

BUD MORGAN

May 1989

Interviewed by

Transcribed by Ryan Shearer

Transcript revised by Paula Helten (04/19/2012)

[“W” denotes Buddy’s wife. Her name is not given.] [Side A]

W: Did I leave you a spoon, or did I stir it _____?

I: No, I have the spoon here.

W: Alright.

BM: [chuckles]. Okay.

I: Ah, thank you.

W: I might even _____ this thing. No, maybe-- I thought maybe-- [sighs].
There’s my _____.

I: Now, to get Bud started, uh, to give me some background on just like where you're born and-- and the year, and then when-- like when you came out here or in northeast Oregon, how long you've been here.

BM: Oh, let's see. I was born in 1896 in West Virginia, and-- and, uh-- and a name, huh? Oh. I come out through-- I come to Oregon in-- what year did I come to Oregon?

W: In the ‘30’s.

BM: Huh?

W: We come here when we-- it was '36.

BM: In '36?

W: In-- up in here, yeah.

BM: '36.

W: Mm-hm.

I: So, did you come right up to this area here then when--?

BM: Oh no, I come--

W: Oh no, we married in Portland.

BM: No, I-- I-- I come up to Haines and _____ at that time.

W: Well, you were there when we were movin' in.

BM: Lived there a year and moved out in the country.

W: We were city people.

BM: You was. I wasn't.

W: Well, I don't know-- [phone rings] pretty much, pretty much. [phone rings].

I: Were you in Haines about a year and then-- then came up this way?

BM: No. I-- I-- I moved out [phone rings] on the ranch out there with everybody. I only lived in Haines a year and then moved out on the ranch, but-- [phone rings]. Then we started in the bee business-- started in bees. Then I moved up here. I don't know, what-- what year did she say we moved up here?

I: Well, I think you came here in '36. Was that at the Oregon?

BM: Yeah, mm-hm.

I: And then it was just after a year or two, then you moved up to the Wolf Creek here?

BM: Yeah.

I: Well, you've been-- was the whole thing that you're doing now, has that been going on since that time? Uh, oh, how would you--?

BM: No, I, uh-- I worked around on the ranches and had just you know _____ started a few cattle and stuff here. And then I went to work for the Forest Service. I worked fourteen years for the Forest Service here.

I: What area were you working in, Bud with the Forest Service?

BM: Oh, I worked in La Grande-- down at La Grande and for _____.

I: Right. So, it'd just be on La Grande District all through the fourteen years.

BM: Yeah.

I: There?

BM: Mm-hm.

I: Now, what job did you have, Bud that--?

BM: Oh, I had their-- I had their cay-- cattle. I worked cattle and then took _____ and maintenance work. Entree Ocean owned--

I: Right.

BM: that dam. And I worked-- I worked with 'em fourteen years on that.

I: Do you remember what year-- which years those were about, or about what period of time?

BM: God no, I'd have to--

I: Go back through the records? [laughs].

BM: I'd have to go back through-- it's been-- been a long time since I-- since I worked for them, you know.

I: 'Cause it seemed to me it was in the '50's you're still working for them then, weren't you?

BM: I probably was.

I: I could-- 'cause I came out here in 1955, and seemed to me you were working there at the district at that time--

BM: Probably was.

I: if I remember right.

BM: Yeah, I-- I worked through its powder-- yeah, there wasn't many of us working then. There was just a few of us!

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: The office was in the old-- the old, uh, Post Office building in La Grande there, yeah, had this little office.

I: Lot of big change over the years! [laughs].

BM: [laughs]. Oh, yeah! There's so many cars out there now! I think we had one-- one, uh-- one, uh, Jeep, I think. Well, one of them wide-wheeled ones in the back, you know. [laughs] .

I: [laughs]. Uh, yeah.

BM: And there's about-- oh, there was about four or five of us, and that was about the size of it and the-- the _____. I don't think there was that many during the winter, but anyway, during the summer of course they had all the lookouts here. You know what I mean, trail-- trail mates missed their trails. Oh, and then they had a regular crew in with that, not like we got now.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: Man, oh man, I--

I: What were you doing? Were you riding like quite a bit up around Starkey and that Tony Vey country and--?

BM: I rode all this country from Porcupine-- I worked out of Porcupine.

I: Oh? Mm-hm.

BM: I worked out of Porcupine. When I rode that country, um, sometimes when the _____. [laughs]. That's one-- one of the places I didn't go, I guess.

I: Well, as far as get started would be if either any observations you have or knowing about anyone else of some species that are either not here any longer or endangered or pretty rare, like the wolf or grizzly bear or, uh, resident bald eagles, peregrine falcons, of any of those types of animals that have you ever--?

BM: And the cougar is believed to be a few cougar in here which you never see one, never hear of one anymore now. The last ones I heard of getting killed-- being killed was in Ladd Canyon. You know, when they put that Ladd Canyon in, you know.

I: Mm-hm. Do you remember about what year that was?

BM: No. Maybe she could tell for the older. She's pretty good at that. But hell, I never even-- I never even think about those things! You know what I mean, years and stuff like that.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: You know what I mean. And-- and I-- I'm not very good at remembering things that was special. You know what I do mean. Things you know, something special, I probably remember, but no, uh, none of that.

I: Do you remember seeing any resident bald eagle? Course they come in the winter time--

BM: Oh--

I: but ones that would nest?

BM: No, there-- oh, there's a big one sitting right down here. The last one I saw was right here on this point right here. I thought it was deer settin' there-- was been there-- have white spots when they grow up along. And then he flew off a hill, flew right over the car.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: It was a big, ole, nice bird. And uh, that's the-- that's the last I eagle I saw in here. I haven't saw a bald eagle around now for years, you know.

I: You know down lower they come in a lot, like during the winter time--

BM: Yeah.

I: they'll be migrating in.

BM: They do.

I: But I never-- I don't think-- or they're rare to see where they're actually nesting because generally about March is when they leave going back up into the Canada out here, and up to Alaska.

BM: No, I've never-- I don't know of any of the bald eagle in the country since I've been here, nesting you know.

I: Yeah right, that's what I meant.

BM: But uh, there have been a golden eagle and buzzards, _____ flies. And of course, they were-- they've always been here too, and they're still here. But I don't know of any sanony that would sometimes lack-- we opted a gr-- uh, blue-- uh, the blue grouse. Now, they-- they kind of come and go quite a bit, you know what I mean? And uh, outside today, uh, I-- I watch less elk than they used to-- than we used to have, you know.

I: What about from the '30's from when you come out here, can you give me some idea of the-- the difference in elk populations from what they were at that time to now?

BM: Oh, I--

W: Like five hundred and eighty head.

BM: I don't know of-- through which--

W: That was here.

BM: Everybody-- everybody used to get their elk up in here and around here, you

know what I mean? It was nothing to go up in the-- up in the back here and see two or three big bulls anyway. They-- now-- and the bulls, they didn't hunt the bulls like they do now. Them bulls get out on them ridges out in the open, and they run along the timberlines, you know what I mean? All you had to do was flush them out of the draw up on top, and uh-- and they don't-- they didn't like to run with them big horns in the brush, you know what I mean. Each-- they were right along the timber line each year.

I: About-- yeah, because I _____.

BM: We'd be right along the timbers you know, and get 'em. And that, but now they stay right in the timber, you know. They're pretty smart that way. But there used to be lots of 'em we had loose. Everybody-- everybody round here years ago got their elk, you know. Then they'd doe and bred. That's what they-- in the winter time they figured on havin' elk for-- and a deer. And they all got 'em. And then, they just got-- they just got less and less all the time then at the big bulls, anyway, but now they seem to be-- you see a few cows anytime you go out now _____, but the bulls, why, no bulls. It's just if you do, it's a spike. You know, one or two--

I: Yeah.

BM: two points of spike.

I: Do you have any of your thoughts of why, what the change or reasons for it?

BM: Oh, they killed the big bulls off! Now, two years ago was it, around Ladd Canyon one of them seven bulls there was on that canyon there. You see him comin' up there? I think I was one of the first ones seein' him in there. And there wasn't over a four-point among the bunch, you know. But that's unusually, you know. We--

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: that was pretty good to even see that many-- big of four-- four-points in there. And that used to be quite a-- before that road went in there, hell, that was a canyon. Boy that was elk country in there through that canyon.

W: Did you feel, Dear that the elk-- big elk were being killed off by the-- the bow hunters?

BM: I think most of your bow hunters killed your elk off, arguably your big _____ bulls, mm-hm.

W: You dispense that a lot.

BM: Doing-- doing them in ruttin' season.

I: Yeah. Well, you were mentioning about where they're calling 'em in during the ruttin' season and being able to get--

BM: Oh, they-- they were getting to be-- they're experts at that calling in to have them called. Why you can call them-- them herd bulls in. There's no-- no doubt about it. I used to go up here when I was goin' back and forth [clock chimes] to Porcupine, and I'd just blow on my hands you know, like that, and them bulls would answer you.

I: I know. [chuckles].

BM: Yeah. And then you'd watch down over on the other side of-- on Wolf-- on, uh, Medford Creek there and there are always bulls in there. But uh, you never see anything like that anymore which there seem to be quite a few cows around. There's a big herd of 'em over here. Of course, they're feedin' 'em over there.

I: Yeah, it seemed like because they're feeding the there, that they tend to be--

BM: But I haven't seen no big bulls in there.

I: Right, mm-hm.

BM: Uh, I don't know that. They said they got fourteen bulls out of this one bunch over here last year on--

W: Pat.

BM: Pat's place over here--

I: Oh? Mm-hm.

BM: when they drove 'em out.

I: Mm-hm.

BM: But I guess-- I don't think they got any big bulls in. I don't know now. I wouldn't swear, but uh-- uh, but I think there must have been most of 'em spikes.

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

BM: Yeah.

I: Well, one thing that changed you were mentioning about where they used to hang out in the-- the black pine or lodge pole.

BM: Oh, they used to, uh, find-- we used to find in the back lodge poles when they were about ten, fifteen feet high, and there was, uh, lots of, uh, moss on 'em, they'd just push 'em over. And they fed on that, and they'd yard up in there in the winter time. So, you knew, oh, they'd be an acre or two of some kind. They pushed 'em all down, you know. And the deer would come right along. We'd find deer in there eatin' after the elk. And you could find them herds of elk in them places. They herded it-- they herded it up there, you know.

I: What area was that, Bud, that--?

BM: Oh, that'd be up around, oh, as far up as Porcupine, and all this side down through them big black pine pole patches. Big-- there's a lot-- used to be a lot of big black pine pole patches up on, uh-- uh, this-- this-- it used to be at the old experiment station up there, round about in through that old experiment station. There used to be a big experiment station up there, years ago.

W: That's the one they called, _____.

BM: No, no, I don't think so.

W: _____.

BM: But anyway, there was a lot of big pines-- black pine pole patches.

I: Well--

BM: But they didn't stay in them big ones. It was them smaller--

I: Yeah.

BM: pole patches, you know around there.

