

Ruth Corriell

1/03, T1, S1

- VC: Now talk into it, or maybe hold that closer to your mouth. That would be better. Okay. Now let's start again. The third time's a charm.
- RC: Yeah.
- VC: So tell me those things you said.
- RC: My name is Ruth Evaline Hoss, my maiden name was Hoss. And my mother's name was Edna and Father was Q. C. Hoss.
- VC: Q. C.? What does Q stand for?
- RC: Hugh, h-u-g-h.
- VC: Oh, Hugh.
- RC: Hugh. Hugh C. Hoss. I won't tell you what the C stands for because he hated his middle name. And I married Jack Corriell, John P. Corriell in September of 1948.
- VC: What was you mother's maiden name?
- RC: Scott. She was from...originally from Hilgard and the daughter of John Winfield Scott. He was widely known.
- VC: Oh. Not any relation to the Scotts out in...where?
- RC: Uh-huh.
- VC: No. Okay.
- RC: And I had two brothers, Gifford Scott Hoss and Lloyd Kermit.
- VC: Okay. And then on your mother's side of the family and she was a Scott and so she was from Hilgard so you have relatives on that side of the family around here.
- RC: Yes. I guess...I know very little about that side. Mother's mother died when Mother was two years old so she didn't have a good background, you know, knowing her relations. My grandfather Scott died 1924. He saw me and held me and that's all I know about it.
- VC: So you are all on the Hoss side ___?
- RC: Yeah.
- VC: Okay. And the Hoss' came here early?
- RC: Oh, in the 1980s sometime, I'd say, by checking history. But I know my grandfather Hoss helped build the railroad. And actually the railroad was completed in 1883.
- VC: Oh. The railroad into the Grande Ronde Valley? It went to Union?
- RC: Yes. All that.
- VC: All of it.
- RC: So he was here before that. In fact, I've read, I think, there were members of the Hoss family through this valley in the 1960s sometime.
- VC: 1860s?
- RC: 1860s, yes. I'm a generation off. But I don't have any written proof of that.
- VC: So you grew up right out here under Mt. Emily?
- RC: Yeah. There and on the sand ridge and I lived on the N. K. West place for a few years, I think.
- VC: I don't know where that is.
- RC: That's... It was a big dairy. I think Davis owns it now. I'm not sure.

VC: Oh, over on the other side of the valley?
RC: No. He lived over on the other side, but the place was down there... You've heard of the West intake?
VC: No.
RC: How could you live in Summerville and not know the West intake?
VC: I'm new. What is it?
RC: You're a newcomer. There was a big water supply back in there that supplied all that end of the valley with water and the Wests owned it, but they called it the West intake. And N. K. West owned a block in town that was called...
VC: In Summerville?
RC: He lived... It was on Hunter Road before you get to Pleasant Grove Grange Hall on the right-hand side.
VC: Okay. Down kind of?
RC: Yeah. A little off the road. And at that time when we moved there we were fascinated as children because they had milking machines. We had seen milking by hand, of course, but they had milking machines and they ran a real dairy. And there were also cement sidewalks where you could roller-skate and do that type of thing. We didn't...it wasn't like country, it was like a little city by itself.
VC: And that... What you're talking about down off to the right?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Is that house still there?
RC: Mm-hmm.
VC: Okay. Yeah. I think I know where it is. It's an old farmhouse, but it's well kept.
RC: Yes. Gray stucco, I think it was, in the time we were young.
VC: It's kind of far down there so you can't really...
RC: Yeah, it's down a ways off the road. And I used to have to walk up to the road to get ___ as a child. And my brother ___ behind the...it was about where the end road and comes out and was timber there and quite thick at that time. And my brother, of course, being two years older he told me that tigers lived in those woods and I was petrified to go...
VC: Oh, I'm sure you were. How old were you?
RC: About four-and-a-half. I'd go up to the mailbox. I was scared to death. I wouldn't tell anybody I was scared. And then I checked very carefully under the bed at night to make sure those tigers weren't there.
VC: I'd thought there were tigers under my bed, too.
RC: Yeah. You can be scared to death as a child.
VC: Yeah.
RC: Particularly if you got a brother that tells you stories that aren't necessarily true.
VC: No, they're not true. So, now I don't still understand about the West intake. What was it exactly?
RC: It was a big... It was like a swimming pool full of water.
VC: And that was down at their place?
RC: Yeah, only it was up in the woods, up above...you go up...
VC: Okay. And it was like a reservoir?
RC: Yes, a big reservoir.
VC: And from a spring?

RC: Yeah.
VC: And people came there to get water, or what?
RC: They'd have it piped, apparently to the premises.
VC: Really?
RC: Must've had.
VC: Like along End Road there?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Oh. Were there very many houses along that road?
RC: No, no. Not at that time. End's lived up there and I can't think of anyone else that was up in there at that time. And now, of course, it's a regular little community.
VC: Yeah, it's a whole...there's all filled in.
RC: Oh yeah. A lot of people...
VC: But you were quite a ways...well, not that far, though. You weren't that far this way from all that.
RC: No, no.
VC: You lived right there. I mean you're just around the corner.
RC: Yeah.
VC: Yeah.
RC: And...
VC: Is that where Berryman's lived?
RC: We lived...our ranch was next door to Berrymans for years.
VC: Oh, I know...that's where Klergis lives now.
RC: Yes, yes.
VC: Oh!
RC: _____. First Reed Stewart bought it from Scott's Irrigation in town and he had a divorce about then and couldn't manage it by himself he didn't feel, you know, it was too much...was too much work involved, I think. So he sold it to...is it Klerigit?
VC: Klergis.
RC: Klergis.
VC: Yeah. His... Their daughter, Amy, is my daughter's friend.
RC: That's so interesting because I saw in the paper where there was an Amy...
VC: Klergis, uh-huh.
RC: ...Imbler. And I thought, well, that's the people that bought the ranch. And in Dan's family he had two sisters, one was names Julia Evaline and the other one was named Amy Ruth. So I'm named after the two aunts, of course. But I thought that's interesting there's an Amy and not a lot of people use the name.
VC: It's kind of coming back.
RC: Yeah. It was old-fashioned.
VC: Yeah, and Emily. My daughter's name is Emily and it's coming back.
RC: And my daughter wanted a little girl so badly that she could name Amanda.
VC: Oh yeah. But she didn't?
RC: No. She'd had one daughter in the family, but named her Monica.
VC: Oh, that's nice. So you lived there...

RC: We lived there probably, oh, two or...two years, I would imagine. Dad was foreman on the West ranches, he had various ranches.

VC: Oh, you lived on the West ranch?

RC: Yes.

VC: That was part of the West ranch? Oh, I see.

RC: We lived across the driveway from the West big house. It was a small white house where...it was a nice house, but not up to the standards of the West family. They had a doorbell and everything, you know, and that was pretty unusual in the '30s. People didn't have that type of thing.

VC: So I'm confused. You lived up here below Mt. Emily and then you lived down there?

RC: No, I lived... First...

VC: I'm sorry.

RC: You don't know places, that's the trouble, you know.

VC: Okay.

RC: Just beyond the Grim Tree farm I was born. There was a long red barn there at a place called the White place. He was a fireman in town and he had this place, the ranch he'd bought out here. And he rented to my father and mother and we lived there as babies until the...until I was about four-and-a-half when we moved down to the N. K. West ranch.

VC: Oh, okay.

RC: And then we moved on the Sand ridge for seven years on the West place and lived there and farmed and then moved back on the home place where the grandparents lived.

VC: I see. Okay. So you moved around quite a bit.

RC: Yeah.

VC: Uh-huh.

RC: When I was small it was interesting.

VC: Yeah.

RC: ...a whole lot of people.

VC: Uh-huh. So where on Sand ridge did you live? I sort of know it.

RC: Well...

VC: There's a big old farmhouse there.

RC: The farmhouse was burned down. One day my mother called and she was practically in tears and I said, "What's wrong, Mom?" And she said, "They're burning down the Woodell place."

VC: Woodell, that's the name of the road I was trying to think of before.

RC: Yeah.

VC: Okay. There's two of 'em.

RC: Yeah. And we lived... Jim Woodell lived near us. He was... There was a interesting story when I was a child, oh, I probably was five or six years old and my brother Peter is older so we were left alone one afternoon while Mother went in to get groceries. Dad was on the ranch, but he was out farming somewhere. And we were bored with life in general and thought we'd find something interesting to do so we walked down to the corner in front of Jim Woodell's house and ____, there was a big __ there at the corner and then of course they'd had

water in it part of the year, but it was dry at that point. And so we started to crawl through this big culvert. And in the culvert was a box filled with liquor, bootleg liquor. Apparently we'd run into a drop point where they brought stuff out and put it and then farmers came and bought it up. It was against the law, you know, at that time.

VC: How long did Prohibition last?

RC: Till '33 I think.

VC: Oh, so it was right in the heart of Prohibition then?

RC: Yeah. So we being good little children we knew that wasn't ours and we didn't bother it so we went around it and crawled on through the culvert and left it right there, didn't tell our folks, of course, about it.

VC: Did you know what it was?

RC: Oh yeah. We knew what it was. But the next afternoon or so my mother was someplace for an hour gone and we went down to the shop and attached to our shop was a room where the hired man had a bunkbed in there and so on. And of course we didn't have that quall about bothering people's things on our own place, that was ours. So we went in to see what he had in his little bedroom there.

VC: Just checkin' it out.

RC: Yeah, just lookin' around. And we discovered the same box of...

VC: It was the same box?

RC: Yeah. Same stuff was in...stuff still in the bottles. So we spent the afternoon...I can't remember whether it had caps on it or corks...but we emptied that stuff...

VC: Oh, you did!

RC: ...in the pig pen and our troughs.

VC: Oh my gosh!

RC: Then Father got back to the ranch and Mother we had a bunch of pigs that were kind of staggering around and not, you know, they'd had a little too much to drink. And Dad came in just fuming. He said, "What happened? What ___?" We had to confess what we found then and not knowing what it was even, but it didn't smell good to us and so we emptied it. And the hired man quit ___. Dad had nobody to help him with milking that night, lots of cows to milk and he got to do it by himself. And Dad brought us in and sat us down on stools and filled a teaspoon with the taste of this and he said, "I want you to taste it." He said, "Just put your tongue at it and see if you like it." He said, "This is what it tastes like." And of course it was terrible liquor, the horrible stuff that somebody'd concoct in their backyard. So we didn't bother liquor again, we didn't touch it. That was nasty stuff.

VC: Ever?

RC: No. My brother of course did, but I didn't.

VC: Oh. So that taught you a lesson. You probably cut into that guy's profits.

RC: I bet I probably caused a lot of...

VC: Heartache.

RC: Yeah. People paid money for that stuff, you know, and there we brought a whole case of it.

VC: Yeah. They were looking forward to it.

RC: And I poured it...we poured it out.

VC: How many bottles was it, do you remember? Was it a lot?
RC: I don't remember. It was a...like a pint jar box, you know, with the divisions in it.
VC: Oh yeah. Like twelve bottles.
RC: Yeah. It was either bottles or jars and I don't remember which now, but we shouldn't 've got rid of it.
VC: Wow. Do you and your brother laugh about that.
RC: Our dad was perturbed because he was afraid his little children would...
VC: ...take it.
RC: ...drink it, you know.
VC: Did the pigs survive okay?
RC: Oh yeah. They ____.
VC: Were they really staggering around?
RC: Yeah. [laughs] I had trouble walking ____.
VC: That's pretty funny.
RC: The hired man quit. He'd of either quit or my father suggested he quit after he...
VC: Did your dad...did he drink?
RC: Dad didn't, no.
VC: No, he didn't. He didn't like that around at all. Did that... Do you think he fired him?
RC: I don't know, as a child, whether he fired him or whether the hired man was just so unhappy because they were...
VC: Did hired men...I mean did like he stay around a lot or did hired men kind of come and go a lot?
RC: Oh, you'd have 'em around a couple of years, maybe, if they were satisfactory and then they found something better to do and moved on. But we had a procession of crews and haying crews and hired men and a lot of people like that around.
VC: Kind of like migrant workers are now?
RC: Yeah.
VC: They come through.
RC: So it was Depression years and they were lucky to have a job so they worked for nothing, practically.
VC: Yeah. Food.
RC: N. K. West paid 'em, we didn't. N. K. West also paid my brother and I to trap squirrels and we'd save the tails to prove to him how many we had caught.
VC: Just for the field?
RC: Yeah, from the field. And I can remember he'd come in and sit on the porch and talk to Dad. And his car door would stand open he'd have a pocket inside that held all these tails. They'd be stickin' up. And he paid us for those tails.
VC: How did you trap 'em?
RC: With traps. Little, you know, like squirrel traps.
VC: Uh-huh. Did you put 'em out in the field?
RC: Then you went the next day and checked 'em.
VC: Do you remember how much he gave you for 'em?
RC: Oh, a penny or two. You know, it wasn't big money, but we...it was big to us.

