

Bernal & Virginia Hug

10/28/03, T1, S1

ES: ...test the tape first for sound. This is October 28<sup>th</sup>...

BH: I was born the last day of 1920 about a mile up the road in what we used to call the \_\_\_ place.

ES: And what's your full name?

BH: Bernal Hug Jr.

ES: And is it D, a middle name?

BH: Bernal Dean Hug.

ES: Dean? Is that what it is?

BH: Mm-hmm.

ES: Okay. Virginia?

VH: Virginia Hug.

ES: And your maiden name?

VH: Virginia Myrtle Hodge, now Hug.

ES: Hug. Okay.

VH: I was born in Portland at the old St. Vincent Hospital. Guess that's all you want.

ES: You want to tell me when?

VH: Yes. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1921.

ES: You were born in Elgin, what are some of your earliest memories as a child of where you lived and what you did?

BH: Actually, I was born a mile out of it.

ES: Okay. Not actually in Elgin, okay.

BH: I was born up there...

ES: Was there a name?

BH: For the place?

ES: Yeah. Was there a name for it?

BH: Yes. My father...dad, he bought the place in 1920. Prices went down and he couldn't pay for the place so we had to let the lease go back on that and he lost his down-payment and so on on it. But he had to turn it down, he couldn't pay for it 'cause it was right after prices went down. I guess its what you'd say a \_\_\_ depression, or at least the farm \_\_\_\_\_. Then I had a brother about a year younger than I am...

ES: Philip.

BH: Philip, yes. He was born there, too. Then Betty – Betty Hokes now – she was just a small baby, I think, when we left there.

ES: So what are some of the things you remember about that time?

BH: Very little.

ES: Very little. Do you remember anything about the place itself? Of course you went back to it later, didn't you?

BH: Yes. Well, only when \_\_\_ later when I farmed it. I didn't... I didn't move back to it 'til I was grown and was farming. So I rented the ground to farm.

ES: There's some pictures in this book – your father's history of the Hug family – that show you with Fred Hill and some other boys about your age. Do you remember that period?

BH: Yeah.

ES: What do you remember...first remember about Fred, for example?

BH: He was always... I was a country kid and he was a city kid so he kind of helped show me around. [laughs] He was \_\_\_\_.

ES: His father had the hardware store in Elgin, didn't he?

BH: Yes. And his mother introduced my parents. I think the story you ought to have.

ES: Yes. Do you want to tell it?

BH: Before my father was married, just a young man, he was evidently he was familiar in that territory and he was selected or anyway some way or another to represent the community \_\_\_\_ at the county court or whatever when they'd meet in La Grande. I don't know whether they called it court or not. Anyway, and Fred's granddad Huffman lived just out of La Grande, east out of La Grande about half-a-mile or I'm not sure just exactly. They had a ranch or a small place out there. His... Etha – which later became Etha Hill, Fred's mother – and my mother went to...I think they both went at the same time \_\_\_\_ So they were...and so my father met my mother...he would go over to La Grande for court, or whatever you call it, and then he'd stay overnight at Huffman's. In the process some way or other he happened to be there and introduced 'em...Fred's mother introduced them and then that's where they first started going.

ES: Am I correct in thinking she had grown up in Idaho?

BH: For a part of the time, yes. She went and moved around quite a little.

ES: There was a story in this history about your father going to Idaho and not telling anybody that he planned to marry this woman and when they did it was a great shock to everybody.

BH: Probably so. Probably not too much to the Huffmans, though. [laugh]

ES: They probably guessed.

BH: But anyway, that's... I think that's where her mother was living at the time. She was widowed, I think, at that time, her mother that is. And so she kind of... My mother had a brother, Claude, I think he would've been the one that was with 'em. Well, maybe it was Carl. Anyway, there was...there may have been one of the...there was a Silas, too. I'm not sure... Or it may have been...her...my mother's mother she was probably in Idaho. It's hard for me to get those things...

ES: Okay, we don't need all of those kinds of details.

BH: Later then she stayed with us, my mother's mother. She stayed with us 'til she died. She had cancer. And then that was when we were downtown. \_\_\_\_ from the drugstore.

ES: Now were you gonna tell me more about Fred Hill?

BH: We went to...started to school the same year. I walked out to the road from out there, about a mile down to the highway, and rode with Sarah Wickens at that time, Sarah Blanchard. She was goin' to high school and had a Model-T Ford so rode with her. And then wintertime she stayed with her aunt which lived just one block east of where my grandparents did. That whole block was...belonged to them.

ES: What do you remember about going to school?

BH: With nasty weather it was quite a bit of walkin'. And then it was pretty nasty weather I was goin' to first grade there. My dad'd meet me in wintertime \_\_\_ the road some of the time when it was the worst.

VH: He didn't quite get to say that he stayed with his grandparents down here when it was really wicked weather. And then we...