I: Would be a-- would a lot of that have burned up during the Anthony Lakes fire in '65, or did-- or is that another area?

BM: Oh, yeah, but, uh, they've-- they've-- they've clear-cut all that stuff out now. You-- you don't find 'em-- a lot of them pole patches in there. They're all gone.

I: Yeah, 'cause--

BM: It's clear-cut. They just cleared-- cleaned 'em out. And then-- but the Anthony Lake fire, uh, they reseeded that, and then they put, um-- thinned it out a lot of it. But I haven't been in there here late in the last few years, so I don't know what happened in there, but I don't-- I think that's too recently. I don't think its thick enough to have the moss and stuff on it like the-- like the old stuff.

I: Well, it wouldn't have the age there.

BM: It wouldn't have the age.

I: No, lot of the-- the old lodge pole was growing, oh, there'd be a hundred years old, and they'd still be very small.

BM: But-- but very thick.

I: Some of them got real thick. I know all over the Indian Creek country is that way.

BM: Yeah. Oh, they, uh--

W: They've ____.

BM: Yeah. Yeah, they've cleared all them big-- there's-- were used to be some of them po-- pole patches up there that had, oh, acres and acres of poles in 'em;

black pine poles would be twelve inches through. Beautiful.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: They're all cut out now in there. I guess they use 'em for chip wood.

I: Well yeah, chips and a little bit probably for logs, too. Some of these log homes like that, but I know the beetles have gotten into a lot of that stuff too--

BM: Oh, yeah.

I: with the chip.

W: Yeah.

BM: They have in my place. My gosh, up here on my place there. Course that's, uh-- that's, uh, fir and stuff, you know. Yeah, they killed it out. Gone in there and logged it. Now you can see for half a mile any place in there.

W: Can you?

BM: Oh, yeah! Used to be, you know, you couldn't see anything in there. Now you can see for a half a mile pretty nears.

W: That's for the ____.

BM: Watch men killed off for the beetle and that, you know, and then they logged it off too.

I: Well, there's been a lot of things going through there. There's been the beetle for the black pine, and then of course the, uh--

BM: Some moss.

I: Yeah, I saw these bud-- bud worms is you know come through, and he cuts 'em all--

W: Yeah, ____ --

I: a few years back.

W: and we have pine. I took some of them _____ down in feet up there all layin' in one.

I: Oh, did you?

W: Where they fell and just kind of rolled down the hill into a ravine. Just piled up there like _____. He _____ moss' _____, fifty thousand feet there.

BM: There's still some, I think-- and you can stills ride the-- get up on the mountain, and I see some of them spots where all the trees are dead in them, you know. And I mean, they-- and I guess they can't do much for that beetle anyway.

I: Well, they let it go so far, you know. So long, that they just got literally in there by the millions, and it's like fire, you-- you don't wait for it to get a thousand acres and then try to fight it. [chuckles].

BM: It makes you wonder what's good-- what-- what's gonna happen, doesn't it--

I: Yeah.

BM: in a way, you know?

W: I noticed even across oven there there's three tamarack trees all brown.

BM: No, uh--

W: I can _____ that.

BM: there's, uh-- and the deer used to be-- like I say, the deer's come and gone. But it used to be we could count a hundred head up here, but it's never been that way since. But we've had quite a few deer come, you know in-- in different years.

W: Oh, the time we came through for a few years after we were here--

BM: But uh--

W: in the winter time.

I: What about the size of deer here as far as the bucks or-- or that? Um, were there some pretty good sized ones in here before?

BM: Oh, I got-- I got-- I kept a locker four or five times in Haines. [laughs]. I used to go out in the sagebrush and kill a buck. That's where I got my big bucks. And I don't know if I ever got a-- a big buck back in the _____. But I got a locker for her. But I got some big bucks. God, I used to get some big-- I-- big bucks here. Two hundred pound buck out here, you know for meat. [laughs].

I: Did you see 'em in the winter time? Were they in here, or is this a little too high for 'em?

BM: I remember. I don't think the-- I don't think they even _____ come down in the winter time _____ this low. I don't know. Now, we used to see 'em around here in the winter time.

I: No.

BM: Now you-- oh, well, now when the big herds was here there was big bucks in 'em.

I: That's what I meant.

BM: Yeah.

I: Very.

BM: There was some big bucks in 'em. They'd come, but uh-- they come around like they do now, they didn't do that.

W: That's a nice one there of 'em in that picture there, buddy.

BM: What?

W: That's a nice one there of 'em in that picture there--

BM: Oh.

W: of when we first came.

BM: Then? No, it was nothing to get a two-hundred pound buck, you know what I mean then. There was lots of 'em. [laughs]. And I never got a bad buck. I killed a buck for a fellow one time that wasn't good. That's him on the buck [laughs] 'cause I'd already done one! Good! I'm glad he got it! [laughs]. Yeah! There's some in the pictures up there of bucks there. See that one there?

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: That-- that was a nice buck. And on the elk there we'd just won him at--

I: Now it's abandoned.

BM: Yeah, I used to-- I got-- I used to guide here, you know. I used to take 'em out in here. We got some nice back country and elk.

I: What areas did you guide into?

BM: Right around this part of the country here.

I: Oh.

BM: Shaw Mountain, mostly and up towards Porcupine, up in that country. You know, Shaw Mountain-- Shaw Mountain, you know it's always been a great elk country. That's where they should have had the game reserve over there, instead of over here. Of course, I guess they've gotten 'em so now that they're comin' over there, but when they first started that over there there wasn't no elk over hardly in that country, you know. Now then they've got to feedin' 'em, and I guess the herds are gettin' bigger all the time I guess back there. Now, that's-- that seemed like that _____, that's Shaw Mountain. God that was great elk country down there.

I: You know anything about like up there in Billy Meadows, of course when they brought the elk up there from Yellowstone, but that was back in the 19-- teens or the '20's. Do you know if there's elk over this area or was that any information that you'd ever heard of?

BM: No, I don't know. They brought them el-- I remember that, uh-- I don't

know now-- I remember talking about the elk in there when they brought 'em in there a lot of course at that time, but I didn't know much about it. But I don't think we had, uh-- had anything to do with our elk in this party. I-- I'd-- and uh, they claimed at one time that at that time there were difference in the elk. They-- they said that-- the way they used to talk about it here was that-- the eye tine-- eye tine-- uh, eye tine turned down on one and one up on the other. Now, I've seen that both ways, but I don't know where there's any difference in the elk.

I: Yeah. Well, undoubtedly they mixed some too if that was the case in-- through the-- you know, over the years because of--

BM: Yeah, but I remember that that was right. The eye tine turned down on one and up on the other. And then-- but I don't know if it had anything to do with the elk they imported in over there or not. But, uh--

I: Did you ever run across or have any sightings of, like-- things like wolverine or-- or any of the other animals that aren't around any longer?

BM: The only ones that-- I never saw any wolverines. The only one next to go is the, oh, that you don't see any more, is what is that one looks like a mink?

I: Oh, let's see, there's a--

BM: He lives on squirrels and stuff.

I: Well, there's a pine martin.

BM: Martin!

I: Oh, yeah!

BM: Yeah, martin. I don't see the pine martin in here anymore. Used to see lots of pine martins.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: Yeah, but got so'd it that you never see any more pine martin out there. I don't know if there's any in here in the-- anymore or not. But there used to be quite a few of 'em when I first come here.

I: Oh, back in the '30's there was _____.

BM: There was quite a few, and uh-- and uh, the same way with the beaver. Now I had lots of beaver right up here, and they come in wantin' to trap on me, and I always told 'em no. But they got in during the winter, they go up there, and finally they got 'em all.

I: Was-- what was it pretty much just up along Wolf Creek here, or were there some of the other tributaries where they had beaver?

BM: Well, where the-- well, most of your beaver-- my beaver here was on a Clear Creek.

I: Oh? Mm-hm.

BM: In the for-- in there they had a lot of houses and stuff on it-- in-- on Clear Creek. And then there's not any-- hardly any signs of 'em anymore. They finally got 'em out on me. But I didn't want 'em trapped, you know or anything.

I: Yeah.

BM: In fact, they were kinda helpin'. And where their dam was upset that way that you know, and keep it from washing, and-- but they finally got 'em all. So, there was one beaver comin' up here last winter on the snow before you could see where he went from one place to another, you know. And he went back down to the dam. And that's the only sign I've seen now for the last couple of years.

I: Yeah. And when you had the heavy beaver in here 'bout how long ago was that, Bud? Do you remember?

BM: Oh, that's been-- that's been ten-- ten years ago.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: We had 'em about ten years ago, I guess.

I: So, they've been pretty slim since then.

BM: Oh no, they caught-- they caught 'em all.

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

BM: And then, you can't have anything in here, you know like that because they'll get 'em anyway. [laughs].

I: [chuckles].

BM: But uh, anyway.

I: Do you remember anything about early critter control, like when you were working for the forest service riding?

BM: Oh, uh, yes, they had, uh, let's see-- they had the-- they had the government trappers torch the last of it. Now, I-- uh, when did I quit the forest service, babe?

W: Well, I broke my neck in '61. I think you quit in '64.

BM: Well, they let me go in '64. Anyway, they uh-- they had the-- they had the-- the government trappers at that time. And they used to-- used to go along and see where they had them coons a hung up, you know what I mean. And ten, maybe eight-- ten coons hung up, strung up.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: And porcupines and the coyotes. They just hung 'em up, you know? [chuckles]. They'd be killing stuff before you got to one of them place-- stations, as a rule.

I: Those were the what, the 1080 stations?

BM: Yeah!

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

BM: Yeah, they used that 1080 _____. I lost my dog during the--

I: Oh, you did?

BM: last of it. I had a hell of a good dog. Uh, but I didn't lose him back in the mountains. I lost him back over in the flats over here. No, uh, or that just seems like things are just ramblin' down, just keep goin' down, down, down.

I: Oh?

BM: But about-- that about all of your animals, everything, it seems to. And of course when they put-- when they sprayed in here, you lost all the birds. There was nothing in here, you know. God, you could walk-- you could ride twelve miles and never hear a bird or nothin' move.

I: Do you remember what they were spraying for?

BM: I think that was for the-- the moth.

I: Spruce bud-worm or--?

BM: The spruce bud-worm or one of these things. Now they what-- they've sprayed about three times, haven't they?

I: Well, they sprayed some, I think years ago for spruce budworm. Then there's a tussock moth which would have been in the '60's. When they sprayed that at the late-- late '60's, I know.

BM: Waker Sheep comes out, and we seen which one it was. There was one of 'em, oh, it killed every damn thing it got. There wasn't a bug or skeeter in-- [laughs] I think a bird-- there wasn't a damn thing you-- yeah. It's gettin' to be quite a highway up here now.

I: I bet with that paved road down below.

BM: Oh, yeah.

I: And the dam in there, the water--

BM: Yeah, they-- well, their huntin' mushrooms up here now too, you know.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: And you know what? It makes you wonder what these guys go by with their

guns and stuff for nature all the time, god, I would-- [clock chimes].