VC: So then did you work for money early? I mean you did that...
RC: No, no.
VC: ...but you didn't do other things. And your mother was a homemaker?
RC: Yeah.
VC: So...and your Dad, what did he do on the farm? Everything?
RC: Everything.
VC: And he was like the foreman? Uh-huh.
RC: For N. K. West, but it was on his own ranch __.
VC: Up here?
RC: Yeah.
VC: And that the Klergis place?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Okay. So I'm clear...
RC: That was Dad's...
VC: Was there an orchard there when you were there?
RC: Oh, we had an orchard, yes.
VC: Like, you know, down in front... I mean the Klergises put in some evergreen trees down in front.
RC: I'm so glad.
VC: But there was orchard there?
RC: Yeah.
VC: And they took it out, I think. Did you have orchard that low?
RC: Not down that way. Our orchard was out to the south.
VC: But it wasn't that big?
RC: No, it wasn't big.
VC: But that was a pretty big orchard, cherries...
RC: You're thinking of the Flannigan place next door.
VC: Oh, that they ripped out...
RC: Yeah, they had a cherry orchard.
VC: Oh.
RC: They put in a cherry orchard there while I was in college.
VC: So how long did you live in that place?
RC: The ranch place __ I lived there when...I moved there when I was twelve and I lived there until I was twenty-four.
VC: Oh, you did? So that's the kind of your growing up place.
RC: And of course I was familiar with it 'cause my grandparents had always lived there and we were back and forth to their place and stayed all night.
VC: Oh yeah. And that's the house you showed me in that book?
RC: Yes.
VC: And that's the house the tree fell on. And then they built the house that is there now?
RC: No. My dad built that after the trees fell on the ranch house.
VC: That's what I mean. That house that's there now he built.
RC: No. My... Jack and my dad built that.
VC: Oh.
RC: They even made the blocks.

VC: Oh, cement blocks?

RC: Uh-huh. They had a machine that did it.

VC: Yeah, there are some... So there's... There have been three houses there then that you know of?

RC: There was the home place that my grandparents owned and on the place was a small house, we called it the Little House, so when Granddad had the heart attack he...he and Grandma moved out of the big house and we moved over and took over the operation of the ranch and moved into the Big House. And they moved in this Little House, which was...had been moved up out of the field where it had set for years and was closer then to our house. They finished out their life there.

VC: Did... And then... So you went to school in...?

RC: I went to school at the Lone Star School.

VC: I don't know where that is.

RC: No, nobody apparently does because I called...I asked Gary Webster. You know Gary?

VC: Yes, I do.

RC: I asked Gary after I'd seen his dad's obituary. I said, "Gary, your dad went to Lone Star, I see by the obituary." I said, "Do you know when Lone Star School was built?" He said, "I haven't the vaguest notion." And he said, "Why don't you call Dorothy ___ in town. She would know. She's written a book of rural schools here in the valley." So I ___ Dorothy ___ so I phoned her one day and asked about the Lone Star School, what she knew about. She said, "I've never heard of it." I said, "Oh, you have to!" I said, "I went to school there for a number of years and I know people who...___ daughter, Pauline Howard, went to school there, Claude Woodell and all of the neighborhood went to school there." She said, "Well, I've just never heard of it."

VC: Where was it?

RC: You know where Jim Woodell's place is there on the corner of Woodell Lane? Woodell...is it...what comes in there? Webster?

VC: I don't know.

RC: I don't know what they call that road that goes along. That's the road we lived on. And just you turned at the Woodell's corner and went south and there was our place on the right...

VC: Now I'm really confused. [laugh]

RC: It's so hard because the places are gone now, the houses aren't standing so you can't point and say, "That was it."

VC: We should go for a drive.

RC: Yeah. Judy Seydel, I don't know if you know her, ___ Seydel, is a neighbor here. So one afternoon she said, "Ruth, I'm home schooling my kids and this afternoon our project is an art project and we're going out to see the pottery place."

VC: Dave Waln's pottery?

RC: Yeah. "and would you like to go?" I said, "sure. I've never seen it. I don't know where it is. I had never seen it." She says, "You know where it is?" And I said, "Yeah, I know." So we drive along and she was telling me about her friend who lives here and so on...or they lived here two years and married to so-and-so. And I said, "No, that's...this is to the old Baker place. This is such-and-such

place.” She finally... She stopped the car and she said, “Do you know everybody?” I said, “Yeah, I think so. In the valley I probably know everybody.” She said, “Well, I can’t even tell you an interesting story about any of these places because you...you know a bigger, better story about ‘em.” I said, “That’s the trouble.”

VC: So how did you know where Waln’s lived?

RC: My son lived out there on a renting place here just down below Waln’s studio, a big place that they lived there for a year, year-and-a-half.

VC: Oh, one of those ranch houses on the side there?

RC: Yeah. One of those big places. It was a big place, had a fireplace and everything, beautiful place. And so, of course, we drove out there and so on. And I was raised out in the Pleasant Grove territory too, you know, __ places.

VC: Right.

RC: Then I did case work here in the valley for the welfare office. I had the Summerville territory which I knew all of those.

VC: Let’s not go into that. Let’s go chronologically.

RC: Yes.

VC: ‘Cause otherwise when I try...or when somebody tries to edit it then it goes bing, bing, bing all over and it’s too hard to do. So then you went to school at Lone Star School, wherever that is.

RC: Yeah.

VC: We’ll go for a... We’ll go for a drive next time.

RC: And I will show you about where it was.

VC: Okay. And then you went where?

RC: Then when I was in the sixth grade, right before sixth grade was the last year I went to Lone Star. And my family was three children that were in the Holst family were the members of the school and one other girl, __ Griner.

VC: Oh, I know where the Griners live.

RC: She was in the school too. And so the next year they questioned whether to even have it.

VC: You mean there were only four kids in the school?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Oh, okay. So not enough...

RC: The three Holst kids and Edna.

VC: And one more.

RC: And Edna.

VC: Okay.

RC: So my brother was ready to go into high school and if he went to La Grande he had to pay tuition. And if he went to Imbler they didn’t have decent facilities out there and Dad didn’t feel they were getting the education they needed to be giving kids and he kind of wanted us to go to La Grande, but the tuition problem bothered us so we moved to town. Mother and we three kids moved to town during the school year and rented a house and we went to school and that way we didn’t have to pay tuition because we were residents of La Grande. And then of course we went home every weekend to the ranch.

VC: So you did that for like six years?

RC: A long time. And it was fun. That way we got to La Grande schools and eventually wiped Lone Star out completely. There weren't any kids left after the Holst family moved except Edna and she went to Imbler, I guess.

VC: Okay, so you mentioned a Howard.

RC: Yes, Pauline.

VC: Was that Caroline...no, that wouldn't of been.

RC: No. She was a daughter of Jim Woodell's and in her eighties or nineties when I called her. I had known her at grange things and see her and she knew who I was, I was one of the little Holst kids. I called her, too, to ask her about Lone Star if she knew when it was built because I knew she had gone to school there and she said, "I can't tell you. I don't know when it was built."

VC: So it must've been just right down there somewhere.

RC: It was...oh gosh...do you know where the...

VC: ___this...down this way.

RC: Yeah.

VC: Yeah.

RC: You go down Woodell Lane.

VC: That's interesting that the lady who wrote about one-room schoolhouses didn't know about it.

RC: Yeah, I thought so too because she's a very meticulous writer and researches things carefully, but somehow she missed that whole entire... And, of course, there's hardly anyone left that's alive to give her any information.

VC: Was it just a real simple square building?

RC: Yeah, just a little country schoolhouse.

VC: And you had one teacher, of course.

RC: Yeah. She taught all eight...

VC: Do you remember her name?

RC: Oh yeah. I remember all the names.

VC: What were their names?

RC: First grade I had Jeanette Howard...or Jeanette Hanford.

VC: Okay.

RC: Jeanette Hanford. Second year...my second and third year I took together...I had Ms. Bearton, Vivian Bearton.

VC: Wow. Good remembering.

RC: Third year...third...fourth...I was in fourth grade then...was Blanche Billings from Imbler. And then we had, oh, wonderful thing, we had a man teacher. Oh he was handsome! Oh, we thought he was wonderful! His name was Waldo Gerard.

VC: Wallo?

RC: Waldo.

VC: R-o-l-l-o.

RC: Gerard. G-e-r-a-r-d.

VC: Okay. Where is he from?

RC: I don't know. I think he came from up in Washington, although I'm not sure. He had a brother in time that ran Gerard's Jewelry for years and he came here and lived with them.

VC: That was his connection.

RC: Yeah. That's how come he took a job here, I think...[end tape]

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RC: ...anyway, so we did that.

VC: So you sent it to her already?

RC: Yeah. And...but she hasn't written the book yet.

VC: Yeah, well, it's really hard.

RC: She may get out on that before she...

VC: That's pretty...

RC: And it's hard when there's so many dead people around too. You can't tell...

VC: Well, yeah, there's that, but it's hard to collect all that and get it in order.

RC: Yes, and get it accurate.

VC: That's interesting. I wonder how old that school was.

RC: I asked... I mentioned to Donna that I had called her, ___, and she said, "Oh, I can tell you when it was built. It was built in 1988."

VC: 1888.

RC: 1888. Yeah, I keep saying that.

VC: So it was pretty...it was like thirty years old when you were there?

RC: Yeah. And I tried to burn it down one day.

VC: Oh, let's hear about that.

RC: We, of course, were having a big Christmas program which was a community thing, everybody came to it and all crowded into the little place to watch.

VC: But there were more than four kids there?

RC: Oh yes.

VC: How many kids do think there were?

RC: Oh, I don't know, eight or ten probably.

VC: Okay.

RC: So it was quite a celebration. We decorated the room and had the tree up and all that. And I was to be an angel in this Christmas scene...

VC: And you wore like...

RC: Oh, I had gauze and things that were just lovely. My mother had tinsel around the edge...not tinsel, but shiny stuff and I was gonna be beautiful. As I was standing in this scene...

VC: Was it the Christmas story?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Yeah, okay.

R; ...and the cradle and all that and I was the angel standing back behind. And all of a sudden I looked and the whole room was comin' toward me, men were all running up toward me.

VC: And you were little. How little were you?

RC: I was in the first grade. I was six. And I didn't know they were comin' to get me, but they obviously were comin' right at the stage. And some child with a...somebody else that was in the scene had a candle and...

VC: Oh, and it burned your gauze wing?
RC: ...had edged in behind me and my gauze wings were on fire. My father saw the smoke and he and two or three other men got up out of the crowd and all rushed...rushed to the stage and pounded out the fire while I burned. I felt terrible because my beautiful costume had been ruined. And I was a singed angel from then...

VC: Do you remember that happening, or is it just a family story?
RC: No, no. I remember.
VC: You remember it. And you were scared. I bet you were crying.
RC: I didn't cry over much anything.
VC: Oh, you didn't? You were tough? You were kind of tough.
RC: I had a little...
VC: Were you a little girl for you age or regular?
RC: No, I was tall.
VC: You were tall, hmm.
RC: Was a tall kid. And I noticed in this picture I sent to Donna Patterson of the Lone Star school when I was in the first grade and there I am in my little dress and looking like a cherub with red hair and on my feet are boy's shoes. They __ my ankles like__ uh oh, that's the day. It was Depression years and I'd wear my shoes to school and I was so bored. I'd finish my work and there wasn't any more and I would to sit there and scoot my feet in and out and in and out and in and out __ they'd be broken down in the back. And I just __ shoes...shoes and finally my mother said, "If you don't stop doing that I'm going to let you wear one of the boy's shoes to school one day."

VC: And they happened to take a picture...
RC: That was the day she picked to put me...
VC: And they came up to your ankles?
RC: Up like boys' boots, you know.
VC: Oh my gosh! How embarrassing!
RC: And there I am in my clunky shoe smiling happily.
VC: Did you only have to wear 'em one day?
RC: Yeah, one day and that was the day.
VC: And they just picked that one day.
RC: That was the day they took the school picture.
VC: Wouldn't you know!
RC: And only I know why I'm dressed that way.
VC: Yeah, you got in trouble.
RC: And I quit doing it.
VC: I bet you did.
RC: I stopped doin' this breakin' 'em down at the back.
VC: Yeah, I remember my mother scolding me about breaking down the backs of your shoes.
RC: They didn't have that much money. You just didn't have a lot of money in your pocket to run to town to buy another pair of shoes.
VC: Right. It was like everything was important. Yeah. So you did you... You always had enough to eat and stuff?

