

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #98 - Sides A/B

Subject: Turen Dunten

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PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen, I'm visiting with Turen Dunten of Drewsey, who will be the 1983 Pioneer Day President for the annual Pioneer Day celebration in Burns. Turen was born in Drewsey in 1907. Turen, you've probably played the fiddle at more dances most people have begun to think about. And I was wondering when did you learn to play the fiddle? And how long have you been doing this?

TUREN DUNTEN: Well, that's kind of hard, because I'd work awhile on the fiddle, and then I'd go back somewhere else and work, and couldn't use the fiddle. And then hard times, and then finally we got started again.

PAULINE: How old were you when you first picked one up and first drew the bow across the string?

TUREN: Oh, probably 15, 16 years old.

PAULINE: Who taught you, or did you learn by yourself? Taught yourself?

TUREN: Yes.

PAULINE: Is there somebody that you played with, or listened to?

TUREN: Well, I learned; I played with an orchestra for years, but not with the fiddle.

PAULINE: What did you play?

TUREN: I played a banjo, and then got to playing the fiddle, or that's where I learned it. I got to

playing with John Gearhart, and Jimmie Capps, and then I got to fiddling ---

PAULINE: Those are all Drewsey ---

TUREN: Yeah.

PAULINE: --- old timers. When did you learn to play the banjo?

TUREN: About the same time.

PAULINE: About the same time. You started ---

TUREN: Well, how I happened to play the banjo, well I was fiddling the melody, see, and long comes the Riley boy. And Howard Riley, and oh, what's his name, Joe Boy Lillard, and they each one had a saxophone. I don't know if you know what a saxophone does to a fiddle?

PAULINE: Well, it would pretty well drowned it out!

TUREN: It did drowned it out! So, I said, "Well, I'll fix that." So, I went and got the banjo and I got that one that puts out, and I stayed right up with them. We played for a lot of dances, a lot of dances.

PAULINE: Mostly at Drewsey, or did you play in Burns or ---

TUREN: Well, we played at lots of the Grange Halls, and lots in Drewsey, and lots over the country.

PAULINE: At the Grange Hall, Poison Creek Grange Hall, you're talking about?

TUREN: Yeah, and our own too.

PAULINE: And the Grange Hall at, what did they call that? Was it the Pine Creek, Drewsey Grange?

TUREN: Drewsey Grange, but it's up there.

PAULINE: Drewsey Grange.

TUREN: Then I played the guitar too. I didn't care for the --- I like a guitar, but then I wasn't fast enough, good enough. It's got two too many strings.

PAULINE: The fiddle only has four, and you don't have to worry about ---

TUREN: Yeah, and the banjo only has four too, and that's the way we got started, and we're still

going.

PAULINE: I see you're still fiddling for the Old Time Fiddlers, fiddling up a storm.

TUREN: Yeah.

PAULINE: You call square dances too?

TUREN: Yeah, I used to call quite a few square dances, but I got so I forgot them.

PAULINE: And I have a sneaking suspicion that you kind of like to dance too. Because I see you put that fiddle down every once in a while, and grab some young lady and ---

TUREN: Yeah, yeah, I like to dance.

PAULINE: You like to see other people dance too.

TUREN: Yep. You get one that's a little tough to play, I'll go dance. And they come up with some dillies too.

PAULINE: Yeah. Do you notice a lot of difference in the way some of the younger people are playing their fiddles, and what you used to do like 30 or 40 years ---

TUREN: No.

PAULINE: --- years ago? Are they pretty much keeping to the same ---

TUREN: No. When you play a fiddle, you play a fiddle. The only thing you can get.

PAULINE: There are some changes then?

WILMA DUNTEN: Their methods are changing a lot.

TUREN: Huh?

WILMA: Their methods of playing are changing a lot, even in the Old Time Fiddlers. The younger people are coming up with a little different style.

TUREN: Well, the fiddler's tuned now, just like it was then. It's still the same fiddle. You gotta use your fingers, but I'll tell you some of those fingers just fly. You ever see, what's her name? Oh boy, I'd give my right leg if I could ---

PAULINE: You're talking about Susie, Susie Smith? Yeah, she's got a lot of talent.

