

John Gregory

JT: I'd like to have you state your full name.

JG: John Jay Gregory.

JT: And your date of birth?

JG: August 29th, 1913.

JT: And where were you born, John?

JG: Wallowa, Oregon.

JT: And your father was a doctor in Wallowa?

JG: Yeah.

JT: Growing up as a child having a doctor for a father did you get to see him very much, or was he quite busy?

JG: He was quite busy, but I got to see him. It's a good thing that he was a doctor 'cause I broke everything and caught everything that came down the road. I think I'd of broke any other parent.

JT: I remember his sleigh was in Auggie Sperling's flower shop for many years. Did you ever get to ride in that sleigh?

JG: Not that one. They had a different one over Wallowa, rode in it a lot over there and they used it. What they did over there along about November they used to put those old cars up and bring 'em in and jack 'em up and put wood under 'em so they'd be off the ground, the wheels, so the tires wouldn't rot. Then they'd go to the buggies. Then he kept two teams, as I remember, down in a livery stable and one team was always harnessed. If he wanted them, why, he would call and tell 'em to have a team ready and they'd bring it out and have it hooked to a buggy, or, if it was wintertime, to the cutter, call it a sled. A cutter is what the sleigh...what you call that. They stayed with that until spring then they went back to the buggies again and then eventually, about first of July, they probably got back to the cars. Cars were somethin', they were all _____. Did you ever hear of a Norwal?

JT: Yes.

JG: You went about twenty miles and fixed a tire and then you went a little further and fixed a tire.

JT: The first cars were kind of mediocre. You went to school in Wallowa?

JG: I went to school in Wallowa and graduated from Wallowa.

JT: And you graduated in what year?

JG: 1931.

JT: And what caused your father to move to Union County, La Grande?

JG: He and another man over there was friends and they got to talkin', I think, about this Hot Lake deal. Someway, I don't know whether a real estate agent approached him or somethin' 'cause I wasn't there at the time, but anyway, he came over here and had a contract drawn up with an option to purchase Hot Lake with Ada B. Phy. She was the sister-in-law of Dr. Phy. Now Mark Phy was in Eugene with the University of Oregon as a physician there. There was he and a fellow by the name of Dr. Kenneth Rowl, the two doctors there. But anyway, he came over here and Jim Hahn came, who was another physician there, and a fellow by the name of Bill Allen was a druggist. He had a regular drugstore there with drugs and magazines and all the rest of that stuff that, you know, just a regular drugstore. Then off to the side of it they had kind of a _____ and they also had some tennis...table tennis deals. Then on back of that was the bath house and that area. I used to stay up there when I'd come up from Eugene. I'd stay there for a week during...

JT: You were going to school in Eugene?

JG: I was going to school in Eugene. I know that I talked to him quite a little bit about this thing because he told me that when they went out there it was extremely run-down. They had to spend a lot of money getting the thing back into shape. They got a chef out of the Benson Hotel in Portland to come up and be the chef here. They just went ahead with surgery and stuff that they did before. Of course they had a lot of patients come there from Wallowa ___ 'cause they knew him. Then there were a lot of local ones and then they drew quite a few people from out of the country and the Union Pacific Railroad stopped there twice a day, you know, the Portland Rose, and let passengers off and take 'em on. I know one patient that he had was the mayor of Ketchikan, Alaska. He came down there every year. He said the reason he came down there is because he had to drink a lot of liquor with the natives up there in Ketchikan he come down here and get boiled out, that's just what he did. Goin' back on this deal, I think it was about a year-and-a-half when they had the fire. It started up under the eaves back in the bath house and somebody comin' down the road spotted it and came down and told 'em it was on fire. Of course they had the good Union County wind and it started up. Well, La Grande started out to helpin' when they got out there about Lone Pine and broke down ___. Union came over and others to fight the thing. They fought the thing there for quite a while. I was in school at the time ___ I picked up the *Oregonian* in the morning and saw a picture of the fire. So I called 'em up and asked 'em about it. They said it was pretty well destroyed. They'd taken the patients to old Grande Ronde up here. So when I got back up here I asked him what he was going to do and he said, well, he said that he had an option to purchase it, but in that option he had the contract written that Ada B. Phy would keep insurance on these buildings, which she did not do. So he said, "I'm not going to exercise my option because it's gonna take a lot to clean this place up." So he moved out then and then Hahn came to La Grande and opened his practice down there on Fourth Street.

JT: When you were working out at Hot Lake what were your duties? What... What did you do?

JG: I didn't do a whole lot of anything. Kind of a bell boy, whenever, that is, when they could catch me.

JT: You had to meet the train?

JG: Yeah.

JT: And pick up the mail.

JG: They had two or three of us that were supposed to do it. There was a boy there...a fellow by the name of Bill Henderson that used to be here was one of 'em. And there was a cousin of mine, Carl Bonner, he used to be in. Then I was the third one and I usually tried to disappear someplace. I had other things I'd rather do at that time.

JT: I can appreciate that. It was going to try and be operated kind of like it was before when they said it was the Mayo Clinic and all this?

JG: Yeah. They were gonna go all I don't know what great extent they gone to, but they were doing real well. They were doing... They were doing quite a little of surgery ___. They had well filled up with patients. The thing was going well and good until the fire.