RC: Oh, eating was never a problem in our house.
VC: Did you have chickens and a garden and all that?
RC: Dad and I didn't like chicken.
VC: You didn't like chicken?
RC: Mm-hmm.
VC: Oh.
RC: My father didn't like chicken and so I didn't.
VC: Oh, you were his little princess.
RC: His little ___.
VC: Oh yeah.
RC: My father had a cleft chin. He was a handsome fellow. I would go to sleep at night ___.
VC: You wanted to be like him.
RC: I did my best to dig a hole in my chin.
VC: Didn't work, did it?
RC: I thought I'd suddenly develop this cleft chin.
VC: That's like handsome men have that square and then it goes...
RC: Yeah.
VC: Yeah.
RC: But it never worked. [laughs] I'd go to... I'd go to Ladies Aide Society meetings with my mother and the ladies would ooh and aah over my red hair and...
VC: You had really carrot red hair or auburn red hair?
RC: No. It was dark red.
VC: Dark red.
RC: And they'd just say, "Oh, you just look just like your mother." And I'd come home and I'd cry and cry and cry. Must've made my mother really feel good, you know.
VC: Do you love your mother?
RC: Oh, I loved her intensely, but I wanted to look like my father.
VC: Did she have red hair?
RC: Oh no. Hers was blonde.
VC: Did he have red hair?
RC: No.
VC: Oh, it just came.
RC: Came down through the family.
VC: Red hair sometimes does skip generations.
RC: Yeah. There was red hair back in the family somewhere.
VC: Little girls kind of do have it...like their dads.
RC: Yeah, you know.
VC: Yeah, they do.
RC: And I thought, "I don't look like him. I don't want to look like my mother." Of course I had a face that looked just like hers.
VC: That's funny, isn't it?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Yeah. Those things mean so much and you don't even really know...

RC: And they stick with you, too.
VC: Yeah, right.
RC: But I think how terrible it must've made her feel because I'd cry every time.
VC: And she knew you were crying about that?
RC: Yeah, she knew what I was cryin' about.
VC: Girls hurt their mother's feelings. That's one of the things they do.
RC: Goodness, don't they do it well, though?
VC: Oh, they do. My daughter's about to drive me crazy.
RC: Oh, I can imagine. My son said one day that he would like to move home. He thought he'd like to move home and I could cook his meals, wash his clothes and I said, "Over my dead body." And he said, "Wouldn't you like to do it again?" And I said, "Yes, all the years except adolescence."
VC: Yeah.
RC: Those years I don't want to even think about. All three of you were adolescents at the same time.
VC: And two girls and a boy?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Yeah.
RC: I had...two boys and a girl.
VC: Two boys and a girl.
RC: I had Todd was two and the twins were...
VC: Oh, you had twins?
RC: Yeah. They were twins so that made me three children under the age of two.
VC: Oh my gosh!
RC: And I was frantic for a few years.
VC: Yeah. So...okay, let's go back to you lived in that house till you were twenty-four. So you went to La Grande school, matriculated there and then you went to Eastern?
RC: Yes. I went two years up here and then I transferred to University of Oregon and graduated down there.
VC: Oh, you did? And what did you graduate in?
RC: I graduated in sociology. I had started out in journalism and I took it the first year I went down to Eugene and didn't like my roommates who were all journalism majors and we ate, talked, slept...we did journalism all the time so I thought, "I got to get out of this, I can't stand it."
VC: Why didn't you like it?
RC: Just...maybe I didn't like the girls.
VC: Oh.
RC: They were...they were prop your feet up on the desk, cigarette smokin', proud. Really a tough gang. They were gonna be hardnosed...
VC: Street-wise, kind of.
RC: Oh yeah. And I thought, "I don't want to be that way." So I got out of there and came home. My mother wasn't too delighted to see me. I'd spent the family savings and so on going down to school and she said, "Well, you'll have to go back...you'll have to go back." And I said, "I can't, I dropped. I went in and talked to the dean and told her you were ill and I needed to be at home and walked

out and I've been dropped from the registers and its too late to get back in this year." And she said, "Well, in that case, you better find a job." I thought I was so sophisticated and accomplished I could just walk down Adams Avenue and they'd be delighted to me coming. They weren't that delighted, believe me, I knocked on an awful lot of doors. And finally my uncle, Dr. Gilstrap, a physician in town, called and said, "Ruth, I hear you're lookin' for a job." And I said, "Yeah, you got one?" And he said, "I need a receptionist." And I said, "Okay, what time to I go to work?"

VC: That was lucky!

RC: Yeah, it was.

VC: Now how is... Who is he? Uncle how?

RC: He married Julia Holst, Dad's sister.

VC: Okay. So then you were... You hadn't graduated from college yet?

RC: No. I had two years in and part of another term that I really ___ away.

VC: The first year you went down there you came back without doing it?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Okay.

RC: Without telling anyone I was coming.

VC: Mm-hmm. And how did you get home? On the bus?

RC: On the train.

VC: Train, okay.

RC: War time travel on train was just no fun. You usually stood up.

VC: Did you stand up?

RC: Oh, part of the way.

VC: There were a lot of soldiers and stuff?

RC: Oh yeah. It was a mess. Travel wasn't easy.

VC: So you did that and then how long were you a receptionist?

RC: Oh, I only worked in there what...six months or something until Uncle Kleris had to go to Mayo Clinic to have a kidney thing checked. In the meantime I had found...I found other work and was takin' courses up at the college and, you know, but I didn't go back to the receptionist job.

VC: Did you go back to Eugene to go to school, or finished here?

RC: Yes. I went back to Eugene.

VC: You did.

RC: Graduated down there.

VC: And then you came back here?

RC: Intending only to...oh, just rest up from my hard college work and, you know, take it easy like.

VC: Just a little break.

RC: Yeah. Make chocolate cake and enjoy myself, eat late breakfasts and read and do these things that summer. My mother and a journalist here in town met me at the bus and said, "We've got a job for you. They want you at the welfare office to apply."

VC: Really?

RC: They want you to apply. They need a case worker. I didn't intend to go into case work at all, but I had the job and I went to work.

VC: And then you did that for how long?
RC: Oh, till 1949.
VC: So that would've been what?
RC: A year after we were married and I quit.
VC: Ten years? No, not that long.
RC: No.
VC: Five years.
RC: About three I worked there.
VC: Three years.
RC: Three, maybe three-and-a-half.
VC: And you got married in '48?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Okay.
RC: And then I worked '49.
VC: So what kind of work did you do?
RC: Case work. You went out on cases.
VC: So you went out here and all over the valley?
RC: Oh yeah. All over. Elgin...I went clear...at the time I started work there there were two case workers, myself and woman named Genevieve Nelson, and we divided the valley, but the railroad was the division line. I had everything north of the tracks to the county line.
VC: Oh. So was there lots of cases?
RC: Yep. A lot of them.
VC: Were there? 'Cause its mostly poor people, huh?
RC: Uh-huh.
VC: Or unwed...mothers with children.
RC: Unwed mothers, whatever you got. They say they don't have any problems in La Grande, it is not true. I have seen the problems.
VC: You mean with moms and babies?
RC: Oh yes. Anything. We did adoptions, we did all that.
VC: All that stuff.
RC: So then I worked, oh, a couple years and they added a man case worker which took the pressure off some, you know.
VC: So were you overworked or was it about right?
RC: It was okay. It was alright because we didn't have to switch cases around occasionally because Genevieve was from this local, too, you know.
VC: Oh, and she'd know people, or you'd know people.
RC: Yeah. She knew people and I knew people and once in a while you'd bump into your mother's best friend who was applying for help and you didn't want to handle the case.
VC: So if this was like 1946 to 1949...
RC: Yeah.
VC: So was there like a welfare program set up for...
RC: Oh yeah.
VC: ...mothers...dependant children.
RC: Oh yeah.

VC: It was just that...

RC: It's the same as they have now except they call it something different now.

VC: They call it...what do they call it? I forgot. Children's...I forget.

RC: I saw it in the paper the other day and thought, well, the same thing.

VC: But they didn't have food stamps?

RC: No. Well, they did for a while have food stamps because I had a fellow call me from the grocery where he worked and he said, "Ruth, what on earth are you giving this woman food stamps for because she comes in here and buys an order of dates and food that even I can't afford to buy, you know, fancy stuff." And I said, "We don't have any way of...It's a government program, it's given out and if they are eligible for it you give them the stamps and they can spend 'em for what they want. They want to spend it on bottles of liquor that's fine."

VC: I wonder when... That probably all started during the Depression then?

RC: Yeah, I suppose actually. That's partly why I switched from journalism to sociology. I had to find something where I could use the credits I'd already built up at school to finish up in and I didn't want to go into English necessarily and be an English teacher. And I thought there are poor people in this world, there'll always be poor people in this world that need to be taken care of. I'll get something in that area. So I worked on sociology and to use my credits that I had without losing a lot of credit and we worked it out.

VC: So did you enjoy that work?

RC: I loved it.

VC: Did you? Did you do that after...

RC: Every day... Every day was different.

VC: I bet it was.

RC: You never knew what was going to happen. You went to work it was...

VC: And most of the time you were out in the field or did you just stay in the office all the time?

RC: Oh, you were in the office maybe part of the day or something like that, but usually you were out with a state car if you're goin' here and there and every place.

VC: So it was interesting work you had.

RC: It was fun.

VC: So then you had kids so you quit work?

RC: I had Todd and two...short of two day...two days short of two years I had the twins. I wasn't home...

VC: A girl and a boy.

RC: A girl and a boy.

VC: And what were their names?

RC: Scott and Stephanie.

VC: And they were identical twins?

RC: No. A boy and a girl.

VC: A boy and a girl.

RC: Different. Quite different. Red-haired girl and dark-haired boy.

VC: Oh, so they're just maternal twins. So you were busy. And you lived...now where'd you live next?

RC: By then we lived in...I lived in town, of course. We had bought a house down on Eleventh Street when I was in college partly because we were about to be evicted. We had it rented and it was about to be sold out from under us because everyone was looking for places during war time.

VC: Oh, it was short of housing?

RC: And it was a fellow from Imbler there having lunch with my dad, he had come into town to do something together, and they go __ eating and they were having lunch at the house and these people came to look at the house while we were eating. And before we knew it we had bought the house. We bought this little house that we...

VC: You and your husband?

RC: Yeah...no, my dad and Tom Ruckland from Imbler bought those two houses. Tom made the payment on the one he bought and we lived in the other one and paid the payments on it. So we had a house in town as well as at the ranch.

VC: Oh, so you had a country house and a...

RC: So college was easy because we had the house there. Anyway, I just lived there. No rent and easy.

VC: Yeah.

RC: Then when I came back from college I lived there the same way. I worked, I made the money, I spent the money. I didn't pay the folks any board and room or anything. It was nice.

VC: So...now I got confused again. But that's not where you and Jack lived?

RC: To begin with yes.

VC: You did live there.

RC: When we were first married we lived there until the twins were probably six months old. And we had moved our big bed out into the living room and given the bedroom to the three children. Our bedroom was tiny. Jack came home one afternoon and he said, "I bought a house." So he bought a house up on Oak Street about a block from the Central School. And I was delighted, of course.

VC: You probably knew then... Do you know who Marsha Smith is?

RC: Oh yeah. Oh certainly! I went to school with Marsha in the...seventh...when I was in the seventh grade Marsha was in the sixth grade at Ackerman.

VC: She wasn't a Smith.

RC: No, she was a Miller. Her name was Miller.

VC: Okay. So that's who's doing the oral history is Eugene Smith, her husband, is the head of the oral history project.

RC: Oh, is he really?

VC: Yeah.

RC: Okay.

VC: Yeah. So you lived close to them because they lived...

RC: Next door. Next door.

VC: Next door. 'Cause they live there now and they redid that house.

RC: Yeah. We were the little house next to it.

VC: But it's big now.

RC: Oh yeah. She's extended a room down...a whole edition on the...

VC: Okay.

RC: Yeah. My son came home one day when he was in the primary grades and he was simply beaming as he came through the door. He had an armload of daffodils like this.

VC: Oh yeah.

RC: Picked daffodils. I said, "Scott, where did you get those?" He was so thrilled he brought Mother flowers and he was always doin' things like that...and he said, "I got 'em out of Florence's back yard." She had a whole...that whole...where Marsha's built the addition was a daisy and snapdragon and daffodils and...

VC: ...everything.

RC: ...just whatever was bloom bloomed. There was an acre of daffodils she was weedin' to get out to pick. Scott had 'em. I had 'em. I said, "You know what we've got to do? We've got to go next door and talk to Florence." That was Marsha's mother. So Scott went and Florence was lovely about it, hoped I enjoyed them and don't do that again, Scott.

VC: Yeah, I know that story. My daughter used to do that, too, pick flowers for me from people's yards on the way home from school.

RC: And you were always full of horribly appolig...always with Scott I was going to people's door and saying, "Now apologize for what you did."

VC: So you... So I need to know about... I think my tape's gonna run out here pretty soon, but... So did you go out to Ruckle Road to meet your in-laws before you got married?

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: I mean how'd you know about...tell me about that place.

RC: I was a little startled when I saw it the first time. Do you still live in the same house?

VC: No, no. It burned down.

RC: Okay. Heavens.

VC: It burned down way long ago.

RC: It was... It was almost primitive it was so little.

VC: Oh, it was little?

RC: I was totally startled that the place was so backwoodsy, you know. But Jack's dad had reached the point where he gave up his business there in Nebraska and traded...I don't know, he had some stocks or something and the fellow couldn't pay him what he owned him and he paid him off in this piece of property out here in Oregon, wooded property. Jack's dad drove clear out here to see it.