TUREN: She called up one morning at home there, and said, "Is this Mr. Duntent?" And I said,

"Yes." She said, "You play the fiddle?" And I said, "Yeah, a little." "Well, I'm coming over," she says, "I want you to teach me some fiddling tunes."

WILMA: That was when they were trying to get the Old Time Fiddlers organized about five years ago.

TUREN: So, I went over, or she came over here, and we played some and then she said, "I wish you'd come over to my place." And so, we went over to her place in a few days and played for her, and she went right off and left me. But her and I had the only two fiddles in Harney County, I believe. We played on a float while they was having a parade, you know, why we was playing. We were on it, and then she went zzzz ---

PAULINE: Well, she knew a little bit about the violin before she started to fiddling.

TUREN: Yeah, that's right. She just wanted some tunes, and she watched me, and she'd be a split second behind me when I hit that note, she was that close. And she's never heard it before either. She's a whiz. You didn't put that down did you?

PAULINE: I got that all down; it's all on there! You bet! You were born in Drewsey on June 29, 1907, and can you tell me who your father was, and you mom, and how did they happened to come to Harney County?

TUREN: Well, my dad's name was Bert. Bertie, but he went by the name of Bert. Bert Eldon, wasn't it? And my mother's name was Laura Groesbeck before she married him.

PAULINE: Were they married before they came to Harney County, or

TUREN: No.

PAULINE: When did your father come to Harney County?

TUREN: Well, he came over from the Willamette Valley country, and he come across horseback and brought cattle with him. And he first settled in Juntura. Sold that and come up where the place is now.

WILMA: He was married one time before, and his wife died after the birth of the half brother, he's

older.

PAULINE: It's all here, I just want to get it all on the tape. The half brother was Montrose E. Dunten. And when did your mother come, or how did your father, how did she happen to be here, here in Harney County?

TUREN: She was down visiting, and she was there, and they met eventually.

PAULINE: Do you know what part of the East she came from?

WILMA: I've got it all down; I'd better go look.

PAULINE: You were the oldest one of your family, after your half-brother Montrose?

TUREN: Yeah. There was me, and Lola, and then Loren, my youngest brother. And that's when my mother died, when Loren was born.

PAULINE: And you went to school at Kimball Flat? Where is Kimball Flat?

TUREN: Do you know that country?

PAULINE: Yeah, but you tell it, so that some one who reads it would know where ---

TUREN: Well, when you come over the hill, there is a big flat there; there is quite a few houses in Kimball Flat.

PAULINE: Over the hill from where?

TUREN: Drewsey.

PAULINE: From Drewsey.

TUREN: About five miles. My place is about five miles from Drewsey.

PAULINE: And that's where you're living now, today, still at Kimball Flat? And was there a school there?

TUREN: Yeah, there was, there isn't now.

PAULINE: How many kids were there in the school when you were ---

TUREN: Thirty.

PAULINE: Thirty kids. Did you have more than one teacher, or just one teacher for all thirty kids?

TUREN: One teacher. They taught, they taught, and we learned just as much as they do now, if not

more. Yep, Sitz boys, Sitz kids, McMullen kids, Dunten kids, Dunten kids and Howard kids. I don't know how many more. Jack Miller, Jack Miller's dad lived there. Cronin kids. Most of them went horseback.

PAULINE: Were you close enough to walk, I expect?

TUREN: Yeah, we walked.

PAULINE: Did the teacher stay with your family?

TUREN: Most usually, yeah.

PAULINE: Did you always have a woman teacher, or did you sometimes have a man teacher?

TUREN: No, we had a man teacher, and I'll never forget him!

PAULINE: What was his name?

TUREN: I don't think I can --- Robert? I can't think of it. But he taught for several years. He was quite an athlete, and we'd get a lot of playing, you know, where a woman teacher, well they wouldn't come out and play with us.

PAULINE: What else about him do you remember? You said you'd never forget him, what in particular?

TUREN: Well, he never allowed any shenanigans, and he could back 'em up. We had some pretty good-sized boys too. The McMullen boys were part near grown, and Monty was part near grown, but that didn't stop him.