BH: Went home on weekends.

ES: Oh yes. Because it was so far from the school to your home?

BH: No. It was... See, school was in town.

ES: Yes.

BH: But then on weekends I'd go out and Sarah, later Sarah Blanchard – Sarah Blanchard was at that time Wickens – and she lived on out, oh, a couple, three miles out in the country. She had a Model-T and I'd ride out to where the highway...road come in for the highway. Then my dad'd \_\_\_ through there...really nasty... Had telephones, not like they are now, but you could telephone each other most of the time, not all of the time.

VH: What was he driving when he picked you up?

BH: When it was nasty weather he'd have horses and a sled...

ES: With a blanket, I hope?

BH: Yeah. And sometimes it was...he had a Model-T.

ES: What did he call you, your father? Junior?

BH: Junior, I guess.

ES: Anything else?

BH: Not usually. Later that I got my nickname.

ES: Which is?

BH: \_\_\_

ES: How did you get that nickname?

BH: My mother's brother he thought I shouldn't grow up bein' called Junior all my life, so he started callin' me Gabe. And so that kind of stuck. I was called Junior a lot, too, but anyway.

ES: What did the teachers call you?

BH: Bernal Junior, I suppose. I think most of the time I was just Bernal. Of course I signed my name Bernal Jr.

ES: As you got to be about ten or twelve years old, what attitudes did you have towards your father about what he did and how he did things? You must've observed him pretty closely, didn't you? Because he was around the area where you lived all the time.

BH: You couldn't help but admire him. He was... He was fair and you didn't disobey him, you know, he was strict that way, but not overly strict. See, it wasn't long until I had my sister that was just younger and then my brother that was younger than that. See, he died when he was...he was about second grade, I think.

ES: Your brother did?

BH: Mm-hmm.

ES: Do you know what he died from?

BH: It was probably from a...I don't know what you'd call it...I think they call it rheumatic fever and heart problems. They didn't have that much idea of what

things were. There was an old doctor in town. He'd come and seen him. I think there he prescribed a shot of liquor for him. [laughs] But I'm sure that didn't help much, but probably didn't make much difference either.

ES: I'm interested in knowing how your father taught you about farming. Did he give you assigned jobs to do all the time?

BH: He says go do it.

ES: For instance, what?

BH: [laughs] One of the things that I could remember – this is a little older...

ES: When you were a teenager?

BH: No, it was before I was a teenager.

ES: Eleven or twelve?

BH: Yeah. I'm not sure. I expect that's pretty close. He wasn't one much to give you any instruction, just go do it. A neighbor and he had a combine that they owned together and worked together combine and it was in the shed down near the house up there. This is after we moved to town. But up there and they were together. They pulled the combine out and was workin' on it. Dad had been working with four-head of horses with a harrow behind it for the summer fallow up on top of the hill, or just sloping up to it. But he was harrowin' back and forth. I suppose it was three-section harrowin', four horses abreast. He was... He wanted to go down and help Bert Hill work on the combine and pull it out and get it ready to run. So he just turned it over to me, but I'd never drove horses. I got it up to the head to make the corner otherwise you wouldn't be able to pull around, which they come right around, but comin' too and too short. The three sections of harrow \_\_ stuck in the ground and upset. These horses went off...they kind of made a circle. They come back and went down to the machine shed...by the machine shed where they workin' on the combine. It didn't take him very good long to get up there to see what happened to me.

ES: What did he do? Cuss you?

BH: No. [laugh] He was scared.

ES: Oh, scared. Naturally you would be.

BH: Yeah.

ES: 'Cause that was dangerous to you.

BH: Sure. So anyway, that was...

ES: What were doing and thinking then?

BH: I was scared, you know. I was... I don't know how you can say it, but anyway... I destroyed...messed up the whole thing. It took him quite a while to patch up the harness and the machinery and stuff.

ES: Were you afraid that he was gonna yell at you?

BH: No. He was too... He was concerned. He wasn't cruel. He wasn't...but he would just... He wasn't one to give you much instruction.

ES: Do you suppose he assumed that you'd been watching these operations and so that's how you would learn to do it?

BH: I had a little, but, you know, you don't think about that.

ES: Exactly how to do it, no.

BH: No. And so then it wasn't very long after that, a few days, he decided to seed \_\_\_\_ all wheat. I don't know whether he had it seeded or \_\_\_\_\_. Anyway, he borrowed a roller, called a packer. I think it covered about eight feet.

ES: Did you say a roller?

BH: Mm-hmm.

ES: Could you describe that a little bit?

BH: It was... It had a shaft with sprockets or a round thing about that big around.

ES: About two feet long. Or two feet around?

BH: More about eighteen inches.

ES: In diameter?

BH: In diameter. Not sure exactly how this one was, but usually they'd be one was kind of like a sprocket and then another one would just come up to it, a ridge. These were round and they were all on the shaft.