VC: And what was Jack's dad's name?

RC: Jim. James.

VC: James. Oh yeah. Okay.

RC: And so they built that little place.

VC: It was just a little...

RC: Oh, it was tiny.

VC: And how many kids?

RC: All that were home then was one child. Jack had one brother that was eighteen years younger than he was. Jack was twenty and in the service when this child was born.

VC: Oh. So Jack went to the First World War?

RC: Second.
VC: He went to the Second World...yeah, it would have to be.
RC: Yeah. He was in Africa and Germany and France and Italy and all those places.
VC: Oh really? And then while he was gone here he had a little brother at home?
RC: Yeah.
VC: And you met him after he came home from the war?
RC: Yeah. I didn't know him until I'd worked...
VC: How'd you meet him?
RC: The secretary at the office, bookkeeper, Agnes Woodburn, said, "You know, I know a fellow that's back from the service and I think he'd like to meet you and why don't you come to dinner some evening?" A blind date was the last thing I was going. And even when her husband came to pick me up to take me over there...
VC: This is when you were the receptionist?
RC: Yeah. When I was a case worker.
VC: Oh, you were a case worker. Okay.
RC: And I said, "I'm not going. I'm not going, I decided." And he said, "You have to go. Agnes has the dinner ready. She's expecting you." So I said, "Oh, alright." So I went and I met him that evening.
VC: Did you hit it off right away?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Uh-huh.
RC: Three months later I was engaged.
VC: Oh really?
RC: And we were married in September.
VC: So how old were you? Twenty...
RC: I was twenty-four.
VC: Twenty-four.
RC: My mother thought I was an old maid, obviously. She thought there was no hope at all.
VC: So you went out to visit his parents before you got married?
RC: Oh yes.
VC: And you were kind of surprised because they were poor?
RC: Everybody was poor in those years.
VC: Yeah, but they were more poor?
RC: Yeah, more poorer than the rural rich, certainly. I don't know how poor they were, but...
VC: What...
RC: He enjoyed living backwoods-like.
VC: He liked that?
RC: Oh yeah. He liked having a back house out there___.
VC: Did he have that... Was there a barn there then?
RC: Just a little shed for a cow, I think.
VC: Oh, 'cause there's an old...we still have an old barn and I think it might be their barn.
RC: It probably would be. It would be 'cause nobody'd lived there in between.

VC: Yeah, people have, but not to build...it's old. It's an old building.
RC: It's probably the original.
VC: And it was falling down and my husband fixed it. Huh.
RC: But it was a long way out there.
VC: Would you like to come out and visit sometime?
RC: Yeah. I'll tell you, when Jack's nephew comes the next...they want to come out to the ____.
VC: Oh, they do?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Okay.
RC: And they came last summer. He's the...what is it...surveyor or engineer. He's a city engineer for the town of Tacoma.
VC: Oh. And he remembers that place as a child?
RC: Yeah, he'd been there as a child. He was a Corriell, was born to one of Jack's brothers, and then there was the divorce after the war and the wife remarried and these boys were adopted and have a different name. Their name is ____.
VC: So Jack's dad's brother also came out when he came out?
RC: Jack's one brother had married and lived down on the coast, I don't know, Coos Bay or one of those seaside places. And Jack went down there and worked for a year in a saw mill and then came back and was drafted. He was one of the first three out of Union County to be drafted in World War II.
VC: Oh really?
RC: And then of course the war hadn't started at the time he was..., but he went in and stayed for five years.
VC: Did he tell you war stories?
RC: Yeah. A little about where they were and what they did, but they weren't in the rough fighting. They were bombed a few times and things like that in Africa, but they didn't do any armed combat.
VC: I find that men who were in the Second World War don't talk about it very much.
RC: No. My dad didn't talk about the First World War at all.
VC: The First World War was bad. I mean it was ugly. But I didn't get how the brother then came here just to visit?
RC: Yeah. Just to visit. He was married.
VC: And he had little kids.
RC: They were older than Jack, his brothers, except this younger one that was eighteen years younger.
VC: And what's his name?
RC: His name was David and he died of cancer when he was thirty-two. And our own son died at thirty-seven, his twin. At thirty-seven had a heart attack and we didn't know he had heart trouble at all.
VC: Wow...[end tape]

RC: ...high school. There was Verna Courtright and Sarah Patten and I and we were a three-some.

VC: Oh really?

RC: And still are.

VC: Are you?

RC: Yeah.

VC: And you go to the same church, don't you?

RC: No. She goes to the Presbyterian and I go to the First Christian, but that's alright.

VC: Yeah.

RC: But we talk a blue streak when we get together. Glad to see each other. She was such a little short girl and I was so tall and gangly. We had a funny...funny lookin' group.

VC: I had fun. And one of the things I talked about with Verna was like how it was different for women back when you were young and how things have changed.

RC: You didn't make as much money as men did at jobs, I know that.

VC: Oh yeah. So... One thing I was interested in was, like, you know, you hear so much about like abuse, like physical abuse against women now and sexual abuse against children and stuff like that.

RC: We had... We had it definitely in those days.

VC: Physical abuse against women.

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: Did you know... Did you know people or was it like...?

RC: I never ran into a wife that was battered or anything of that sort, but I had seen a few children in my work.

VC: In your work you saw them.

RC: Yeah.

VC: Like sexually abused children?

RC: Both.

VC: Both. But people didn't talk about it?

RC: No. No. And you had trouble getting people to report any. To call the office and tell you, you know, so you could out on __. But you had to have some indication, you couldn't just barge in and say, "Hey, I think something's wrong here."

VC: Yeah. That's how it is now, too.

RC: Yeah.

VC: Sometimes that gets abused, though. People get accused and they didn't do anything. Of course that probably happens all the time. How 'bout like medical care for women?

RC: Oh, it was great.

VC: It was good.

RC: If you could afford it, that is. Of course I had a doctor in the family which you didn't have to pay.

VC: Oh yeah. Who was the doctor?

RC: You ran into everything you could think of.

VC: Who was the doctor? I forgot.

RC: Gilstrap. C. L. Gilstrap.

VC: And how was he related again?

RC: He was married to my father's sister.
VC: Oh, so he was your uncle?
RC: Yeah, he was my uncle. Uncle Clarence.
VC: And so...now you have to tell me where to go. I know I go down to Hunter and then up that way, but then after that you have to show me.
RC: Where are we headed?
VC: You're gonna show me where the old schoolhouse was.
RC: Okay.
VC: And then maybe...
RC: I can show you where the old Iowa schoolhouse was and also where the Lone Star was.
VC: And also...yeah...and also where the water thing was.
RC: Oh, Woodell intake. I mean the West intake.
VC: West intake, yeah. So, okay, when you were having children where'd you have 'em?
RC: I had Todd in the St. Joseph Hospital. I remember vividly that he was the only baby on the floor.
VC: Oh really?
RC: And the... I went in and delivered one evening. There was women in there with her baby, but she was leaving that day. She came down and told me goodbye and hoped I had good luck and so forth. And after that for about the next six days I was alone on the third floor of the St. Joseph's Hospital.
VC: Really?
RC: Yeah. So when you heard the elevator coming you knew your husband was on the way. It was either that or the doctor. So I sat up.
VC: So, was there another hospital in town?
RC: Yes, the Grande Ronde Hospital. The old Grande Ronde up where the White Birch Apartments were.
VC: I can't place that.
RC: It was as you come in the highway the other end of town.
VC: Oh yeah.
RC: And on that curve it set on the curve there.
VC: Oh, where the nursing home is?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Right there.
RC: Kind of along in there where the retirement home is.
VC: Yeah.
RC: Nursing home.
VC: And so was that like a class thing? Some people went to one hospital and some people went to another because of class?
RC: ___ of course the St. Joseph was Catholic and of course the people who were Catholic definitely went to the St. Joseph. But I went to the St. Joseph because...
VC: Now talk over here.
RC: ...it was near where we lived.
VC: That was the main reason you went?

RC: Yeah. Then later when I had the twins Uncle Clarence had bought the Grande Ronde Hospital so it was his hospital, so to speak.

VC: So you went...

RC: I was expected to go there.

VC: Oh, I see. Family pressure.

RC: Yeah.

VC: Yeah. You had twins, too. So did...a lot of people have twins.

RC: Yeah. A lot of people take fertility drugs now.

VC: Yeah.

RC: I have two sets of twin great-grandchildren.

VC: Oh, you do? Oh.

RC: Two of my grandchildren had twins.

VC: ___ have twins ___

RC: Iowa School was back on that ___.

VC: Uh-oh. Well, we need to go...you need to show me that. Okay, I'm gonna turn around.

RC: I was talking.

VC: You were talking and you forgot to tell me. The Iowa School.

RC: Iowa School.

VC: And it was 'cause people were from Iowa.

RC: I don't know why. It probably was because there was a wagon train, you know, crossing the plains that came from Iowa. Probably ___.

VC: You know, Verna's mother had twins and her...

RC: Oh yeah. She had... Yeah, she had twins.

VC: Not right here?

RC: Up here on this corner.

VC: Okay. This is... They're digging a well now. Was there water here then?

RC: No, not particularly, just the ditches.

VC: Oh.

RC: Now ___ this corner.

VC: Really?

RC: Yeah. I was.

VC: Okay. We are at Hunter Lane and...

RC: Stanley.

VC: Stanley Lane. And there was a school right here in the corner.

RC: Yeah, called Iowa School. And it had been there for a good many years. I had pictures of my aunts, Dad's sisters and Dad who...

VC: Who went to school here.

RC: Yeah.

VC: You need to dig those out. [laughs]

RC: I would love to dig those out and show 'em to you except that I walked in one day trying to remember how some relative looked and I knew I had all the Holst pictures filed in my rec room in boxes. I walked in there and there were no boxes. They were gone. Gone. I have no idea what happened. Whether someone was cleaning up the house after Jack died helping me burned ___ with the garbage or

whether some family member knew I had them and came in and removed them. I have no idea.

VC: And you've asked your kids?

RC: I lost pictures all back as far Civil War days.

VC: [gasp] Really?

RC: That my grandmother had had.

VC: Oh my gosh!

RC: And I had bunches of pictures. Just the whole floor was littered with 'em.

VC: Really?

RC: And they are gone.

VC: And you kids didn't take 'em?

RC: I questioned them. I said, "Did anybody, any of you, bother those pictures?" Todd said, "No, Mom. I know what you mean. I saw them, but I never would destroy something of that sort." Now this lane...

VC: Monroe Lane.

RC: Yeah. At the end of that my grandfather settled there, great-grandfather.

VC: His name was?

RC: —

VC: His name was what?

RC: Henry Holst.

VC: Henry Holst, okay.

RC: This next place...

VC: Not... This isn't Klergis. The Klergis is over here.

RC: Yeah. That place was my grandmother York, my maternal grandmother's parents lived there. Of course the next place is —.

VC: So you mean your grandparents got to know each other 'cause they were neighbors?

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: Oh.

RC: Nobody had cars, you know, that they could travel a distance.

VC: So they married each other 'cause they knew each other right there?

RC: Yeah. —

VC: They've fixed it up real nice out there.

RC: Make me homesick to see it.

VC: I'm sure it does.

RC: And I don't know if the Berrymans still own this place or not, or whether they've sold it.

VC: You know, I think...well, Mr. Berryman died, didn't he?

RC: Yes. And I knew the girls were discussing putting it up for sale.

VC: I've never seen a for sale sign on there that I remember and I drive this a lot.

RC: — they do sell they'll be the last of the Hill side, you know, the Flannigan place, our place, all of them gone. This is... This is corner you turn if you want to go to Lone Star.

VC: Okay, now what's Lone Star again? I forget.

RC: It's where I went to grade school.

VC: Oh, really?

RC: Until I went to town to Ackerman.
VC: Oh, so you didn't go to Iowa School?
RC: No. My brothers went there. They... They put in some time at Iowa School.
VC: Okay. We just turned down Teeters Corner. What's the name of this road? I forget. Well, anyway, I'll say it later. So there's two schools that we're seeing where they were. And which one did you say when you talked to the lady about...the schoolhouse lady that done the history on it...which one did she know nothing about?
RC: The Lone Star.
VC: Oh, okay.
RC: She said, "I never heard of Lone Star."
VC: Oh.
RC: I said, "It definitely was there."
VC: 'Cause you...
RC: Yeah. I went there and I told her a number of people that been educated there. I think it went back years before me, too, you know, a long time. My brother and I used to ski from our place out here on the sand ridge across fields, going across these fields...this was when we were little kids...and then we'd go to Grandma's.
VC: Up there. And did you ski to school?
RC: What?
VC: Did you ski to school?
RC: No.
VC: Oh.
RC: It was so close we could yell across the fence. We were at the...
VC: So Verna was telling me when she had kids that the nurses and the doctors made the women stay for like ten days and they had to stay flat on their backs.
RC: Yes. Oh yeah. You...I was...I'd stay in the hospital ten days when I had the twins. Uncle Clarence insisted ten days.
VC: And that was that. And then... She said when you got up then you were just supposed to go.
RC: Oh yeah.
VC: You like flat on your back and then you get up and you go. Is that how your experience was, too?
RC: Yep.
VC: Uh-huh.
RC: Okay. This corner. __ this is the Woodell place, Jim Woodell's place and you turn at that corner and go right. It was at Jim Woodell's corner that we found the liquor in the culvert.
VC: Oh really. Oh yeah, right here. Is that a Woodell place still?
RC: I don't know. Pauline Howard lived there, his daughter, and she died recently so I don't know what they've done with the place.
VC: Okay. Now we're on Webster Road and we're turning right and we're going...
RC: This was our property in here below sand ridge place.
VC: And you owned this property?
RC: No.
VC: Or you rented it.