PAULINE: How long, what kind of a school year did you have? Did you stop in the wintertime when the weather was really bad, or ---

TUREN: We didn't stop for nothing.

PAULINE: You went from September to May?

TUREN: That's right. And we walked for miles; we walked to school and walked home.

PAULINE: And some were riding horses for about four or five miles?

TUREN: Yeah, the Cronin's were riding their horses, and the Sitz kids was riding horses, and I think that was all. Howard's, they walked like we did.

PAULINE: What about the weather? That's a good question this year in particular, since we are having all this unusual weather. But what was the weather like in the wintertime?

TUREN: Well, the snow would get two feet deep pretty near every winter, and we walked.

PAULINE: Did that change in later years? Have we had less snow up there in later years, up until lately?

TUREN: Yeah, we --- some years we have a lot more, and some years we don't have hardly any. It's just back and forth.

PAULINE: Yeah, back and forth.

TUREN: Yep. We had a trail. I was coming home one night, oh we started to school, me and Lola, and seen something trotting out across the sagebrush. And right in the middle of a --- ah, what is it coyotes get?

PAULINE: Rabies?

TUREN: Yeah. And I seen that thing, and I says, "Oh, better wait." Stood still and it trotted on, went on away from us. Of course, it was quite a ways from us, but we went to school anyhow.

PAULINE: Rabies was quite a problem from time to time.

TUREN: Well, we caught, we didn't catch that coyote, but we had one cow, a yearling, get bit. And Dad caught her and tied her up and she'd just go back and forth. Finally, she just died. There's no cure.

PAULINE: You went to high school in Ontario?

TUREN: I didn't go very long.

PAULINE: You didn't?

TUREN: No.

PAULINE: How long did you go?

TUREN: I went to Christmas, then went home for Christmas and stayed there.

PAULINE: So, you've been ranching ever since?

TUREN: Yeah. Too many people down there.

PAULINE: You don't like all that population in the big city of Ontario?

TUREN: Well, it wasn't oh, too big, but it was big enough.

PAULINE: Big enough, huh?

TUREN: Yeah. It had ROTC, Army. Every day just before dinner why we had to go through a bunch of --- whatever they told us to do, you know. And I didn't like that, but then I done it. Then I wasn't big enough to play football, and I wasn't fast enough to play baseball, or I wasn't fast enough for track, so I didn't fit in anywhere. And we was staying out with my stepsister's folks. I had to help milk their cows, fifteen cows, night and morning. Walk to school a mile and back. And I wasn't much to study anyway, and that made it worse. So come Christmas time, I come home and never went back. He never insisted. Go if you want, if you don't, don't. I don't want to. Okay.

PAULINE: What about your horseback riding and roping?

TUREN: I done a lot of that.

PAULINE: You liked to do that?

TUREN: Oh yeah. I broke horses, and I done lots of roping. We had to go horseback most of the time. When the roads got bad, well even before cars come, you know, we'd go to town horseback.

PAULINE: How long did it take you to ride to --- now when you say to town, do you mean into Drewsey?

TUREN: Yeah.

PAULINE: That's about five miles.

TUREN: Five, yeah, just about.

PAULINE: How long would it take you to ride into town?

TUREN: It depended on how fast we wanted to get there. We'd gallop right along! We had good stock. We had thoroughbred horses, they was good. By golly, you could ride one all day, and ride him again the next day. We had a good string of horses.

PAULINE: Okay. When you met and married your wife, Wilma Miller, on February 6, 1932, was she a local girl?

TUREN: Well at the time, yeah, she was local. She was in the territory. But I didn't know her for a long time. I didn't run into her.

PAULINE: How did you happen to run onto her?

TUREN: Well, I sold her grandmother a load of hay. And I seen this gal, and she looked pretty good. Well, that's what started it, and I hauled wood to her. Sold her hay and sold her wood.

PAULINE: Was she living at Drewsey then?

TUREN: Yes.

PAULINE: Who was her grandmother?

TUREN: Her grandmother --- oh, I can't think of her ---

PAULINE: I should wait until she comes back in. I'll catch up with that later, I'll ask her when she comes back in.

TUREN: Grandma somebody we called her.

