

**PETE DAVIS**

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Transcribed by Ryan Shearer

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[Conversations that occur in the background during parts of the interview are not transcribed.]

I: I just thought that I wanted to tell us about the mine. And--

PD: Well, I don't know about it 'til I get this-- 'til I get another lease on it! I'm workin' on it!

I: What was the name of the mine?

PD: Robert Emmett.

I: Robert Emmett and uh--

PD: Robert Emmett and the Granite, and they're both now under the same name as Robert Emmett. The Granite claim-- the granite claim and the Robert Emmett claim and then we bought-- we bought 'em both out, see.

I: Now, who was the original-- original corporation stockholders? That-- I thought that would be interesting.

PD: Well, it's uh--

I: Davis Brothers?

PD: G. E. Davis and E. W. Davis is the ones in the book, and a Susie Winn and a Dr. Irwin, and Mrs. Ewan-- who-- Mrs.-- Mrs. Dobbins.

I: Oh yeah, okay. And who's been bought out, and who remains in that?

PD: Who what?

I: Who bought-- who sold out and who bought their stock?

PD: Oh, we bought out-- we bought Ed Davis's-- Ethel, Ethel P\_\_\_\_\_. Sam and the young girls, they bought out a Mrs. Young. You knew Dr. Young used to be in there and we leased to them in '38-- to Lillian Young. And then somebody-- then they pooped out. And they didn't do nothin'. And we terminated the lease. And somebody by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ or somethin' bought out Susie Winn. And then this Young, he bought out this \_\_\_\_\_, and that's the way they got there. And then they bought out Mrs. Dobbins. Then we divided it fifty-fifty.

I: Then is there--?

PD: But I don't know. You might be-- you might be interested in it someday or other if it ever pays, why--

I: Well, I don't know about that.

PD: Well, I don't know either.

I: Only thing is just--

PD: I haven't got very much records of any of that stuff.

I: Just a-- just a matter of the dates rather than \_\_\_\_\_?

PD: Yeah, the Davis brothers, I know was in on the ranch, and then they was in on the flour mill. And they was in on the general merchandise store down there. Dwight and Dana's brothers, you know.

I: Do you own all the line now, or just--?

PD: We own 50% of it.

I: Huh?

PD: We own 50%, and the young girls own 50%.

I: I see. Well, that was-- that's fine.

PD: And we've got a manager whose name is Maxwell.

I: Uh-huh. I know you've always paid all the taxes. I just wondered--

PD: Yeah, we paid. I got the-- that's one thing I have got. I've got the receipt for the taxes for about fifty years.

I: Yeah. I read an article the other day about Wilbur Davis. And it said that he was one of the heading stockholders in the Last Chance Mine. And I never knew that before.

PD: Wilbur?

I: Wilbur, yes.

PD: Yeah, he might have been.

I: It said he lost a lot of money in the Last Chance Mine.

PD: Was that old Wilbur or young Wilbur?

I: Old Wilbur.

PD: Old Wilbur-- old Wilbur had a claim on a mine on Elk Ridge. He had a mill, and this corporation bought that mill from him.

I: I see.

PD: And the water rights and stuff. I got-- I had the deed for it, but I don't know. Somebody stole most of my stuff, but I got copies of it \_\_\_\_\_. I think I give most of them to \_\_\_\_\_.

I: What I thought was kind of interesting because I had never heard much about Wilbur. He always said he was a miner. Both \_\_\_\_\_ year, Junior Wilbur.

PD: He thought something every once in awhile on some of that Elk Ridge stuff and that minin' stuff. And I had a letter for young Wilbur that uh-- oh, I didn't have it. Richard's got it. That was one from my dad. Wilbur was-- oh goodness, three or four pages!

I: When I went-- when I went to Cornucopia in 1916, Ted Chambers was a geologist from-- he was a fraternity brother. And he was a geologist up there for the Last Chance Mine. And he took me over from that mill in the bucket, over to the mine. And I never realized then that Wilbur Davis was interested in that until I read this article!

PD: Well, I never knew that he was interested in the Last Chance either!

I: I never knew it before. I just thought I'd--

PD: Course he was-- old Wilbur was a-- I know there's quite a lot. He was always a minin'. Hell, I know over there when Young Wilbur had-- lived there where Miriam used to live, why, they had a-- oh hell, they had a big glass case there that was all full of rocks and all over the Northwest. He had some out of Robert Emmett and the Last Chance and Nevada and B\_\_\_\_\_ and Sumpter and all that country.

I: Sure. Well, it's quite interesting, sure. Oh, I always had in my mind when dad told me about somebody taken an option on the mine and payin' ten thousand dollars on it, oh, who-- do you know who that was? They never did anything about it, did they?

PD: Well, the only ones that took a-- they had an option to buy it was Lilly and Young. And they leased it--

I: Oh.

PD: in 1938.

I: Oh, that's who it was.

PD: Lilly and Young. Lilly was a-- Lilly was a \_\_\_\_\_ Sage's son-in-law. And Young was a dentist.

I: I see. Well, that's fine. I just-- I had it in my mind. I often--

PD: They had an option in that contract that they could-- they could buy it for so much money if they wanted to, but they never did. They never did. Well, you know, back when Roosevelt-- he stopped all the minin'

at that time. And they didn't do nothing. And that old Sage's was our lawyer and, and we dissolved partnership with 'em.

I: Oh. You have any idea when they bought that-- when they went into the mining? When did your dad start doing this? I--

PD: My dad?

I: Yeah.

PD: Well, he was there in 1885 when they patented it.

I: I see. Well, I-- that's what I--

PD: He was a-- he was a-- and they patented in 1885 as Robert Emmett. And the-- and the ground that was above that, I don't know. W. T. Wright and a guy named Moreland owned a little percentage-- six, some sixteenths, five sixteenths, or something like that. And then this corporation bought them out. They was in some way. They was in on this Robert Emmett too. They bought them out in 1900 and formed the corporation that in 1911-- they bought up-- bought their \_\_\_\_\_ and left. And The Granite-- the Granite joined right onto the Last Chance. And uh--

I: Now those--

PD: Robert Emmett that joins onto the Last Chance at the corner and down in the red jacket, in Union Companion.

I: As I remember, when I went with Ted we went into the Last Chance. And went down a mine shaft and down into a hole, and now he says "You're down in the Robert Emmett. Into your mine territory \_\_\_\_\_."

PD: Some place on that-- that-- around that tunnel-- they had thirty-four miles of tunnel. And some place at Robert Emmett cut that off. And they dug in eighteen or twenty feet over the line onto us at one time.

I: I thought about the Rainbow Mine now. Ted said something about that, and he said "Well." He says "These things all go in every

direction." Had me goin' all around through the mountain there. And he says "Now we're in another mine." And I think it--

PD: Well they had two tunnels, you know, the Clark tunnel and the Colton tunnel.

I: I see.

PD: And Ellis-- his partner down in California they-- well, they say that somebody had found another tunnel.

I: Uh-huh.

PD: And I never heard of a third tunnel except one that come off of the White Swan where they come in like this into us like this and took about two hundred feet each way on a triangle. There's a tunnel there. I don't know where that third tunnel would have been. This is fact. I don't know who worked that, but that was a White Swan. And it was right between the Union Companion and the Last Chance. Union Companion come up this way, and then this White Swan was in here. And then the Last Chance is down under across that canyon. But you lived across the tramway. I never--

I: Do you think they gonna do something? You think they're--

PD: Well, that-- the vice president was down there, and we've been dickerin' with him now for couple of months, \_\_\_\_\_. But uh, Robert S\_\_\_\_\_, and he was down there yesterday at the-- he come down and talked to me yesterday at the hotel. He says "We want to lease it." They got all the-- all that-- leases on all them-- that other property that Last Chance had-- the Cornucopia Gold Mine had.

I: Well, looks like they might do something then.

PD: And he told me he says "We'd sure like to lease it from you."

I: Well, I think that I'd-- I'd--

PD: Of course, then he wanted to know. And I says "Well anything that you and Mr. Maxwell are doing-- he's our manager now is Maxwell.

And anything that they do, \_\_\_\_\_ and Maxwell, why-- and it's reasonable, well, it's okay with me." And he says "Well, I'll contact Mr. Maxwell again. I might hear from him anytime." And I talked to Maxwell yesterday, and he said "I'm sure glad that you talked to--" Well, he's the vice president of a big outfit that's a subsidy of some big mine-- minin' outfit down in New Mexico.