I: Do you remember anything about any fishing as far as stocking around here, or what kind of fish were running?

BM: Oh, uh--

I: Or any change over the years?

BM: The _____ here-- the salmon used to run up here, years ago, but when-- when we come up here, they would put that there in dam down here. Uh, that's the-- uh, they put--

I: Seed Valley?

BM: Seed Valley Dam.

I: Oh.

BM: And that stopped it there.

I: Oh, that stopped the salmon--

BM: Yeah.

I: down there.

BM: And-- but those-- the fish never run in here. You had your native trout. You know about them eight incher's, there's lots of 'em. Yeah, there used to be lots of 'em, and that's all there is now is just your native trout in here. Now these just-- I don't know just what they plant in this lake down here, but these-- these fish don't run.

I: They just stay in the lake?

BM: They stay in the lake. Now, over on that other window where buck over on there, they put that dam in there. And them rainbow-- I guess they're rainbow, run in that little steam nave. They can't hardly get up it, and they were so fat, and they tell me now that they wouldn't let 'em catch 'em, you know. And they get too many of 'em, and then they got so skinny, and I

don't know if they're runnin' there anymore, but--

I: Oh, yeah. Which dam was that, Bud?

BM: It was Private Dam. On--

I: Remember what stream it was on, or--?

BM: There's just a little stream runs down through there. You know where the old McCanse place is?

I: Oh yeah, it's--

BM: Well, they could--

I: well, roughly. It's been a long time since I-- [chuckles].

BM: Yeah, it went around over there. It comes right through McCanse yard there, you know. There's a little stream coming down, and they put a dam back up in--

I: Oh?

BM: through there, you know. And uh, I was gonna tell you who put it in, but uh, anyway, why uh, the fish got so thick in that dam. Great big fellas! Oh god, they would agitate, and they'd come up that stream. People got to goin' in there and catchin' 'em when the gunny sacks full and nettin' 'em, you know. It was from La Grande in there. And I guessed they stopped them. But when they stopped 'em, I-- I guess they tell me that this fish got skinny in there, you know what I mean?

I: No.

BM: There was too many of 'em. I don't know. I suppose they still run up that stream in there. But why don't they come out of this one?

I: Yeah, it's kinda-- unless they got different species in there. I don't know 'cause I don't-- I never did hear what they stocked in here.

BM: I don't know what they stocked-- they're silvers!

I: Oh, is that-- mm-hm.

BM: Because I'm-- I'm-- I've caught one _____ now two or three times down there. Every time I've ever went down there. All of 'er about-- oh, about ten inches long, silvers. But I haven't fished for the last few years. But then when this-- here-- here a few years ago, guidin' was always good goin' fishing in there. And I guess they do it quite a bit now because there's a lot of fisherman down there. But they never run up the stream. I've never seen-- know anybody to catch one of, uh, silver out of this stream--

I: No.

BM: out here or anything. But the natives, they're still eight-inch natives and stuff. And they spawn in Clear Creek. Now that's where we have trouble here with the-- they won't let me move the gravel in the creek here. But what this-- what they spawn here in this creek where I move the gravel wouldn't matter a damn. But then--

W: Well, it's the gravel anyway, _____ isn't it?

BM: right time. But up in Clear Creek, that little creek in the summer that stream goes down them little fish in there just thicker than usual. Makes you wonder where they all go to.

I: Yeah, oh yeah.

BM: Yeah, and that.

I: _____, did you ever run into any of the Indian routes at all where the Indians would go in and fish while you were riding either with the Forest Service or--?

BM: Oh, they-- they used to be, uh-- they used to be at-- at uh-- Webford-- or, no. I can't think of the damn meadows up there.

I: What would that be? Would it be back up in the Grande Ronde or--?

BM: Yeah, out toward the Grande-- or back in the back, way in the back.

W: It's water now.

BM: When I come here that one time and there's the old platforms are still here from the old route that'd come through here clean over and went through onto the Grande Ronde.

W: No.

I: Oh, I'll be darned. Huh.

W: The old _____ number. _____-- _____ do. Told, wasn't it?

BM: I don't know.

W: What did they call those old pine roads?

BM: Anyway, there's only one route that goes through here, you know. There's only one way you can go through, and that's right at the-- when you go into the-- the intake up there. You know where you drop down into the intake? That's the only ridge that goes through that country, and that was the road that went out through there and down-- clean down through in the Grande Ronde. And that goes from here-- goes from here right on through-- right out through there.

I: Now, it goes right up the creek here-- up Wolf Creek here?

BM: It was-- no. Uh--

W: Well, above Wolf Creek.

BM: Uh, it goes over in the next ridge over.

I: Oh, the next ridge.

BM: Now were way over here and then up and over. But that's on-- but this ridge here cuts into it.

I: Oh, yeah.

W: Command Ridge.

I: What was that an old stage route or--?

BM: The old stage route--

I: Yeah.

BM: and the whole thing in that ____.

I: And freight.

BM: Mm-hm. Did you-- what was that there fella's name that, uh, him and I used to work together? He went over to India for--

W: Oh, John Scovell.

BM: John Scovell.

I: Oh, yeah!

BM: You-- you knew John?

I: Oh, yeah! Yeah, I--

W: And _____. [laughs].

I: Yeah! God, I remember him from way back.

BM: Yeah.

W: And then they worked together.

I: And _____ had just came out here to help.

W: Mm-hm.

BM: Ole John and I, we run that route out there one time a long time ago. The trees in it-- oh, they're that big around now, you know. [laughs].

I: [laughs].

BM: They're big. Course, the trees are growin' big here since I've been here too! Red test went out through that way. But the Indians used to come up Wolf

Creek here on-- but I don't know where-- where the camp was anyplace along in here.

W: _____ Pearl said it was right here at Clear Creek because the salmon came up.

BM: Well, I know. I know, but _____.

W: Because it was before Thief Valley went in.

BM: Where--?

W: They could get there salmon and their huckleberries and their foods.

I: Do you remember by any chance when Thief Valley went in, about what year was that?

W: I do because I'd bought a bacon machine, and it was in 1929 when they closed it down when Huddleston wasn't supplying supplies for 'em for this Thief Valley Dam.

I: Oh?

W: And that bacon machine, they said he just closed up his shop and walked out. It wasn't ever washed or anything.

I: Oh.

W: We have it out there, but I went to get it out here awhile back and somebody had taken one of the trays off that had the ridge in to hold the bacon. It weighed it, cut it and everything.

I: I'll bet.

W: It was a beautiful thing. But they said that they used to bring in five wagons every Friday night or Saturday night-- Friday night. And he would have their order from the week before all ready, and it would take Saturday and Sunday to load up those five wagons. And the men would party, and then they'd leave on Monday morning to go back to the dam.

BM: That was old Huddleston.

I: Oh, was-- was that in Baker?

BM: No, North Point.

W: No, that was in North Powder.

I: Oh, North Point _____!

BM: That big ole-- that big ole-- that building-- they had a great building that sat there.

W: _____ building on the corner.

BM: That was uh--

I: Okay.

BM: That still had the stuff in it when we moved here.

W: Yeah.

BM: [laughs].

W: The kids would break into it and get the bowler's hats and--

I: Oh, gee.

W: and all the dregs. And then some women come along and Huddleston was there one day, and he would never sell anything. He wouldn't even be bothered with it. But these two women were from the East, and they talked him into it. But he happened to be there, and these women were buying all old catalogues and all the old patterns and all the old sewing things and ev-- all the laces and everything. But he said they were just really cleaning it out.

BM: I-- I bought the bacon machine, and then--

W: Yeah.

BM: but I kick myself for not buying them the cash register. One of them great--

I: It was all--?

BM: big, black, peg-rowed--

W: Somebody had already bought it! Buddy, they'd already bought it!

BM: I just wish I'd-- is-- that's the way I--

W: They already-- you didn't get there. Of course, they had the ladies that already bought it.

I: Oh, gee.

W: But that was one time you--

BM: You never see one of 'em, you know at a ____.

I: Oh, no!

BM: It was big! Oh, one of them big, ole, brass ones, you know. God, it was--

I: Oh?

BM: it was abnormal!

W: I don't know what you'd have done with it, but it was good as an antique.

BM: Oh, gar-- just-- just antique. Yeah, I don't know what I've had done with it!

I: ____.

BM: I didn't have nothin' to put in it! [laughs].

I: That's good, pay for it right away.

BM: Yeah, that's right!

W: He wanted to buy the counter, but--

I: Huh, about what year was that? Do you remember roughly?

W: When he sold out?

I: Yeah.

W: Well, Marilyn was here and she came in '65, so it had to be around '68.

I: Oh, was it?

W: We had women work for us for seven and a half years after I broke my neck. She raised her two boys here.

BM: You know all the old timers are gone now. I've outlived 'em all. There may be one or two left.

W: It's part of gettin' old.

BM: And _____ here. [chuckles].

I: And now the doc--

BM: But I had the best neighbors anybody ever had here. God, there was good neighbors. People visited back and forth, you know what I mean, and they worked together--

W: _____.

BM: and everything. They don't do that now.

I: No, it's a different world.

BM: Oh, it's a different world, you bet.

I: What's--?

BM: Yeah.

W: I don't think it's a good world. I think it _____.

BM: Yeah, if I wasn't in havin' my teams harnessed and-- and then we'd haul our wood and stuff out in the winter and sell some of 'em posts and stuff. If I wasn't quite ready with my team in the morning, the guys would-- oh, four or five teams out here--they'd wait for me. We'd all line up and go back up into the hills and--

W: I couldn't believe it--

BM: load.

W: when I come back.

BM: Everybody'd load-- everybody load up their loads and out we'd come.

W: And they had all those beautiful bells on the harness.

I: Oh, I bet that was a sight.

BM: Yeah.

W: Wonderful! I'd get up in the morning and think, is winter comin' and you hope they're comin'! [laughs].

I: [laughs].

W: And uh, they keep-- kept the road packed down on the trail.

I: Yeah.

BM: Oh yes, which-- uh--

I: What area you-- did you get the wood from, Bud?

BM: Oh, up on the-- we used to get it on the National. It didn't cost us a nickel.

I: Yeah.

W: And we used to get it on the place that we bought, too! [laughs].
Permission from _____!

BM: Well, we all went up on the National. And sometimes in the fall we'd deck it up. Sometimes we'd deck and then haul in the winter too.

I: Oh?

BM: But we-- we most of the time we'd all work together and get our loads all skidded out and--

W: Buddy workin' too long.

BM: we rode it by hand, you know what I mean.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: There's-- just put it on--

W: Buddy wasn't too well, but they

BM: wood--

W: took care of him.

BM: _____. Yeah.

W: And help him haul.

BM: All those-- lots of those dead tamaracks in there, you know. We'd load up and that's all we hauled out.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: We took dead tamaracks, you know. Big flat up in there--

W: Way big tamaracks.

I: Oh, I know. I nearly _____.