PAULINE: You have four children? They were Turen Alfred Duntten, Helen Duntten Sargent, Raymond G. Duntten, and Karen E. Duntten.

TUREN: There was one ahead of them.

PAULINE: Okay.

TUREN: The first one, we lost the first one.

PAULINE: You lost one before? She didn't write that down. It says here that you worked on Highway 20 on Stinkingwater for a year when they ---

TUREN: Yeah. I worked from the top of Stinkingwater to the top of Drinkingwater.

PAULINE: From Stinkingwater to Drinkingwater.

TUREN: Yeah. I worked all the way, back and forth there.

PAULINE: You were running the big machinery, Cat's, a Caterpillar?

TUREN: No, I was running the air compressor. They was blowing big holes, you know. That was my job, running the air compressor.

PAULINE: They were building an entirely new road. The road didn't used to go right through

there, did it?

TUREN: Yes, that's right.

PAULINE: That was about in 1934?

TUREN: I think that's when it was, '33 or '34. Worked all winter there.

PAULINE: And then in 1935, you bought the ranch from your dad?

TUREN: No, I bought it from Chet Stallard.

PAULINE: Oh, okay.

TUREN: Yeah, he came along one day and he says, "How would you like to buy a ranch?" And I said, "What do you want for it?" He said, "\$2,500." And I said, "I'll take it. What kind of terms?" He says, "Five percent." Well, we grabbed it.

PAULINE: How many acres does it ---

TUREN: A 120 acres.

PAULINE: And did you still add your dad's property to it later on, or is --- was that still ---

TUREN: I never did. I never went back to the ranch. My younger brother, older brother had it, and then he sold it to my younger brother.

PAULINE: So, you still have the 120 acres? Did you ever add any other property to that?

TUREN: Oh yeah, I bought some more land.

PAULINE: You milked cows for a while and sold cream.

TUREN: Yes.

PAULINE: How did you get it to Ontario?

TUREN: Stage.

PAULINE: On the stage. How often did you ship cream?

TUREN: Oh, once, twice a week.

SIDE B

PAULINE: Okay, let's pick up. You were talking about the cows that you milked and shipped

cream. How many cows did you milk?

TUREN: Well, not over ten. Sometimes we'd get a hold of some leppy calves, and put them on the cows, and so that would cut down.

PAULINE: You milked them by hand?

TUREN: Oh, yeah.

PAULINE: And you had a cream separator that you ---

TUREN: Yeah, we didn't have to skim it.

PAULINE: Poured the milk in the top and cranked the handle, and see it come out the other ---

TUREN: Yeah, that's right.

PAULINE: I'm an old hand at cream separating myself.

TUREN: Yeah, we cranked a lot of it.

PAULINE: Before you got the cream separator, what did you do? Just let the cream rise to the top of the ---

WILMA: Oh, I think we always had a separator.

TUREN: We didn't take --- it didn't take us long --- I had to buy the cow. I bought the cows from, oh what was his name, that guy up the street? At the top of the mountain, Cawlfeld. Then I bought some from another guy. I happened to have the money and bought them. That's how we got started in it.

PAULINE: Well, it wouldn't take too long skimming it off the top of the kettles.

WILMA: I think we got the separator. I can't remember ever having to skim. I think we got one just about the time we bought the cows.

PAULINE: The time you started. And did you do custom Cat work with a Caterpillar, dozer, or tractor? And how many --- You said you had a D-4 and a D-7; you had three tractors at one time? What are some of the jobs you did with the tractors?

TUREN: Well, I worked for the, for Chet Stallard out to his place, and then for anybody. I come clear over here in the Burns territory and did Cat work.

PAULINE: I know that when they had a forest fire, or range fire, that they would ask everybody to help out. They would have a lot of paid people on the job to fight fire. Did you do any fire fighting with your ---

TUREN: Yeah, yeah. I done quite a lot of that, and then I done a lot of work in the forest.

PAULINE: As I understand it, when there ever was a fire like that, they could just call up and say, "We want you, come help." And you had to do it whether you wanted to or not.

TUREN: Yeah. They didn't have to say yes, or we want you, we was generally ahead of them. We were ahead of them usually.