I: Well, there's no way they can--

PD: They got lots of money, millions of dollars.

I: You've got to pay taxes on that all these years. No way they can beat you out of it, is there?

PD: I hope not!

I: I hope not, yeah. Well, I just-- I thought that--

PD: But then I've lost a lot of things over there that-- somebody's-- somebody's picked it up, and now it's gone. Somebody had access and knew where it is. I think I know who it is.

I: That's too bad.

PD: And I'm havin' a little trouble with these nieces down there in California. They cleaned me out of stuff the other day when they was here.

I: [laughs]. That's too bad.

PD: Course, most I'd probably make duplicates, you know, copies of it. Everything I've had I sent-- I sent to Maxwell, or give to him when he was here.

I: Fine. Well, uh--

PD: But it's either-- it's either nothin' or pretty big. Hell, when we had that disposition in Baker there last January, been almost year, twenty-fourth of January I think it was. And they was fellow named Fred Quimby, and he was a geologist and mineralogist and somethin'-

Baker. And he worked up there on this thing, and he claimed that they was-- that was worth two hundred million dollars! I got the disposition on that. And this Mulholland down there was one of the instigators of the-- when the Handford and them leased it from us, why, he's always said there's sure a lot of gold in it. But they dug in there. But they went in eighteen feet. That's all they did do last year. And we quit 'em in August. We terminated with 'em. This Quimby, he swore on the-- all \_\_\_\_\_ up there at Baker that they take out nine hundred thousand dollars worth of gold! That they got at the-- they never done nothin' with it. They never-- some of it's in Salt Lake, and some in Elgin, and some in L\_\_\_\_\_ 's garage over here. And I don't know who all has gotten-- Dr. Dean is plenty full. They all got in. Wheelbarrows full of some pretty good stuff! 'Course I think that they exaggerated it a little.

I: Well uh-- oh, I want you to tell me about the Bensons and the raisin' that cavalry horses and. Was that one of their first-- first endeavors in Union was raisin' horses and sellin' cavalry horses--?

PD: Anybody that had a horse could bring it in when the Colonel, usually a Colonel would come here, and he'd inspect 'em. But anybody was welcome to bring some horses in too. God, I think sometimes they sold maybe a hundred head of horses down there!

I: Yeah, that's what I was wonderin'. How many every year?

PD: Hell, Benson's in there with the-- they didn't have that many, but they'd buy horses.

I: Buy them, yeah.

PD: They'd raise some, but then they bought a --they'd buy 'em and just for-- then when they got enough why they'd contact the government. And then the government would come and have an inspection. I don't know how many inspections they had! I only went to-- I only went to one there and \_\_\_\_\_. After that it wasn't Benson's then, they--

I: What kind of horses do you think they were? Were they Thoroughbreds or Mertons or--?



PD: Well, the Thoroughbreds Merton brought more money than any of the rest of 'em.

I: I see.

PD: But they was mostly at that time, you know, was-- oh, I don't know, Standards or Morgans and stuff like that. And they mixed with Thoroughbreds. But they paid little-- they paid little-- they paid the bonus for a Thoroughbred horse. And they got-- maybe paid two hundred for a good horse that they liked and then maybe two-fifty for a Thoroughbred, see. They had to be the right color.

I: Yeah. That's right.

PD: And the right shape, you know.

I: They had to be a bay or a brown or something like that.

PD: Browns and sorrels and bays. They wouldn't even look at a white horse or a pinto or Apalooskie. Although George Washington-- you see a picture of George Washington when he crossed the Delaware he was on a white horse! Ain't that right?

I: Yeah.

PD: The government wouldn't buy one. They had to be so high, so many hands, fifteen or somethin'.

I: I think it was about fifteen hands. They run from fifteen to seventeen, I believe.

PD: The day-- the day that I had gone to that Miller's, I was just a kid in knee pants. I was just like that picture I showed Eleanor of Ellie Jones and George and all of 'em, and me sittin' on the fence watchin' em. That was-- that was on there where Odin had his main ranch. And they'd-- the Colonel would get there, and then they'd run a horse down towards the railroad track, and walk. And then they'd trot, and then they'd run him. And when they come back, if they liked the color and the way he's actin', they'd put the stick on him and measure him.

I: How much uh--

PD: And then they'd brand him with a U.S. brand.

I: How much uh-- how much did-- how far did they have to go with the breaking of 'em--?

PD: Oh, they didn't. They'd they just ride 'em down there, maybe a hundred yards or so.

I: They had to be halter broke and be able to ride them?

PD: Well, they was halter broke, and that was about all some of them had done to them on the way down there. Fact, they didn't give a damn about that. If they was a-- had the right confirmation and everything, why, they'd buy a horse that bucked a guy off like John Spain!

I: [laughs]. Yeah! Who-- who used to have one, break 'em much?

PD: Who used to ride 'em?

I: Yeah. I suppose John Spain and--

PD: The main ones I remember was-- they was four Spain boys, John, and Fred, and Arch, and Charlie. And Chase Braskett-- guy named, Chase Braskett. He used to have a claim up there right next to Spain's at the Telocaset, you know. And a fellow named Virgil used to live down there right next to my grandmother's. He'd try to ride 'em. And Hank McGraff--

I: Hank, yeah. Now, he was a real buckaroo.

PD: And then they's a couple of guys that follow along there with \_\_\_\_\_ shirts and fancy vests! But they didn't do any ridin' of the horses down when they was inspectin' 'em. But then they was always, in this bunch of guys, they was always ridin' around, why, Guy Church and \_\_\_\_\_ was always at the tail end of the--

I: I always remember that every time we'd go down there, why, there was horses. And then several times the Indians came and sold 'em

gloves and traded with 'em. And I guess they-- evidently, Dick must have traded them hides for gloves. And I know Dick bought me a pair of my-- my first pair of buckskin gloves that I had. And you and I happened to go down there, and I told Dick I'd sure like--

PD: He must have got that from the Indians, didn't he?

I: Yeah, he got 'em, and found a pair that fit me. And that was my first pair of gloves, had \_\_\_\_\_ and cloth inside. Always remembered that, yeah.

PD: Yeah, we used to go up there when them Indians would come here in the summer, you know, fishin'. Hell, once Dick and I hell, well, I think we each had to pick a horse. And they rode into Ed Miles' place. There was a whole bunch of 'em, the Thompsons, and I don't know-- Cash K\_\_\_\_\_ and a bunch of 'em. And they wouldn't hardly talk to us. We was on them horses and Dick said "Oh, we'll go back the next day." And we got on some-- on our bays and sorrels or something. Headed right in there and hell, the Indians just slopped around us. But they wouldn't-- they wouldn't-- well, Dick was wantin' to buy 'em for \_\_\_\_\_ or cavalry. I was just-- I was just on my first year with 'em. That's before I took it over.

I: Oh, uh--

PD: Well, it was a regular round-up down there, though. Some of them horses, it would start that they'd saddle 'em up, you know, just like they used to do in Pendleton. And in the arena here in town until a guy'd get on 'em and turn 'em loose down the road.

I: That's right. [chuckles].

PD: They'd ride 'em 'til they quit buckin' and then they'd--

I: Oh uh, do you remember when the Benson-- what year the Benson Brothers bought the ranch at Hot Lake?

PD: 1913.

I: 1913, yeah.

PD: I'm pretty sure. They uh-- that's the year that Sam and Ellie Jones-- they went down to California. You know there was a Sam Benson there, Los Angeles, a cousin. And they stayed there with him, and then they went to Mexico. Went down-- Sam and Ellie went down. And I don't know. I don't think-- I don't think Dick was there.

I: Now, they bought that from--?

PD: And they was thinkin' on buyin' a ranch in Mexico, and startin' a cattle ranch in Mexico. And they come back from there. And then they went down-- I think that was 1913 when they bought that-- that from old Cromwell.

I: From the beef company?

PD: No, they bought it first from Cromwell.

I: Cromwell, Dr. Cromwell?

PD: He had eighty acres, and that was the first they had. That was a-- well, that's all the land they had there at one time down there. 'Cause I uh-- they had a lot of land rented from where the Experiment Station is. There's a big barn all the way down to the railroad tracks. They had that rented at that time 'cause I hayed there one year. And the next year I went with you, and we hayed up in North Powder, and raked hay. But that year-- had that-- had eighty acres that uh-- it was a \_\_\_\_\_, and the part that-- amount the \_\_\_\_\_ Sugar Company had, see. Then after that, why then, they bought the sugar company out and had that Benson part.

