

Dorothy Fleshman, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
October 6, 2004
tape 1, side 1

- BH: Good afternoon. Hello. Can you tell me your full name please?
- DF: I can and I will (laughs).
- BH: Okay.
- DF: I'm Dorothy Jean Swart, S-W-A-R-T, Fleshman, F-L-E-S-H-M-A-N.
- BH: And, what is your date of birth Dorothy?
- DF: I was born on a Friday, September 10, 1926, at 6:45am. And, the attending doctor was C.S. Moore, M-O-O-R-E. I was born to Walter Earl and Margaret Blain Hofmann, H-O-F-M-A-N-N. That's one F and two N's. Swart, S-W-A-R-T.
- BH: Were you parents... Did your parents live in this area for sometime before your birth?
- DF: Um, yes. Um, I was born at 301 Fourth Street, at home. That was at the time when doctors made home calls. Um, the house that I was born in, was at the corner. The um, _____, the northeast corner of 4th Street and C Avenue. And, uh, my parents had purchased that house. Um, maybe I should back up just a wee bit and tell you how they got here. My fathers family came originally from Holland and settled in New York. Then came West with the Gold Rush into California, and then into Nevada, and then came up to Umatilla County. Where they were calligraphers and then worked for the railroad. Then, they came into Union County from Umatilla County.
- BH: To continue work on the railroad?
- DF: To continue with the railroad. And, uh, at one time it was said that the Swart family had accumulation of 400 years of railroading history. And, uh, so my father worked out of LaGrande. Then my mothers family came from Switzerland in 1906, um, 1906, when my mother was two years old. And, uh, they brought the four children, there were three girls and a boy, that came on the ship to New York. And, then they came to Utah to, uh, uh, meet with my grandfathers sister, and her husband, and, uh their family who were in Utah. They had come over under the influence of the Church of Latter Day Saints, that are known as Mormons. And, then my, uh, my grandfather's sister and her husband talked, um, my grandparents into coming to the states from Switzerland. And, then they moved together to Idaho and then came to LaGrande in 1911. And, I don't know why they were in Idaho, um, or what prompted them to come to Union County and LaGrande, specifically. But, uh, um, my grandfathers, uh, sisters husband was Chris Hildebrandt, H-I-L-D-E-B-R-A-N-D-T, Hildebrandt. And, uh, Chris and, uh, they, uh, the two men came to LaGrande and to, um, Mt. Glenn area. And, they were going to work on a farm and, uh... So, they, they went back the two families and brought them to LaGrande. And, something happened with the promised employment because they didn't get the job. So, they, um, they had to just find work where ever they could. And, uh, the children went to school for a while at Mt. Glenn. And, then, eventually, they, uh, the two families moved up

into what we call Old Town of LaGrande. And, uh... Do you need anything about Old Town? Why it was called Old Town?

BH: Can you tell me what you know about Old Town?

DF: They, uh, railroad came through LaGrande in 1884. And, uh, the town was up here against the hill where _____ had made a settlement. And, uh, where the Oregon Trail went through. And, when the railroad came through, it was off of the 4th Street hill there, to go across the valley. So, Old Town, well, the present town just picked up it's businesses and moved down next to their railroad tracks. And, that left the original town without regular, a lot of businesses, and, uh, they became a bedroom community then. And, they just nicknamed it Old Town.

BH: Did they refer to it as Old Town right away?

DF: I suppose it was a number of years before it that happened. But, uh, they began building new homes up along the hill, um, under what we call Table Mountain. And, uh, then out across the valley, somewhat. The farming was, of course, was out in the valley. And, uh, so I suppose it wasn't very long before they started calling it Old Town. But, uh, once they moved into Old Town, um, my grandparents came up here to where I live presently. It was called Mill Canyon Road towards Morgan Lake and later the road was renamed Morgan Lake Road. But at that time, there were very few people living up here. There was, um, a house above where we live now called the Beardon Place. I am not sure how that's spelled. It might be B-E-E-R or it might be E-A-R-DON. Um... And, my grandfather cleared all the brush from the hill here and, uh... Then, uh, in 1912, he and the family built the barn and family lived in the barn for a time because they had to have shelter for animals. And, they were starting a dairy up here. So, then, uh, they built a chicken house that was built of stone. And it had two rooms. So, before they put the chickens in, they had the boys sleep in one room and the girls in another. And, by that time there were, um... Let's see... There was a, the children that were born in Switzerland were Rosa, Emma, Fred, and my mother, Margaret. And, uh, then when they were... Before they got to LaGrande, they had John and Ed. Um... So they had the six children. And, so there would have been the girls on one side and the boys on the other. And, uh, then they had the rest of the house in the barn, a big, big barn and along with the animals. But, of course, that was very usual in Switzerland. Um, and it was very clean. They didn't, didn't share the same good clean space. But, um, one, one of the daughters then was born in the barn. And, she used to like to joke about having been born in a manger. And, that one was Clara. Then in 1913, they built the house where I live now. And, uh, another daughter, Mildred, was born here in this house. And, let's see. The Hildebrandt family then, um, also lived in Old Town and they had different quarters then. Before that, they had gotten two story houses where the Hildebrandt's lived downstairs and the Hofmann's lived upstairs.