JT: Had they tried to continue the meals that they used to serve there?

JG: Yeah, they had this chef from the Benson Hotel and they had a restaurant there just above the lobby.

JT: Do you remember kind of the prices that were...a meal would cost?

JG: Not at this time.

JT: A lot of people used to come out to La Grande there for Sunday dinner.

JG: Yeah. A lot of 'em did. Yeah, Sunday dinner was a big deal out there. And of course they had...the thing was open for three meals a day for the patients or anybody there. Of course they served trays to patients that weren't mobile enough to get down.

JT: They operated a dairy and...

JG: Yeah. They had a fellow by the name of Virgil McGraw that they brought over from Wallowa that operated a dairy. That's another thing, we had a heck of a time putting that barn back in order. It was a first-class mess inside up there, but they got it cleaned up and went on to that.

JT: They more or less raised all the things that they sold through the restaurant?

JG: To a certain extent, yes. They had... I know they had down below...way down...more towards where they got that trailer park just this side of there. They had a bunch of hogs down there and then I think they had a few head of beef cow around there that this McGraw took care of and then probably sent 'em someplace like they do now to have 'em butchered and then bring 'em back...meat back and cut it up and put it in cold storage type a deal.

JT: When your father and Dr. Hahn decided to come back and be in La Grande what were you doing? Had you graduated from college?

JG: No, I was still in school then, but I...I came back up here when they opened up down there. I think Hahn bought that deal on Fourth Street down there. Dad leased the back end of it from Hahn. They didn't have anybody in the front of that thing, as I recall, at that time. It was just him and Hahn and they worked back and forth together on surgery and stuff like that. If one had to be gone the other one covered for him. Then most of their patients went to St. Joe.

JT: Uh-huh. And you mentioned about 1934 when you bought the Ford dealership from Cy Perkins.

JG: 1936.

JT: 1936.

JG: Yeah. I bought it from Cy Perkins.

JT: He was the Ford dealer at that time here in La Grande.

JG: Yeah. He was just gettin' out. I didn't know it, but he was just gettin' out. ___ and he was gettin' out, but I was a dealer. So I took over the dealership up in Enterprise. They had what we call a second depression, you know, quite a struggle up there.

JT: I can appreciate. When cars were delivered to you how were they delivered?

JG: Most of 'em are brought in on these truck-trailer deals. And I'll tell you another thing, there was no stoppin' Ford if they wanted to get rid of 'em you better shut your eyes. I had thirty-four of 'em in the barns up there at one time in Wallowa County. I got a hold of the zone manager and told him I wanted some help gettin' those damn things out of Wallowa County. So he got together with me and we got these cars out of there. They did a lot of crazy things, now, for instance, one time they'd ship you things that weren't on order. They shipped me a Lincoln and I said, "What would you do with a Lincoln in Wallowa County?"

JT: And you were a regular franchise dealer?

JG: Yeah. I was a regular franchise dealer. I was supposed to, if I sold a Lincoln, talk to Chauncey before I sold it. That was the deal. But he didn't pay any attention to that. I knew him well enough that it wouldn't 've been any deal. In fact, one time my dad wanted a Ford coupe and I sent him over to Chauncey to buy it. Chauncey happened to have on in stock that would fit what he wanted. That was before World War II started. I know he drove that coupe all the way through World War II. It had about 150,000 miles on it.

JT: You didn't make dealer transfers like we did later on?

JG: You mean... Yeah, that's the way I got rid of those thirty-four that'd been shipped up there. Then another thing you could go to...oh, if the dealer had one like they do now you'd call 'em up and see if he'd turn loose of it. You could go get it for a customer that wanted it.

JT: What did the dealer charge so much over invoice?
JG: No. They usually just send 'em out invoice flat. Just get rid of it is what they were trying to do. There wasn't much market, really.
JT: There is a question I would like to know, if you know, why did Cy Perkins move from the Stergil Building, there were the video store is, over to the Grandy Building?
JG: You mean the one... When I knew him he was where the Good___ store is and Clair had a Buick agency in one corner of it. Remember that?
JT: Yeah.
JG: And then Cy had a Dodge agency in the front end of it. Now when he moved he moved just katy-cornered across the street.
JT: He was... He was the Ford dealer at that building where the video store is now.
JG: He'd gotten out of Ford by then. He may have had some left.
JT: There's a picture in 1934 showing him being the Ford dealer and then he sold to Chauncey in, was it, '38?
JG: I don't think he ever sold to Chauncey. Somebody else that was in there as a dealer between the two because...
JT: We have a picture of Cy and Clair and all the employees, including...
JG: Paul Bool?
JT: I think Keffer.
JG: Paul Bool is parts man now and I bought him out in Enterprise. He sent Paul up to help me get started and Paul didn't like Enterprise. We had winters up there then, I mean real good. So Paul came back to La Grande. I believe that Chauncey quit Ford when he moved across the street. He may have had some left to sell.
JT: What I'm saying is in '34 he was Ford dealer at the video store then he went over in the Grandy Building...
JG: Which one's the Grandy Building?
JT: It was where Max Park is.
JG: Oh yeah. That's where I...
JT: He was the Ford dealer there.
JG: Yeah.
JT: And I have a picture of a '36 Ford and I was under the impression that he sold to Chauncey about 1938 and then moved back as the Dodge dealer.
JG: He told me that he was...well, I know that this was what happened 'cause it happened in Portland. I went down to a dealers' meeting and they'd had trouble with the brakes on these '37s and we had to repair all the brakes and they didn't give you anything for the labor, but they sent the parts out for the brakes. What they done is got a real slick deal, it wouldn't grab and they'd just slide over. One wheel'd catch then the other 'n' catch and they had a lot of trouble. We had to replace the brakes on all those things. Chauncey was out of that when that happened. That was in '37. I think that he and Don Beck crossed the street then to where the video store is and shortly after Clair opened up the Buick dealer. I could be wrong on the, you know, on the time. That's been a long time ago.
JT: So you then sold the dealership up in Enterprise and came back to La Grande?
JG: I came to Wallowa.
JT: You came to Wallowa?
JG: Yeah. I was in Wallowa for about seven years before I ever came back to La Grande.
JT: You came back to La Grande in... What year was that again?
JG: '46.
JT: '46.
JG: The tail-end of '46. I bought Chauncey out again... I mean Cy out again. He had this franchise here and I bought him out again.