I: Do you remember what year that was?

PD: It wasn't very long after-- but I don't know what year. I don't know what year it was. I could look it up on the old deeds. I've got all them old deeds, but--

I: Well, beside your dad's eighty acres there, you say they owned the property on down south of there, where the big barn is?

PD: No, they just rented it!

I: Oh, they rented it. Who-- you know who owned it?

PD: Jim Hudson's! I think Jim Hudson at one time owned it.

I: Oh yeah.

PD: Old Jim, and then he sold it to the state.

I: And that's where we \_\_\_\_\_?

PD: And hell, they was uh-- Jimmy had all that goes down there, and that's what Little Bill got part of it there.

I: I see.

PD: And the state bought it from the \_\_\_\_\_! That part there where the house is and the big barn, and uh--

I: We used to take cows down there to pasture and there was quite a little lake there. We--

PD: Yeah.

I: used to swim in there, you know.

PD: Yeah, I was trying to think of them guy's names that lived right on the corner, and they had a land. And then they went up to Prineville and took up some land. And then our dad had eighty acres down the track. You know where you cross the track and make that turn there? And the state got that from him, but he never got any money for it!

I: I see.

PD: And old Jim Hudson he sued the state for ten or fifteen years! And I don't think he ever got all his money! Warren, Warren, the Warrens-- you remember the Warrens. Warren-- he had a ranch out there on Muddy Creek someplace.

I: Yes?

PD: That's-- that's the left there sold that to the state. That's right on the corner--

I: I see.

PD: where the-- just across from the saw mill. I think they had eighty acres in there. And the rest of it was Jim Hudson's, and eighty acres that our dad had down there. And Jim Hudson had all the rest of it.

I: I went down--

PD: That Mary, you know, she had that part where the sawmill is now, too.

I: You said you were born there in that house on the Experiment Station eighty there. I went down to the Experiment Station and tried to find a picture of your old house. But I haven't been able to find one. And you haven't either, have you?

PD: No, no.

I: You don't--

PD: Oh, Elton was born there.

I: Huh?

PD: Elton was born there. Elton was born in that house down there.

I: Oh, is that right?

PD: And they had a little, little uh-- oh, I don't know what it was-- a little flour mill of some kind. Maybe just grind up grits and make grits or something'. And some guy was workin' there, and he tipped the ladder over and it burnt down!

I: I see. [chuckles].

PD: But Elton was-- Elton was born there in 1887 or '88, down there. I was born in this house over here.

I: No, you were born over here. I thought you said you were born down there.

PD: No. No. Elton was.

I: Elton was.

PD: And then-- then they moved up someplace \_\_\_\_\_ up about where the Guzey's are livin' there now someplace there. And then Guzey moved that house in from someplace else. And they got that place in there where the-- where Dorothy and them live now in units.

I: Your house is right there on the corner by the sawmill, wasn't it, by the railroad track?

PD: Someplace there. I don't know where it was.

I: Well, as I remember it was right on that high-- high knoll there.

PD: Dick lived down there.

I: There used to be a storm cellar there. And was for years where they--

PD: That's-- that's where the Warrens were.

I: Uh-huh. That's where Warren lived, huh?

PD: Yeah. That was on the Warren part of it.

I: Oh, I see.

PD: Well that old storm cellar, maybe it's still part of it there. I don't know. It went up probably as far as where the main office buildin' is, and then down-- down west. And we'd-- our dad joined onto them on that end. But I know he told me several times about old Jim Hudson was suing 'em for-- the state-- they bought it and said-- then they should have used it for the asylum there. You know they built the asylum over to Pendleton.

I: Oh, well I got it on my mind, what year did the Bensons step out and you and Richard form the Davis Cattle Company?

PD: What year'd we start out?

I: What year did the Bensons turn it over to you, and you--?

PD: 1924

I: And that was the Davis Cattle Company then?

PD: It wasn't the Davis Cattle Company then. That was when they turned it over to me.

I: Yeah.

PD: I leased it from 'em, and then in 1930 Richard graduated from college there in California, and he come up. But during that time why he used to come up every summer and work while he was goin' to college, see. Then in 1930, why, he come up there and then let-- just after that we formed the David Cattle Company. But we didn't incorporate until 1960. We just had a partnership.

I: And you sold out in 1960, then?

PD: '66, we sold out.

I: '66?

PD: '66 and '67.

I: The last roundup was in '67, huh?

PD: Well, some of it he sold there in '67. Some of the-- well, Joe Lucks bought us out there on the main part in '66, around there. And then this timber stuff we sold that in '67 to Boise Cascade.

I: Yeah. Well, that's--.



PD: But we didn't-- we didn't stay incorporated only six years. It didn't pay. Hell, it was only the-- Richard and me. And we didn't have enough-- it didn't pay to be incorporated. Didn't have enough stockholders to take up the tax stuff, see? We had Carl Helm. We had to have three members, and Carl Helm was a lawyer. He was the third member of our corporation. And he didn't have no interest in it, but he was a member of the corporation. I was President and Secretary and Richard was Vice President and Treasurer.

I: But uh-- what year-- Sam died before-- before Dick, didn't he?

PD: Yeah. Yeah, quite awhile.

I: Do you remember what year it was?

PD: I got it down over there.

I: Oh, the \_\_\_\_\_ works. Dick passed away when? Do you remember that?

PD: Dick passed away--

I: Well, it doesn't make any difference. They had-- they'd been out of business for quite awhile.

PD: I was tryin' to think of that, but I wouldn't-- I wouldn't say for sure right now. George died in '34 or '36. Sam died in, oh quite awhile after that, maybe '40-somethin'. And Dick he, let's see, '51.

I: Dick, '51?

PD: I think-- yeah I think he died in '51 'cause that's when we formed the bets and ran over them at Chat McLane Company. And we had the Davis Cattle Company too. I think it was '51.

I: You think Sam was--?

PD: I think our mother died about-- just before-- about '49.

I: Well, there might-- I just--

PD: I got it down for sure over there if you want it.

I: Well, we've got-- we've got all that other dope in there, I think.

PD: It oughta be in some of that stuff there that the--

I: Yeah.

PD: It's when they was born and when they died.

I: Yeah, there probably is somethin' there. I'm not too good at reading here, lately, and I-- [laughs]-- I can't keep up--

PD: Well, and I can't keep track of all of 'em where you know it's uh-- we got-- we got one-- there's one-- one of the Benson's out there someplace, but I don't know where he's buried. His name was-- he was between George and Dick.

I: Oh.

PD: Yeah, George and Dick. His name was Willy.

I: I guess I didn't know him.

PD: I never saw him. He only lived a year or two.

I: Yeah, I see.

PD: I don't know. He's gotta be buried out there someplace, but I don't know just where. I-- if Dick's wife was still here, he'd find out-- he'd find it for me. I never thought what it takes to run, and maybe \_\_\_\_\_ can find it. But Tony Smith didn't have much of a record with that, you know.

I: What about uh-- what about stock shows?

PD: What about it?

I: What would you like to say about stock shows?

PD: God, I don't know. I worked out there different things for about fifty years. [laughs].

I: [laughs]. Yeah.

PD: It was about the time we was goin' to college down there to Oregon State, you know. I'd get back up here, and then Jim Jones-- and I remember that. And we used to-- we'd go through the grounds before the show started after-- just before we started puttin' on the rodeo, you know. And we'd collect a dollar for anybody that was in the grounds that didn't have a pass. Then we'd take tickets up at the gate. That back gate on that back street that comes in, you know, where they drive the cars in? Well we used to-- well they used that big park over there, you know.

I: That's right.

PD: Well hell, I-- Jim and I have taken in over three hundred dollars apiece there in a day, just about as much as their takin' in at the gate!

I: [laughs].

PD: 'Course I think admission then was a dollar. I'm pretty sure we picked up a dollar from 'em. We didn't stack 'em, or give 'em a ticket, or nothin'. We just had to use it in our head. And if they said, "You already got me." Why, you'd go on.

I: [laughs].

PD: And then after that, I got mixed up with Louis Vider. He was the first one I got mixed up with there in the stock show on the rodeo part.

I: Yeah. You worked on the rodeo for fifty years, right?

PD: Pretty close. Yeah, I was with Louis for several years, and then when he moved away, why Leesha Knoll had it. He was a chairman. I worked with Leesha Knoll there for several years. That was the time Manny Okee come up here and \_\_\_\_\_. He had a thing you know.