BH: Do you know how old your mother was when she came here?

DF: She was two years old.

BH: She was two, okay.

DF: So, she didn't remember much about... Well, she didn't remember anything about the voyage over, just when the families told stories that were told to her. But, in 1975, we took her and my Aunt Mildred to Switzerland for a visit. So that they could see the, their home country. And, uh, my mother picked up the, uh, uh, Swiss dialect language very, very easily.

BH: So your mother actually grew up on this place on Morgan Lake Road.

DF: Yes, she did. Um...

BH: Did she tell you stories about what it was like to grow up here?

DF: Um, not a great deal as a, as a child. I grew up in at what I would call a family community. Because, having all these aunts and uncles and then the Hildebrandt aunts and uncles, and all the cousins, and most all of them just lived right in this area. So, um, uh, I was raised by all of them. As well as by my parents. And, so I just grew up kind of knowing, um... Well, I don't know how to, uh, how to express it. Just it was part of the land.

BH: When did your parents meet?

DF: Um, my father, um, had been married once before and had two sons, Earl and LeRoy. And, uh, after their divorce, my mom and dad met. And, on, um, September 22, 1921, they eloped to Weiser, Idaho. And, uh, were married.

BH: Now what kind of work was your father doing at that time?

DF: He was a railroader.

BH: Still working at the railroad.

DF: All, all of his life he worked at the railroad.

BH: Well, let's talk about when you were born and your early days.

DF: I was born in this house, that I said 301 4th Street. And, at that time the building that is on the corner now did not exist. And, that's why we were 301. However, my grandparents later, that was about 1929, built the grocery store and it was the neighborhood grocery, uh, right on the corner. So, it was then 301 and they changed the number of our house to 301 ½.

BH: So, it was the same property...

DF: It was the same, same house (laughs) and everything. It's just that the store was built next to them. So, when I was born in 1926, the, uh, store had been there. No, the store hadn't been built yet. So, I was about three years old when they started building the store. And, I can vaguely remember sitting outside with my cousin, _____, um, and we were playing in the sand that they were using to make the mortar to go in the pumice block.

BH: Uh,uh.

DF: And, um, then when I, I suppose I was maybe about four years old, um, my mother was doing the family wash and had a May Tag wringer washer machine. And, uh, I don't know if you are familiar with that, but it was, um, was electrical. But, it had the one big tub where you washed the clothes and then you put the clothing through double rollers and that squeezed out the water. And, then you had two galvanized tubs with water. Um, one would have bluing, uh, uh, you know bluing (laughs).

BH: Tell me what you meant.

DF: (laughs) A blue color. And it came in a bottle and you just a little and that'd make your white clothes a little bit whiter. But, anyway, my mother was doing

the washing and she had a load to take out on the line, outside, and I decided to help my mother. So, I climbed up on the chair and was running something through the runners, the wringers, and forgot to turn loose of the (laughs) cloth and my hand went into the, between the rollers. And, I must of screamed because it got up to almost my elbow. And, there was my mother running in the door and in almost one instant she flipped the lever on the wringer that released pressure and pulled the electric cord out the plug and stopped the machine. Uh...

BH: Were you taken to the hospital?

DF: I have no idea. I don't recall that. All I know is that, uh, my arm for years and years was a little bit smaller than my right. And, it had kind of a purple cast. And, the last few years that I don't think it disappeared.

BH: Did you have broken bones then?

DF: Know, evidently not. No.

BH: But, it did affect the growth.

DF: I imagine I was young enough that the bones were that, um...

BH: I want to back up just a little bit. Were you told any details about your birth at home?

DF: No, no.

BH: Okay.

DF: No, I wasn't. I don't know anything about it. Um, my sister was also born in the same house and she always liked to tell about that she was born in that house, in the bedroom across the street. And, uh, what evidently happened was for some reason they felt that there, they had to much, maybe its when they... No, it couldn't of been when they built the store. But, they seemed to think they had too much house. So, I think it was Mr. Hildebrandt was going to build a house across the street, and so they just moved that part of the house, this bedroom, over across the street and built on to make a house there.

BH: Oh, I see.

DF: (Laughs). And, that was always a fun thing that she would tell about. Um, I remember, um, having the measles while I was in that house. And, um, you had to keep the blinds drawn because they were afraid you'd go blind if you were in the light. And, uh, I remember we had a what they call a fainting couch. And, that the couch, without arms or anything, but it has a raised head. Um, and I was lying on it in this darkened front room. And, my Aunt Ruth Lilly came in and patted me on the head and said "Oh, poor Dorothy." (laughs). I remember that very, very well.

BH: Do you remember other things about growing up in that house? First of all, how long did you live in that house?