RC: We rented.
VC: Mm-hmm.
RC: We were going to buy it, buy the place.
VC: And where was your house?
RC: We intended to buy it and about that time my grandfather had a heart attack.
VC: So where was your house on this place.
RC: Back about two hundred yards in the field. They burned it here a few years ago. That's probably the driveway here. It was along about here.
VC: Uh-huh. And you just went back there.
RC: Yeah, it set back in there. It was a big place, barns and shops.
VC: Oh really?
RC: Yeah. It was a place my mother was crying as she come over one day and said, "They're burning...burning down at the Woodell place." And the __ our school was just along here.
VC: Right here kind of on the ridge?
RC: Yeah.
VC: And it was just like a one-room?
RC: Yeah. One room with an anti-room and, you know.
VC: And so there wasn't any water here?
RC: No. Well, there's a pitcher pump outside which you pumped.
VC: Oh, there was.
RC: Oh yeah. You pumped your...
VC: So they just dug a shallow well then?
RC: I presume.
VC: Yeah, 'cause there's no, like there's no water coming anywhere here.
RC: Now this is the Webster place I think now, Carl Webster.
VC: Now should we keep going? No, we should just turn around, shouldn't we?
RC: Yeah, we should go back.
VC: Okay.
RC: Yeah, I think this is Carl Webster's. But it wasn't here when I was a child.
VC: Oh, it wasn't?
RC: No.
VC: Oh. So were there a lot of places around out here?
RC: Quite a few farms and things. We thought nothing of walking a couple of miles to see a neighbor, you know.
VC: Yeah.
RC: It was... And it was dirt roads, no gravel or anything. You had mud in the winter and fall was really muddy.
VC: Right. And who took care of the roads?
RC: Oh, I presume the county did, but they didn't have a lot of money to operate on.
VC: But you didn't have to take care of the roads in front of your house, somebody else did?
RC: Yeah. And you had rural...rural delivery of mail.
VC: And did it come every day?
RC: Oh yeah, except Sunday.
VC: Oh. And what kind of mailboxes did you have?

RC: Just like now.
VC: Just metal mailboxes?
RC: Yeah.
VC: When I... One time I went up to Imnaha to...
RC: ___
VC: What's the matter?
RC: I dropped my billfold. Where is it? I had it in my lap. Probably...oh, here it is.
VC: Okay.
RC: It's slick and it slides off my little fat tummy.
VC: I was up in Imnaha doing this workshop thing along the Imnaha River and their mailboxes are wooden, little house things.
RC: Yeah, fancy little...
VC: And they didn't have doors on 'em and they...they...if they had mail to send out they put a rock on their mail and it came every other day. Even now, I think, if I recall correctly I think it...no, it must come every day. But they still have those old mailboxes up there.
RC: Yeah. ___ the fact that Joseph and that area up in there they've turned art, you know, they are favoring the artists ___ and I'm hoping it doesn't change the atmosphere up there. It's just always been so rural.
VC: Oh, it was so fun to be there this... I shouldn't put this on the tape because it doesn't have to do with you, but I'll just stop...[tape interruption]...now we're gonna... You're talking about Dorothy Wagner, yeah.
RC: She said, "If you'd ever lived there during the winter you wouldn't want to make it your home." She said their winters are endless.
VC: Yeah.
RC: I said, "Well, I've only seen it in the summertime, though."
VC: I know. I love Wallowa County, too. But it was really fun. I was just there for two weeks and it's just so rugged and everything. It's just really great. So how do you know Dorothy Wagner?
RC: Oh, I've known Dorothy for years. We both belonged to the Pleasant Grove grange.
VC: Okay, talk over here.
RC: We both belonged to the Pleasant Grove grange and I've known her there and I've known her in La Grande.
VC: Uh-huh. And you knew Ed.
RC: Yeah. I loved Ed. I loved Ed.
VC: Everybody loved Ed. We knew Ed and Dorothy real well 'cause they have property up above us and so we got to know them pretty well. So do you go to Pleasant Grove grange anymore?
RC: I have been a member, I'm still a member, I have been since '38.
VC: Really?
RC: Oh yeah.
VC: So you know a lot about that?
RC: Oh yeah.
VC: How long is Pleasant Grove grange been going on do you think?

RC: I probably have papers someplace that say when it was organized, but it was following the Civil War that granges came in.

VC: Back in '38 there's a lot of economic depression and stuff. Did the grange do more political stuff then?

RC: Oh yes.

VC: What did they do?

RC: We used to have... I can remember my parents going to the Pleasant Grove grange to make mattresses...to make mattresses.

VC: Out of what?

RC: The county extension group brought out ticking and stuffing for 'em and showed 'em how to make 'em.

VC: Like out of feathers?

RC: Yeah. Yeah, and...

VC: Or rags?

RC: ...batting and so on. So I used to go down with 'em when they did that. And then they had another episode down there where they made cheese.

VC: Oh yeah.

RC: Big cheeses, great big cheeses.

VC: For poor people, you mean?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Or for each other?

RC: For their own consumption.

VC: Oh.

RC: For your ___.

VC: That's cool. And did they make the mattresses for poor people or for themselves?

RC: Oh yeah. I've done stuff at the grange forever.

VC: So I didn't get...where they...what did they do with the mattresses? They made 'em for themselves?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Oh.

RC: Made 'em for themselves.

VC: Wow. So they'd have like a barn raising only it'd be mattresses. Cheese. Did they do like gardening or anything together?

RC: No, not particularly. They all had their own farms around ___ busy.

VC: Oh yeah. So they did that in the wintertime?

RC: We did that in the summertime.

VC: Oh, you did. Now are we coming close to where?

RC: No, not yet.

VC: No, we're not, okay. Oh no, it's down here. So did they...was the grange like a union kind of like they organized farmers?

RC: Yeah, kind of that sort of thing. They got rural free delivery mail delivery.

VC: 'Cause of their pressure you mean?

RC: Yeah. Political pressure.

VC: How about electrification? Did the granges have to do with that?

RC: My dad did that.

VC: He did?

RC: My dad and Clarence Carter and some other fellow, I can't remember his name. And they pushed the PUD, Public Utility District. They had the California Pacific that had the electric thing...monopoly. And they fought, kept stirrin' it up and stirrin' it up.

VC: And did they do that through the grange?

RC: And eventually we got rural electrification up here. We didn't used to have electric lights until I was a senior in college.

VC: Now, okay.

RC: Okay.

VC: Now does this have to do with anything with you, this place?

RC: No.

VC: Oh, I must've been thinking wrong about it. I thought you were talking about this place when we talked before. It wasn't.

RC: It's much farther down. Have we passed it?

VC: I don't know.

RC: We're pretty close. Yeah, this is the West...

VC: See that house down there?

RC: Yeah, this is the West place.

VC: This is the West place. And you lived down there in a house?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Okay. So who owns it now I wonder? That person that just went down there.

RC: Yeah, I don't know who owns this even anymore.

VC: Let's see if there's a name. Nope, there isn't.

RC: ___ That doesn't help us any.

VC: No, it doesn't. Okay, well, this...

RC: But this used to be timber. There used to be a lot of timber down here.

VC: All down here?

RC: Yeah. I can remember how dark it was when we'd go to grange. You'd feel like you were goin' into a tunnel.

VC: Oh really?

RC: Just it was tall evergreens on all sides.

VC: Timber everywhere. Oh. So...

RC: A lot of it's been cleared out.

VC: So let's see, the West...what did you call it?

RC: West intake.

VC: And that's up here on End Road?

RC: Yeah. You... I believe this is the lane you turn up.

VC: Okay. So we're going up End Road now and is the tape still on?

RC: I couldn't say just where it is.

VC: Oh, you don't know where it is?

RC: It's up there in the woods somewhere. I know we drive by. Quite often the granges 'd hold picnics up there at the West intake.

VC: Up here? Oh, they would?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Do you remember that?

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: And is it... Was it like a lake?
RC: It was like a huge swimming pool. At least it seemed huge to me at that time.
VC: You were a little girl.
RC: Yeah. It might be just a puddle now. They probably don't have it anymore.
VC: They probably don't. See, this is all developed now.
RC: That's it, there's places under every pine now.
VC: So you don't know where it was?
RC: No, I don't. I couldn't... But you drove off the main road into the woods and it was there.
VC: Oh. So it just fed... Basically is just fed one place then? You think?
RC: I don't know.
VC: But for some reason it was important, I mean, it was a water source.
RC: Water supply.
VC: This is all...you know, this is a 4-H center down here now this way. And here, too. I think actually on both sides __ Boise Cascade...
RC: It's funny they waited to know to discover these woods were here and were nice building sites and places where you could live. It's been here for years, timber and stuff.
VC: Maybe 'cause there weren't so many people?
RC: That's it. And not so many people thought it was a big deal to live in the country then.
VC: Yeah, they didn't. In fact, they tried to get away.
RC: They wanted to be right in the city.
VC: Yeah. In fact, wasn't it kind of like the poor people lived in the country to eek out a subsistence living and if you made it you went to the city?
RC: I laugh with I think about Island City. It's become so important, you know, it really is now. Island City is a thriving little spot. And when I was in high school we considered the kids that came from...from Island City as country hicks. They were just, you know, kind of poor kids that lived out there. And that's about what they were, but it's changed to become important. Now La Grande would like to incorporate Island City.
VC: Yes they would 'cause they're actually doing a good job.
RC: Oh yeah. And La Grande's a little __.
VC: You can say that one more time. They can't get it together in there in La Grande how to do things. What'd you think about the other communities? Like what'd you think about Elgin?
RC: Oh, Elgin was a just a little town, now real little.
VC: Now Elgin is kind of considered the...oh, I don't know how to say it nicely...kind of, you know, the...people make jokes about Elgin like there's inbred people and their stupid and blah and all that, you know, that kind of stuff.
RC: Yeah.
VC: Was it that way then?
RC: Oh, I don't know. I didn't know much about Elgin as a child until my brother grew up and met the Hug family over there and he married a Hug girl and suddenly Elgin was important, you know, you knew all about Elgin. But up till then Elgin was just a little place...

VC: You didn't know about it.
RC: No. It was just over there somewhere.
VC: I know a lot of people in Elgin. I go to church in Elgin.
RC: What church you go to?
VC: The St. Mary's Catholic church. But I know that like if I go to parties or something in La Grande people always make Elgin jokes. And, I mean, I don't like it. It makes me mad. But I just wondered if it was the same. Okay, this is Dorothy Wagner's place right here.
RC: Yeah. Yep.
VC: I haven't seen Dorothy for a long...
RC: She's getting a little...oh, she's getting older, you know.
VC: Yeah.
RC: Having trouble maintaining the place and stuff...
VC: Yeah.
RC: ...but she's hangin' on like I am.
VC: Huh?
RC: Hanging on like I am.
VC: She's got her daughter who helps her ___. Yeah.
RC: ____.
VC: So here we're coming up to the grange.
RC: Yeah.
VC: Is it too hot in here?
RC: What?
VC: Is it too hot?
RC: No. Just fine.
VC: Okay. I have some friends who got married at the Pleasant Grove grange a couple summers ago. It's really a nice place. I mean it's really nice inside and everything.
RC: A lot of volunteer labor's gone into that.
VC: I bet. Did you do volunteer labor on it?
RC: Many a time, yes.
VC: And did potlucks and stuff?
RC: Always. Every potluck.
VC: There were... There were lots of people here then, weren't there?
RC: Now my dad went to high school down here. They had a...
VC: In this building?
RC: ...Pleasant Grove... There was a big schoolhouse here.
VC: Oh, there was?
RC: Yeah. To the left...or to the right of the grange building.
VC: Oh.
RC: And uh...
VC: Now talk over here.
RC: He went to high school there. I don't know how much high school they gave. I know he took several years ___. John Lewis built that grange building.
VC: Oh, he did?
RC: Yep. It was his baby.

VC: By himself?

RC: No, he had a crew of men help him. But my hus...

VC: In what year, do you think about?

RC: Oh, I couldn't say. I'd have to look that...

VC: Is this where you came to the grange?

RC: No. No, I...my folks were invited to join the grange when they lived out on the sand ridge where Lone Star school was and so we went...or Dad went and they had what they called a penny drill. After the meeting they had __ they marched around and they put some change, you know, and that was to be for buying sick people flowers and taking care of the sick and so on.