I: The stock show association always has owned that ground, haven't they? You know who that--?

PD: No, they leased it for a long time.

I: Oh, from who?

PD: From-- its Swackhammer of the state.

I: Oh, Swackhammer?

PD: Yeah. What was that guy's name? Lee Swackhammer. Yeah, the Dr. Swackhammer that uh-- he was the old \_\_\_\_\_-- old Esso's kid.

I: They used to have area guys out there.

PD: Dr.-- yeah. And we had that place-- he had a place that Dick had there, that barn and stuff.

I: I didn't know that the Swackhammer's--

PD: And he had-- the old man had all that. He had the-- he had that-- well, he had this part here clear down to-- he had the big house there, you know.

I: Yeah.

PD: Old Man Swackhammer. And Dr. Swackhammer built that-- I think he built that house at big \_\_\_\_\_ up there. I don't know who lives there now.

I: Did Dr. Phy or Dr.-- no, Swackhammer built that and he had a little dairy there.

PD: Swackhammer built--

I: You remember when they had the dairy house there, and upstairs where--?

PD: Upstairs there was a guy-- there was a guy lived there. He shot himself.

I: Milked the cows and did that. Now, that's--

PD: I remember-- I remember that we only lived about two blocks away, and was the damndest screamin' you ever heard in your life. And that's when he shot himself and his wife was in hysterics. I don't know what his name was, but they milked some cows or somethin' there then.

I: Yeah, yeah, I remember somethin'--

PD: Bottle Park was a kind of a-- they had a cream separator and some stuff in there. And he lives on the upper part of it.

I: Yeah, they had milk, and they'd deliver milk, you know, and cream. And that was pretty early in my--

PD: Well, I wasn't too old either!

I: Right.

PD: That's just about the time you moved down here from \_\_\_\_.

I: Yeah, yeah, that's pretty early. [chuckles]. About 1903-- that's when we moved down \_\_\_\_\_. I remember when the--

PD: \_\_\_\_\_ and Mark probably lived in that big house there for a long time.

I: Oh yes. Mulholland--

PD: Mulholland.

I: Mulholland house over here.

PD: Yeah.

I: Yeah.

PD: And Mulholland had that ranch up Cabin Creek, too, you know.

I: Yeah, it went on up there before they opened the road through there.

PD: Yeah.

I: Yeah.

PD: That's one of the boy Baker's got there now. I think. Yeah, I forgot about Mulholland. He-- I think he married-- I don't know. He must have married a Phy, didn't he, or a Wright?

I: Well, I thought Mulholland married a Swackhammer, but I--

PD: Maybe it was.

I: I think that's where they--

PD: Maybe it was a Swackhammer.

I: They got hooked up there.

PD: Course, I didn't know them-- any of them Swackhammers except he was-- quite a lot older than I was.

I: One of 'em married the old Dell girl that lived over in back of us, you know, there. Not go here, back of O. C. Wilde, there.

PD: But they was quite a lot of them, the Mulholland's and the Wright's and the Swackhammers just like they are down-- used to be in Cove. They was all married into each other.

I: Yeah. Well--

PD: And Mulholland, he had some land up the other side of Telocaset some place, didn't he?

I: Yeah, that-- where the highway cut through. That was a Mulholland field. They had--

PD: I never did know him or nothin'. I just kept thinkin' what he looked like.

I: Well, kinda fat and kinda mean. [laughs]. And we used to ride his sheep, you know. He didn't like that. I don't blame him for not liking that.

PD: Hell, I think Schoonhoven, he might have been mixed up in that too, you know. Old Schoonhoven, and Thompsons?

I: Mulholland, yeah.

PD: They was old timer's here, you know. Hell, right here we're sittin' now, old Thompson used to have a saw mill, a planin' mill. 'Cause I used to cut through here to the-- comin' from there to goin' downtown, I'd cut through here.

I: Well, the old Gary Thompson mill yard's \_\_\_\_\_ where the service station is. I can remember where we used to go over there and watch Thompson make boxes and different things. Never thought I'd buy that. I'd grown up a long time ago.

PD: Hell, Emery had-- had his sawmill there where this was-- lumber was piled back in here. And he furnished all the lumber to build the houses around here, him and that Matt Hirsch that used to be down there.

I: Now Hirsch, that house-- this part of the house is right on where the lumber yard was.

PD: I think so. Pretty close.

I: Lillard built the first house here out of that lumber. Some of it is just as good as--

PD: Well hell, you remember all that lumber, I think built that house that we was-- had over there.

I: Yeah. Yeah.

PD: Most of the houses around here except the ones made out of brick old Hudder-- he made them.

I: Yeah.

PD: Hudder made them bricks, you know, down there by the cemetery. Out of that red dirt in that hill, you know, got that red dirt on it? It's blood iron.

I: [chuckles].

PD: That's what it is. Yeah, them was pretty good old days. Well you knew this Harold Hirsch didn't you?

I: Oh yeah.

PD: Yeah, they-- he had a sawmill down there about where the old log mill, or someplace down in there.

I: Yeah, the--

PD: They \_\_\_\_\_ it over.

I: Pete Yoke bought that ground.

PD: Yes. It's just right in there about where Pete Yoke is.

I: No, the boys-- boys live there now.

PD: He used to make this fancy brick and \_\_\_\_\_ and stuff that these houses got around here, you know. A lot of 'em got this curly-Q stuff.

I: Yeah. Yeah.

PD: That was the style then. Old Wilbur Davis made all them iron fences by hand. I don't what they ever done with them. Like over here at the old White place and--

I: I don't know what happened to it.



PD: \_\_\_\_\_ Eaton's place. But they'd be antiques now. Had to be quite a fence-- I'd never tear-- tear a fence out like that.

I: I used to watch Wilbur Davis when he was a makin'-- I used to go over there and watch him.

PD: Yeah, when he lived down there. He had that shop right on the corner there.

I: Yeah. I used to go down and watch him forge that out, you know, and heat the iron.

PD: Yeah, I'd watch him. I used to watch \_\_\_\_\_.

I: That must have been after he had to quit the mining business then. The way he made a living, I guess, later.

PD: It was, after he quit the minin'. Oh, that was up in the 19-- up in the 1900's! He was doin' most of his minin' up there in the late 1800's even!

I: Well--

PD: Yeah, it was--

I: Can't-- [laughs] can't think of anything more to talk about.

PD: Well they, I don't know these-- you said something about the stock show. And this Dr. Swackhammer, he owned that stock show grounds, and we'd lease it for years.

I: Actually that's--

PD: The stock show would lease it, and then we when we finally bought it.

I: And his wife was the one that used to drive the farm horse then.

PD: Yeah.

I: Yeah.

PD: Well, she was a-- oh, see-- I don't know.

I: Well, it was kind of a \_\_\_\_\_ to go there.

PD: He might have been the daughter. I don't know. Isn't there-- was somebody that had a big house there where the hotel is?

I: Madeline Hill?

PD: Huh?

I: Madeline Hill laid there.

PD: Yeah, Madeline Hill.

I: She married Wright, didn't she?

PD: She married Irwin Wright.

I: Yeah, yeah.

PD: But they was an old lady across from them that lived right in back of there, and she-- I don't know-- I don't know who--

I: Well, I can't think of it right now, but I should know because she--

PD: Madeline Hill there, her-- her dad, I know he homesteaded down around-- oh, way down around Denio or someplace-- almost the Nevada line down in there. And some way-- he was runnin' cattle. And then some sheep man, and they got in a row about the water, and they killed him. Somebody-- somebody killed him.

I: I'd forgotten about that. [chuckles].

PD: Well you--  
[END OF SIDE 1]

[Eleanor Hall Davis and Merton Davis join the interview. Any voices that have not been specifically identified are referred to with an "O."]

PD: You remember Madeline?

ED: Madeline married Irwin Wright. Madeline Hill married Irwin Wright.

PD: Irwin Wright. And then they moved to Las Vegas, I think the last time.

ED: Well, something like that. But they came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Louis that lived in a house where the hotel, or--

PD: Yeah, that there is the biggest place where they lived.

ED: I never knew what happened to Mr. Easel. Why-- what--?

PD: Then after that, Palmer stayed at-- his mother had that-- I don't know if she rented it or not, but she run a boardin' house there for awhile.

ED: Yes.

PD: Then when they built the hotel, why they tore it down.

ED: That's right.