JT: I always heard that there were a lot of alkali in that ground around the airport out there. How did you overcome that?

JG: On the part that I'm on we got to go out there and kind of... What it was...and a lot of it showed up, too, after the flood. Do you remember the flood that we had?

JT: The one in '64-'65?

JG: That one that went right through town.

JT: Uh-huh.

JG: Now it wouldn't come where I was because we got the highway. See, that acts as a dam and probably go over and wash the UP out and that truck stop out there. But at that time I got all that water. I don't know whether it... I don't recall any great amount of alkali except that after that thing once in a while we'd dig up a chunk of the stuff. You can do anything with that ground as long as you got fertilizer and water.

JT: That's a good thing to know.

JG: Yeah. Where right now I'm not active in it anymore and Neil Coop...do you know him?

JT: Is that your son-in-law?

JG: Yeah. He's in it and he's got a contract with a potato ___. You drive up my lane out there and you'll see we got about a hundred acres of spuds in that's just...they're gonna...Monday they're gonna start in they'll spray 'em with sulfuric acid to kill 'em and then two weeks later they'll ___. These all go for seed. Then they're gonna do ___ as I understand. I'm gonna... I'm out of it. As far as I'm concerned I've had all of it... I ran cattle. ___ had that thing out there and got the ranch from him and he also had a ___ up here on Five Point. ___

JT: Where you could run cattle.

JG: Tell you one thing, I was settin' the other day we were talking about this road that they're puttin' in now, you know, that goes into Island City up past the country club?

JT: Uh-huh.

JG: In '46 and I know it was in '47, too, I drove two hundred head of cows, two hundred head of calves and ten bulls down there through Island City, across the bridge, down ___ trail and up on Five Point. After that they pulled all the fences out on Blackhawk Trail and the guy that had the sale yard had a bunch of yearlings. You remember the old stock yards they used to have down there?

JT: Yes.

JG: He unloaded his yearlings down there and started drivin' 'em in up there. I mean they just...I think it cost him \$1500 before he went through.

JT: Got in people's yards, women were shaking their...

JG: That was always a joy, you know, some woman come out in an apron...

JT: Some of these regulations we'd still be back in Missouri. We wouldn't have got out here on the Oregon Trail, would we?

JG: No. No, the thing...another thing that I remember back in that period is how much snow we had in La Grande. Do you remember it stackin' up in the streets there?

JT: You couldn't see clear across the street it'd be so high.

JG: No. And the wind'd blow and you didn't know whether you were gettin' out of town or in town and where you were half the time.

JT: What did you say, Ed Ford was the city manager during that time. Did you get along with Ed?

JG: No, I didn't. Got right into him we had a big fat... I had an irrigation ditch that came through town, it still comes through town, called the Irrigation Canal Company. It was leakin' down there and it was on the railroad tracks where they park the school busses now. There was a great big pond and it was about twelve feet deep. I went in and told that guy I wanted to talk to him. He said, "Get out of my office." So I went down and got a hold of Harry Wardell, Lynn Anderson, took 'em up there and showed 'em what it

was and said you can go from there and eventually they __ down the road. He was a... He thought he was God or something as far as I know. We never could get along.

JT: We worried about mechanical sewer in those days when the mechanical sewer, you know, when we'd have too much water we'd have to go through that ditch that went out toward Gekeler's there. Is that the ditch you're talking about?

JG: If that thing wasn't turn on I'd tell you some stories.

JT: It worried us considerably for afraid that some farmer's children would get typhoid or something out there. You had so much water you couldn't stop it.

JG: Nope. You remember they had old George Udey down there?

JT: Yes.

JG: Takin' care of the deal all the time. I used to go up and see old George every time I know there was a head comin' through I'd just tell old George, "you'd better get ready 'cause here it comes." Another thing happened on that thing, it was in a tin sewer that went down __ you know.

JT: Between Adams and Jefferson.

JG: Yeah. Right behind those buildings. That thing when it got that flood broke and flooded 'em in there. That's... I went to the city manager, it was a different guy, was his name Clausen then?