PAULINE: We have talked about orchestra and your fiddling days there at the first, so we'll go on here to some of your other jobs. You cut and hauled wood for the neighbors. How far did you haul wood? Did you haul any into Burns, or just into Drewsey?

TUREN: No, I didn't haul any into Burns, just the Drewsey area, and the neighbors.

PAULINE: Well, it's a long ways, between 50 and 60 miles out there, from Burns to Drewsey.

TUREN: Fifty.

PAULINE: Fifty.

TUREN: Yeah, I hauled out of the mountains, I hauled poles. I done a lot of freight work. I hauled lumber. You know there was a small sawmill up there one time, I hauled for them. I was pretty busy all the time.

PAULINE: Yeah. You raised cattle, and hayed, and you are a member of the Van Grazing Co-op now, Co-operative. Who else is a member of that Co-operative?

TUREN: Well, we first set it up they was just two, and that was me and Joel, Joel Sword. And then he picked out two, and I picked out two, and there was six of us.

PAULINE: Is this the one that the Sitz are in? And who else? The two Sitz and ---

TUREN: One Sitz.

PAULINE: One Sitz.

WILMA: One Howard, and right now Jim Bentz, and ---

PAULINE: You've done a lot of work in that area to improve the forage. I know I've been up there on grass tours, and one thing and another.

WILMA: Johnny Sword.

PAULINE: Johnny Sword.

TUREN: Yeah, Johnny Sword. Of course, Joel, the old man to start with, and he died, and Johnny took over. Six of us.

WILMA: Joel, Alfred, Jim Sitz, and Jim Bentz, that was required by PCA, not PCA, but the Farmers Home. They required the six members in it.

PAULINE: Well, it's worked out real well for you.

TUREN: Oh boy, it's a gold mine.

PAULINE: Gold mine. Well, that's about as well as you can get.

TUREN: And we stole it. We bought it from the, Victor Cleveland, and he had quite a spread put together, nice spread. So, when we ask him, Joel and I, no, he didn't want to sell out. And she said, "Well I don't want to live here for the rest of my life." Next day, he came over and said, "Well I guess you can have it." Well, I didn't blame her, she had been there a long time, she was crippled, and she couldn't get television.

PAULINE: Well yeah, she needed to be someplace where she could have some comfort.

TUREN: Yeah, she was entitled to a little, she's been there since she was born, I think.

PAULINE: Okay. And you belonged to the Odd Fellows Lodge at one time?

TUREN: Yeah, I was head guy at one time.

PAULINE: That was at Drewsey. I guess the old Odd Fellows Hall is no longer there, somebody, they tore it down finally.

TUREN: No. Yeah, they finally tore it down.

PAULINE: And you joined the Drewsey Grange too, the year after it was organized. Do you remember when that was?

WILMA: '29.

PAULINE: 1929, and you joined in '30. It says here that you've had various offices from Overseer, Master, Assistant Steward, and you also belonged to the Harney County Pomona Grange, and you've been Master and Assistant Steward. And you're very active in the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association. You joined that last year after all these years of fiddling around; you finally joined and made it official. I know that you're working really hard with the local group to get this festival, contest, going.

WILMA: I can't think what they call this branch of the Fiddlers.

PAULINE: I can't either.

WILMA: Whatever it is, it's District #9, I can't think what they call it, it's got me.

PAULINE: You were on the school board at Kimball Flat, and you were on the Crane High School Board. Do you remember how many years you served on that Crane High School Board?

TUREN: Four years.

PAULINE: Four years.

WILMA: I can't remember. Probably, maybe five, because about that time they put in a fifth member.

PAULINE: What we'd like to talk about now is just some of the things that you remember over the years, that you think were interesting, and that you'd like to talk about. Have you got any thing in particular that you'd like to put down to save for later on?

WILMA: Tell about what I've got written down there, about your mother and Monty getting run over in the sleigh.

TUREN: Oh yeah. Mom, I was just about, about a yearling, and my dad and the neighbors was cutting some posts up by what we call Mule Creek. And she decided she'd go up and see 'em, and throwed the kids in. I think Helen, or Lola, was with them. And when she got up there, and it was a steep hillside, and she turned around she lost control. Them horses broke loose and throwed me out of the --- and run over me, throwed me out of the, what do they call that, sleigh. Never hurt me none. Killed one of the horses. I remember that pretty vivid.