PD: They tore down this big house over here that \_\_\_\_\_ had. And uh, Dick had that, you know, and sold it to the Union Oil Company. The Union Oil Company built a little pumpin' station out here, and the front of it they tore down that big house.

ED: Dick dedicated that alley in there to the city just about the time that we built the service station. I've got the whole thing down. You know, you talked about that.

PD: Yeah, I don't know where I was about the time-- well, about the time you were--

ED: In '24.

PD: About the time you--

ED: We built the service station in '24.

PD: Built the service station, since after we-

ED: We built it before-- before Stevens. Stevens came afterwards.

PD: It wasn't too long after Merton come home from the Army. Oh, a few years. He built that big house up there to start with at North Powder.

ED: We built that in 1920. And then--

PD: And I don't know you lived there 'til about 1936.

O: Oh no no no no. We left in '33.

PD: You come back here!

O: We came back 'cause we worked.

PD: I forget who lives in that. And then that west part there, I know we'd sold it to Merton or Lobb. His dad and mom turned it back to us in '36, and we traded it for the town they \_\_\_\_.

O: I'll tell you one thing, this has made me write down a lot.

ED: One time I asked you--

O: And I'm starting a file for my \_\_\_\_.

ED: It sounds like you have the abstract. The place you bought down-- the old Hall Ranch. And in reading my father's account--

PD: Here's the part where the big burn is. And I think eighty acres out to the highway.

ED: And afterwards, we sold that. And then when we sold that--

O: Here's some more books for you to look at. Just for fun, I brought them.

PD: This one's the Benson's.

ED: No no no no no.

PD: You can use that. Maybe it's somethin' from the sugar company!

O: \_\_\_\_\_ the sugar company-- now the manager of a company in Utah.

PD: But they was part of that. It was part of that uh-- but the sugar company didn't-- Bensons had to fight from G. F. Hall. They bought some from G. F. Hall.

ED: From the Hall brothers.

PD: But the sugar company owned the part there where the-

ED: You told me you thought you had the abstract of that.

PD: Where the-- where Bill Davis and \_\_\_\_\_ lives, and the Black, and the-- that sugar company had that. And I don't know why they owned it, the part there where the big barn is or not. But they had their scales right there, and the railroad come right through there, you know.

ED: That's right.

PD: I was gonna-- I think I got them deeds over there or something about that stuff.

ED: You told me that one day you would look it up and see if you had the abstract.

PD: That you-- you had asked me about if I had them deeds, you know, and I got a whole basket full of deeds there. And I'm pretty sure that there's one there from G. F. Hall.

ED: Yeah. Well either G. F. Hall or Hall Brothers, huh?

PD: Well, there was Frank. There was Frank Hall, and uh--

ED: That's right. \_\_\_\_\_?

PD: And then there was-- there was another feller had some land up here in High Valley that joined onto us.

ED: That would be-- that would be East Woods, the old \_\_\_\_\_.

PD: But we never did get that land. But well we tried to get it because-- well, we come there and all we had was a little ways to go through there from one part to the other.

ED: No.

I: Do you know how many--?

PD: And then I think that went to that \_\_\_\_\_ camp outfit.

I: Yes, it did

ED: It went right to the, um--

I: Oh, okay.

O: Can you get it down?

ED: You turned off that way, and then it went around that way and back into the--

I: Yes, we--

ED: place that Uncle Jordan owned.

PD: I know I got-- someplace over there too. I got the-- all that stuff about the-- that ranch is all Stoddard. That Merton-- that Merton said when he sold it to Stoddard.

I: Okay then, this then was uh--

PD: It's a big thick stuff. It's got all the stuff that goes clear back to the

I: It might be this--

PD: 1800's, or early 1800's.

O: That there'd be no pictures--

PD: People owned that land, different parts of it. I got some of 'em there with a note on 'em is about four inches thick.

O: I've even got \_\_\_\_\_, probably some of the ones that are buried out here. The others were buried in the cemetery.

ED: I found the print where \_\_\_\_\_ talks about \_\_\_\_\_.

O: The print? The death notice--

PD: If I'd been smart when I was a kid I'd wrote everything down that I heard! Probably should have. But at that time you didn't think anything about it!

I: Did you ask people \_\_\_\_\_ anything about this when you were moving down?

PD: No, I didn't. No, I didn't. I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ the date. Yeah, that's the date. Is that a history?

O: Yeah, this is the history. Oh, wait a minute. Let's move your chair up closer. I want you to step up so we can move your chair. Now you sit down.

PD: George Francis Hall.

O: There has to be-- there has to be somethin' about him, or there should be \_\_\_\_\_.

ED: Now wait a minute.

PD: I thought his name was Frank.

ED: It is Frank. It is Francis. Now wait a minute.

PD: It says, "The History of Oregon."

ED: Yeah. Here it says "In February 1897, they bought from the Ainsworth National Bank in Portland the Nodine Ranch." Old Fred Nodine owned it to begin with.

PD: Nodine had that. He had all that-- Nodine and Shirley.

ED: Yeah. "Then after they began filling small tracks of their holdings from the main body to the Amalgamated Sugar Company." But they bought it when Nodine was having financial troubles and owed the bank so much money. They bought it directly from the \_\_\_\_\_ Bank.

PD: Trouble with Nodine, he had some boys that didn't know the value of money.

ED: Well, lots of people are like that. We had-- we had that with our kids.

PD: I had that trouble too. I got a lot of relatives don't know what money is!

ED: No, but they know some people got it. They'd like to have it.

PD: I know it. They try and do it all the time! Hell, this has got a--

ED: Well listen-- let me show you one thing else, and then I'll go back to Jerry.

I: No, you-- would you tell Eleanor something about how you used to ship the cattle? And for your ranch, did you ship from Hot Lake? Cart 'em there at Hot Lake? Wasn't that the way you used to do it? Ship 'em to--

PD: Well, we'd ship 'em from Union Junction to start with.

I: Shipped 'em from Union Junction, and--

PD: Then after-- long in '36 or somethin', old Dan Clark-- remember Dan Clark?

ED: Yeah.



PD: That was on the railroad. He was head of this railroad ship of \_\_\_\_\_. We drove a bunch of steers down from the North Powder, and we had-- that's what the first year I think we had that ranch back in North Powder. And we drove 'em down and stayed at Pearson's that night. Then come on home. And Dan Clark come out-- out in the \_\_\_\_\_ area, and he got a friend of George's. And he says, "How would you like to have a stockyard at Hot Lake?" I said, "It would really be convenient!" And he built them stockyards at Hot Lake.

I: Sometimes, well, your producer would go in the boxcar or in the caboose to Portland with the cattle. Sometimes the fella that bought 'em would take 'em.

ED: That's the way Erman did-- Erman Hall-- my brother Erman.

PD: I went to school with him.

ED: With, with-- yeah. But he bought-- he used to ride back to wherever Uncle Ed Miller sold his sheep.

I: Did you ever go and play poker on the way down and so on and so forth?

PD: Don't think so.

I: You never did that. Well, say something about, oh, Benson's Commission Company-- was a cousin to these Benson's or--?

PD: Yeah. \_\_\_\_\_ old Tom-- old Tom was a-- old Tom Benson was the head of-- the first one that had started the Commission Company. He was a cousin of Dick and Sam and George, and my mother. And then Art was his son, and then Guy was-- took it over when Art died.

I: I see.

PD: Then Guy died, and well, they haven't got any Benson Commission Company there anymore.

I: You have anything in mind how long they were in the commission business in Portland?

PD: Well, I've heard-- I've heard uh-- I never knew the-- I saw Tom Benson. He used to drive from Portland up there in a buggy buyin' cattle. And he'd come clear into here, and he'd stay around with the Bensons awhile and buy cattle 'round here. He was buyin'-- just a cattle buyer, see. He'd ship-- take 'em to Portland and then sell 'em.

I: Cole Dodd used to ship--

PD: That was-- yeah, that was a-- oh hell, that Martin-- that must have been in the early 1900's.

I: Yeah, and Dad-- I know Dad used to go down with a carload of hogs and a carload of cattle--

PD: Hogs, most the time that uh-- your dad, he-- your dad-- my dad never did go down I don't think on the stock trade when they was in together. Your dad would always go to Portland.

I: Yeah, I don't remember your dad but I know--

PD: And I'll tell you what your dad'd do. He'd spend all his time-- he went down to the stockyards down to Jake's eatin' crawfish.

I: Yeah. Ed Coles, he'd say "Well, you--"

PD: Ed Coles come along on after that.

I: They always wanted to buy 'em.