JT: Yes. Well...I guess it was Clausen.

JG: Anyway, I took him down and showed him what was going on. So he...someday they got it worked around and they put sewer line clear down Jefferson. Another problem was the underpass. Do you remember that?

JT: Right. Filled up with water.

JG: Oh yeah. Filled up with water level. They didn't have a good pump on the other side of it to take it away. So they got all that worked out during that thing. That's one thing they did figure out.

JT: Wasn't George Cochran and Cole Neverheart weren't they...didn't they have something to do with the ditch company? Weren't they attorneys?

JG: Yes. George Cochran was the attorney. I'll tell you something that happened there. Turn that thing off and I'll tell you something. [recording paused]

JT: There was some interesting things happened around La Grande that probably've been swept under the rug and forgotten about.

JG: I've got in on several of 'em on the edges of La Grande in these water deals.

JT: Did you remember that old dog catcher we had, Joe Southfall? Used to have that old white horse.

JG: I remember something...

JT: Painted his...the hooves orange. He lived in a tent in that old barn down there where the mechanical sewer was, were Pepsi-Cola is now. He always picked up dogs around town. The kids'd let the dogs out, he'd pick 'em up.

JG: Now old George he was the one that I had the most to do with of any of 'em along about that time.

JT: Did you ever play golf with George?

JG: Yeah.

JT: He was quite a golfer, wasn't he?

JG: Yeah, he was all right. He had a boy that was a bellhop down in Portland. I used to see him once in a while when I'd go to Portland. Old George was a good golfer. I don't know after...that thing got so bad that he formed a committee. Do you remember that? And went into this deal out here where they put the sewer line out there to the two ponds.

JT: Uh-huh. The lagoon.

JG: Yeah, 'cept they never did run it the way it was supposed to have been run. They were only supposed to fill one pond and they were supposed to oxidize out. Instead of that

when they got into it, well, they filled both ponds. Now they've taken it clear out past Hot Lake to do that.

JT: Yes. Clear out there close to the Courtright's'.

JG: On the other side of...

JT: Your dad had a farm out there where he had those real nice horses that he had.

JG: That burned.

JT: Yeah. I remember that.

JG: Then we moved on over to the ranch and remodeled the building inside __.

JT: __ took some pictures of the horse out there. I remember real nice looking. That's when Joe Bob was his trainer.

JG: Yeah, Joe Bob was here about three years and then he took off and went first to Oregon City, then he went back to Missouri. That's where he came from was Mexico, Missouri. He stayed there for a long time. He was there about twenty years before he ever came back out here.

JT: Came back.

JG: What brought him back here he was...I don't know how he got into California and he was schoolin' runners out of the... How he got in foolin' with runners I'll never know. They was comin' out of those cages you know, that they got for the runners. One of 'em fell on him or tipped over and broke his shoulder and stepped on his hand. When he got over that I guess he decided he'd better come back to La Grande. He was married to Millie Hahn at the time, too.

JT: I didn't know when they got married.

JG: They got married before he ever left here. In fact, she moved down to Oregon City with him when he moved down there. Then he took off and she came back up here with his three kids.

JT: __ It... I know you had one daughter, Jean.

JG: Mm-hmm. Got another one, too, over in Wallowa County.

JT: Wallowa County. Jean taught school?

JG: Still teachin'.

JT: She used to come down to the public library where my wife was children's librarian. You used the library a lot yourself.

JG: Yeah, we do. We don't go out much anymore, of course. We're ninety years old so we stay in and we read and read and stuff like that. There isn't much to watch on the tube after the news that you want to know.

JT: Right.

JG: So that's the way we fill in part of our time. We go over to Wallowa County. I've got that daughter over there. She's married to Sam Wayne. You know where that Rocky Point is around between Lostine and Enterprise where they've got all the wire to keep the rocks from falling on the road?

JT: I think yeah.

JG: Our ranch is just across the river. Three grandkids of that group, two of 'em are nurses. One of 'em's in __ Wallowa Hospital and the other 'n, boy, is an engineer down in Los Angeles. He stays down there. Then the other younger one she's also a nurse.

JT: I know my wife said she was impressed with your daughter's room up at school when she went up there. She had her picture when she went to Central School and she had her class to show 'em that she was the same age in that school and now she was their teacher.

JG: She... They've got two kids. One of 'em, Derrick Cooper's with the Forest Service down at John Day. In fact, Neil Cooper went down there __ to see them. The girl's name is Carrie and she's married to Tim Martin and they live over in Nampa. The other went over to Nampa.

JT: Living out there by the airport what'd you thing of all the changes that been made?

JG: Oh, they're all right. They can make a few more of 'em it wouldn't hurt some of the other roads ___ work out there.

JT: Yeah.

JG: There's more traffic out of the airport all the time now. I've had two planes ___ one of 'em the guy forgot to put in gasoline in his deal and went down. The other one was a spray pilot bringing a spray plane from Seattle to Baker. They told him he had enough gas to get there and he didn't have so he circled and came into my field. He'd been all right except he hit an irrigation ditch. He fixed that one right there. Then there was a man and a wife were out there, they were going to Portland, and he just didn't warm his plane up I don't think. He took off right down due north and he got down there and made a quick turn and his thing quit on him and he went right down inside a tree. Killed 'em both. We'll get some more of 'em in due time. Have you been out there? They've got all of old Island City road out there that enlarge their runway. They're gonna work on that next year.