W: We haven't found 'em down in here.

BM: You don't see 'em anymore unless you go way back and see up here on the

ridge. Nowadays, they-- with-- with these four-wheelers they can get to anything pretty near.

I: Yeah.

BM: You know what I mean.

I: Now, Bud is saying something about, like cougar-- of the last ones that you've seen in here.

BM: What-- what is that _____?

W: Well, I was comin' up Ladd Canyon, and it took 'em a long time to tear out that big rock over in there.

I: Oh yeah, on the freeway there?

W: Yeah!

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

W: It was about three years.

I: Oh, yeah.

W: So, I was comin' up from town, and I had one boy with me. I think I met him at the bus or the depot or something. It was about seven-thirty at night, and there was a-- well, I came from Washington where I'd seen a lot of 'em. Here came this mama cougar and I stopped, and there was enough of an embankment on the right. Kind of a road went up in there. They hadn't filled it in enough. And she went up there, and she waited awhile, and then three little cubs came runnin' after her.

I: Oh, geez. Huh.

W: That little boy I had with me just went berserk.

I: [chuckles].

W: I said, "Sh! Sh! Sh!" But he couldn't keep it. He just, "Hoo! Hoo!

Hoo!” You know he just couldn't stand it. And she waited until all three of 'em where there, and then they took off. Well, I come home and looked in. Of course I had to come in and tell Uncle Buddy. And we'd just got-- and then the boy from North Powder here. Then he'd come up and see our kids, and he went right back and told everybody in North Powder. I guess there was fifty people went up there with guns that next--

I: ____.

W: Right.

I: Yeah.

W: Next morning. I looked for that. 'Course she was forty miles away.

BM: Where-- they killed the last ones in there that boy was huntin' in there here not too many years aback. I guess it's been quite a little while ago killed the last cougars in there.

W: One of the Harrisons?

BM: No, I-- actually it was from La Grande. He was out huntin'. Just a twelve year old boy, wasn't it killed--?

I: Well, I remember seeing it in the paper at ____.

BM: Yeah, it was in the paper.

I: Yeah, I see. That wasn't too long ago, was it?

BM: No, it's not.

W: Oh, I do remember that.

I: It was a couple years ago _____. What year was that that you saw the one along the freeway there with the cubs? Do you remember about--?

W: Well, they had the main part of that freeway open with two lanes on each side.

BM: Oh--

W: I would have said about '69, '70.

BM: Well, why do you? That wasn't when it-- I think that when you saw them there it was only one-- two-way traffic on that ____.

W: No, no, no, no, no. Uh, right in that one little spot, yes.

BM: Oh.

W: But the rest of the highway on both ends was open.

I: It was all open, yeah.

W: Yeah. But you see the train depot was still stoppin' down here at the Depot because Ted and Richard lived there since the Depot. He was--

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

W: He's-- well, and he-- Richard's the one that was here and went down and told everybody; the Station Master's son. Oh, of course, he was a big thing, you know.

I: Yeah.

W: I never thought to tell 'em.

I: Oh, yeah.

W: But it doesn't matter. That cougar was forty miles away.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: But anyway, uh, [clock chimes] the game and stuff and things is pretty much the same species and everything, but there's just less and less all the time.

W: All the time.

BM: In years and years and years in there.

I: Oh, I got-- Bud was talking about too like when they sprayed and all the bird population went out. Do you remember what year, or what they were doing, or what they're spraying for at that time?

W: Yes. What they were spraying for was-- that wasn't spray, honey. That was when they seeded after the big fire.

BM: No, no, no, no, no, no, no. No, that's when they sprayed that they killed everything. When they seeded, they just-- that killed a lot of the stuff, yes. But--

W: That killed all the birds.

BM: No, no.

W: It killed the little chipmunks. We made a--

BM: When they sprayed.

W: _____-- butterfly--

BM: When they sprayed.

W: Well, when they sprayed was a couple years later.

BM: After the fire?

W: Yeah, uh-huh.

I: Well, see the fire--

W: They sprayed two or three times.

I: Yeah. Well, I have the _____, but--

W: Well, Porcupine area.

I: Well, I was thinkin' the Anthony Lakes fire was 1965, I believe.

W: '65? I thought it was '69.

I: No, it wouldn't have been that late. It was '64 or '65 on that 'cause I quit the Forest Service in '72, and it was quite a few years before that. But that was a big, twenty-five thousand acre fire in the woods.

BM: Yeah.

W: Yeah, Buddy had--

I: It ____.

W: Buddy had fifteen hundred acres under his control.

BM: I had charge of Porcupine at that time.

I: Oh yeah, mm-hm. But that was '65. But then they sprayed, I think, for spruce budworm back maybe '48 or-- or some time in there or maybe later than that nearer the '50's.

W: Not really in here.

I: Maybe in the '50's. I-- I can't remember. But I didn't get here until '55.

BM: That's when they killed all them-- all the birds and everything.

I: But I think they were spraying DDT at that time because that's what--

BM: I wouldn't doubt it.

I: what makes your shells, uh, thin.

BM: Yeah.

I: Yeah, yeah.

BM: That's-- that's right.

I: See, that's the first--

BM: They make it--

I: in the--

W: You don't get your birdies. What about-- I think we lost a lot of the birds from that spray when they put in the poisoned aluminum on the pine seeds when they sprayed them in.

I: That's from Anthony Lakes Fire on that?

BM: Yeah. That's after--

I: Oh, oh.

BM: after they cut it. They uh-- they treated all that seed.

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

W: And it took the chipmunks and every!

BM: And I don't know. Anyway, but after that other sprays, god, it killed everything! The mosquitos, bugs and worms for _____ and every-- anything it [laughs] come in--

W: Talk about _____--

BM: killed it about!

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

BM: Uh-huh.

W: we-- I think we rode up in there a couple of years when there wasn't any.

BM: It makes you wonder if that's still in the ground, don't it?

W: It's bound to be.

I: Well, yeah. I think eventually that stuff does deteriorate, but thing is it takes a long time once your population goes to ever start building back up.

BM: And what if they're gone? But that's a time you know it's uh-- it's-- it

affected the eggs and stuff. The birds and everything, you know.

I: Right, mm-hm.

W: I think the rains like we had this year would've done a lot of good there.

I: Yeah.

W: It would have leached it down into the ground.

BM: Did you ever see so much rain in just a little _____ good?

I: Oh, this is almost like the west side! [laughs].

BM: Oh, boy isn't it wonderful though? Even though-- and they go in the ground.

I: Oh, the whole thing like the sky is just perfect.

BM: Well, how nice.

I: We didn't get much up there in _____. I don't think we've got the runoff except for one day down there until like this little bit here this last few days here.

BM: Yeah, we didn't get the runoff we should have got here.

I: No, mm-hm.

BM: Well, if we'd--

W: We had runoff, but that was from the snows.

I: Yeah, right.

BM: Where-- we had pretty good runoff, but nothing like we would have had if it'd been natural like the regular years.

I: Oh, yeah. Oh-- [laughs].

BM: [laughs].

I: Tie your boat up. [laughs].

BM: You bet! [laughs].

W: I gathered some of _____ to call conservation. I called 'em up and told 'em to come move our barn because we had to put in some rock _____. But they said well, they didn't have any money for it. And I said, "No emergency money?" And they said, "No." And I said, "Well, you should have! I warned your soil conservation." They put this old soil in. We've got six foot of loam out there. It's all going down into the valley! In fact, it's going down into the ocean. And they said, "Well, the only thing we could do is if your barn was floatin' down."

BM: [laughs].

W: And I said, "Then what could you do?"

I: [chuckles].

W: "Well, we have emergency money for that." So I said, "I'm gonna go on TV and tell this."

I: [chuckles].

W: They've always wanted me to come on the TV and talk for 'em, and I said, "Boy, they-- they really got serious then!" They come up. The Game Commission come up. [chuckles]. The Forest Service come up.

I: [chuckles].

W: The S--
[END OF SIDE 1]

Transcribed by Paula Helten (04/18/2012)

[audio begins]

BM: Um, and he would run one way, and he had that wrapped around that hem-nine wire around his horns! [chuckles]. And he would run one way and then the other way and then the other way, and then he stopped and looked at me. And then he'd take another run at it, you know. It was two or three runs like that and he went and broke loose. But I-- instead of 'em takin' that

wire and-- I just braided it all up into balls and wrapped it around so they could use the telephone. [laughs]. And it's hung there for a long time! All that slack out of that there _____ life from about a mile of _____ put there.

I: [chuckles]. What'd that do, tie into Porcupine _____ Station, or--?

BM: Yeah, mm-hm. All that went _____ [laughs].

I: _____.

BM: Yeah.

W: It went down into, uh, the lake to, uh, the reservoir.

BM: Oh no, uh--

W: Oh.

BM: No, my brother, he wished he was at the-- had their _____ and _____ at their La Grande-- La Grande Reservoir for-- for years.

W: Oh?

BM: I used to ride down there. See, the La Grande paid me too, see. And then-- and I ride-- I-- one day a week I'd ride the watersheds and pull the elk and stuff out of the reservoir. And [laughs] _____, he broke-- broke through the ice! [laughs].

I: Oh? [laughs].

BM: But they don't know about that! [laughs].

I: [laughs].

W: They probably don't.

I: [laughs]. Yeah.

BM: [laughs].

I: If she could keep her teeth together.

W: That's a lot cleaner than a lot of things are getting along nowadays.

BM: Oh, yeah.

W: It might be--

BM: Oh, that wasn't bad, you know what I mean. They got-- they'd go through the ice and drown, you know.

I: What was that just mostly elk that would do that?

BM: Yeah, yeah. Uh, once in awhile, we'd and find a deer somebody shot on the water ____.

W: The water would be so cold it couldn't decompose anyway.

BM: Well, anyway, just on the watersheds. We dragged 'em-- drag it clean up on the hill somewhere, you what I mean, and away from the waters-- water sources and that.

I: Well, they had the early day-- or the predator control over there. What species were they going after especially? Do you remember, or what the background was?

BM: Oh--

W: I only know what the boys would run into.

BM: Huh?

W: Remember the boys would run into the coyotes in their traps.

BM: Oh. The only thing I know of was cougar and-- and coyotes. They set some-- it pretty much-- the species and things were pretty much the same, I think, as they were. The only thing is is I could probably-- if I could ____ still got some big bucks once in awhile. But there's the bull elk. You don't see no bull elk back here. I-- I had-- every year I've-- that I been in, I always got my big bull. And then-- and-- course the last few years I didn't

hunt. I hunted last year and a few years. We got two last year, uh, but uh, just small. It's two-point and a one-point.

W: Wonderful meat.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: Oh yeah, true.

W: We hadn't eaten elk meat for maybe twenty years.

I: Oh, yeah.

W: Buddy always gives 'em away.

BM: Oh, it hasn't been that long since I killed an elk, has it?

W: Oh, I didn't say you hadn't killed one, honey. I said you gave 'em away. [chuckles]. You never brought 'em home.