PD: Well, they told after as long as I can remember, why most of the hogs was sold at Coles and Dot.

I: Yeah.

PD: They had thousands. You was on that drive once, when we drove over a thousand head of hogs from-- bought 'em from old \_\_\_\_\_ and all these people down here. They bought over a thousand and drove up there, and your dad was drivin'-- drive the seam. And Sherry Shelton was with us, and you, and you and I, we slept upstairs in the--

I: Wolf house.

PD: The Wolf house. We all ate mutton and all got sick.

ED: He's gonna tell that story in his book! He's got it all written out!

PD: Has he?

ED: Yes.

I: Well, I got some on that.

PD: You got Sherry Shelton chasin' the hogs out into the sagebrush. And the rest of us-- the hog would take away and--

O: Are you talking about Sherry Shelton?

PD: I remember Sherry was with us. It must have been quite a-- I don't know who all was in that drive, Merton. I know your dad had the wagon.

O: Yeah. And--

PD: And you and I slept upstairs in the Wolf house that night.

O: We both got sick. I remember that.

ED: Now listen. You let me talk for awhile. I--

PD: I've never liked mutton since.

I: Okay.

ED: Okay. Now you didn't know that there's a whole story in here about Charles Davis, did you?

PD: No.

ED: All right. Here's Charles Elliot Davis. And he told this and this and this. Now if you want to learn about something about the Davis family I want you to read this, okay?

PD: I'd like to sometime.

ED: You'd like to. I'm going to put this thing right in there so I'll know. Now--

PD: I got a history of-- she bought it-- a great big volume of the history of Oregon. But they haven't got anything in there about him \_\_\_\_.

ED: Oh yes, they have!

PD: "Charles Elliot Davis: Born September 28th, 1855 in Camel Fort, Wisconsin, and came to Oregon in 1876."

ED: My father was born in 1855, too.

PD: Was he?

ED: Mm-hmm.

PD: My mother was born on Halloween in 1864, and was married on Halloween.

ED: Okay. Now, this is G. F. Hole on page 607, right here. And then this is Charlie Davis back here.

PD: There's a lot there that I don't know.

ED: Why sure there is.

PD: I haven't got my readin' glasses with me, Eleanor.

ED: You can read--

PD: These are just plain glass correcting. I'll bring my glasses over someday and--

ED: Okay, you do that.

PD: And read it. I wouldn't want to take it 'cause some son of a gun might steal it. Well, I have a lot of trouble with that.

ED: Is it the devil of the people help themselves to things that don't belong to 'em? Doesn't that make you mad?

PD: What would you do if some of your relatives come there and stole some deeds and letters? Would you--?

ED: I'd put 'em in jail. Damn it, I would!

PD: Would you put 'em in--?

ED: Oh, you bet I would! Just to make their heads swim.

PD: Well, a person hates to do his relatives that way.

ED: No! It's the right--

PD: If they deserve it--

ED: But listen. They deserve it! Why did they take something didn't belong to 'em? Then you wouldn't be any more guilty than they would.

PD: \_\_\_\_\_ safe. \_\_\_\_\_ took some stuff out of my safe!

ED: I'd have 'em in jail before this.

PD: They oughta be in jail for next twenty years!

ED: Well, anyway, I'm gonna leave this--

PD: I don't what they're up to. They're up to somethin' there when they do that.

ED: Well, I'd see that they didn't get that something. That's-- that's the way I feel.

PD: That's what Ross Harrian told me. He says, "I'd cut 'em!" And so did Al Peter. He says, "I'd cut 'em all!"

ED: I would, too.

PD: I might, too.

ED: Well, anyway--

PD: I wanna make sure that it was them. But I know they was here when it happened, and they asked a lot of questions about things, and--

ED: Well, when they want a lot of information. They went over and wanted to know where they could get a hold of Bob Davis. You know, when he tried to written up that spring seal. It was none of their damn business, was it?

PD: Them two girls, by golly, they went through everything I had!

ED: They went-- they went over to this place where Melissa was doing business-- used her telephone to try to run Bob Davis out.

PD: They went through my stuff and found out a lot a lot of that stuff! Well, I was trustin' 'em, Eleanor, and then I didn't know they was-- I didn't know they was crooked!

ED: They weren't worthy of that stuff!

PD: When they did the worst thing is when I went to La Grande one day and left 'em there for three hours!

ED: Well, they must have had a good time!

PD: I guess they did. Well, Christ! A lot of things disappeared!

ED: It wasn't anything--

PD: My stocks and bonds book, and a deed to the Fizz Springs, and the--

ED: All right, did you ever get 'em back? Did you ever get the things back that they took?

PD: No! No, I'm gonna-- they've been back east here the last month, and I'm gonna--

ED: No, but this has been two years ago that they started all this.

PD: They started then, yes, two years ago. But then, it was just last July-- the last of July, the first of August when this last thing happened. And two girls come up here.

ED: I know it.

PD: I never thought about it. I just-- I never thought about 'em-- well hell, somebody-- how they got into the safe that I owned and took a deed that I had on Fizz Springs. They stole an insurance policy of personal articles, and guns and stuff like that. They took a lot of stuff on the mine stuff. All I had left.

ED: Can you answer this question? What can make people so nosy that they have to get into other people's business?

PD: They can't do nothin' with it, but it just causes a guy a lot of trouble!

ED: It's been a couple of years since they went over to where Melissa's--

PD: Yeah, they went over there and tried to raise hell.

ED: Yeah, I know it.

PD: And when they was up here July they got a lawyer and then they went to La Grande and doin' somethin'. He was here for somethin'. I never told anybody much about that except I just hinted to Mr. Peters some things that's happened. And he said, "Well." And so did Ross Harrian over there in La Grande. He says, "If they ever show up with some of that stuff, why we'll--"

ED: I know, but they won't show up with it! If they were so damned crooked that they went and took it, they're not gonna show up.

PD: Well, if I would go and have 'em arrested, they'd probably-- before I could get it, they'd have it burnt up! You know that.

ED: Yeah, I know that.

PD: I didn't know they was that crooked! Hell, I wake up at night, by God, thinkin' about it here!

ED: You live and learn, \_\_\_\_\_. Peace. You live and learn.

PD: God, I woke up this morning about five o'clock and then I went back to sleep.

ED: I know. I do that.

PD: Got to thinkin' about-- tryin' to figure out what all they did get. Hell, they didn't-- they didn't-- as far as any stocks and things that I had in the safe, they didn't that. But, I think they took four hundred dollars. I had my social security, sometimes. I don't spend it, and I had four thousand dollars there in cash.

ED: Why did you do that?

PD: Four hundred dollars--

ED: You know better than that!

PD: I know it.

ED: Well, why did you do that?

PD: Cause I didn't have no brains.

ED: No, listen. You had 'em. You didn't use 'em.

PD: But they didn't-- they could have taken it all, as far as that goes. But they only-- whoever it was took four hundred dollars! That was in four hundred dollar packages, ten of 'em.

ED: Well.



PD: Hell, they wouldn't take 'em all because then it would have been--

ED: Well, anyway. Any day that you want to read this, you come over--

PD: Yeah, I'll bring my glasses over and-- I've never seen this.

ED: You could take it home with you if you want to.

PD: Oh no, I wouldn't want to do that, Eleanor.

ED: [laughs]. Scared somebody come take it.

PD: Son of a gun might come in and steal it. They would if they knew I had it. [laughs].

ED: Well, anyways.

PD: I've always tried to deal with honest people, you know, and I don't know how to deal with crooks!

ED: My dad had something to say to all his kids. "Be honest and work hard, and someday you'll have something." We grew up with that. "Be honest, and work hard."

PD: I've grown up that way. Hell, if I done anything crooked when I was a kid, I'd been beat to death!

ED: [chuckles]. You got your butt paddled is what you did.

PD: The nearest I ever come to that, Eleanor, was once when I had to come for-- lived right across the street from us. She had a hen that come over on our land and laid an egg. I took this egg in-- into the house and my mother-- oh Jesus! God, my dad, he chased me all the-- he happen to come home from the mines or North Powder or somethin'. And I got under the house, and he kept me out of there all-- hell, damn near ten or twelve hours! He couldn't get in. He'd get in one way, and I'd go out the--

ED: You'd think about-- he was threatenin' to think about it.

PD: That was just an egg, and hell it was really our egg because the hen laid it on our land! [laughs]. I'll never forget that.