VC: Oh yeah.

RC: And Dad...it was Depression years...reached in his pocket and he didn't have any change, you know, he didn't have a lot of loose coins to put out. So he gave them a dollar, which was big money in those days. And Mother kind of...

VC: Looked at it.

RC: She...yeah, she __ it was the last money they're ever gonna get from me. We laughed over that because my father worked and gave __ the grange all the next fifty years. It wasn't the last dollar he spent there.

VC: But so...so when...but you came to this site for Pleasant Grove grange, but that wasn't the building?

RC: No. No, the building was still there.

VC: But what...

RC: Always was this building. Of course it doesn't look quite the same.

VC: It's been refurbished?

RC: They've repainted and the back steps didn't use to be as nice. They used to be old wood steps.

VC: Oh yeah.

RC: But...

VC: But the inside's basically the same?

RC: Oh yeah, except for the toilets. They had outside toilets. I remember when my twins were little they always needed to ____. And they would get up out of the meeting and trail in through the brush and it was dark and take 'em out there. And boys had one over here and girls had one back in that corner. And then later years my husband and Dean Johnson, who was a carpenter, built the indoor restrooms.

VC: Oh, your husband built those...?

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: ...oh, the bathroom?

RC: After he'd work all day he'd have his supper and then come out.

VC: That's cool. But the kitchen was there just like it is now?

RC: Yep.

VC: And all the paneling in the big room and everything?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Just like that. It's really a nice building, I think. I wonder...there were probably how many people would come to meetings back then?

RC: Oh, thirty, forty.

VC: Regularly.

RC: Yeah.

VC: And how often did you have meetings?

RC: Twice a month.

VC: Oh!

RC: First and third Saturdays. My father was master for a good many years he did it. And I can remember one blizzard night on the ranch he'd began getting himself all __ up in his winter clothing and I said, "Where are you going?" And he said, "It's grange. I've gotta go down and open the hall." And I said, "You can't get there. The roads haven't been plowed. There won't be anybody there." He didn't care. He skied down.

VC: From over there?

RC: Yeah, uh-huh. From my grandparents'.

VC: Oh, from your grandparents'.

RC: And where we lived then.

VC: So you were like older then, like fourteen or something?

RC: Yeah. I was...you couldn't join grange until you were fourteen. I, of course, went all the time, but you had to sit out in the kitchen while they had their meetings. You didn't get to be _____. So as quick as I was fourteen I joined.

VC: Oh.

RC: But I've been a member ever since. But I told Dorothy Wagner over the phone the other day, I said, "Dorothy, I don't know why I pay my grange dues. I don't have grange insurance or anything." I guess it's sentiment.

VC: Yeah.

RC: I guess I've hung on this long I'll continue payin' it. But I don't go. I haven't been in ten, fifteen years.

VC: Oh, you haven't? Oh. So often do they have meetings now?

RC: According to Dorothy Wagner it's a bit haphazard. They don't seem to know that they're supposed to have regular meetings and be doing political things, you know, presenting things to the legislature to pass and so on.

VC: Right.

RC: They seem to have lost the idea of what grange is.

VC: It's more just like a social get-together.

RC: Yeah, it's more a social get-together.

VC: And people come from way into town to here, don't they?

RC: Yes.

VC: So it's just __ kind of like...

RC: It's too easy to go to town anymore, you know. The grange used to be entertainment and everything. You had dances and music and it was fun. But people can turn on their own TVs or go to town.

VC: Right.

RC: It's simple now.

VC: Right.

RC: Which it wasn't in those days.

VC: So when you...huh....when you...you came here though before you lived up at your grandparents'?

RC: Oh yes.
VC: You came from down there.
RC: From the sand ridge.
VC: Uh-huh. And you... How'd you get here?
RC: Car.
VC: What kind of car?
RC: Oh...
VC: Do you know? Do you remember?
RC: Dodge.
VC: And like this would be in the late '20s?
RC: It would be in the early '30s.
VC: Early '30s.
RC: Yeah.
VC: Okay.
RC: We didn't belong to grange when we lived on the West ranch, you know, the big ranch.
VC: Over here. But you did down at the other place. So when you guys got...when your family would get cars did you...would you keep your cars for a long time or would you change your cars?
RC: No, you kept 'em for a long time.
VC: Like how long? Ten years?
RC: Oh yes.
VC: At least, huh? But you didn't drive 'em...I mean... Like if... You wouldn't put on...how many miles do you think a put on a car?
RC: Oh, I have no idea.
VC: Like now, see, I put on about 25,000 miles a year.
RC: Yeah, I'll believe it. You went to town once a week and got groceries. In the wintertime you went maybe every six weeks because roads weren't plowed. You couldn't get to town. You were snowed in.
VC: So you had to make community out where you were.
RC: Did I... We had what?
VC: You had to make community where you were because...
RC: Yeah.
VC: Yeah. So you probably put on four or five thousand miles at the most a year.
RC: Yeah.
VC: At the most.
RC: And then, of course, wartime years gas was rationed. You didn't have gas enough to use a car except when necessary.
VC: How much... do you remember how much gas you got when you rationed?
RC: No, I don't.
VC: 'Cause that was an adult thing you didn't have to worry about.
RC: Oh yeah. I didn't have to worry. All I worried about was the sugar stamp. They gave stamps for...
VC: ...how much sugar you got.
RC: Oh, I don't remember. Ten pounds a week or something like that. And that's what worried me. I wanted to have my desserts.

VC: Did you... Are you a sugar person?
RC: Oh, definitely.
VC: Me too. I eat ____.
RC: I could eat dessert at breakfast and eat it all day long.
VC: Yeah, me too. So then it makes it hard if you don't want to get fat.
RC: Yeah.
VC: But you don't have to worry about that.
RC: I've never been bothered with that except for one summer I can home from college my mother had an everyberry strawberry patch. Oh, we had lovely big strawberries all summer and we also had thick cream. And I put on thirty pounds that summer.
VC: Really!
RC: Went back to college I had to fasten all my skirts with safety pins to make a chain.
VC: Usually it's the other way around, that kids go to school and they get fat and then they came home and got fat.
RC: I did. I have a few pictures when I was a pudgy little kid that summer. It was nothing but eating.
VC: So you went through the Second World War and...tell me about that.
RC: I had a brother in the service, of course, __ England in radar. And it was new that they carefully hid their communications from the Germans, of course. And Gifford says they were given pills that were technically poison pills that they were to take if they were captured. If they were captured they'd torture...torture that information out of 'em. __ these pills.
VC: But he didn't have to do that.
RC: No. He was in when they had the buzz bombs, bombs they __. He guided __ kind of missiles, but Gifford'd say you'd hear 'em funny and not know where they were gonna land.
VC: Scary.
RC: He was a...
VC: Now speak up.
RC: Yeah, I get...
VC: See, now that's it there down there. See, down here?
RC: Yeah, that's it. That's the West place. This timber wasn't there then. They had some walnut trees. They cleared those out. It's hard to pick out from all those thing frozen little nuts.
VC: Yeah. Did you have to do that?
RC: Yeah. One of my jobs. __ walnuts.
VC: Black walnuts.
RC: Black walnuts.
VC: And did you have to get the nuts out?
RC: No.
VC: Oh, good thing. That's hard to...
RC: Oh, are they hard!
VC: Really hard to get.
RC: Yes. I have one black walnut tree on my place. I just leave them there. The chipmunks can get 'em.

VC: Yeah. Somebody'll get 'em.
RC: ___ There used to be a big house, Victorian house, just down there. It was three stories.
VC: Where the Dates live now.
RC: Yeah.
VC: And then who's place was that? Do you remember?
RC: It was Clayton Fox's, the last person that owned it. I don't know if he still owns the property or not.
VC: No. The Dates bought it from Clayton Fox. My daughter is doing oral history for her senior project at Imbler and she interviewed Clayton Fox. And she's gonna...I think she's gonna interview LaRose, too.
RC: Who?
VC: LaRose Hibbert.
RC: Oh. She's been here a while, too.
VC: Yeah, she has. Her whole life.
RC: Huh?
VC: Her whole life.
RC: Yeah.
VC: Yeah, Emily's learning about local history. It's pretty nice.
RC: There used to be two ___, it was this butte, big butte, and a little butte.
VC: Oh yeah?
RC: And they tore the little butte up, the county, I guess.
VC: For gravel?
RC: For rock, yeah.
VC: Right here?
RC: Uh-huh.
VC: Oh. Where the... Where the rock pit is now. ___
RC: Big butte this dip and then there was another one.
VC: Oh, really?
RC: And my dad'd go down each day and watch very carefully. He was interested to see if there were any Indian artifacts.
VC: Oh! Did he find any?
RC: I don't know that he did there. He did on the home place, lots of stuff.
VC: Oh, he did?
RC: Oh yeah.
VC: Like arrowheads and stuff.
RC: Yeah. It apparently had been an Indian feeding place, you know, where various tribes came in.
VC: They probably cam down from the mountains.
RC: Yeah.
VC: You know, I don't think Indians lived in the Grande Ronde Valley, though. They just came through.
RC: Yeah. They came over from the Umatilla. Dad'd meet 'em up on top of the mountain lots of times.
VC: He would?
RC: Oh yeah.

VC: Did he know they were coming or he'd just be out there?
RC: He'd just be riding, horseback riding.
VC: Really? And then what would he do?
RC: Oh, talk to 'em as much as he could. Be friends.
VC: Yeah.
RC: He got along well.
VC: Wow, that's interesting. And they were just riding horseback over the mountain?
RC: Yep.
VC: Huh.
RC: Now this is where I was born, where those trees are.
VC: Oh, really?
RC: There was a big white house in there and a big red barn. I have pictures of that. And that's where I lived until I was about four or five when we moved out to the West ranch.
VC: You just were all over up in this country.
RC: Yeah.
VC: I wonder if I should take you out to my house and you have things you can say about out there or not? Maybe not as much, probably.
RC: Not as much, no. We went... We'd go out on Sunday and see his folks.
VC: But you didn't know like the local history out there the same as you do this?
RC: No.
VC: Most of the local history I know about the Summerville area is from grange people, you know.
RC: Yeah.
VC: I'm glad we did this...[end tape]

1/03, T2, S2

VC: ...people usually build their own houses or did they have people build 'em for 'em?
RC: Usually they had people build 'em for 'em, I think.
VC: Like how 'bout your family?
RC: We never built a house. We always lived in...
VC: ...a house that was already there. Yeah. And your grandpa and that, those houses up there did they build 'em?
RC: There was a structure on the place when they bought it and it'd belonged to my grandmother. And it was kind of a cabiny-like place. I've seen...
VC: Pretty rough.
RC: Yeah, pretty primitive. But they built onto it and remodeled it and so on. There wasn't anything in here. It was all open timber land.
VC: It was all grown mature trees?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Huh.
RC: We used to, my cousin and I...there was an old horse and buggy...an old buggy down in the carriage shop...

VC: Now tell me which home.
RC: ...my grandmother... my grandmother had used and it just sat there and nobody used it and it dawned on us that we could hook a saddle horse up to that and we could travel around, we'd have wheels. And we had more fun doing that...
VC: Now how old were you then?
RC: Oh, I was about fourteen at the time. And we'd come up to somebody that was stopped at their mailbox, you know, gettin' their mail and we'd stick our heads out of the buggy and yell, "Get a horse!" you know, and gallop by ___.
VC: You were being naughty.
RC: Yeah.
VC: Did you scare the people, you mean?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Great.
RC: And so we rode all those lanes and things back and forth.
VC: And who...which cousin was this?
RC: What?
VC: What... Who'd you do this with?
RC: My cousin.
VC: Who?
RC: So one day we took the horse and buggy and went down the lane there on the home place and Granddad had had the driveway, the lane out to the house, graveled and graded up so it was high. The ditches were deep on both sides. Anyhow, somehow going down that lane the horse begun to run away. And I could see my wheel goin' down in that ditch. I knew that the buggy would turn and I'd be crushed between the wheel and the buggy and I jumped.
VC: The other way.
RC: I jumped out on the ___ side.
VC: Oh.
RC: But hard enough that I gave myself a concussion and I broke all my ribs.
VC: You did!
RC: Yes, I did. I came to up at bed in the house. My cousin had got me back to our house. And so I was really mashed up.
VC: Did you get in trouble?
RC: No. My mother was ___ cry about that ___. So when the next time we got able to be out and about again we went out to hook up the horse and buggy the harness wasn't there. There was no harness. So we asked Granddad where...if he'd seen the horse's harness. "Yes," he said, "he had." He'd cut it up in tiny little pieces. He said, "I'm not getting any grandchild of mine killed on my place." That was the end of buggy running. Good thing they stopped us, we were getting mighty dangerous.
VC: I'm surprised that you wanted to go back out and do it again.
RC: Yeah. We didn't have good sense in those days.
VC: Especially horses. Were you pretty horse adept? I mean you were pretty comfortable...
RC: Oh yeah, I rode...
VC: I'm gonna let you out here and then I'll put the car over here.