ES: What was the purpose of it?

BH: To pack the ground.

ES: Yes. After it'd been plowed?

BH: After it'd been...

ES: Seeded?

BH: I don't know whether it was before you seeded or after.

ES: Probably after, wouldn't you think?

BH: Ordinarily, but under the circumstances I'm not sure. They did it some both ways. Sometimes they'd pack it first.

ES: That was pulled by horse?

BH: By two horses.

ES: Two horses.

BH: Two horses. So he fixed it up and then had two gentle horses. I packed...probably \_\_\_\_ done that to twenty or twenty-five acres or so, maybe more.

ES: When you were doing that was there something to sit on or were you just walking behind the rollers?

BH: Yes. There was a seat on the back of it. But I did get some experience driving the horses.

ES: Were you doing that then before you were doing the harrowing?

BH: No. No, this was after.

ES: After. It should've been the other way around maybe?

BH: It should've been the other way around, yeah. [laughs]

ES: Yes. I understand that. You wished it had anyway.

BH: I guess. Anyway, I don't think he ever packed grain before or after that, but that was...

ES: Did he praise you for operating the roller successfully?

BH: He didn't really go about praising, but he'd acknowledge, you know. He wasn't overly praisable that way, but he...yeah, it was alright, you know. He'd let you know...

ES: Saying something like "Good job, son."

BH: I don't...

VH: Problably more like, "that takes care of that." [laughs]

ES: Oh, okay.  
VH: I don't know.  
BH: I wasn't too... He wasn't too verbal with praises, but you did know he cared for you.  
ES: Virginia, did you know Bernal Sr.?  
VH: Oh yes.  
ES: About how old was he when you first knew him?  
VH: That was just before we were married in '44.  
ES: He would have been in his late 40s or early 50s maybe?  
VH: I suppose.  
ES: By the way, do you think he was born about 1890?  
BH: I'd have to look it up.  
ES: You were born in 1920 and you were the first born and so he would've been maybe in his early 30s?  
BH: I think he was younger than that. I'm not sure.  
ES: I suspect he was about eighteen...  
BH: I think. You could find that in some of the books.  
ES: He wasn't too forthcoming about when he was born and some of the circumstances of his own life, I noticed. He mostly wrote about the other people.  
BH: I'm not sure just...  
VH: He has that and he's gone through that one, which is that age, that part of it.  
ES: It's not his earlier years, though. Pretty much from the time he was married.  
VH: We'll try to find out when he was born.  
ES: Okay. It's probably on the gravestone, isn't it?  
BH: Sure.  
VH: You can tell him where he's buried.  
BH: He wanted to be buried up on top of the hill...  
ES: That's what Edwin told me. I asked Edwin if there was something on his gravestone that said something like "Union County Historian" and he said...  
BH: No, I don't think...  
ES: Not even a birth date?  
VH: Was there... Did he say there was a gravestone? Did Edwin say that?  
BH: I don't think there is.  
ES: No. He didn't.  
VH: We didn't think there was.  
BH: I don't think so.  
ES: Maybe that's because of his modesty.  
BH: Anyhow, he didn't. He didn't want one.  
VH: He just wanted things natural out there, I think. He made the plot and he had it figured out that all of us could go there, too. And he made it... It had rocks around it and grass on it.  
BH: It's gone back to... You couldn't find it now. We know where it's at, but...  
ES: It's truly natural now.  
BH: Yeah, it's truly natural now. You take... You pile up rocks, but they don't always stay piled.  
ES: Right.

BH: I think that's kind of the way he would have wanted it.

VH: You might mention now, though, that he was quite skillful with building with rock.

BH: Yeah, he was.

ES: Walls and...

VH: Yes.

BH: Kind of like up here the rock walls around the place up there. He built those. The house there, that rock wall.

ES: Did he build other things with rocks?

VH: Lots of walls.

BH: Rock \_\_\_\_\_. [laugh] \_\_\_\_\_

ES: Sometimes farmhouses or homes as well as other buildings are made with rock.

BH: No. He didn't... He wasn't a...

ES: Stonemason.

BH: No. The closest to that would be that rock wall there as you go up to the house up here. You've been up there, haven't you?

ES: No, I haven't.

BH: Anyway, that rock wall there and then there's a rock wall on the one down below it, but it wasn't too polished. Anyway, he just put rocks there on the north side of the \_\_\_\_\_.

ES: Do you remember watching him build the wall?

BH: Oh yeah. \_\_\_\_\_

VH: We saw him build walls because he did it a lot.

ES: Were all of these rocks rocks that he could lift by himself or did he have some kind of a derrick?

BH: No, he just used ones he could lift or roll around.

ES: So-called one-man rocks.

BH: Yeah. Usually. He might've used heavier ones on the bottom \_\_\_\_\_ into place, drag 'em in.