JT: I understood that they'd been working out there. What do you think of the industrial park out there with the trailers, the safe company?

JG: Oh, they're all right. I had a little rile with one of 'em they had out there, but it wasn't anything. They had a fellow out there with a spray plane and we were working cattle and he came in and buzzed us and the cattle ____. We had a little rile over that, but other than that the rest of 'em's alright. I don't think they'll ever get down in that corner 'cause I think that's gonna be an extension the runway.

JT: I noticed all those mounds of dirt out there.

JG: They got 'em all leveled down most of 'em now. What they're supposed to do is go on way on that other road. You know, where that trailer factory is?

JT: Uh-huh.

JG: Go down and cross that road down there. They've...are taking the ___ they're goin' right through where his house is to put that runway in. The road's gonna go out around that __. If they ever get to doin' that that's what they're talkin' about. They talked to me first about comin' through that...[end tape]

JT: ...cattle... He doesn't do any cattle.

JG: He did for a while, but about two years ago he quit. I didn't want to fool with 'em anymore. We were pasturin' up the river up there on a lawyer's land from Bend. About two years ago I said, "Why don't we quit." John Collins has that pasture now. So ___ he is raisin' crops, wheat and potatoes. Potatoes deal, you know, you lease to them. All you do furnish the water really. So they do all the work and everything ___.

JT: I suppose it pays all the bills, that's the way to do it. I've been out visiting with Willie Hamann out there with all the mint, wheat and grass seed. He's got a real versatile...

JG: Yeah, he's got a lot of diversity out there.

JT: ...farm out there.

JG: Do you remember his father?

JT: No. I knew Charlie Hamann, you know. Then, of course, Taylor...Laura Taylor married G. W. and used to go out there all the time when I was a kid.

JG: Willy's father had scales there in Island City. They've torn 'em down now, but he had these scales. I used to have to weigh stuff over there. I got to know the elderly gentleman very well. Of course I know Willie, too.

JT: It's right there where that barn is.

JG: Yeah.

JT: Where the scales were. Willy's dad was a pretty tough...

JG: He was a character.

JT: Willy learned a lot of good things from him because he worked hard he seems to be quite successful.

JG: Willy's got a pretty good deal goin'.

JT: What are the biggest changes in the valley, do you think, that have happened?

JG: I think the fact that they're going into diverse crops, for one thing. It all used to be all wheat or grains and now they're raisin' other things like potatoes and mint, beets, you know, 'll be the next thing, lots of beets.

JT: Sugar beet.

JG: Lots of sugar beet. Now that went on years ago. That land that I had was sugar beet land originally. Because an outfit from California had it. They closed up. The old sugar beet factory used to be down where the first county shops were.

JT: Down on Z.

JG: Yeah. But they closed up after that. In fact, I think Sly bought some of that land when he put that thing together. He put that together. He bought out a fellow by the name of Grout and another one other there. Then I think he got some of this land off of that.

JT: That was all financed local by different people in the valley, as I understood it. It went from 1898 till about 1906. I've heard it was because of the blight that they quit sugar beets.

JG: Could've been.

JT: Then the... I was told...

JG: Of course now the sprays'll take care of that.

JT: Yeah. They said it also was labor-intensive because you had to hoe it. They hadn't been used to that. They planted the wheat and harvested it in the fall.

JG: Of course it's all changed quite a bit now. They just get on a tractor and set and go through the rows and clean out the rows.

JT: Last night I was talkin' to LeVern Draper and he was saying that Ed McCans had had a plow that would go four-and-a-half foot deep, but it stopped the tractor and you mixed a lot of forced waste and stuff with...

JG: We did the same thing on a piece out there. A fella came in here from Ontario had the plow and that plow it was as tall as that deal there.

JT: About...

JG: It's still sittin' out there. If you want it I'll give it to you. I've been trying to get that character to get it out of there. It's sittin' out there and it must be fully that high. And what they did, they plowed and then they put a lot of Boise Cascade's waste in it, buried it deep. It's buried probably about six, seven feet down.

JT: Which made the ground productive after that.

JG: Well, yeah.

JT: There's been a lot of changes that way.

JG: I'll tell you another thing's a big change, the fact that they're usin' wells. They've gotten away from the Grande Ronde River, which is nothin' to begin with. If you try to irrigate out of that thing you might as well forget it. There isn't enough water in that thing at the time that you want it. So they're all going to wells. We put in a well here about three or four years ago, but the other wells that goin' in around all the time. Paul __ got a couple down there.

JT: Bill Cooper didn't do two wells.

JG: No. Togglesons another one. He just died __. There... Another thing, too, they can...if they got the right kind of a rotary drill deal they'll put a well down three hundred feet in a day-and-a-half.

JT: That's pretty fast.

JG: All they got to do is have a little water for the rotary and down they go.

JT: I didn't know they did it that fast. That's pretty fast. When they drained the water from out there at the old Pierce place did that change the water table?