RC: I rode them well, but I didn't do any harnessing 'em or bridlin' 'em. Somebody else did that.

VC: Oh, okay. [tape paused]

RC: There we are on the Woodell place. When we moved in they were remodeling the house and all the buildings were old, but there were barns and stuff out. That's an Iowa School group, but years ago. I know part of 'em, but most of 'em I don't. Yeah, we lived in sand and gravel for a few years. I wonder what's happened to that place.

VC: What's this? Oh, that's...

RC: My dad had hunted. My brother's out investigating the dead carcass.

VC: What is it?

RC: It's a deer.

VC: Oh, I haven't...it looked like a cougar for a minute.

RC: Me havin' a bath.

VC: Here, I think...

RC: ...show up and my dad went out looking for me because I was supposed to be home and I wasn't. And I was down in the ditch cryin' my head off, just howling. And he said, "What's the matter?" And I said, "Something was snapping it's teeth at me. Something was snapping it's teeth at me, clickin' their teeth." And it was crickets. It was dusk and the crickets had really...

VC: And you must've been pretty little?

RC: Oh yeah. I was just a little kid, two-and-a-half.

VC: Oh my!

RC: Big enough to toddle and I'd gone next door.

VC: That's a nice house.

RC: Yeah, oh yeah. It was a nice place. I was born in that bedroom.

VC: Oh. And what house is this?

RC: That's the ranch house. That's where the Klergis...

VC: Klergit.

RC: Klergit.

VC: Uh-huh.

RC: That should be Klerget.

VC: Yeah, it probably should be.

RC: Yeah, it should be.

VC: Yeah.

RC: It's a French name.

VC: What's that building?

RC: That is a smokehouse, old smokehouse years before I was born.

VC: Who are these people?

RC: That's my dad and my granddad years ago. There's Gifford and I.

VC: Oh.

RC: Gifford and I. My usual happy face. I'm havin' a pout. There's the round red barn that stood there.

VC: Oh, there was a round barn?

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: And this was at?

RC: Yeah, that's next to the Graham Tree Farm.
VC: Oh, okay. That place.
RC: On up the...
VC: Oh, wonderful! And you know who built that barn?
RC: No, I don't. There was one up in Wallowa County, too.
VC: Oh, here it is.
RC: There was one in Wallowa County, too. My grandmother holding...
VC: I wonder why they tore it down?
RC: I don't know.
VC: Oh, that's terrible!
RC: It was a really interesting to be in.
VC: Yeah.
RC: And my children always thought I was born in the round red barn.
VC: Oh, they did?
RC: Yeah, I'd say I was born there, you know. They thought...
VC: That you were born in a barn?
RC: Just naturally___. And this is over on the Woodell place where we lived on the sand ridge.
VC: Uh-huh. Oh.
RC: It was a big stucco house. It had been a Victorian house, old-fashioned, a lot of gingerbread stuff outside, and they remodeled it into a __ farmhouse.
VC: They took all the gingerbread off?
RC: Oh yeah. Destroyed it. My dad just nearly collapsed. But they threw away fixtures, lamps.
VC: Oh, they did!
RC: That you'd give anything to have nowadays. They would be antique and just threw 'em out in a trash bag.
VC: Oh, my gosh!
RC: This is on the place along there by Graham's.
VC: Oh yeah.
RC: And I was mad because Dad made me walk out through that snow so he could get the picture of the trees. There's the round red barn back in...
VC: It'd sure be interesting to know who built it and if it was built by the same guy who built the one up Wallowa County.
RC: It was.
VC: There's a good picture of it. Who's that with the gun?
RC: My brother. He was a great gun...gun guy. In fact, one time he came in and my mother was talking on the phone to a neighbor and he and I were out in the yard playing and he hands her three empty .22 shells. She hung up quickly on whoever she was talking to. She said, "Where's Sister?" [laugh] Gifford said, "I made her lay on her belly behind the log." And he didn't shoot me. [laughs] They target practiced all the time, Dad and he.
VC: Even when he was little, huh?
RC: Oh yeah.
VC: Was that pretty common for little boys...or kids to be able to do that?

RC: No, no. Gifford had great knowledge of guns. He really knew what to do with them. And that was a snowstorm down on the ___ place, white house in it.

VC: And those are you... That's you and Gifford?

RC: Yeah and Kermit, my brother, and my mom. And look at the hats. The lady's all wore the stupidest hats in those days. This is down on the West place. They had concrete sidewalks and so on.

VC: Oh, fancy!

RC: So concrete and my brother's tryin' the doorbell. We didn't have a doorbell on our house.

VC: So they were rich?

RC: Oh yeah. They were fancy people.

VC: And what happened to them?

RC: They died eventually.

VC: Well, yeah. [laughs]

RC: Like most people do.

VC: But, I mean, did they move away or they...

RC: No, they...

VC: They have descendants around here?

RC: They expired here. He used to own Folks Store, _____. That is pretty typical of my expression. I'm having to entertain Kermit and I'm mad.

VC: That's you?

RC: Yeah.

VC: And that's Kermit.

RC: And that's Kermit holding the top.

VC: You didn't like to do that?

RC: No! Heavens no! I wanted to go do things I wanted to. There's the place out on the sand ridge ____.

VC: Oh yeah. And that's the one they took all the Victorian stuff out of?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Huh.

RC: And there was a tall pump...pump house. There was a well in here and a windmill on top. From that we got our electricity from.

VC: Water.

RC: Water and pumped our water and that stuff.

VC: And this is it here?

RC: Yeah, uh-huh. And also my kid brother...I loved cats, I had cats everywhere...and he would drop those cats into the well.

VC: Oh my gosh!

RC: And I'd cry and go tearin' out and get on of the hired men to come help me.

VC: Get it out.

RC: He'd climb down and rescue the cat, the cat'd land on top of the pump and it would be swallowing...

VC: Oh dear!

RC: That was a regular thing happened.

VC: Who did that? Gifford did that?

RC: No, Kermit, my little brother. He was just a baby. That's all that's in that one.

VC: Let's see.
RC: Gee, it's too bad you lost those other pictures.
VC: Oh, I'm just heartbroken over it and I have no idea where they went absolutely. Now there's the Lone Star School.
RC: Oh.
VC: It just kind of looks like the other schools.
RC: Yeah.
VC: It looks like Dry Creek School looked.
RC: Yeah. Just a little country school.
VC: Is this you when you were in the buggy?
RC: Yeah. And you wouldn't think that horse would go fast at all. It was an old, old horse. But boy, it went!
VC: What's this?
RC: Oh, Dad from World War I only you can't see him 'cause the picture's developed lousy.
VC: What's that?
RC: I don't know. I don't think that's Mt. Emily. It doesn't look like Mt. Emily to me.
VC: No, it doesn't.
RC: It probably says on the back of it, but I'd have to tear it out to find out.
VC: Who's...
RC: Oh! That... There were eight of us cousins.
VC: Oh.
RC: Myself, my brother and then these other...they're all cousins.
VC: This is you here?
RC: No. That's me.
VC: Oh, that's you?
RC: Yeah. And my uncle took the picture because we were...in age we were a year apart __ thirteen, twelve, eleven, ten...right down the...
VC: That's an interesting tractor.
RC: Tractor? That is a just wheels.
VC: Oh, that's just wheels?
RC: Yeah. He built it.
VC: Oh, he did?
RC: Oh yeah. Out of old junk parts.
VC: Oh, that's neat.
RC: And we had one that he built that had lamps on the front of it...
VC: Oh.
RC: ...for lights. And we loved to drive that to town and then wait till it got dark, you know, enough that you'd have to light those lamps.
VC: What kind of lamps?
RC: Kerosene.
VC: Oh really?
RC: They were kerosene lamps and you got and lit 'em and drove down...
VC: And it didn't blow 'em out __?
RC: No. And that attracted lots of attention.

VC: I bet it did. And you were a teenager and he was a teenager.
RC: Yeah.
VC: He was kind of a young buck, I guess.
RC: Yeah. And there's Gibbert and I at school, the corner of the schoolhouse.
VC: Which school?
RC: Lone Star.
VC: Oh, okay. What's that building? Oh, that's the pump house.
RC: That's the old pump house.
VC: Yeah.
RC: Before they painted it. That's from my grandmother's day ___.
VC: Who's that?
RC: That's Jack when we were...right after we were married, I think.
VC: He was a handsome guy.
RC: When Jack and I were up at the Corriell...Klergis...
VC: Klergis.
RC: I can't say it.
VC: I know. I couldn't say Tanzania yesterday...Tanzania.
RC: There's the old house with the trees down through it.
VC: Oh, really?
RC: Dad was tearin' it down. ___ most of it's gone.
VC: And that's at the Klergis place, ___?
RC: Yeah. That's the main section, a double-story.
VC: Wow. It really took it out, didn't it?
RC: Oh yeah. Just really.
VC: And that's the Klergis house right there.
RC: Yeah. That... Then Dad built...he said I'm not ___ to be able to near that grove.
Granddad always somebody'll get killed by those pines someday.
VC: What's this? The river?
RC: Yeah, Telocaset.
VC: Oh.
RC: Dad homesteaded land up at Telocaset.
VC: He did?
RC: Oh yeah. And about 1917, I think. And he had, what, three thousand acres or something like that. And he had to sell that land to build the house. When the trees fell on the house we had to have us someplace on to live real fast.
VC: So who are these kids?
RC: Oh, I don't...cousins probably.
VC: Probably or the next generation down.
RC: Yeah. I don't know. People people.
VC: And what's that?
RC: That's a dog ___.
VC: Oh. And this is plowing the fields.
RC: Yeah.
VC: Gifford's plowing 'em?
RC: Yeah.
VC: No, he's not doing it, though, is he?

RC: He was.

VC: He was pretty little. He looks like he's three years old.

RC: He did a lot of things that weren't right. One day my mother went out and she called Dad in for summer and she said, "Where are the hired men?" And Dad said, "Oh, they went home." And they didn't have any transportation. She said, "How did they go home?" He said, "I had Gifford drive 'em home."

VC: In a car?

RC: Yeah.

VC: He was this little?

RC: Yeah. He had to get off the seat to get to the peddles to push 'em and then get back on the seat.

VC: So was...like was your mother kind of anxious about your...?

RC: A little. A little, I think. But Dad was very confident Gifford could handle it. He knew how to drive. There wasn't any traffic on the road, to speak of. So he'd taken 'em from the ranch up and the sand ridge over to the N. K. West ranch.

VC: Oh really?

RC: Yeah.

VC: How big was he, do you think?

RC: I don't know, four or five.

VC: Oh my gosh!

RC: And I wouldn't even let my kids out of the yard at that moment when they were, you know.

VC: Yeah.

RC: Gifford could do anything.

VC: Did he go onto his adult life like that, too?

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: He was like a go-getter kind of guy?

RC: There we are in the buggy again.

VC: Oh yeah. That's the buggy you turned over?

RC: Yeah. And you know, it wouldn't 've been any fun to get crushed between.

VC: No. And you did get crushed anyway.

RC: Oh gosh, I really did!

VC: How long did it take you to get over it?

RC: Oh, a couple of weeks. And then I went back to school that fall and was playing soccer out on the field and some gal kicked the ball into my head. It hit me here and that's where I'd had the concussion and my head was a little frail anyway. And I ended up when I came to in the locker room. They carried me in there.

VC: So it knocked you out?

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: Wow. You were lucky you recovered okay. Who's that?

RC: That's Aunt Julia and Uncle Clarence when they were married. They were married at the ranch way back. That's the last picture I have of my dad. He'd had a stroke that day.

VC: Really? And who's house was that in?

RC: That's their house there on the ranch where the Klergis.

VC: Mm-hmm. He still looks pretty good, though.

RC: Oh yeah. Tough one. ___ the buildings. There's Jack parents and Todd.

VC: Oh, this is the...

RC: At Summerville. After they'd moved it down to Summerville from the place there in the woods.

VC: And who's that?

RC: That's... That's another Ruth Corriell. Oh, we had trouble! When I got married I found out her first name was Ruth, too. Not only that she was Ruth E., which is my...my middle name's Evaline, her's was Elva. The first thing she wanted me to do was... She said, "You can be called Ruth Corriell Junior and I'll be Ruth Corriell Senior." I said, "No, I will not be junior for anybody. Nobody's gonna call me junior." I put my foot down right there and then. I said, "You can change your name to Rebecca or whatever you want, but..."

VC: Did she get mad at ya?

RC: Probably. I don't know.

VC: Did you get along okay with her?

RC: Not particularly. And I had all sorts of trouble with the same name. I went to vote one night and I voted for...since I was eighteen...or twenty-one, that's when we voted then, and we went in to vote and they checked the roll and they said, "You're not registered." I said, "Oh, you all know me." They were people I knew and I'd been walkin' in there for years. And they said, "You're not on the register." And I said, "Well, what do I do to get to vote?" It was for a presidential election, I wanted to vote. And so I had to go hunt up the county clerk and get an affidavit that I was who I am. They had seen two Ruth Corriells on the list...

VC: So they took one off.

RC: ...and they took one off and it happened to be me that got taken off.