ES: Why do you say he was very skillful at it?

VH: I probably said that. I don't know.

BH: It was just for his being self-taught he did quite well.

ES: Most of what he did was self-taught, wasn't it?

BH: Yes. I can remember when he was diggin' out rocks – this was later, well, it wasn't too later – workin' with horses on this field up there and it was out at the edge of it. \_\_\_\_\_ up rocks and, you know, big rock and you'd hit the top of it and then you'd dig out around it and pry it up with a crowbar and put rocks underneath it so you could get it up. Then you had to...workin' with four-head of horses on the \_\_\_\_\_ to the harrow or something and he had a chain to chain around the rock to pull it. And my granddad was helpin' at that time. He was the one... He and I \_\_\_\_\_. He was quite careful with things. Anyway, they pried these rocks... You could take a rock half as big as this table and with a leverage of a little rock under it and bigger rock \_\_\_\_\_ shovel dirt on it, you could get it up here where...and he'd take that four-head of horse with a chain around and drag this out to the edge of the field.

ES: Were most of the fields quite rocky?

BH: Yes.

ES: So it was, I suppose, important to get as many of them out as possible?

BH: Yeah. There was fairly deep soil on the north and the east slopes the south and west slopes \_\_\_ rocks.

ES: Can you remember any other incidents where your father was either teaching you how to do something or expecting you to do something? Because he probably wanted a lot of help from you, didn't he, the oldest son?

VH: How you learned to drive a car.

ES: Alright.

VH: Now his grandfather was meticulous.

ES: This man? Walter?

VH: Yes. Because he...now he came from Switzerland and he had been taught and he was very careful, as I understand, and he taught Bernal. So he was blessed to have had his grandfather.

ES: Indeed.

VH: And his grandfather had taught Bernal...this Bernal, too. But... And I'm sure it had a great affect because he was one who Bernal says he always wanted to try something new.

BH: My dad was.

VH: Yeah.

ES: I'd heard about him.

VH: But anyway, tell us about how you learned to drive. You were up at the ranch maybe and...

BH: Yeah. The car was in the place about a mile long. He said, "Go get it." I didn't have the slightest idea how to start it or anything! [laughs] And I made him kind of half aggravated.

ES: Did you dare say, "Dad, tell me what I'm supposed to do."

BH: No. He knew. He wasn't really mean, he just... But he was kind of disgusted. By the time my brothers come along, Edwin...the twins, you didn't have to tell them anything. They learned on their own. But it was different when I was growin' up. I was kind of the top of the way. I guess he sent me after the car...I have no idea \_\_\_ after we had a...had a car with a starter and stuff in it anyway. I didn't have a clue how...

ES: What did you do then?

BH: I told him I didn't know how to... So he crumbled a little and we went...

ES: This is the key, this is the starter, this is the steering...

BH: No, he said, "Get in there..." [laughs] He showed me kind of, you know, what I didn't have any idea.

ES: So he finally did teach you, then?

BH: Yeah. Just enough to get in there and drive it home.

ES: What happened when you first started it?

BH: By that time, you know, you get it started and so on you can kind of learn on your own.

ES: You had to be careful about the clutch.

BH: Yeah, I suppose.

ES: That was...



BH: But you learn that pretty quick, too, you know.  
 ES: It was harder than the cars we have now to drive without any experience.  
 BH: But it was...anyway, so...  
 ES: So how far did you go, do you remember, in that first trip?  
 BH: I think probably...probably I drove home. Of course he was sittin' beside me, but he'd already had to walk back to get the car with me. So I forget... I suppose we were a quarter of a mile or somethin' or other from where the car was. It may not have been that far. That was after I was pretty...old enough I should've known how to start it and drive it.  
 VH: It's pretty hard to think of anybody, you know, let \_\_\_. I mean you can hardly believe that when he tells that, but... 'cause...  
 ES: Especially living on a farm you tend to learn things like that pretty early.  
 VH: Kids nowadays...  
 BH: But you do if you're...but you don't do it unless...see, there I was by myself, didn't have other kids my age around to...you learn from other kids an awful lot what you're doin'. I had a brother that was just younger than I am, but he wasn't too well and later...but anyway, that's... By the time Edwin and Elwin come along he didn't teach them anything. They taught...  
 ES: Sure.  
 VH: They learned too fast and got into trouble sometimes.  
 ES: On the period you're talking about now when you were, say, ten, twelve, thirteen, thereabouts, what was your mother's role in your daily life?  
 BH: It was quite important. Before that, had a Model-T, didn't have a starter in it. So Dad had parked the thing up on the hill – where we lived up there there was quite a steep hill...[end tape]

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ES: Okay.  
 BH: She was wantin' to go to town, Dad'd leave the car up on the hill. But they hadn't put a wire back so he could choke it so you had to choke it out in front. So she'd had me lay up on the, you know, the fender was the place you could lay on, sit next to the fender and motor there, and reach around and choke the car as she went down the hill. She put it in gear as she went down, you know, to turn it over to get it started. I got it choked right and went down, otherwise we stayed home. [laugh] And then she got down and get somebody to start it for her down there. She was quite the independent that way.  
 ES: It sounded like that.  
 BH: Yeah.  
 ES: Other ways, too?  
 BH: Yeah. She was, you know, they were devoted and she just didn't, you know, he respected her and she... But she was, you know, she wasn't mean or...over it. She was, you know, she appreciated him and he her. He always, you know... But he just got a little, you know, \_\_\_ but anyway, got other things to worry about.