ED: Sometime, if you're goin' through your papers, if you find the abstract--

PD: I'll look for them if you want that abstract--

ED: Oh I would, because--

PD: 'Cause I don't want it, and I got the abstract, I know for the North Powder Ranch that we had there.

ED: But you see--

PD: Where'd you get this book? This is different from the one I had.

ED: Well, mine is centennial history. That was written in 1910 or '11, let me see.

PD: Gee, I might have this book.

ED: I think you do.

PD: It was one that George Benson had, and then we got it from George. I'll bet you-- what page is that--?

ED: Well, this book is mixed up. It jumps-- they've got it put together wrong. And it goes along in certain place, and then it drops over and takes--

PD: I never knew that my dad had anything in there.

ED: Well, you didn't look at the index. You look in the index.

PD: I never looked, though in the index for everybody. I tried to find out-- I found some stuff there about Ellie Jones and stuff like that. I got three volumes. Do you got three volumes?

ED: I got three volumes.

PD: Well, that's what I got. It's just the same as this.

ED: I imagine so.

PD: Since I looked at that.

ED: This is about \_\_\_\_\_. Let's see what year it was published.

PD: Somebody wrote that and then sold all these old timers somethin' 'cause George Benson had it, and we got it from George. And George died, why, Dick give it to us.

ED: Well, good.

PD: I know there's a lot in there about Wright and Nodine's and all that--

ED: Yeah, Tom Wright's in this one.

PD: Yeah. If I haven't got that in my book, why, I'll borrow this. Or come over and sit on the back porch and read it.

ED: You don't need to sit on the back porch. Come into the house.

PD: You gonna be like Joe Dewuhz?

ED: What?

PD: Well, once I went down there he called me up and said they had a couple of cows. And I had a lunch and a sandwich pocket in my pocket. And I ate it under a tree out before I got to his house. And I got up to the house to ask him. He says, "Come in and have somethin' to eat." And I says, "I just ate my lunch out there under the tree." And he sure give me hell!

ED: Why?

PD: He says, "When you're here on my land," he says, "You eat at our house!"

ED: Louis Wright and W. T. Wright are both in this book. And Charlie Davis, C. E. Davis, it is. Charles Elliot Davis. And G. F. Hall. They're all in this same book, in this one book. The index is in the back.

PD: Well, I will \_\_\_\_\_ too.

ED: The index is in the back.

PD: Yeah. I will. I will.

ED: In Volume 3, Volume 3.

PD: Yeah, Volume 3, yeah. I know Volume 1 is-- a lot of the stuff in there is about people who come here before, and more Willamette Valley and a lot of stuff.

ED: Well, here's where it shows about Charles Elliot Davis. "Is a member of the well-known firm of Davis Brothers, owners and proprietors of a mountain view stock farm located near North Powder, Oregon, on the North Powder River, where \_\_\_\_\_."

PD: That was Lon on that-- Lon and Ed Chalke. Then Lon and Charlie bought Ed out. And he went to work for the land bankers, or land somethin' in La Grande. And then in 1909 or somethin' like that he moved to California down to Aunt Mary's.

ED: I went over to the courthouse one time to find out about it, because he had direct association with the United States Government, and the safe in the La Grande Courthouse has N . W. Davis's name on the safe.

PD: Does it? I know where that house is.

ED: What?

PD: I know where that house is that he lived in.

ED: Oh. Well, sure!

PD: Ed, the one that Ed lived in.

ED: Oh sure. We got--

PD: I mean in La Grande.

ED: Oh. Well I don't know--

PD: But they painted it different and changed it a little, but it's-- it looks a lot-- that's all right-- looks a lot-- I don't need it. It was right close to where Bohnenkamp's and all them houses are.

ED: Well, anyway.

PD: It's a big square house 'cause I used to go over there when Vernon was goin' to school. And then Ed was-- he was an Elk, and we'd go down and swim in the Elk Pool. And then we'd play with the Bohnenkamp's and the Curry's and the Carpy's, and about the second day we'd get to fightin' I'd walk home. I done that several times.

ED: Well anyway. In here it talks about Jarvis Davis right here. It goes into that. See Charlie Davis first, and then goes back here to Jarvis Davis.

PD: Oh sure. I think I got-- I think Volume 3 is down in the basement. I'll bring it up. I've got one of 'em upstairs.

ED: Mm-hmm. Were you--?

PD: But I know it's the same as this, or after I looked at the back of it.

ED: Well, you just come--

PD: But I never knew he was in it.

ED: Well, you learned a lot by comin' over here today.

PD: I'm learnin' somethin' today, anyhow.

ED: Well then you do somethin' for me. You see if you can find an old abstract or something that tells about the same thing that I wanna know here about the Ainsworth. About that they bought the-- the Hall Brothers bought that from Ainsworth.

PD: Oh, did they?

ED: And it was Ainsworth-- was the Ainsworth Bank in Portland.

PD: I knew that Ainsworth was the president of the--

ED: Bank.

PD: The bank there in Portland.

ED: That's right.

PD: He used to come up here to the stock show when the stock show first started, and Dave Cooper that worked for Ainsworth and uh, Foreman. They'd make a special claim to two or three cars, and they'd show up here and park on the-- over here by the old mill, by God, for the stock show.

ED: Yeah, it was right down on the side tracks--

PD: That was when-- that was uh, when I was-- when I first started.

ED: on the side track used to be down just about as far as Neil Morrison's house is now.

PD: Someplace in there.

ED: Because I remember one time when a bunch of Catholics came here before the Methodists built the little white church down by the fire department by City Hall. And they-- when the Catholics were arranging to take over our church before we built the big church--

PD: Yeah, that was when the-- that was the Methodist Church down there where the Catholics--

ED: and made-- my mother's father was one of the main ones that built that. He was one of these Millers that came from Switzerland. But anyway, you find this, and you find Uncle Charlie.

PD: I'll find it. I'll sure look it up this afternoon.

ED: Okay. That'll be good. That'll keep you awake.

PD: Well I didn't know it was in there. I didn't have any idea it was in there. 'Course I never looked all through that index and stuff.

ED: What have you been doin' all these years?

PD: Had somethin' else to do. I had to make a livin'.

ED: Oh, kiss ass.

PD: That's right.

[Sounds of people adjusting and moving around - Although some word fragments can be heard during this time, the various pieces are not transcribed.]

ED: We did pretty well, I guess.

I: Didya?

ED: If we didn't get it all, can we do it again?

O: Sure!

O: Alright, um--

O: I guess she just wanted somebody to look at.

O: Yeah, I think so.

O: \_\_\_\_\_ Pretty Pete skirted the North Pole. She read about it.

[recording interruption - approximately 14 seconds]

[buzzing noise throughout rest of audio]

O: \_\_\_\_\_. I just realized why she gave me it. I think she was lonely.

O: That could have been.

ED: If you leave this with me, I'll--

PD: I wished I had that story. You know, I didn't-- I get these dime novels down at Carter's or someplace down here in town. They used to have them dime novels of the cowboys and robbers and all that stuff. And I used to get 'em and go out behind the barn and read 'em. There's another I'd like to have 'em. That's the reason I wrote that story was Harold Pretty Pete. He went down the hole, and he went down through. Finally ended up at \_\_\_\_, and finally ended up at the North Pole.

O: That was Pretty Pete, was it?

PD: Pretty Pete.

O: And you've had that nickname ever since.

PD: Ever since.

O: And that was in high school?

PD: That was the first year, maybe in eighth grade.

O: Oh, my land.

PD: Maybe the first year of high school or the first grade.

O: Okay, well we'll just have to get a story about that.

PD: I think that was Loughlin. Miss Loughlin was the teacher.

O: Sheriff Lars Hoffman \_\_\_\_.

PD: And Keats was your teacher.



ED: Well, I was in the sixth grade with him, but I--

PD: But he taught the sixth or seventh grade.

ED: Well, he taught the sixth grade for three years.

PD: I went with this, uh--

ED: You went --

PD: McMillan.

ED: Oh well.

PD: I had the \_\_\_\_\_ out here.

ED: Yes, but listen--

PD: The fifth.

ED: Gil Fillion was in the fifth grade.

PD: Yeah.

ED: In three, five, seven. We went into high school and the--

PD: In first grade I went over here, and then I went to Mrs. Biggle and--

ED: Emma, Emma Biggle.

PD: And uh, maybe Nora Webb.

ED: Nora Webb.

PD: I remember my first teacher. Her name was Miss Peach.

ED: Petrie. Petrie.

