring.

LOYAL: He stole a horse out there one time.

EDWARD: There was a lot of horses, weren't they?

LOYAL: Well, this was better than a horse. Stauffer's bought a racehorse, and it was a thoroughbred horse, and it was a good horse. And he paid a \$100.00, when you could buy any horse from Bill Brown for \$5.00. But he bought this horse because it was a racehorse, and Bradley

...

(END OF TAPE) b1