ES: When you needed discipline for something you might have done that wasn't quite right, who usually was in charge of the discipline?

BH: \_\_\_ around. My mom did usually \_\_\_ punishment or anything.

VH: She did have a butter paddle and...

BH: Oh yeah. She'd give you a swat. That's when you were smaller that she'd use a butter paddle on you.

ES: A tap?

BH: Huh?

ES: A tap?

BH: Well...

ES: Or a swat?

BH: Depend how old you were.

ES: Okay. [laughs]

BH: She even used that on Edwin and Elwin some.

ES: When people talk about the way kids behaved in earlier times they often said that kids were more obedient or they didn't give their parents trouble very often. Was that the case in your family?

BH: You didn't... You didn't give them trouble, you know. It was usually just carelessness or things that she'd told...maybe she'd told...she told you not to do something and you did you could expect punishment. But she wasn't cruel. She was never mean or... Either one of 'em were ever mean. They just were tryin' to correct and straighten you out.

ES: I'm just trying to get a sense of what kind of thing might you have done that you weren't supposed to do.

BH: Something that she told you not to do.

ES: For example?

BH: Oh goodness.

ES: Not cleaning up your room?

BH: No, somethin' like that she might just make ya wait...she might have some punishment for it, but she didn't really spank you for that.

ES: Sometimes little boys get matches and go out behind the barn and start fires.

BH: You'd probably get a spankin' for that.

ES: Was that something you might have done?

BH: I don't think so because that's...if you live on a ranch you see fires, a big burn, you wouldn't do that intentionally unless some people, you know, some kids did do it, but it's just carelessness \_\_\_ maybe after they got older even once they figured they had to get a cigarette and smoke it, but I didn't. 'Cause helped fight enough fires that I didn't...that was impressed on me. You didn't, you know...and then I've seen, you know, start fires that way \_\_\_ that's pretty serious.

ES: Did either your father or mother smoke?

BH: No.

ES: Did you?

BH: No.

ES: Why, do you think? Do you have any idea why they didn't smoke?

BH: Yes.

ES: It was fairly common then.

BH: They just...that wasn't the thing to do and they knew it wasn't good for ya. They just didn't do that.

ES: Did you ever hear cigarettes referred to as "coffin nails."

BH: Yeah, but I did...that was later.

ES: Oh. Did they ever give you little talks about not smoking?

BH: I don't remember that. They might have.

ES: How 'bout liquor?

BH: There wasn't... Folks never...didn't drink. I had an uncle that did some. We never \_\_ when my...of course that was during Prohibition most of the time when I was growin' up anyway. My grandmother, my mother's mother, she had cancer and she...in fact, she tried treatments all over. It was on her \_\_ inside and she...when she got so bad she stayed with my...this was after we were in town...stayed with us. Mother took care of her. \_\_ out here was about the size of a teacup or a \_\_\_\_\_. She took care of her.

ES: And did you say that she was getting treatment?

BH: She had gone different places back East, you know, there was some kind of a cure or this and that – you know things were – and she tried, you know, but then she came... That's when we were livin' in town.

ES: Did she maybe go to Hot Lake Sanitarium?

BH: I don't think so. We did have people that...

VH: Your mother did later. She \_\_\_\_ there.

ES: She did?

VH: But I think you were...probably they gave her some alcohol to ease her pain. I think that's how...talkin' about.

ES: By the way, did you ever go to Hot Lake for anything?

BH: Went up there not other than to visit.

ES: What did you think of it at the time?

BH: I know that it was \_\_ quite \_\_ there and it was quite nice.

ES: Did it seem like more luxury there than other places you know about in Elgin or La Grande?

BH: Yes. After we were...after we married we went up there to...I had...oh, Tucker...

VH: I don't know about that, but we went to a dinner. One of the organizations, the Farm Bureau or something like that...

ES: It was often used for socials.

VH: ...yeah, when they had restored it and so forth, trying to restore it, why, we went to something and it was...

BH: \_\_\_\_\_

VH: \_\_\_\_\_

BH: Andrew. Wasn't Andrew out there?

VH: Andrew. Mr. Barlow was up there. I don't know about \_\_\_\_.