PD: I always called her "peachy."

ED: Well, uh [chuckles].

PD: [chuckles]. She was a pretty little thing, remember? You oughta remember her, Eleanor.

ED: Well, sure!

PD: And Miss Emma Thompson, she taught the second grade I think. No, Webb taught the-- no, some old cranky girl taught the third. Fourth was Nora Webb. And fifth was Bill Gilfell

O: I'll tell you who the sarcastic old lady was. She was Mrs. Frank Biggle-- Anne. And she--

PD: She was a little bit old. She was a cranky old thing.

ED: Yes she was.

PD: I remember once-- you remember Stanley Shaw? For some reason she didn't like him. She tried to shake Stanley up. She grabbed him and tried to shake him. And Stanley was bigger than she was, and a pretty strong boy. She couldn't budge him. He just laughed at her. And she-- she just went dingy crazy! But Stanley quit school and never went back to school after that. I don't think \_\_\_\_\_ someplace else.

O: Well Pete, you ought to be able to think of some favorite stories about down on the ranch?

PD: Oh I could tell you lots of stories of things happenin'. Some of them wouldn't be fit to print.

O: Well I bet they would. How many years were you and R. B. out there, lot of years?

PD: I went there in '74, and R. B. come in '30.

O: I see.

PD: He graduated out of University of Oregon and California, and he come here and joined me in '30.

O: And you went there--?

PD: And he was there ever since.

O: What year was it-- was he on the boat? He was either going to San Francisco or going to Oakland or coming back when the boat was wrecked. And he was in the water. He was in a boat wreck out on the ocean when he was a student at Evergreen.

O: He was?

O: Yes.

O: He published the college newspaper.

PD: Yeah, well, he-- he was a-- I don't know whether he was a--

O: He was learning to be a reporter.

PD: It was of the Daily Californian.

O: Yes. That's what I'm tellin' him.

PD: And after that he went to work for the Sacramento Bee for awhile.

O: Well, I don't know about that but I know that he did publishing the paper.

PD: He was the-- oh, the editor or something.

O: That's right.

PD: The Daily Californian.

O: And you know-- he had-- was it the saxophone he used to play?

PD: The what?

O: A saxophone? Did he play a saxophone? Anyway, he had a horn that he lost in the water. And he was trying to--

PD: Well, he lost it on the Alaska. The Alaska sank on the--

O: That's right.

PD: on that reef out there by Eureka.

O: That's right!

PD: And he had a camera, a brand new camera. That the-- least-- had quite a garden over there, and then we sold-- get this stuff and sell it to Davy Jones. And Davy Jones would take it to North Powder. And they took that money that we got from Davy Jones and bought a brand new Kodak. And R. B. was goin' back to college. And it's comin' in Holt Bay there some place. Yeah, I guess. I don't think they ever brought that ship out. Twenty-two people drowned, though.

O: That's right.

PD: One girl from La Grande. I don't know what her name was.

O: I don't know either. I've heard my mother tell about it a lot of times.

PD: I've got a lot of stuff on that. R. B. had the clippings in a book, but your neighbor over here's got it if you could borrow it from him.

O: Is that Ralph Taylor?

PD: No, Marie.

O: Oh, you.

PD: She got it. I took it over to Valley View there to show it to R. B. there. He wanted to show it to somebody and I got--

O: You say Marie has it?

PD: She's afraid somebody'll steal it, and she brought it home. If you could get it, it's a pretty interesting story there about that wreck. He was in the water I don't know how long there, and then he finally--

O: For a long time.

PD: He could swim, and then he got in a boat. He finally found a boat, and he got in that boat. He was the first one in it, and then they picked up thirty-something people swimming around.

O: That's right.

O: Pete, I hear you had another nickname once. Were you called Chicken?

PD: Yes.

O: Is there a good story about that? Dad had a nickname of Spike and I don't know how he got that name. How come you got called Chicken?

PD: Want me to really tell you?

O: Well, I don't know! Is it a story you want to tell? \_\_\_\_\_?

PD: Well that's when I was goin' to college down there at Oregon State. And Ralph Chivalt, Lee's brother-- I don't know if you knew Ralph or not.

O: No.

PD: Well he was goin' to college the same time you did down to Oregon State. And we went to Portland and looking around, and he introduced me to a girlfriend of his. And she come up and says, "Hello, Chicken!" And threw her arms around my neck, and he called me Chicken down at college all the time.

O: I remember the \_\_\_\_\_ about that. What was his-- what was his name?

PD: Ralph.

O: Ralph. Well what was the other Chivalt over here?

PD: We called him Shorty down at college. He was about six foot six. He was a big tall guy.

O: Was he a football player?

PD: Yeah. He played tackle on the Oregon State team. There with Dewey, and them guys.

O: Well why did she call you chicken, just because that was a pet name?

PD: Well she just-- she come up and says, "Hello Chicken" and hugged me.

O: I see. And they called you chicken at school, then?

PD: That was my name down there for three years.

O: Tell me what kind of a horn was it? Did Richard play a saxophone?

PD: And I was called Bridey, too.

O: Now tell me how come Dad was called Spike. Do you know that story? I know he was called--

PD: They called him Spike because he looked like a spike!

O: Was he tall and skinny?

PD: He was tall and skinny, and he went up to a spike.

O: He did, huh?

I: Did he tell ya' his was named Chicken?

O: Yeah.

PD: That's the reason they called him "Spike" down there. That's the one he went by all times.

O: I see.

PD: But I guess-- I knew some of them guys that was in his fraternity. The Kappa Psi or what--

O: No, Kappa Sigma.

PD: Sigma, yeah-- somethin'. I went over there a lot of times. There was one of them Hill's there, and the guy that run the theater in La Grande for years was in that fraternity.

O: Don Meyers?

PD: Yeah. Probably the guy that run the Arcade Theater there in La Grande for--

O: Was that Don Meyers?

PD: Oh, I think so.

O: I don't suppose you boys had any escapades down at college, did you? Noooo. You were just good hard-workin' students.

I: [laughs].

PD: They said in a contest that I was the one that was most likely to not succeed. [laughs].

O: [laughs].

PD: That's what the professors--

O: That's what the professors said? My gosh!

O: You didn't \_\_\_\_\_ yet, \_\_\_\_\_?

PD: Who was-- who was the Dean of Agriculture then?

O: Who was the Dean of Agriculture when you were in college?

O: What?

O: Who was the Dean of Agriculture when you were in college?

PD: \_\_\_\_\_, or-- I'll think of it after awhile. Anyhow, right down there was the one that was teachin' Chemistry and English. I didn't have enough English. And I went to him and I says, "I guess I'm goin' home," and he says, "What are you goin' home for?" That was the first year I was there. I says, "Hell, they want me to take this English." And he just took his pencil and scratched out English and put that stuff on the there. Everything was all right after that. You remember him.

I: Oh yeah. See, there was--

PD: It'll come to you after awhile.

I: Hisler was crops, Powers was irrigation, and Potter was animal husbandry. I don't know who you was thinkin' about. I can't think this--

PD: Well, old-- old Nelson was there and bought sheep. And he darn near takes us out of class for chewin' tobacco in class, me and another guy. Old Potter he was a--

I: Potter and Nelson, Nelson was sheep, Potter was Cattle, Dick was Horses--

PD: And some guy had the hogs. I forget his name.

I: Hisler was crops. I always liked Hisler. He used to come up the Experiment Station a lot.

O: You know, we were talking about the fellow that used to come up here at the stock show, J. D. Farrell that had the jumping horse. Do you remember J. D. Farrell from the O. W. R. & N., from the college? That's the famous jumping horse that he used to come to the stock show. J. D. Farrell, does that ring a bell?

PD: That's right, yeah. Dave Cooper-- Dave, Dave Cooper was the instigator of that. Dave used to work in that bank when he come from Scotland, and he was with the Bank of Scotland or somethin'. And he got it-- and he worked in that First National Bank or somethin' in



Portland. One eve Dave come up here, and some of them guys organized that train ever \_\_\_\_\_-- come out of that special train there for two or three different years, maybe more.

I: He, uh, got to be uh, Nick Leevy's stable boy. [chuckles].

PD: Yeah, he was Nick Leevy's stable boy. But he just lost-- he lost faith in somethin' there down in Portland. I don't know what it was. Dave was smart. He was well educated.

I: Oh yes.

PD: God, I remember my mother used to go to him and make these little playin' cards, you know. And just-- he'd make the calling card--  
[END OF TAPE]