PAULINE: How old were you?

TUREN: About a year old.

PAULINE: About a year old, that would have been pretty scary.

WILMA: I think he must have been older than a year.

TUREN: No, I wasn't!

WILMA: Well, if Lola was with you, it would have had to be.

TUREN: Well, I wasn't two years old though.

WILMA: You would have been about two.

PAULINE: Well, he could have been just about --- from June to ---

WILMA: There is 11 months between them. I don't know how old she was.

PAULINE: He could have been a year and a half; he could have been just about a year and a half, and not two yet. I can't remember quite that far back. The earliest my memory --- although it's before I was three.

TUREN: Well, that was kind of vivid because things were moving pretty fast.

PAULINE: Yeah, I guess. Was the snow deep? The snow was deep enough to cushion you?

TUREN: Oh, I guess, yeah. The snow was pretty deep.

PAULINE: Just pushed you down in the snow.

TUREN: That was all that saved me.

PAULINE: That's all that saved you. Okay, so when, one time you and Jesse McMullen were hunting rabbits on Mule Creek, what happened that time?

TUREN: Well, we were on a creek, what was the name of that creek? It runs through Johnny Swords.

WILMA: Oh, I can't think.

TUREN: It wasn't Mule Creek.

WILMA: No.

TUREN: We went up on horseback. It was a pretty nice warm day, and we went down into this

creek and it was pretty steep, both ways --- and rabbits, and he had a couple of hound dogs. And we got in there and here would come a rabbit down one way, and here would come a dog, and about that time he'd run into another rabbit. And he takes after that rabbit, and we had rabbits going everywhere, and we run out of ammunition. Finally, it got pretty late, and we got cold, and we thought we'd better go home. Well, we was out of ammunition, and we was cold. Oh man it was cold, but I'll never forget that night, or that day.

PAULINE: How old were you when you did that?

TUREN: Oh, I was 16 years old, 15 or 16.

PAULINE: That would be a good days hunt all right, if you were 15. And the other thing that we have written down here is that Alfred was about a year and a half years old, and the front wheels of the truck dropped in the open cellar. Was he in the truck, or did he put it in gear, or were you driving, or what happened?

TUREN: He was in the truck, and I had drove it behind the house and parked, see. And he was on the floor; he was in there playing, nobody paying any attention to him. He just turned on the switch and stepped on the starter, and the starter was right under the steering wheel, you know, in them days. And zoom! Just the minute I heard it I knew what it was, and I run around the house. He'd, he hit the cellar that had caved in, and it throwed him off of his, he was riding the ---

PAULINE: Gas pedal?

TUREN: Gas pedal. You see, and he got jarred off of that and it died. Well, I got around there, and I says, "What's going on?" And he looked around like that, as much as if to say, "Nuthin". And I couldn't paddle him or nothing, he just looked so unconcerned.

PAULINE: Oh, dear! Okay. Let's go back here a little bit to your mom. We found out that she was born in Neilsville, Wisconsin, but you think that she was down in the Willamette Valley when she met your dad?

TUREN: I think so, yeah.

PAULINE: Okay.

WILMA: She was visiting out here, and had some cousins or ---

TUREN: She had some folks, an aunt come over there.

PAULINE: And he came to Harney County, or to Juntura, from the Willamette Valley too. Do you know over there, what part, what city or town?

WILMA: Pleasant Hill.

PAULINE: Pleasant Hill?

TUREN: Down in the Willamette Valley. Yeah, I remember being there. I don't know what town it was, but they had a roller skate rink there, two of them. And I put them on, or I didn't put them on, I sat down on one and they had a slope there --- and I went down that many a times, one foot, setting down on one ---

PAULINE: Do you know what year your dad came to Harney County?

TUREN: Well, he had to come in the '90's.

PAULINE: It would have been after, let's see, how much older is Montrose than you?

WILMA: I think he was born in 1900.

PAULINE: 1900, so it would have been just before 1900, or just before the turn of the century. I think I've got a date written down someplace from someone else, or from some other information.