ES: I was mainly interested in your reactions to it and, also, what other people around you said about it.

BH: It was, you know, when it was in...it was quite a place. Of course now...that was earlier and then it went downhill.

ES: Oh yes. Did you hear people talk about how much it cost to get a treatment there?

BH: I don't remember that. I'm sure that they probably did, but I just don't...

ES: One of the things you might hear about...from other people would be, "Oh, I'd like to go there for a treatment, but I can't, it's too expensive."

VH: His mother went. Now his dad was one to provide what was needed, you know. You wonder how he did it sometimes. But she was up there more than once.

BH: I don't remember.

ES: Okay. So back to the smoking and the liquor. Do you think your parents didn't smoke or didn't drink because they knew it was not good for their health or maybe was it for religious reasons?

BH: Basically for their health, but then... I don't know.

VH: They were...were going to church, were members of the church and they would've...

ES: Which church was that?

BH: Christian church.

ES: In Elgin?

BH: Yeah.

ES: They went regularly?

BH: Yes.

ES: What did they say to you about religion?

BH: They didn't... You went to Sunday School class and so you learned those things. It wasn't just up to them. You kind of grew up with it.

ES: There's weren't talks...there wasn't talk about religion at home?

BH: Oh yes. We had Bible studies and a lot of times Bible studies in our home.

ES: Tell me a little more about what happened during a Bible study session.

BH: Most of that was later, I suppose, after we were married.

VH: I don't know.

BH: Or before we were married... I don't know either. But they usually have scripture and then they'd...different ones would take...sometimes everyone would read. Then they'd ask questions about it and discuss scripture.

ES: Would they try to apply parts of the scripture to every day life?

BH: That was usually...yes.

ES: Did that make much of an impression on you?

BH: Oh yes. Yes, I was blessed to be brought up in a Christian home.

ES: I'm nearly curious about what you remember about your father's writing. In this history, this family history that started in the early 1920s when you were a baby, he was keeping meticulous records of how many pounds of seed of various kinds and when it was planted and what the yield was and what it sold for and what the cost had been. These are very detailed records. I don't think very many farmers ever, until maybe recent times with computers, ever kept. Can you remember your first awareness of his writing things?

BH: I was aware of it, but, you know, I really didn't \_\_\_ 'til later. I was aware of it, but...

VH: Where did he do this? Did he have a desk where he wrote?

BH: I don't know.

ES: You didn't see him write?

BH: I saw him write, but, you know... He probably did this...and there was parts...some of the time he didn't keep up with this as much as others, I don't think. But he did try to...I suppose it was just part of his education for keepin' track of things.

ES: When did you become curious enough to wonder why he was doing it?

BH: I don't know that I ever...ever worried about it. [laughs]

ES: Not so much worrying, but...

BH: Or ever thought much about it.

ES: If you were around other families' houses I'll bet the man who was in charge wasn't writing the way your father was.

BH: No. And I always had trouble with writing 'cause I had trouble with spelling so I didn't write much.

ES: He had a little trouble with spelling, too, but not too bad.

BH: Yeah, it didn't worry him.

ES: He really did write quite well. I've read quite a number of his things. Was he entirely self-taught, I mean, did he learn his writing only from what he got in elementary and high school, do you think?

BH: To start with, but then he did take classes later, didn't he?

VH: He went to Oregon State for, I don't know, I don't think it was real long. But he did enroll down there.

ES: Before... Was he married?

VH: Oh yeah. And then, of course, after I was here, why, he enrolled in classes up at the college, Eastern Oregon.

ES: Writing classes?

VH: Yes. And from...who is it...who was it, the librarian or...you hear a lot about this man.

BH: Zable?

VH: No.

ES: Amanda Zable was one of the early teachers.

VH: No. The man who...well, and he got the gingerbread from the house up on the hill and took it to La Grande and used it in buildings and this man they were kind of friends.

ES: You don't mean Jack Evans, do you?

VH: Jack Evans is who I mean. Now did he teach any writing classes?

ES: No.

VH: Then he must've \_\_\_\_.

ES: Of course he was interested in writing too.

VH: Oh yeah. They were... I'm sure he must've encouraged him. I don't know really.

ES: Can you tell me approximately when your father started writing...collecting information about history and then writing history?

BH: Ever since I can remember probably. I don't know about the history, but he sure wrote a lot in his farming records.

ES: Yeah, but this book of the family history is a little different. When he wrote about some of the people who had first come to the Grande Ronde Valley or when he wrote about...

BH: He did...I guess he got...didn't do much of that 'til later, didn't he?

VH: He did a lot of that after I was here, but I don't know how much he did before. That would've been in maybe 1940 he started.