JG: Oh, I think the water table's changed. I had a fella work for me on cattle out there and he came from Union. He told me that he used to row a boat from Union to Hot Lake and back there was that much water in there.

JT: Boy, that's come along in there. Did you know... I'm sure you knew Pete...

JG: Oh yeah. I knew Pete.

JT: Harvey Davis.

JG: Richard and I were on a... I was the president of Cattlemen's Association and he and ___ Glen were the two others on the committee when I was running Cattlemen at the time. So I knew Richard very well. And I knew Pete, but not as well as I knew Richard. Did you ever know Heber Glen?

JT: Yes. When he had the beaver out there.

JG: Yeah.

JT: Can you tell us a little bit about that 'cause I don't know how many people would believe what happened?

JG: It's just like all those things. I've seen a similar deal in Wallowa County. They were raisin' foxes over in Wallowa County. They got 'em right up to almost the pelting stage and then they got some type of pneumonia. I know they got...asked my dad to come down and see...look at 'em and see if they could do anything. They couldn't. They started diein' just like flies and same thing happened, pretty much, I think, up there at Heber ___. When you put those animals that should run in the wild in confinement you're gonna get, just like humans jammed up in a place, you're gettin' into trouble. Do you remember Heber had it up behind the house?

JT: Of the house there. The concrete pieces are still up there.

JG: I think that that's pretty much what happened.

JT: Didn't they sell those for about \$1800 a ___?

JG: Yeah. Did you ever know Boots Walman?

JT: I knew Boots, yes.

JG: Boots bought a pair and I told him ___.

JT: That baker was selling them. I know a lot of different people bought them.

JG: I got my education in those things before I left Wallowa County. Anytime you get 'em together they're gonna get a flue or a pneumonia or somethin' and die like flies and they did. Same thing'll happen to pigs if they're in too close in confines sometimes.

JT: We at one time had a lot of pigs in this valley, too.

JG: Yeah, I know. They don't have any... I raised a lot of pigs over in Wallowa County.

JT: Does Bonny Carns still have 'em?

JG: I don't know. The last I knew he was, but I don't know. That's another thing, they're all still tryin' to do it in confinement. Over there we didn't confine the pigs. We let 'em...we put hog rings in their nose, you know, to keep 'em from rooting and we had fences that they'd stay in a general area and we'd feed 'em a little grain so they knew where they were. One time we did this, there were...on that hill back of Wallowa they call Tick Hill back of there, it's a lot of wheat land in there and they were raisin' wheat and those old combines'd put half of it in the bin and the other half on the ground. We were in a ___ for a month there and took the hogs up there and branded 'em just like cattle on the hips and turned 'em loose. What we did was put up kind of a corral with the troughs in it and we fed 'em before we ever turned 'em loose. And all we had to do was get up there and call those things and they'd come up and know where to eat. That's how we got 'em back down off there.

JT: I've seen pictures of some hogs they were 750 pounds. Why did they ever raise animals that heavy?

JG: I don't know. None of 'em were any good. If you got a sow that heavy nine times out of ten she'll lay on her offspring and kill half of 'em.

JT: What's the average weight of a hog that would be...?

JG: We tried to ship at around 220 pounds. We had to ship by rail then out of Wallowa. We drove 'em down to ___ and put 'em in the corrals down there where Bowman-Hicks had their mill and they went out of there. They had one man handle all the livestock in that end of the valley and another on up there on Joseph to handle all the livestock up there. They kept correspondence by phone with each other and then they'd send these trains up there and they started loadin' at Joseph and they'd bring 'em back down to Wallowa and load 'em up, send this cattle, hogs and the whole works. We used to ship our hogs into Bodine and Claudsen. They were the ones who marketed our hogs for us. I'll tell you another thing, once in a while you'd barely make enough money to pay the ____.

JT: I've heard that.

JG: My father got into a deal over there in Wallowa County was a real ___. He had a fellow workin' for him and he got he idea that they could make ___ raise ducks and shipped 'em out. About that time they had Chinese New... So he got all these ducks and then several kids, and I remember those poor kids were chasin' these ducks up and down every irrigation out there keepin' 'em from gettin' away. So finally they got around to Chinese New Year and he got...___ brought in a bunch of cages and they put those ducks in and shipped 'em out. The first shipment went pretty good. The second shipment was a little slow and the third one we had to call him up again and said, "Don't ship any more ducks. You've flooded the market." [laugh] That wound up the duck... Never will forget those kids tryin' to corral those ducks.

JT: When you said you were in the Cattlemen's Association were you instrumental in forming the...

JG: No, it had been formed before I was...

JT: What all was involved in the...?

JG: Oh, a lot of it was watchin' out for range rights and stuff like that, you know. They were beginning to nip at... I got in... Turn that thing off. I'll tell you a story. [recording paused] Oh, not fighting the Sierra Club necessarily, but we had deals tryin' to keep those range rights for different ones around the country, try to help them on that.

JT: And then later they wanted to fence the creeks away from the cattle and cattle have to get water.

JG: Yeah.

JT: And when you own your own property.

JG: ___ thing.

JT: I don't know, John. Things have changed over the years.