BM: Oh.

W: [chuckles]. Uh, for the simple reason that we had our own beef, and about the time the elks even came, the kids was just like and we still had a lot left over.

I: [laughs].

W: You know 'cause you never know what you're gonna eat, so.

BM: Did you-- you know Shorty Oswald, didn't you?

I: Oh, yeah!

BM: God that was a wonderful guy!

I: Oh, yeah!

BM: And the way he--

W: We miss him so much.

BM: I worked with Shorty for years and years.

I: Oh yeah, he's a real special guy.

BM: Whitey got mad at me one time. We was all cuttin' staves on the experimental station up there, and that's all axe work. And the-- so why should, uh-- I don't know how it was I said that. I said, "I-- I cut this two more-- two more staves than anybody." Or somethin' like that. An ole _____ got mad. He said, "Nobody ever cut any more staves than I did!" _____ told Buddy don't cut any more staves than I did.

W: He was all over Buddy too at that time, I'm telling you! [chuckles]. But boy, he wouldn't give up for nobody!

I: Uh-huh. Why is every-- because he had that uh, brace. _____ always worked, uh, out there stringin' up telephone line and all that. But-- so, it just-- it always just wouldn't slow him down at all! [chuckles].

BM: Oh god, he was a rig the horse that got it.

I: Yeah.

BM: And he-- man, oh man, could he do breakfast.

I: [chuckles].

BM: I often wished-- I never could eat quite enough to last me 'til-- well, they use snacks all day 'til it was noon. I'd give out about 11:30. Yeah, I found I'd just be about the last of it. But after I eat my lunch I was good 'til quittin' time again.

I: Yeah.

BM: But uh, that Shorty could eat a great, big bowl of mush that big full of _____. Takes some four or five eggs and-- and two or three slices of bacon.

I: [chuckles].

BM: Yeah.

W: And Buddy--

BM: I never-- I was sure surprised when he took sick so.

I: Yeah.

W: It went awful fast. We thought we had _____--

BM: I don't know any of the-- I don't--!

W: mission lottery tag!

I: No, I don't.

W: I think that's what--

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

W: the reason why he was like that.

BM: What the-- what district did you work on?

I: Well, I started at La Grande in '55, and I was here, oh, let's see, about a year. And then I went on the forest inventory for--

W: Oh.

I: you know just travel around. I was up at Halfway and down there around the Sumpter country.

BM: Oh, uh-huh.

I: In that area and then went in the Army in '57; came back in '59. Then I went to Union District after that and stayed there _____.

BM: I used to--

W: He went in before _____.

BM: I used to-- did you? They used to use my horses on the experiments, you know. I used to take my horses over there, and they'd use 'em for roundin' up the cattle there.

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

BM: Well, what-- what's the name of that outfit down below?

W: Oh, the--

BM: There was a couple lawyers--

W: _____ down--

BM: runnin' cattle up in there.

W: And ultimate had uh--

BM: They used to drive them back--

W: sheep--

BM: and forth from--

W: sheep and cattle.

I: Well, there-- I don't-- 'cause I know Tony Vey was over there. You know the Vey Ranch?

W: Yeah Tony, but he wasn't there.

I: Uh, he wasn't there. Yeah, he had lot--

W: A lot better journey. [laughs].

I: No, 'cause I don't-- [laughs].

BM: These guys are from Echo, and they used to drive the cattle back and forth.

W: Uh--

I: Oh-- [sighs].

W: Cooney, uh--

BM: You know I've tried to remember ____.

W: Was it Cooney's?

I: Cooney was over there in-- in Echo.

BM: Yeah, I guess it was Cooney Outfit that ____.

W: Yeah.

I: Oh, okay.

BM: I guess it was the Cooney Outfit.

I: Yeah, I didn't realize-- I didn't remember that he was an attorney, but it was Cooney was over--

W: One of 'em was.

I: Yeah, one of 'em.

W: Uh-huh. Yeah, it was.

BM: Anyways, now they truck 'em back into--

I: Yeah.

BM: the forest and stuff.

W: They have a big cattle drive.

I: Yeah.

BM: This Scovell and-- he was-- he was kind of the head of that, and he wasn't too nice, ____it.

W: You need a _____ of _____ down on Imminaha. [Imnaha].

I: Well, I remember that.

W: Yeah.

I: I never did know _____.

W: But they trucked their cattle from Imnaha clear over to Goose Creek in there.

BM: Who?

W: Cleo _____.

BM: Oh, yeah.

W: Ah, truck in the hot weather. She'd drive her truck and run home and feed [chuckles] and maybe run back and take care of the stock and get 'em a going again. Ha!

BM: Should have these-- you know they've been here, uh, loggin' in here for the last forty years and they're still a goin' it.

I: Oh, yeah.

W: Well, we had down more last—

BM: Uh, I think that—they still loggin' that ship stuff? I don't know. I've been busy, you know what I mean.

I: Oh, I don't know, but I've gotten away from it so much that—yeah, I don't—

BM: Yeah.

I: really not too aware of, you know a lot of that that's going on and all. It seems like we're always busier down at the bridge—

BM: That's where your—

I: or out on the road so I never know what's-- [chuckles].

BM: Well, that's where your little pi—uh, uh—

W: White pines.

BM: white pine poles went, you know.

W: And Jack wanted it.

I: Oh, yeah. Well, basically where the uh—the bugs started hittin', you know, and then they start—

BM: Well, they cleaned them out just slicker than a whistle! Where—where there'd been miles of 'em up in there!

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: _____ knockin'.

W: We let the natives come in and get 'em. They just—

I: I see.

W: But they got so they'd build roads on us and take the big stuff.

I: Oh, geez. Yeah, mm-hm.

W: So, you'd just have to be right there with 'em.

I: Yeah, it's a real sad—

BM: No, uh-uh—

W: They just—

BM: But, uh—

W: They take 'em. They didn't really—

I: Yeah, I don't—

W: stop and ask. They just—

I: Yeah, don't honor anybody's, you know property or anything else anymore.

BM: What do you think about this four-day huntin' season, that first season?

I: I—again, I haven't even really gotten into the—that at all, Bud. I'm—

W: You're not a hunter.

I: No, it's—I hunt with a camera so I don't, you know.

BM: Yeah.

I: I go three hundred and sixty-five days out of the year. [laughs].

BM: If you're like me, you never have a camera when you need it.

I: No.

BM: [chuckles]. Oh god, that shot—

I: I haven't had much chance to get out it seems like, or it doesn't have the roads.

W: Try and carry those great, big, heavy, old-fashioned cameras on my neck 'til I just—killed me, and I'd leave 'em home one day and that's when you'd want 'em.

BM: You never hear of 'em killin' them big ole bulls when they're fightin' anymore like you used to.

I: Yeah.

BM: They used to be tight _____.

W: We had one was gonna fight us and take all seven us out on horses down the canyon one time.

I: _____?

W: We'd just made a turn and Uncle Buddy said—

BM: We had that—

W: “Well, nobody move.”

BM: We had that pet one here a few that's—

I: Oh yeah, I remember that.

BM: that brought him from—they said he come from that little town on the other side of La Grande.

W: Yeah.

BM: They moved him up here, I guess. [clock chimes].

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: And this—he was a regular pet, wasn't he? [chuckles].

W: He was so cute. He'd follow you any place for a pet probably. He'd come down—

BM: I wonder why they didn't put him in a zoo somewhere.

I: Yeah.

W: Well, he probably—

BM: He didn't last long up here.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: Because a fence—[chuckles].

W: Look at me, only I tried to get out to what we do to tame them. The neighbors down below here they killed the mother and uh, for the fourth of

July dinner. And you know that she has the fawns. And the next day the little fawns come in with their sheep. And they fed ‘em for a month, three or four times a day, I don’t know. And then they come up here until all our green grass, and we couldn’t get rid of ‘em. And they were wonderful pets, but we kept asking to come and get ‘em. And I’d even take ‘em home in the station wagon ridin’. And then they said, “Oh, forget it! Just let ‘em stay up there if it’s all right with you.” So, I tried to get ‘em into the zoos. Oh--

BM: That’s two of ‘em up there! You took the—

W: they didn’t want ‘em.

BM: That’s one of ‘em. You took the picture of up there.

I: Yeah, I remember that.

W: Yeah, that’s ours.

I: Is that one? I’ll be darned. [chuckles].

W: Yeah, that’s Nippy and uh, little Buffy. The two of ‘em down there at the truck stop where the restrooms are now. And um, our neighbor down over here got his first snowmobile, and he drove all the deer from here down in the way overnight. He thought that was fun.

BM: What’s your best pictures? What—I mean, what’s your hardest pictures to get of?

I: Oh, some of ‘em like that one I’ve got of the eagle, uh, golden eagle in the nest which is up about—

W: Oh!

I: ninety feet in the air. And then—

W: Yes.

I: the big nest with the young one sittin’—

W: We had them.

I: right in the nest. That was—that's kind of a choice one of mine. And I had that one of the uh, four big horned owls of the—the young ones. That was over at Pondosa at the sawmill. And they just—that's more of a character shot. They—

W: Yeah, they—

I: just make expressions out 'em.

W: Yeah.

I: But then somebody shot 'em right after I'd—

BM: Oh?

I: took the picture. I put 'em right back in the nest, and um, then-- I think it was the next week went over and somebody had shot a whole bunch of 'em. It was a really young family.

W: They can't leave 'em alone.

I: No, they—

W: We just—we ought to—did you tell him about the little um, blue grouse?

BM: The what?

W: The blue grouse down at the bottom of the hill—

BM: Oh, yeah.

W: that would fight everybody?

BM: I wish we could have got that. We had a blue grouse down here in the road, and he'd fight you, you know.

I: [chuckles].

BM: You'd stop the car, and he'd hit the [chuckles] hubcaps.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: You'd get out and he'd hit you on the pants leg.

I: It would have been a sight to see that.

BM: Yeah. I'll be he did—I don't know what happened to him.

W: Well, you do know. Uh, there was a little, uh, mommy nesting up above, and he was protecting her. And everybody got to talking about him, so somebody come up and shot him one day.

I: Oh, geez.

W: Just like me when I first came here. We had to walk down to the mailboxes where it was under the dam site now a little ways. And—and I'd go down and I'd feed the little birds along the way and the deer and things. Shoot, all the little grouse got to waitin' for me. And then everybody saw 'em, so they come up some morning in grouse season and started coming to poach.

I: Yeah, shoot the pickup.

BM: Yeah.

W: So, you can't do that.

BM: That little grouse that would fight you, that's not uncommon for them blue grouse, I guess, I found out. I thought it was somethin' special, but it's not, I guess. Their—they—that's quite common where they'll fight that way.

I: Yeah. I never had that. I ran into a hawk one time that put me right down the road over there around [chuckles] _____. [laughs].

BM: [chuckles]. He did? [laughs].

I: Yeah.

W: [chuckles]. Buzzed right around you, huh?