ES: That sounds about right. Orval Trump told me that when he was a teenager and working for your father he was aware that your father would disappear for several days and made it known that he didn't want to be disturbed, he was writing, back in his office or study or whatever it was. And Orval said he didn't think very much of it, although he thought it was a little usual. He didn't know of any other farmers who did that. And I guess he didn't ask any questions. Apparently, you didn't either. [laugh]

BH: No. I was used to him writing.

ES: Sure.

BH: And he didn't really... I don't remember...if there was work to do he wasn't writing.

ES: I suppose this was mainly during the wintertime he was writing.

BH: Right. When there's, you know, things that I could do or Orval could do, well, then he could do writing or whatever he wanted to, but he wasn't one to...

VH: He had this office up there off of the dining room, I guess, and a big desk, and he worked there, a big roll-top, I think.

ES: Were you not living out the house when he was doing most of his history writing?

BH: Not after we were married, but before I did. He wrote...I don't know about history, but he wrote...kept track of yields and crops and so on. He did that ever since I can remember.

ES: Probably how he established his writing habit.

BH: Yeah. And he did...I don't know, I think he got started on history before we were married.

VH: Probably. He evidently appreciated people, you know, and he wanted those people... Now have you seen all of his books?

ES: Not all of them, but several.

VH: Those are really quite a...

ES: Do you have copies of all of them?

VH: ...quite a production. Probably. I'm not positive, but probably. And he...like he went on a trip with people from Union and so he wrote a book about that. That was along after he had probably done some of the others. Now I can tell you that his spelling improved. See, 'cause for *The 100 Years of Hug* – and this is kind of embarrassing – but I did the typing for him. You couldn't believe all the information that came into him, the way those names were spelled – I mean not what he spelled 'em, but the way the grandmother spells 'em. And once in a while I would change a letter. [laugh] And I made some mistakes, too. One of 'em I got one of our own children's birthday in their wrong. But he was patient.

ES: Did he ever read aloud any of his writing to family members?

BH: I wouldn't say never, but not that I remember.

ES: Did he ever say, "well, I've written about so-and-so, would you like to read it?"

VH: Somebody should've asked him, see.

BH: When they did most of that was after we were grown and away from home. I was...of course, after we were married we were around there and then my sisters

were...oh, I guess the next sister younger than I...there was my sister Betty but she died...no, she didn't die \_\_\_ but she was around, but then the others were Carol...Anna and Carol. See, Edwin and Elwin were fifteen years younger than I am. Anna must be...

VH: She was about twelve years younger.

BH: You see, that's quite a... I had a brother that died that was just...

ES: There were six children altogether?

BH: That's right.

VH: Six and he lost a brother who died.

ES: You, your sister Betty, Philip, Anna, Edwin and Elwin.

VH: And Carol was right after Anna.

BH: Philip was between myself and \_\_\_\_.

ES: What... What do you think your mother thought, or what connection might she have had, to your father's writing?

BH: Not a great lot, I don't think. But she was...put up with it. [laugh]

ES: Is that what it was?

BH: No, I don't think so.

ES: It would cause him to be away from the family and maybe...maybe she could be a little bit unhappy about it.

BH: I don't think really that...you didn't feel like he was away. He did that on his own and he wasn't neglecting his family.

VH: He was probably in the office in there. I can't imagine him going out on a retreat or anything riding out in the woods.

ES: But even being in your office by yourself for long periods of time kind of cuts you off from the family, doesn't it?

BH: Not any more than... Not as much as TV would now.

ES: [laugh] Okay, I get your point there. Yes, indeed. [laughs]

BH: But he was always available to us. And if there was church meetings or things to go to we went.

ES: Did you sometimes go into the area where he was doing his writing? Or did you see how things looked in there?

BH: Yeah. It was just... Wasn't too much different than anyplace else.

ES: What I'm getting at, was everything very neatly stacked and put away or was papers, books all scattered around?

BH: I wouldn't...

VH: I don't know.

BH: I don't think it was... I don't think we could hardly say one way or the other. It wasn't a clear...

VH: Didn't make an impression on us anyway.

BH: Either way. Not either way. He wasn't real fussy, but he more or less kept things orderly.

ES: I think I've read that he gave talks about history to various groups. Is that right?

BH: I think so, later, yes.

ES: That was after you were not living at home.

BH: Probably.

ES: Did you ever go hear one of his talks?

BH: Oh, I may have. I don't know. I probably have, but I'm not sure.

VH: I went with him once, if you want to hear about that.

ES: Oh yes. Indeed.

VH: He had a friendship – had you known that – with the Indians over at Pendleton?

ES: No, I don't think so.

VH: Really close friendship.

ES: How did he meet them do you think?

VH: I don't know how.

BH: He was curious.

ES: Did they come here or did he go there?

BH: He'd start with 'em there. He went there, he wanted to learn about...

VH: And he had found out that he was descended from Indians, too, and put that in...

BH: So he went over there just to interview 'em. He made friends with 'em. This was with...