WILMA: Probably '19, or I mean 1897 or '08, something like that.

PAULINE: Well, Drewsey used to be quite a thriving community.

TUREN: Oh yeah, Drewsey was the --- they brought the freight through Drewsey to Burns.

PAULINE: Yeah, really, the highway. When the highway went in, that's when the town sort of served no purpose anymore.

TUREN: Right. They lost, well; it's hanging on pretty good though. Been a pretty good town.

PAULINE: Do you remember it being called Gouge-Eye? Was that ever a term that you people out there used to refer to the community?

TUREN: Well, it's a ---

WILMA: It was just a nickname that was given to it because of the fights, but it wasn't a real name.

TUREN: They had a habit of taking their thumb, you know, and probably only happened once, but the word got around. But as far as I know, nobody ever called that. They'd pull a knife, and they'd take a walk, and I suppose they'd fight. Some of them came from Burns too.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well, this is the stories I hear for something to do on Saturday night was to go to Drewsey and have a fight.

TUREN: Yeah. It was a pretty lively place. They had three saloons at one time, two restaurants, or hotels. That was before the car, then when it came, why things started to cave in.

PAULINE: Well, several people have told me about people deciding to have a dance, and going to someone's house and moving out all of the furniture and proceeding to dance all night. Did you have any experience like that?

TUREN: Oh yeah. I remember them places, and things, but I wasn't dancing, and I wasn't playing, I was pretty small.

PAULINE: By the time you were playing for dances, they met at the community hall, or the schoolhouse, the Grange Hall?

TUREN: Yeah. Well, once in awhile we'd have a dance up at the schoolhouse, up there where we turned this morning.

WILMA: At Wolf Creek?

TUREN: No, not Wolf Creek, Pine Creek. I didn't play for it though. They done that quite a bit.

PAULINE: Well, the Drewsey dances are noted for a good fun time.

WILMA: They are almost a thing of the past now.

TUREN: They was a lot of fiddlers up at the upper end, you know, and they was liable to have a dance anytime. And they'd have a crowd too, and they was a lot of people in them days. If they were out of sight, why there was a cabin, or a house and people living, and they was living.

That land that we got when we formed this Co-op, why we --- I bet we took --- took on ten or fifteen homes around.

PAULINE: You were talking a little while ago about how Turen happened to find you, and he said

he sold your grandmother a load of hay, but we didn't get your grandmother's name. Who was your grandmother?

WILMA: Mrs. Hamilton. She was my Grandmother Miller, but she married a Hamilton afterwards, and she ran the City Hotel. And they ran the livery stable, one of the livery stables.

PAULINE: And this was in Drewsey?

WILMA: Yes. And the other livery stable was in the other hotel.

TUREN: Had a barber shop in Drewsey at that time too.

WILMA: Oh yes. Used to be a jewelry store, a newspaper, just a lot of different things.

PAULINE: How old were you when you and Turen married?

WILMA: I was 21, and he was 25.

PAULINE: Well, is there anything else? We're getting, we've got a little bit of tape left here. Is there anything else that we haven't talked about? We visited about Turen's fiddling career, and his musical career while you were out.

TUREN: Well, I had an uncle that lived in Canyon City, and we used to go to Canyon City with my dad in the Model-T, and the brakes would go bad about halfway down ---

PAULINE: It would be a kind of a scary trip going down canyon grade with no brakes.

TUREN: It was a bit scary is right. That was the first time. The second time we tied a tree on there and nothing to it. An old Model-T.

PAULINE: It did slow you down a little bit.

TUREN: You bet. Well, you got, got slowed down before it got away from him anyway. And I still don't like it, that road.

PAULINE: No. The new road, or the highway, is pretty winding and twisty, and you look over the side and see where the road used to go. I have to say it looked pretty hairy to me.

TUREN: Well, the old road, they got down off the grade pretty fast, you know. And then it wasn't too deep, if you went over the grade, like it is now. Look off of there and ---

PAULINE: It's a long way down.

TUREN: It looks like a long ways to me. Well, I can't think of any more.

PAULINE: Well, I think we've covered; we've done a pretty good job. That's 45 minutes.

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