I: Well, I'd just got out of the pickup and um, just heard him screaming, and

boy, he just come right down the road right at me! [chuckles]. It just drove me right out of the road. [laughs].

W: My territory, get out! [chuckles].

I: Yeah.

W: Hoo hoo! Even—

I: At _____'s place they were out back.

W: Even the peacock?

I: They had a—had a nest right there just above. I never realized. I never saw the nest or anything, but boy, he sure had the fight. [chuckles].

BM: And I saw an elk one time which I'd love to had a picture of him. Was a young elk; it only stood about that high. Uh, but he uh, was standing in Beaver Creek, and he had his neck all like that-- just straight back. And it just looked like a big bull elk, you know what I mean, but it was just a little calf. I rode by him and looked at him and his stand.

W: He was already fine, huh?

BM: God that was a beautiful animal.

W: [chuckles].

BM: And I'll get this—had to get—I wanted to ask something. I rode back and he had his hip—uh, shoulder broke, I guess. He was all swelled up from that one medium root, like this. But he had that little head and that big neck just standing—

W: Did you put him out of his misery?

BM: Oh, no. I—he just—he just hobbled off a little bit, and I left him alone and went on. And then I pulled him out of the creek a few days later. But uh, that was a beautiful animal! You know what I mean? It's—

I: _____.

BM: He just uh, like a big bull, you know with his neck all swelled up and stuck in that.

W: That poor little thing. Well, he might have got alright _____--

BM: But you know that that's when I tell you I never had a camera when you want one to _____!

I: Right. [laughs].

BM: I saw one white bear since I've been up there too. I had the boys with me and rode right out on—I thought somebody had left their--

W: _____. [laughs].

BM: I thought somebody had left their sheep in the creek. He was drinkin'. I rode right out on him, you know. I wasn't over twenty yards from him, I guess. He had his down, and the first thing I thought was, "Where did that damn sheep get here?"

I: [chuckles].

BM: You know what I mean? And he raised his head up then. Well, then of course there was seen enough then when he raised his head up. And hell, it was a bear.

I: I'll be darned.

BM: He took off. I sicked the dog on him. I tried to tree him, but the dog wouldn't tree him. I told you he was chicken. [laughs].

W: Smart dog.

BM: Well, he run off.

W: _____.

BM: But I never heard of anybody ever gettin' him.

I: Yeah. I'll be darned. What was that, right here around--?

BM: No, right in Porcupine.

I: Oh, Porcupine.

BM: Right in the ____.

I: Was he complete albino, or--?

BM: Yeah. Only had just a little streak of like—of uh, brown on his side of his face.

W: Like a pie crust is. [chuckles].

BM: Like you'd just smear like on each side of his face.

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

BM: God, that pretty son-of-a-gun.

W: [chuckles]. The boys still talk about that. Uh, Andy just called, and he was with you then.

BM: But you—

W: He's forty-six now. We had boys alone for seventeen years before we ever had girls.

I: Yeah.

W: And they're gettin' old! [chuckles].

I: [chuckles].

W: One of the boys come over near ____, and wait ____, I'm fifty years old! And I said, "You're what?!" [chuckles].

I: [chuckles].

W: To me they're still fifteen, you know.

I: Oh, yeah.

W: [chuckles].

BM: But you know in all them years, uh, nothing changed much. The only thing that changed for this lacked or do less. I guess as the years went by I had less of everything, I think.

W: Probably more people moving in now. There'll be a great change before long; lots of people moving in.

BM: But as far as the species, uh, there's no more cougar in there—in there. There used to be some cougar in there. And—

W: Not a lot. Not like—

BM: Used to could—I've had—I've—I never seen a cougar. What I see is just the kills. You know how they when they cover 'em all up in _____. That never-- _____ to last and never see them anymore. And the bear-- well, there's always a few bear—brown and black bear around. But uh, god, last—one time I had an experience with one of them babies though. My _____ was _____, and we was ridin' in the mountains. We were comin' right out into a little opening and bein' just roamin' in there was a big ole sow bear with two little cubs about that high.

I: Oh?

BM: And she took off and the little ones took off up a tree about big, one of them big, old, red—red firs.

W: And they're supposed to.

BM: Then she—just about as long as it took to tell me she went over the hill, she come back out and chasin' my dog. I had a big, black—big, black dog. She chased him right under the—under the horse. And if you think I didn't do some time!

I: [laughs].

BM: [laughs]. And all I had—all I had was in the .38, and he had a .45. And you

know we couldn't unlimber them things even—you didn't—

I: That's where you want a camera! [laughs].

BM: Oh! You didn't have time for a camera, I'm gonna tell you!

I: [laughs].

BM: But anyway, uh, she run—she run the—the dog is runnin' back down over the hill again. And I was a-hollerin' and everything, you know. And them two little cubs sittin' up in there. And this—maybe you know ole Jim Strong, I don't know.

I: No, I—

BM: He used to—he's around Pendleton and down in there. He had a huge horse that I taught him to shoe which-- [chuckles]! Anyway _____, he—he wanted to go up and get one of them little cubs that lives there-- [chuckles]--

W: Ohhh!

BM: that was lookin' at us, you know. I said, "No way, man!" I had all of her I wanted anyway, you know!

W: _____ things kill a momma—

BM: And he said, "Well," he said, "I got my .45." But I—[chuckles]-- I told him a .45's no good for bear. He—he had to want to be—but he—he wanted it—wanted them cubs! I had a heckuva time of talking him out of going up there after them's 'cause after what—what would we have done with a .45—[chuckles]-- and a .38 for that old, sow bear?

W: And abscond her cub to boot? [chuckles].

I: What do you ought do? You'd rather shoot him with a .38? [laughs].

BM: [laughs]. Man, I'd probably—I'm probably better off! [laughs].

I: [laughs].

BM: Gosh, but things like that, you know happen. But you never have time—

I: Oh, no!

BM: like that, you know what I mean!

I: No.

BM: But it didn't take long, I'm gonna tell you. It was just as long as it took to this with all the yellin' and screamin' this stuff. [chuckles].

I: [chuckles].

BM: Jesus! Gosh

I: Oh yeah, all the great experiences! [laughs].

BM: Oh, yeah. I rode out on them babies two or three times! One time I rode out on one at Redwood, and he run up this big tamarack tree; a bare tamarack tree. He come up there, and was up there about twenty, thirty feet in the _____. And my horse, uh, he went and run right up ahead of my horse, you know. And I had a big, black, dog, and I don't think she even knew was keep, but anyway, I rode up beneath that tree. And I looked up at him, and he started to scratchin' on that tree I was gonna tether. That horse didn't stay there long! [laughs]. It was, "Never mind!" He's runnin' up there and never even looked at the back, but soon as that scratchin' above us, I'm gonna tether up the mountain we went! [laughs]. God!

I: [chuckles]. Oh, yeah.

W: We had—each of us had a pack horse was leadin' it.

BM: Oh, guh.

W: We come into a draw on the road, and there was an embankment about as high as the roof or the ceiling.

BM: Yeah.

W: And there was a big, brown, bear is just lookin' down on us. And Buddy—

we stopped, and Buddy said, “There went _____. Let him go where he wants to go.” That’s all he said. We were there about half an hour. That old bear couldn’t make up his mind which way it wanted to go, and I was just a prayin’ he’d hurry up and turn around and go back the other way. But he jumped right down in there ahead of us and went on up. That’s the way he wanted to go.

I: Yeah.

W: And that’s the way he was goin’.

BM: You know, uh, I don’t see how some of these fella’s get some of these pictures they get. All my time and ridin’ and stuff, when somethin’ happened, you’d—I never had much time to do that and get that picture. You know what I mean? It all happened so fast, that uh, you can’t remember every [chuckles] _____ days.

W: I’d like to, but—

I: Well, part of it, I think they spend a lot of time, you know, and basically, you just live with the animals.

W: Yeah, and just sit there.

I: And some place where they’re either got the young ones or you know that they’re around.

BM: Do you know Brad Shaw? [could be Bradshaw].

I: Know him? Oh, yeah.

BM: Well, he takes quite—used to take quite a few pictures.

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

BM: He used to come up here and take the pictures.

I: No, he and C.D. Cannon used to—

BM: Yeah, him and Cannon.

I: do a lot together.

BM: Yeah, Cannon, and I know them both.

W: Cannon took our _____ in fifty, sixty. Was that—

BM: Cannon—

W: hoot owl of mine up there.

I: Oh? [chuckles].

W: And every one of ‘em are different. And then he had that beautiful picture in the Sacajawea in the dining area in there. He says, “That’s thirty yards down there, Louise.” But somehow _____ got mixed up with the auction—

I: Oh, geez.

W: and it went out _____. And it was a beautiful picture.

BM: Yeah, C.C. Cannon, he was a nice guy.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: Yeah, yeah.

W: Buddy—

BM: But, uh—

W: and I would like to have been able to get a big, old, goose; his pet goose. It used to settin’ on a great, big, cottonwood trees up there--

BM: You know—

W: way in the top!

BM: that’s the first time I’ve ever seen geese settin’ snags!

I: Oh?

BM: And they sittin' in it. It didn't occur—

I: Where was that?

BM: They do it here quite often.

I: Oh?

BM: And they would set—and one of them the other morning was sittin' on that old house over there.

W: Well, one of the boys came in and—

BM: But, uh—

W: told you.

BM: that's uh—I actually been around geese and they set in them big snags up there!

I: Hm, I'll be darned.

W: We'd love to have—

BM: I'd never seen 'em sit—

I: No?

BM: in snags before.

W: We never heard of it. We've never seen the—

I: Yeah.

W: truth of it.

I: That's weird, yeah.

W: Well, he sits on that roof over there quite often.

BM: Why he'd—be awful hard to get a—a picture of him because—

W: It would be too far away.

I: Yeah.

BM: Yeah, you know what I mean.

W: Yeah.

BM: And I got so—

I: _____ long lens where it'd reach out.

BM: I got—I got—

W: Yeah.

BM: I got two of 'em set here and they'd be here for years. You know what I—

W: We've got four this year, dear.

BM: There was four here this year, but there was early this spring there was six or eight comin' in. But I—they say that uh, they uh, mate for life, and I don't—god, them two must be awful lucky when one is—you know—

I: Yeah.

BM: what I mean. They come back every year.

W: They're not a-scared of us. They come right over here to the barn along the creek.

BM: They got so now they don't-- they'll wait for me. Oh, you know what I mean. Over there sittin' on the other side of the creek, and I go to the barn when they just stay there.

I: They'll get used to you.

BM: Yeah.

I: You know wise up.

W: So, they must be the old ones.

I: Yeah, 'cause that's like our quail down there, go out to feed 'em, and then you just sit right there. [chuckles].

W: [chuckles].

I: You know, wait for a handout. [chuckles].

BM: I like that, you know! I like bird watching.

I: Oh, yeah.

W: _____ looking for.

I: Yeah.

BM: Yeah.

I: _____ nice there. Their backyard's a regular menagerie. We got about—well, we just had a mother groundhog and four or five young ones in the wood pile. And we got uh, the quail come through and the rabbits.