VC: Where did you vote?

RC: I voted... At that time I voted out on East Adams someplace up in a house.

VC: Oh, in town.

RC: Yeah. ___ precinct in town.

VC: Where did people vote out here? Where did your folks vote?

RC: My folks voted in Summerville.

VC: Like at the post office or something?

RC: Yeah. But...

VC: So what do you think of mail-in ballots?

RC: Oh, I love 'em!

VC: Oh, you do?

RC: Oh yeah. I like 'em. 'Cause see, the time I always had...and I am educated, I can read English, I understand English, I know what I've voting on, but I always have to take a list...

VC: Me too.

RC: ...and pull it out of my pocket and see, well, number so-and-so is a "no" and then I'd get out and somebody'd say, "How did you vote on this issue?" I didn't know.

VC: Right, you'd have to look.

RC: I had no idea when I voted right, how I wanted to vote. So I was delighted when they installed that mail-in thing when you can sit here and go back and check the pamphlet and...

VC: Right. So this is the house...

RC: That's the York place next door. That's my Grandmother York. That's where the Flannigan place was built.

VC: Oh, that was a nice house, too.

RC: I never knew her. She was dead by the time I was born.

VC: What's this?

RC: That's Joe Berryman was having his wood lot thinned.

VC: Oh.

RC: And of course Dad just couldn't stand it because to cut a tree down was almost a sin in his language. In fact, we used to laugh, we'd send Dad up to get the Christmas tree from our wood lot. And I'd stand and watch and say to Mom, "Oh Mom, you should see the tree he got." It'd be, you know, one-sided, it wouldn't have branches over here.

VC: 'Cause it was...

RC: It was a weakling that he cut off. He wasn't gonna cut any of those good trees and bring down.

VC: Right.

RC: We used to kid about __ spare that tree.

VC: Now what's this? It looks like a picnic.

RC: It's grange picnic of somebody, but I don't recognize anybody in the picture.

VC: Was it at the Pleasant Grove grange?

RC: It looks like we're up in the woods somewhere. We laughed at Mother one year. She had this low little green car and she lost the car. It snowed so heavy out there at the ranch by where the Klergis...that should couldn't find her car. It was parked outside, she absolutely lost the car! And Gifford was over there on a snowmobile one day helpin' on the ranch do something and he said, "I just found your car. I just road over it." He said, "I felt it when I hit it, you know, squawked it." He said, "It's out there." So when the snow melted there it was.

VC: Is that Gifford?

RC: No, that's my dad.

VC: Oh. He had a Studebaker, huh?

RC: Yeah.

VC: Funny cars, aren't they?

RC: And other people. Oh, there I am fat and chubby that one summer when I was fat.

VC: Where?

RC: There.

VC: Oh.

RC: My fat...my little face is round like a pumpkin. Oh, there's our pet bear. We kept a pet bear.

VC: Oh yeah. It's little. And you had turkeys.

RC: Oh turkeys, I hated turkeys! They's always chase me and...

VC: They're kind of scary for little kids.

RC: Oh, but scary is right. And I'd lay down in the dirt and cry and they'd peck at me.

VC: They did?
RC: Oh yeah. I hated them. Dad'd say, "They won't hurt you, just get up."
VC: And you're like this big and they're this big.
RC: Yeah. These flappy wings.
VC: Yeah, they're really scary and geese, too.
RC: Then they'd cook one for Thanksgiving that didn't look good even cooked. I didn't like turkey ___. I don't know if there's any more ranch pictures or not. Now that's Hilgard.
VC: What's this?
RC: That's my Grandfather Skunk, Winfield Skunk. ___ little sister, they were on a tour someplace, a sea tour.
VC: Oh, so this doesn't have to do with the Grande Ronde Valley?
RC: Nope. When the Grande Ronde...a lot of Grande Ronde Valley this is. This is Hilgard.
VC: And so why do you have stuff about Hilgard?
RC: My mother was born at Hilgard ___.
VC: I bet they had lots of snow there.
RC: Oh, did they ever! I don't know who that is...Raymond Hill. We've got so many pictures left over from a cousin ___.
VC: Who's that?
RC: That's my great-grandmother Lansing. She's my mother's grandmother and she was cripple toward the end of her life.
VC: Was this in the Grande Ronde Valley?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Where did she live? Where did they live?
RC: Over Walla Walla way they were. Mother was born in the Seventh-day Adventist family...I mean her mother was a strong Seven-day Adventist. And Mother, of course, didn't ___ her mother died when she was two and she wasn't taught any of it. But she had a number of relatives that wouldn't eat meat and so on. There's Iowa School back in the days when my aunt was little girl. Here's my aunt. The rest of the kids I don't recognize. ___ I counted a group of, oh, I don't know, twenty kids there. You know one teacher taught those kids, all different grades, and they got some pretty good education, too.
VC: Yeah, they did. Of course they behaved themselves, too.
RC: Oh boy did they!
VC: That makes a big difference.
RC: If they didn't they would spank 'em.
VC: Yeah, or they'd go home or something.
RC: I remember my own son, one of the twins, that called me from junior high school one day. He hadn't been on the bus when the bus came. And he called and he said, "Mom, I had to stay in after school." He said, "I've got to go down to the principle's office to be spanked." I said, "What for?" "Well, throwing spit wads." They were shooting spit wads at somebody in the room. And he said, "I wasn't doin' it!" I said, "No, but you have some other time. Don't worry, just go down and take your swats and don't say anything." So he did. But that was junior high school they still were paddlin' 'em in those days.

VC: Yeah. And that would be like in the '40s or so?
RC: No. That was in the '60s.
VC: Oh, it was?
RC: Yeah.
VC: Oh.
RC: That was in the '60s.
VC: Wow. Things changed really...
RC: They were still swattin' 'em.
VC: Huh. That's surprising.
RC: But I figured if he hadn't been doin' it that time he had other times, knowing my child, that he probably was _____. Caught a bunch of 'em and said, "Hey, you guys, go down to be paddled." I think ____.
VC: What's this? ____
RC: That's at the ranch, granddad's place ___ and a sled where they'd go down and get a bunch of the road.
VC: Bunch of kids?
RC: Uh-huh. Anybody that came. You know, you couldn't drive up that hill.
VC: Oh, I see. If somebody came to visit you you'd get 'em in the sled.
RC: Dad usually spent his Sunday's runnin' a taxi service back and forth gettin' this carload of people, bring 'em up and then take this bunch down.
VC: You mean you had lots of people coming to your house all the time?
RC: Oh yes! My mother cooked, loved to cook.
VC: She did?
RC: The first thing she'd say when somebody came was, "I wonder if they'll stay for dinner," hoping, and I'd always, "I wonder if they'll leave before lunch." I wasn't my mother. My mother loved to cook.
VC: So people would just drop by you mean?
RC: Yeah. They'd phone and say, "We're comin' out." Dad'd take the rig and go down and get 'em. That's Grandma and that's down on the White place. My brother must've wanted a picture. He took one out.
VC: Yes, he did take it out. What's this? A barn raising, 1912.
RC: Hard to tell. I don't know. Oh, they must be building a barn on the ranch where the Klergis live. 'Cause that was built in 1913, completed in 1915 so they're just startin' the barn.
VC: What... Did people come and help or did they do it themselves?
RC: They did it pretty much themselves.
VC: Uh-huh.
RC: That's it, I think. But that gives you some idea of what the schoolhouse...
VC: Good. I have a lot better picture of where you were and...
RC: Yeah. You get some idea. And a lot of country in between, believe me. It was a long way to the neighbors' houses.
VC: Yeah.
RC: I can remember going to one neighbor's after school, it was the ___ Griner place...
VC: I know where that is.
RC: And we walked over there, she must've been a eighth-grader, she was one of the big girls ___ daughter. And they offered me a head cheese sandwich. I didn't

know what head cheese was, I had no idea, but a sandwich sounded alright. So I took that and ate it and I went home and told my folks what I'd had to eat. And Dad said, "You know what they make head cheese out of?" I didn't. I suddenly found out it was a German family and they scrape the skull of the whatever it is, calf or anything, and then grind it up and it's liable to be eyes, it's liable to be anything.

VC: Brain.

RC: Yeah, yeah. And I wouldn't 've touched it if I'd known. But I didn't and I ate it with enjoyment. It was a good sandwich. It's nice you don't know.

VC: Yeah. Those organ things are...

RC: I...I know they're just meat, but...

VC: I don't like 'em either too much.

RC: My mother used to cook a ton.

VC: Yeah.

RC: And slice it for sandwiches. And I'd just take...be lookin' under the kettle lids to see what was brewin' on the stove and you'd run into a tongue now and then. Oh boy!

VC: Yeah, I never liked it. I had to eat it, too.

RC: I never ate that stuff.

VC: The part that would get me is that they...at my house they wouldn't cut 'em up so you could actually see the shape of the tongue.

RC: You could...the whole tongue'd be layin' in the kettle brewin'.

VC: And you could see the little bumps on there.

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: Oh gross!

RC: I know.

VC: I don't like it either.

RC: My father felt that way about chicken.

VC: He did like chicken?

RC: No. He'd seen to many chickens out in the barn lot. He didn't like 'em.

VC: Nasty animal.

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: They are pretty nasty.

RC: And so I grew up not caring a lot about chicken either. I'll eat chicken, but it isn't my favorite dish. It's all in what's in your head.

VC: Yeah, it is, pretty much. Let me see what I got here. Let's talk about this again. Let's talk about your home delivery.

RC: Of course I don't know anything but what was told to me.

VC: Of course.

RC: But I was born about eleven-thirty or between eleven-thirty and midnight. So I almost got to be July 20th instead of the 19th. But my father came in to assist the doctor and...a good, strong, sturdy man, he fought in the World War hand-to-hand combat, he took one look and fainted.

VC: He did?

RC: Fainted. [laugh]

VC: So he wasn't much help.

RC: And the doctor saw him going down, you know, that was out practically and he kicked him through the door.

VC: Oh, got him out of there.

RC: Yeah, he said, "Get out of here." And Dad was past functioning on his own, he was out. And we kidded Dad about that for years.

VC: That's kind of a different perception because I had the idea that in the old days that men weren't allowed in.

RC: No. I know Jack and Todd was the only baby on the floor so he wasn't gonna contaminate the rest of the children in the nursery. He wasn't allowed to hold Todd or anything.

VC: Yeah. Or like...even when my oldest daughter was born, which is only thirty-five years ago, the men couldn't come in the delivery room.

RC: No, no they wouldn't. You didn't used to go on maturity floor until I was sixteen, I think. They didn't' allow you up there.

VC: Right.

RC: I know I wanted so badly to see my Aunt Sue's baby and it was in the St. Joseph hospital, it was really plush then. And I was in high school...

VC: And they wouldn't let you.

RC: I was practically a senior in high school and they wouldn't let me go on the maternity floor.

VC: That's why I'm surprised they let your dad...that they would want your dad to come in because, you know, you see movies and stuff and it's like the men are always outside waiting and they don't have...

RC: Yeah, yeah. They're chewin' on their own cigar or whatever.

VC: Do you think that was unusual that he came in?

RC: I don't know. But looking at my father he would look like the last person on earth that ever would faint from anything. You know, he'd seen bloodshed and hand-to-hand combat __. He went out.

VC: Maybe it was seeing his wife in pain.

RC: It could've been. It could've been the smell of ether.

VC: Oh. Yeah.

RC: It could've been...you know, they used ether in those days.

VC: Did you have ether?

RC: Oh yeah.

VC: And it was nasty, huh?

RC: Horrible smell.

VC: And it put you out completely? So how long did it put you out for? Just when the baby was born?

RC: Yeah. They just gave you a whiff of it, out you went. Ether isn't pleasant stuff.

VC: I don't know about it. I had natural childbirth.

RC: And that wasn't pleasant either.

VC: No, you bet it wasn't. No, it wasn't.

RC: No, I had __ children natural childbirth. The doctor thought it was terrible. He said there's no sense in a woman puttin' up with that.

VC: I kind of think that now, but I was young and stupid.

RC: Yeah, you know, it was due then. It was widely talked about.

VC: Yep. I thought that's what I had to do to be a natural woman. [laughs]
RC: You found out.
VC: I was one, I'll tell ya.
RC: Too late to...too late to __.
VC: Yeah. I said, "I changed my mind. I don't know want to do this anymore."
RC: I'll take a whiff of anything you've got there. [laughs] Such a... Such a mess.
VC: Yeah, it was. It was hard.
RC: I get so tickled that girls with new babies these great-grandchildren we have coming in, you know, and they have neat little diaper bag they pull out these prepared little Pampers or whatever it is. I think, "you don't know what a diaper pail is!"
VC: Yeah. It's a whole different deal.
RC: You know, my brother arrived at my house when my kids were young and everything smelled damp and wet and yuck. And he said, "You're house smells like ammonia." And I said, "Hey, I hate to tell you I remember two or three years ago when your house smelled just like this." [laughs] So I didn't listen to his complaint.
VC: Yeah, it was a different thing. [recording stopped]