JG: I know when I started everybody had Hereford cattle. These buyers decided that they'd rather have the Angus so everybody had to turn over to those Angus type. That's what they wanted at the time. ___ that they discount ___

JT: Then they want leaner beef and all these different things. Anything that they want, it changes all the time.

JG: ___ on these places where they pen 'em up, you know, and feed 'em grains...

JT: Feed lots.

JG: Feed lot, yeah. There's a big one over in Wallula.

JT: Yeah.

JG: I don't know...

JT: I don't know how they expect the farmers to feed the people if they keep putting regulations on it. And then the farmer doesn't get anything for his product. The middlemen are getting all the profit. What has happened with this association of cattlemen that were going to have their own slaughterhouse?

JG: Oh, I don't think they ever got enough push behind it. They're still talkin' about it. I think there was a fellow that was instigating it a little bit and he was president of the

Oregon Cattlemen's Association. He got out of office and kind of drifted down. I don't know what they're doing now. Do you know John Collins? Realtor?

JT: Yes.

JG: John has been president and I don't know what they're doin' now.

JT: I didn't know he was involved in it.

JG: Oh yeah. He's got calves.

JT: So you got real estate...

JG: Calves. Sell you a cow or sell you some house.

JT: I know a couple farmers out in the valley that said, you know, they hate to be the generation to lose the family farm. It's a tough business.

JG: Surely.

JT: By the time you pay the taxes...

JG: There's all kinds of operational costs. If you got any hired help you'd have to __ state to take care of them in case they're injured. Then a lot of things have changed, too, in the cattle deal. You know, they used to rope 'em neck and foot and stretch 'em out and do all this. Now they got what they call cat cradles to put 'em in and they just tip 'em over and work on 'em. It's a lot easier, I can tell you that. I've been both ways. Kicked by a lot of 'em.

JT: I can appreciate that.

JG: One of my worst experiences was these young cows up in the hills runnin' into a porcupine, these calves. They'd get a face-full of quills and you've got to drive the mother and the calf about five miles to a corral where you could catch 'em and pull the quills out. Every step of the way he's tryin' to nurse and she's tryin' to kick his head off. I hadn't better say what I was done to the porcupine.

JT: They said that that was supposed to be an animal that a person lost out in the woods could kill and survive. How can you do it with all those quills?

JG: I want a sharp knife before I get around one if I'm gonna do that. I don't have to do with them, I just starve to death. We used to have a lot of bear up there when we first started, but Harvey Carter wound them up. He got up there and started trappin' 'em and got 'em out. You know Harvey, don't you?

JT: Yes. He was my seventh grade teacher. He was my babysitter when I was two. He was a bellhop at the Foley Hotel and my mother worked at the Green Parrot Café and he'd watch me up in a room and see I was all right while she was working.

JG: I knew Harvey, of course, I was on the school board for a while. I met Harvey walking around up there. He always had a long staff that he took when he walked. He walked everywhere, all over that country. He just started on those bears and ____.

JT: He was quite a cattleman, too, wasn't he?

JG: Yeah.

JT: Runnin' up there where the old Grande Ronde Lumber Company...above...between upper and lower Perry.

JG: It's a good thing they didn't build a golf course up there like they talked about. Boy, those elk would've been down there and cleaned them out. I often thought if that guy ever puts that thing in he better sit up there with a shotgun in the wintertime.

JT: The Indians were saying it'd destroy the artifacts. Any artifact that was there was...there was not an Indian alive that knew about when that was there 'cause there'd been a mill there since the 1800s.

JG: Yeah. You know they used to have a dam there.

JT: Yes.

JG: Quite a __ and quite a change.

JT: Would you go into farming today?

JG: I got tired of trying to deal with Ford Motor Company and the general public in Wallowa County. If I had my choice of the two I'd go back to the farm. I'll tell you one thing, you're gonna run out of farmers someday. If they keep on moving around they're gonna run out of farm land.

JT: Yeah. People are gonna have to eat.

JG: Yeah.

JT: They're gonna have to realize that they're gonna have to give a little bit on some of these regulations.

JG: Watch this potato outfit out here. What they do they don't use this bunch here at all. This is all seed sprouts. They've got...I think it's seven thousand acres in Winnemucca that they seed to raise the regular sprouts then they got fourteen thousand over in Hermiston.

JT: Oh. In the circles?

JG: Yeah. ___ circles in both places. And then last year I think they even shipped some seed far back as Minnesota 'cause they had a drought or somethin' along back in there.

JT: Is this the Lang brothers?

JG: Lane.

JT: Lane brothers, excuse me.

JG: No. This isn't them. This is an outfit by the name of ____.

JT: Oh.

JG: Lane's are raisin' potatoes out there, but I don't know much about them. They're down by Brigotti. I know Bob and Pat, but I don't know the Lanes very well.

JT: Lanes have that spot on the other side of the Hot Lake bridge?

JG: I think they're probably raisin' there for food, for sellin'.

JT: Over the years it's been several farms that stopped makin' it out in the valley for one reason or another. Some of the better farmers around, Stan Weishauer and sons, Willie Hamann. You probably know more of them than I do.

JG: Paul ___'s another one.

JT: Right.

JG: I think run down the line there, Case, Reindoit and that bunch, but I don't know too much about it. Like I say, for the last year or so I haven't... I'm just not very active anymore. I got out to my place and do what I want to out there. I wander around too much anymore.