BM: I—

I: White tails in there.

BM: You got a couple of woodchucks?

I: Well, we got quite a few up the hill there in the rocks, but we get this ole mother. She's been in the wood pile here for, oh, it'd be at least five years now.

W: That's her territory.

I: Yeah, that one year we had um, I think it was up to thirteen. We didn't know what we were gonna do with 'em.

BM: Yeah.

I: I had woodchucks all over the place in that wood pile. And a badger moved in and really cleaned everybody out.

BM: Oh, he did?

W: Wow.

I: But the mother, she's still—she's still around. [chuckles].

BM: We got some under the house right here, you know that—

I: Well, I saw one—

BM: Yeah.

I: runnin' up to the pasture here. _____.

BM: Yeah, that'd be up to _____

W: Not get 'em dog to be first.

BM: [chuckles]. He—he run up and he grabbed that one by the back goin' up in the—it never stopped 'em, none of 'em. She run under the setting, and he'd just set there and look at her. And he just chases her every time he gets a chance, or him, whatever it is.

I: [chuckles].

BM: But if he's uh—I don't think he can whip that damn badger.

I: No, they're pretty big.

BM: No.

I: I think they're—

BM: I had a black spaniel, and she couldn't whip 'em.

I: Yeah, I—

BM: And I don't think he could either, but he likes to chase this one, and it's a big ole baby ____.

I: [chuckles].

W: She was a little mommy ____.

BM: I don't know what I'm [clock chimes] gonna do with—I don't know what I'm gonna do with the damn things though!

I: No, I know. Yeah, it isn't very—

BM: I hate to kill them--

I: Yeah.

BM: in there.

W: Yeah, you can. I'll let you.

I: Yeah, we've got quite—like I said, we got so many there for a while we didn't know what we were gonna do with them, and then the badger kind of take care of that. [chuckles].

W: We've got a badger out here.

BM: Well, we've got a badger comes in! He used to come in here every year. I haven't seen him in the last couple of years.

W: Well, you've been so sick you haven't been out.

BM: Oh.

W: Maybe he's gone.

BM: Yeah, we had a badger. He used to dig the hole right in front of the garage there, you know what I mean. And he'd come in there every year. How he'd—

W: It was down to the garage—

BM: come through with the creek—

W: and went back up.

BM: he'd come through the creek and tree up as ridin' up the _____ and had the dogs with him. He come out of the creek, stopped right in the middle of the _____, set up, and the dogs tookin' to pettin' him.

I: [chuckles].

BM: And this went on for—but the dogs never bothered him.

I: No, they uh, _____.

W: They'd been tryin'.

BM: You would've think they—I'd start—they went after him.

I: Yeah, see—

BM: But he looked like he _____ out of mind what he—

I: Oh—

BM: looked like all wet settin' there every-- [chuckles]-- god, he was a homely lookin' thing!

I: [chuckles].

BM: I didn't know that they swim that creek like you wouldn't believe!

I: I'll be darned, yeah, yeah.

BM: Yeah.

I: I had one in the backyard last year had a—well, didn't really care about havin' him around at all, but _____ would—took the hose to him. Just went up the hill and got mad, came back and dug up the whole yard. [laughs].

W: [laughs].

I: He dug everything up; even moved in there with the front steps, so he's sittin' by the _____ coolin' off. [laughs].

W: Hoo. [laughs].

BM: You know they get mad at you too.

I: Oh, you bet. Well, he just raised up.

BM: Yeah.

I: I mean, he _____. He just _____ up there—

W: I had something happen to me. Everybody said, "You shouldn't have killed it! You shouldn't have killed him!" But I didn't have time to think whether I did or didn't! We'd laid down, and I could hear the peacocks. They were just yellin' like they were yellin', "Help! Help! Help!" And was just carrying on and I didn't pay much attention for a while, and then all of a sudden it dawned on me there was something wrong. And the snow was this high along where we just cut through to get out that back door. And I opened the back door and here come about eight or ten peacocks. All of 'em at that little mesh runnin' around the door, and one of 'em come right on in!

I: [chuckles].

W: And when it come in, I could see something heavy on the back of it, and I kicked at it. And it dropped out and flew out, and then I ran out. But I already—[chuckles]—we'd shoveled so much snow around here, I always had a snow shovel in my hands. Automatic but I had a snow shovel in my hand. I don't know why! And when I got out there, that thing took after me. It tried to get to my legs, and it was all over. The peacocks are goin' up like this, and it was tryin' to get underneath them, not on top of them. He was tryin' to grab from underneath, I guess where the breast is. I think that's where he was—had the one that I kicked him off of. And it just—everything was just in such—in about five seconds I had him down on the ground with that snow shovel. And Buddy come out and smashed his head in. Then we found out we shouldn't have shot him or shouldn't have killed him. He was a _____.

BM: Oh, it was nothing to do with head _____. It was a _____.

I: Oh, for goodness sakes.

W: But he had nails like that that he was trying—

I: _____.

W: to get in my legs.

I: Mm-hm, oh yeah.

W: Oo! And I was just a kickin' around, and the peacocks were goin' up and down. And he was flyin', and he was hungry.

BM: He was hungry.

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: Had to be. Any more had to be to do anyone like that.

W: I—I would have fed him if I could have—

I: Well, yeah.

W: done anything and settled him down.

BM: He had to be.

W: But they had to give him three or four peacocks to fill him up.

BM: That _____, they took him to school, and they stuffed him down there.

W: No. No, the taxidermist teacher down there—the biology teacher wouldn't do it. He said I shouldn't have killed him. Hah, he was gonna make him—

BM: Well, they—they stuffed him, didn't they?

W: Nope, they let him spoil.

BM: Huh?

W: They let him spoil.

BM: Hmph, I didn't know. I thought they stuffed him.

W: I would have taken it down to the game commission—

I: Oh, yeah.

W: and turned it in. Let them take care of it.

BM: There's nothing you could do in the case of that kind of _____.

I: Oh, no.

BM: You know what I mean.

W: Everything happened so fast—

I: Oh, sure.

W: you couldn't think of what it was just to get him away from me. He was—he was after me as well as the peacocks, anything!

BM: He'd of rather move him, I guess sister.

W: Oh.

I: Yeah, they can get—get pretty hefty, you know 'cause I see these—

W: _____.

I: Yeah. Bud, do you remember when you ride did you ever run in uh, over that uh, La Grande Country Spring Creek and Dark Canyon, the wild horses over there?

BM: Oh, yeah! There was wild horses in there—

I: Yeah.

BM: when there was that on Syrup Creek and in through there, yeah. Spring Creek up the hill, there was some wild, uh—there was a fellow in there that protected them! Uh, Tony Vey's foreman—no, I'm workin'—he was the foreman for them guys down in Echo.

W: Cooney's.

BM: Uh, no, but possibly.

W: You mean that Indian?

BM: Goddamn, my memory's still getting' so I can't think of—oh.

W: Cooney?

BM: No, not Cooney. But anyway, uh, he was a foreman for them was that cattle outfit down in Echo. And uh, anyway, he protected 'em, but that guy from Union was tryin' to catch 'em in there.

I: Oh, Stitzel?

BM: Stitzel was tryin' to catch 'em in there years ago.

W: Leave it to Stitzel.

BM: They were gonna kill ole Stitzel, I guess, or anyway—

W: He needed.

BM: Oh. I don't know what happened, and he went anyway. Uh, but there was twelve horses in there, yeah! And we run across them quite often in there. Up on—most of them—the ones we run into most of the time seemed like were on Syrup Creek in there.

I: Oh? Mm-hm.

BM: I think it was—I'm pretty sure it was Syrup Creek.

I: Yeah, I think a lot of things sighted-- all saw over in Spring Creek some really good lookin' ones. Then in Dark Canyon there's a real _____ is--

BM: Well, I bought some, you know from out of that in there, ten dollars a head, years ago. Oh.

W: I wish they could give you ten dollars a head to get rid of 'em.

BM: And there was only two or three of 'em different out of the bunch.

I: [chuckles].

BM: But the ones that were good were really good.

I: Yeah.

W: Yeah, only because you took 'em.

BM: Their hard to break, you know. But once you get 'em broke—I never did get 'em—I don't think any of 'em ever really get broke so they wouldn't bite you or kick you, you know what I mean, sometimes.

W: Not like a—

BM: [laughs]. Stop and _____!

W: _____ saddle there.

I: Yeah.

W: _____ babies.

BM: But anyway, uh—

W: They come home for the kids. They were—they're lookin' for the kids, wasn't it?

BM: Yeah, there was—there was horses in there. I have horses in there when I was in there. And uh—

I: Were those from the reservation, do you think, or where they came from?

BM: I think they come from over the hill. What uh—we made tr—we worked in

there in the winter time, you know. I made troughs in there. We made all them troughs in there for the sheep, and—and that's when the chainsaws come in. Do you remember? And then we cut all them troughs out with chainsaws. We worked all one winter in there. Uh, Butcher—you remember, Bud Butcher?

I: Oh, yeah.

W: Sheldon.

BM: Well, Bud and I worked in there for—

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

BM: Uh, I don't know. Bud and I worked in there for all one winter makin' troughs, and I don't know, uh—and that and them crossroads. Uh, them roads things, you know, _____ Lake.

I: Oh, it's on the mill.

BM: And—

I: _____.

BM: Now that back in there there was quite an Indian place where they had their—where they had them—where they made their _____ and stuff in there. That's how that got that—what was that name of that place back in there on the Experimental Range?

I: Oh—

BM: Any—

I: Well, I remember Jerry Stricker talking about it some, but I—I never got back in that area at all 'cause _____.

W: I was tryin' to think of his name. I've got a very good memory, and it bugs me here lately _____.

BM: Anyway. Yeah, Bud and I worked out the whole—we worked at—we used

to work that over in the winter time in there quite a lot in there. And then—see's they's laid everybody off for the next one—

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: or two guys, you know in the winter times—

W: Yeah.

BM: in there.

W: He worked nine months for the Forestry—

I: Yeah.

W: _____. It's still pretty much that way.

I: Yeah.

BM: But anyway, uh, them horses would enter in there which I'm pretty sure there was some on Bear Creek once or twice, but most of 'em was on Syrup Creek. And I remember they seemed to stick down in that Syrup Creek hole down in there. There's quite a canyon in there, Syrup Creek.

I: What about population? Do you remember how many were there, or did it pretty much stay—

BM: Oh—

I: static or go up or down and--?

BM: No, there was—I think the most we ever saw in month was ten. And then there was so four or five different places once in a while. That's all I ever saw in there. But uh, there was ten head in there on Syrup Creek one time. Like we were puttin' in some troughs and uh, there's snow on the ground. And uh—oh, I don't—I think most all of this—all this—well, there's always snow on the ground down there. I don't remember. Well, we'd been workin' there too much you know what I mean, have the time tick away.

W: Well, you'd just work there during part of winter too.

I: Yeah.