VH: It's a descendant of...

BH: Chief Joseph.

VH: ...Chief Joseph's brother, I think. Something like that.

ES: Would this have been maybe when he was in his 60s?

VH: It would've been. I don't know how long after we were married. I just don't know. He could've been fifty or sixty. But anyway, he...very interested, he could've been a bot...he's interested in plants and the names of 'em \_\_\_\_.

BH: For a while there he...

VH: He took pictures.

BH: And then before that he would pick 'em and put 'em in felt paper, or anyway, to dry 'em.

VH: Press 'em.

BH: And press 'em and dry 'em.

VH: Yes. And he had...he had been interested in flowers before up at the ranch, why, Bernal remembers his cultivate flower garden.

BH: He had a raising irises. I think at one time he had up to, I don't know, twenty to forty different varieties of flowers.

VH: So he was interested in that. And then he took pictures of all these wildflowers. So he wanted to know what did the Indians do with those flowers. So I guess he made an appointment and he went over to Mission to their gathering place – now I don't know whether this is where they had church or just their other meetings – but anyway, we went...I went with him, just the two of us. And I was supposed to take these bits of wisdom down that the Indians told him in shorthand and have that for him. And so he gave this talk and then they would tell this one they boiled or whatever, you know, and applied it how they did it. I don't remember any of that.

ES: He probably wrote it down.

VH: I'm sure he did and I would imagine it's around someplace, but I don't know where.

ES: Did he ever do a book on plants?



VH: No. Not that I know of. But that was just for his personal knowledge. Then they enjoyed that very much, seeing his pictures, which were lovely. He did really a good job with the pictures.

ES: He was interested in photography throughout his life, wasn't he?

VH: Probably. Evidently.

ES: I think he started quite young.

BH: Yes. Tell about... Finish that Indian story about when they came.

VH: Oh, that's right. Not...I don't know how many years \_\_\_\_ ago this would be, but while he was...I suppose he was eighty maybe, or something like that, he was the age that he could have died, but he didn't...Vern Hug, over here at Summerville, a cousin or something, he died. The people over in Pendleton heard about that and they thought it was Bernal so they came to his funeral. And they found out then that he hadn't died and so Bernal and Con\_\_ they got stuff together and just had a little party up there. I suppose we were out on the hill. I've always hated...

BH: We were... I would come in on that some way or other.

VH: You may have, but I didn't...

BH: Over there when they were.

VH: Uh-huh. But I didn't...I didn't get...I would've liked to be there, you know. And it might've been that we were living here then, I don't know. And then we went to a meeting down here when one of the people from over there talked at the Union County Historical Society...or the Elgin Historical Society.

BH: About a year ago.

VH: Yeah. A year or two ago. And the young woman – not young anymore, I guess – but she spoke and told about things about the Indians and she mentioned being up at Hug's and playing with the kids. So she had come with her family, not to the funeral, but other times. And so the Hug kids, Bernal's nieces and nephews, can remember being there and now ours do too. So he just had so many interests, you know, you couldn't...none of 'em really developed, maybe, but how could you because you were so busy doing everything else.

ES: What kind of a speaker do you think he would've been?

BH: I'm not sure. Virginia went with him on some of his talks \_\_\_\_\_. She'd be a better judge of that.

VH: I think he did pretty fair considering all of that, you know, try to... He wouldn't be a boring speaker particularly.

ES: Would it be more likely that he would speak just from notes or from memory or would he write out his speech and then read it?

VH: I don't think he'd write it out and read it.

BH: Not likely. He might've wrote it down afterwards.

ES: Quite likely too, yes.

VH: Yeah. That could be.

ES: Do you have any idea what he hoped would be done with all of the writings that he did after he died? [pause] Did he have a will or did he write anything about his wishes?

VH: I think his interests were in other things than that. He was interested in what happened after he died. He wanted the family to be a kind of a community like Aurora or something like that, you know.

BH: I don't think he...

VH: He wanted a library up there and I suppose that's where he wanted his books. It would've been back of the house back there beyond the shed and would've built, you know, build a library.

ES: Did you hear him talk about that?

VH: I don't know whether I actually heard about it or not myself. But we talked about it, yes.

ES: Is there a library there now?

VH: No.

ES: Why not?

VH: He didn't build it. He expected all of us to gather around and live up there. Well, when we had a chance to buy this place out there we moved out there.

ES: Out where?

VH: It's out at the top of Minam Hill. So we didn't move in anyplace. Just think, I don't have to live in the house. His sister they fixed it up and it's fixed up really nice now, but I don't want that big of house, you know.

ES: It sounds to me as though Bernal Sr. then might have been a little disappointed with what happened.

BH: I don't think so. At the last he realized that these things you don't, you know, they aren't that important.

VH: Yeah, I don't... I think so, too.

BH: He was... He realized that he took his...[end tape]