JT: Did you think when they built the particleboard out there and Terry Industries and stuff that that was usin' up some of the better farmland in the valley?

JG: Oh, I think they're gettin' just as much out of what they got there, Terry and that, as they did if it'd been farmland. They've got a lot of farmland ___ farmland.

JT: Yes.

JG: I think that that'll get more employment and stuff like that. One thing is farmers don't hire anymore labor anymore than they have to.

JT: One good thing that they have done for the farmers is came along with mechanized equipment and they were able to do some of these jobs a lot easier.

JG: Yeah. When I started in Wallowa we stacked all loose hay. We used old ___ stackers and teams of horses with buck rakes on. I never saw till I started over here the later part of '46 I had a lot of hay over there and Allen Courtright, Bert Courtright and their sister come over there with a baler and baled a bunch of hay up for me. That's about the first time I ever watched a baler.

JT: The Beezing brothers out there used to stack their hay. I can remember they were feedin' it off of wagons with rubber tires when I was a kid.

JG: When old Sly had that thing before I got there ___ was county agent ___ but he told him that he wanted to get total usage out of that ____. So they chopped the hay and put it in

the wagon. Then they started over toward the airport and we were gonna _____. You know what happened. ___ of Dick Smutz's ___ cattle ___.

JT: I can appreciate.

JG: Chopped hay in the air.

JT: Do you think if they put some windmills out there on that hill back of Hot Lake that that...

JG: I'd like to see 'em do it, yeah. I'm interested to see what it'll do. I think it'll work. We got a lot of wind.

JT: The wind really blows out there.

JG: Yeah. Yeah, we get a lot of wind down there by that airport _____.

JT: Right.

JG: I take two calves... I take a calf ___ and the wind's blowin' _____.

JT: It's blowin' some trains off the tracks out there...

JG: Yeah. At Hot Lake it blew one off, blew a car off up there one time, yeah. _____ out there _____.

JT: But it makes a very interesting valley to live in that way. We were talking the other day about when they cut down the tree out there at Lone Tree. Do you remember when that was?

JG: No, I don't. ___ they either call it Lone Tree or Lone Pine when I knew it and I never knew when they took it down. I know when they were talking about that fire that the pump in La Grande broke down at Lone Pine and...

JT: Yeah. I think it's...it says on the railroad building there Lone Tree and Lone Pine, I think, is the right designation. George Lorenzo ___ that property one time right there where you turn off to go to the airport. Remember when the junior chamber of commerce tried to have that car races out there where B&K Auto is now?

JG: No, I passed that. I've been much of a watchin' car races.

JT: It was just a town project. We worked awful hard out there. It seems like the junior chamber of commerce used to do a lot of things around town to make things a little better.

JG: They got a ___ field out there now. Have you been out to it?

JT: Yes.

JG: I want to know how it's doin'. I haven't been over. I want to go over some time.

JT: There's not too much advertisement to know... Who would have the money to be able to...

JG: A lawyer's the one that's pushin' it.

JT: What lawyer is that?

JG: Oh, Joseph, Steve Joseph.

JT: Oh, Steve.

JG: Yeah. Melissa's the power behind the picture. They had the old stable. I had leased it there from Harry Coleman for a while then he moved 'em out for some reason.

JT: You know, we used to have so many game birds and things in the valley and we don't hardly have any since...

JG: Coyotes took care of that.

JT: Coyotes and didn't...

JG: We had coyotes out there and we seen two or three of 'em.

JT: I'm sure they... I was thinking maybe the brush, that there wasn't the cover for 'em anymore.

JG: There's a lot of cover for 'em out there now and they're in the potatoes. They'll probably get out of there Monday 'cause they're gonna spray sulfuric acid.

JT: Oh boy.

JG: But there's a lot of 'em along that old ditch there. We see 'em all the time. We hear 'em ___ go out there about dark and ___.

JT: Do you ever do any hunting for pheasants?

JG: When I first came here, but that... Over in Wallowa I was on the Wallowa River there and we had lots of pheasants over there and there just wasn't too many out here. ___ and I took one of Neil Cooper's dogs and went pheasant hunting one time. We walked about a mile along that ditch and ___ birds ___ that dog ___ turned around and went back and got the ___. But there's a few birds out there lately.

JT: Yeah, well... They used to go up the hill there behind the Smutz's you know. Boy, you had to be a pretty good runner to...

JG: That was a lot of Hungarian in that area.

JT: Smutz's brothers was a real going concern from a...for farming the hillside there.

JG: Most of 'em all gone now.

JT: They all are.

JG: I remember Dee drivin' cattle. He'd come out of up there in the hills ___ where ___ was and ___ cattle down through here along about the first of November down this street here and around the hillside and on out to his place. Try that now! You wouldn't last very long.

JT: But, you know, you were doin' that a lot of years before all those houses built up through there. I remember when it was in the paper... Roy Skeen used to run...

JG: Ralph Badgely bought a hundred-and-fifty head from me one time. I don't know where he kept 'em in the winter, but I know it was down there someplace because he got tired of 'em real quick and I bought 'em back from him. I knew Ralph pretty well.

JT: They were some real...[end tape]