BM: Yeah, mm-hm, in there. Is there anymore still in there when--?

I: I don't know 'cause I'd never—I just completely forgot about 'til I talked with Howard Fisk last night. And I brought—all of a sudden it dawned on me he wanted to talk about wildlife in a sense how they're kind of wild in the country. I remembered when I came out here, uh, that sweet place I worked was up Spring Creek.

BM: I helped gather the last wild horses out of here too off of uh, Thief Valley.

I: Oh? Mm-hm.

BM: A fellow by the name of Haines—Tom Haines. He run the horses, and we got ten dollar—he got ten dollars apiece for 'em.

I: Oh, yeah?

BM: In the bronco market in Lakewood—in Portland.

I: When—when was that, Bud that he--?

BM: When—when was it I got hurt? Do you remember?

W: '46, and we were down at the lower ranch.

BM: Oh, but that wasn't when I run horses over there.

W: That was at the lower ranch. You were still livin' at the lower ranch. It was in the late, late, fall, honey.

BM: It seems like it was before that, but maybe not.

I: What is that, Bud? When did you get all the horse out of there at that--?

BM: Well, they had a bunch out. There was a bunch of 'em over around Thief Valley, over in that country in that slack country. And Tom Haines, he had a bunch of horses. Well, and he had, uh—that's when they had the—we had those, uh stud horses—

W: Government stud horses.

BM: there. The gov-- government furnished 'em-- them, uh—putting them stud horses in.

W: He hasn't thought about ____.

BM: We don't, uh—

W: That's why he was riding 'cause he wanted one of the studs, and we did get him.

BM: Anyway—

W: ____ there was a big joke about it. He—it was, uh—somebody else got it first. [laughs]. Then we got it.

BM: I had to wait. I broke that son-of-a-gun. He was one good horse. But anyway—

W: It took a long--

BM: Tom Haines—

W: ____.

BM: he had a bunch of horses and would—and we'd run 'em together and get 'em together. And then four or five of us-- and then we'd corral 'em right-- you know where out of North Powder where you go up that hill there's a canyon to the left there?

W: Big Wall Hill.

I: Yeah, Big Wall, mm-hm.

BM: A bit to the left there's a—

I: You go out that canyon.

BM: well, up the canyon used to be some barns and corrals in there years ago.

They're not there now. We'd corral them in there. In there and we cleared 'em out, uh, but that was the last of 'em. We just get 'em over in there and we get to runnin' 'em and stay above 'em. And there wasn't no fishes in that there big _____ around to it. We'd run 'em down to that [chuckles] canyon there, yeah. Boy, that—that Tom Haines was a rider. His brother though, he got put in the can. [laughs]. Alvie Haines, they sent him over to _____. [chuckles]. Oh, the town hated—I guess they got the wrong brands so mixed up.

I: [laughs].

BM: Maybe. [laughs].

W: Did you know that the barns as you go up to Ladd Canyon towards La Grande—the barn on the left standing there on Pat and Glen's place down in there--? There's a—the old-timers that we bought our place from. He was about ninety. And he said they had a mayor in North Powder that everybody just absolutely loved. He came in from the east, and he was just the finest gentleman, and he was so kind to everybody. And he had his home down in there where that barn was and all those gorgeous willow trees that used to be there. And he raised flowers, and then every Sunday after church he'd have everybody come out, or maybe they'd even come out on Saturday and stay overnight. And they had big picnics, and they just—oh, they'd just play cards and games and dance.

BM: They should have been superstitious then. [chuckles].

W: They said they had the most marvelous times. This went on for about six years, and then one Sunday when they went out there was nobody there. And it wasn't too long 'til they had the _____ man came in. He met them in there. They had cars. There was not too many cars in those days, but they had a big car, and they came in and was lookin' for him. And of course everybody was curious why anybody with such a big car, you know would come on those old dirt roads that you know are in there. And it seemed that— [chuckles]—they'd been after him for all these years, and he'd been hid out in North Powder as this marvelous mayor.

I: Oh?

W: And that old barn down in there while the people were there dancing and

singing, his men were out flanking their cattle! And they'd bring 'em in at night when they left!

I: [laughs]. Oh, for—[laughs].

W: And they went from cattle _____ out of there! _____! The people never knew where those cattle went!

BM: _____.

W: Course they'd take 'em over the other way _____ at night—the next night.

I: Oh? [chuckles].

W: [laughs]. And this old fellow, he'd get mad! He'd get real mad about it 'cause he lost cattle! He didn't have too many. He used all of the wheat down there.

BM: During the time we'd get them wild horses, why, I'd—now I think I—what I—I don't know, but I always thought Alvie was getting' the ones with the brands on. And then he was gettin' rid of them, and Tom, his brother would gettin' rid of the real other ones and stuff.

W: And babies.

BM: But then, well—

W: But you helped bring him in.

BM: Oh, Tom went. They sent him over the road anyway.

W: They could have got you on that too!

BM: No, I just helped run is all.

I: [laughs].

W: [laughs]. God, you were a lot of help! Honey! Honey! Honey!

I: [laughs]. You guys got an extra saddle? [laughs].

W: Yeah, uh-huh. [laughs].

I: [laughs]. Oh, that—when was that with the mayor there? Do you remember about what time was that?

W: The mayor?

I: Yeah.

W: Oh, it was long before we came here. It must have been in the early ‘30’s.

I: Oh, the ‘30’s?

W: Uh-huh.

I: Yeah, I’d never heard about that.

W: Well, I didn’t either. And every time I see that barn—[clock chimes]-- one of my girls took a picture of it and sent it to me—

I: [chuckles].

W: from New Jersey.

I: [chuckles].

W: Yeah, it was enlarged, and it was just beautiful.

I: Yeah.

W: And I said—I told her—I said, “What are you sending it to me for? It’s not my barn!” And she said, “Well, ‘cause you remembered the story you told me when I was a kid.” And I said, “Yeah.” [laughs].

I: [chuckles].

W: But I thought that was unique, and old Dolphy would get so mad. And he’d be—he was a very gentle man, very gracious around everybody. Dolphy was. So, when he’d get to tellin’ that story, you could just—he’d just burn up inside. You could just see it.

I: [chuckles]. Oh, that's good.

W: He was supposed to have been the first man born in Baker. And they had a great, big dinner for that to honor him one night in Baker, and we went. And he was—and when it come time to have the oldest and the first born in Baker up on the platform, some woman had said she was born two years before Dolphy was. And all in—all his life he'd thought he was the first one.

I: Yeah, mm-hm.

W: When she died they had her cor—correct age, and she was six years younger than him.

I: Oh, geez.

W: And she spoiled his whole evening.

I: Oh, yeah, yeah.

W: Poor, old, devil.

I: Yeah.

W: And he was so excited about it.

I: Oh, yeah.

W: We took him up, and he waited 'til—

BM: How long you been in this country?

I: Well, 1955 when I came out—

BM: Been here—

I: from back east.

BM: What part east?

I: Oh, Detroit.

BM: Detroit.

I: Yeah. Yeah, the big city.

W: Glad to get out of it?

I: Yeah, oh yeah! [chuckles]. I never missed it at all.

BM: Oh, garsh.

I: Just we hated to go back once in a while with—with Mom's play. You know kind of chasin' nothin' like that.

BM: But you know after you look at this whole United States it seems, it's pretty hard to beat Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

I: Yeah, it really is overall.

BM: Overall, it just is.

I: Yeah, particularly the east side 'cause there—you know the west side they have the—

W: Rain.

I: the rain and humidity like they do—

BM: Yeah.

I: back east there at the seaside.

W: Yeah, a lot of people can't take it.

I: No, mm-hm.

W: I was born in it, and never knew the difference 'til I married him.

I: [chuckles].

W: He kicked and drug me out here, and I—oh! I never lived like this before.

I: [chuckles].

W: I thought _____ huge. Sanitary commons! [chuckles]. And we were fifteen—here fifteen years when we had to fight like mad to get us in. Everybody below us had it for five years before we—

BM: Used to be lots of sheep of sheep in this country. Now I never see any more.

I: Not—not too much anymore.

BM: Oh, a few around the homes—

I: Yeah.

BM: and stuff. But there used to be bands of ‘em—

I: Oh, yeah.

BM: I hear. God, there used to be.

W: Well, Bowman had so many of ‘em.

BM: Well, Everett—

I: Well, just everybody was in. All the way out to Hutton, Duby, and—

W: Yeah, that’s right.

I: I don’t know. I guess we were around, but uh, you know that whole, Botch Colton’s and that.

BM: Oh, yeah.

I: God, and _____ and Petey Valley, and then of course over around uh, Enterprise country there’s a lot. And then Echo, they used to run all kinds of sheep.

BM: There was several bands around here. Yeah, it was—

W: I remember the—

BM: Every year there was some, several bands, and two and three bands went right by _____ here. There'd be _____. I used to have to move, you know when they'd uh, been on this district down there too long. They don't allow 'em to stay in one place very long. That don't happen. And of all the people that was hardest to work with, you wouldn't believe it was the Irish.

I: Oh? [chuckles].

BM: Them Irishmen, they'd say they couldn't understand you, but they could understand you.

I: [chuckles].

BM: They wouldn't want to move. They have a good path, [chuckles] they wouldn't want to move. Heck, god!

I: [chuckles].

BM: Their bashed to it and banned, you know what I mean. Yeah, they never seen us, and they wouldn't say nothing, but the Irish, they'd get mad at you. [laughs].

I: Bud, when you're up around that, did you get in your—they tell you anything about like what predators are bothering the sheep bands?

BM: Oh, it's always been the bears in there mostly. The—the bears, they get into them and then what happens, they pile up and smother. You know what I mean when the bears—but the coyotes was one _____ always ones in there. I don't never remember the cougars gettin' into 'em, but the coyotes and the bears were the ones that's, you know had the—

I: Well, Howard Fisk, last night he mentioned somethin' I'd never heard before. It was kind of interesting where he said that a lot of the—would like somebody or whatever it was there, there was somethin' would kill a sheep or it would take and die naturally, that they just let it go aside. And the coyotes started workin' on 'em and would kind of, you know start following 'em, coming in. Where the _____ could always bury the—the sheep and never really got bothered much by the coyotes.

BM: Uh-huh.

I: I'd never heard that before. It was—

W: Sounds reasonable.

I: kind of interesting, yeah.

BM: _____ will _____-- no, uh—

W: _____. We're awfully careful about what we throw out. We try to burn all the garbage, anything on the _____.

BM: Uh—

W: The last two years, the coons and the—the last two years—no, the last year, the coons and the skunk have been comin' up here--

BM: Oh, the coons and skunks—

W: in the valley. They don't—

BM: they're botherin' us now.

W: come up down there anymore.

BM: They just—we never were bothered before, but they're botherin' like hell now.

I: I never seen so many skunks in the valley, uh, last, oh, probably three years or something like that.

W: People used to have—

BM: You know that's where your, uh—

W: _____ they'd trap 'em or kill 'em—

I: Yeah.

W: you know.
[audio ends]