DF: Well, we must of lived there a couple of time in it. It seems like, both, well, the family moved a lot. And, we lived there. Uh, and then we moved up, we evidently changed, exchanged houses with the Hildebrandts, who lived on the hill on 2nd Street. And, so I am not sure which times I remember, whether it was the first time we lived there or when we moved back into it.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: But, um, I remember, um, going into my mothers bedroom. I don't know if I was coming in from play, uh, or if it was later... I don't think I could have been yet,

um, but I came in, running into the bedroom, and she was frantically trying to put things out of sight. She was seated at the sewing machine. And, I caught a little view of a pink, pink and white plaid. I suspicioned she was making doll cloths. And, at Christmastime, I got a baby doll, I just got a little, maybe a 6-7 inch baby doll. And, she had made clothing for it. And, uh, I acted like I didn't know what she was doing. And she acted like she was (laughs) not doing anything special. (Laughs).

BH: Can you tell me more about the store your family built on that corner?

DF: It was called the Hofmann Grocery. And, um, it, um, was built out of this pumice block and I don't know if my grandfather and Chris Hildebrandt made the blocks. He did make some of them for the house up here. So, it's possible that he did make some there. But, it was, um, a grocery store in the front and living quarters in the back. And, as I, as a child I could go out of our back door of our house and go in the back door of the groc..., of the living quarters where my grandmother lived. My grandfather died... I think it was in 1930. So, he wasn't in the store very long. He had, um, been in the French Foreign Legion as a young man and caught Malaria and, so he had health problems. And, then he died out at Hot Lake when it was a hospital. And, uh, uh, so then my grandmother just kept running the store and living in the back. And, of course, she still had children at home. Um, Mildred and Ed, particularly, I know lived there.

BH: Now, did they work in the store also?

DF: All the family worked in the store.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: The girls, uh, would come and take turn helping her run the store.

BH: What did that involve, working in the store during that time?

DF: Well, stocking the shelves and selling things, um, taking deliveries,... It was a small store, so it wasn't a big concern.

BH: Did many people have charge accounts?

DF: Oh, yes. I think everyone must have had a charge account. And, when the, um, depression came, um, they, there were a lot that couldn't pay their bill and didn't. But, when the, um, you'd always charge your groceries and the once or twice a month you'd go in and pay your bill. And, when you did that, then my grandmother would fix a little sack of candy as your treat for having paid the bill. So, of course, the kids always went with the parents to pay the bill. (Laughs).

BH: Now, when they were, if you were purchasing groceries, because you were charging that did everything have to be written down at the time of your purchase.

DF: Yes, yes.

BH: So, then was that a longer process than what would be now going to the grocery store.

DF: Oh, my yes. It was, uh, you went there to visit, as well as to buy your groceries. And, uh, she had a couple of chairs in the front window there. And, uh, you'd just sit down and visit. And, she and I talked about Switzerland lots of time that way. And, planning that she and I would, would go, when, uh, she sold my grandfathers stamp collections. But, that didn't happen because somebody lifted her collection and, uh, uh... The _____ stamps were missing.

BH: Oh, no.

DF: So, there wasn't much value to what was left.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: And, I suppose we may not have gone anyway because I didn't know how to travel and I don't think she did either. Because, she never got to go home again after they came. And, never saw, neither, neither of them ever saw their families in Switzerland again.

BH: Uh, uh. So, this was a time in the grocery store, really of bonding, and building up relationships.

DF: Yes, yeah.

BH: Within the family who were working at the grocery store, as well as the community who, who were, uh, frequenting the store.

DF: Yeah. Yeah, it was just, that is why I say I was raised by a community. Because, I lost track of who I was related to. They just all were my mums and dads, or grandmas and grandpas, whatever. (Laughs).

BH: Do you recall how the store was heated?

DF: (Long Pause) I really can't.

BH: Do you suppose it would have been heated with wood, a wood stove.

DF: I, I don't think so. I don't remember seeing a woodstove anywhere in there. So, it may have had a furnace of some kind.

BH: And, did it have refrigeration and freezer space, as well?

DF: Um, some. It was small. Um, there was a store room and, uh, a basement that always flooded with water. (Laughs). And, that was a source of trouble. I know that, um, she had a woodstove in the kitchen, in the back of the building. But, uh, I just don't, uh... It never crossed my mind how it was heated. And, I know it was, cuz it was opened year round.

BH: What about, um, bagging the groceries? Was that any different than it would be now?

DF: Paper sacks.

BH: Just in paper sacks?

DF: Uh, uh.

BH: And, then you mentioned that there was a delivery service.

DF: People from the businesses in town, like meat. They'd bring cuts of meat up to them. And, uh, bread delivery. And, uh, I'm not familiar with how they may have gotten their canned goods. Um, the candy, I don't know. I just remember seeing it in the store.

BH: So, there was, they were receiving the deliveries, not making deliveries, um, um, to residents.

DF: Oh, if somebody needed something and they couldn't come and get it, I think one of my uncles would take it for them. It, um, it was just a family type thing that you did for others who were in need. You didn't think much about it.

BH: Now, after you got older, I am assuming you went to school in this area.

DF: We moved before I went to school. Um, we moved up here where I live now, when I was seven years old. I guess I must of started from 4th Street, for the first year, and I, um, I can remember going to school at the old Central School that was on 4th Street.

BH: What was that like?

DF: Well, it was scary the first year. But, um, everyone else there was scared too. And, the main thing I remember about that is the, uh, alphabet printed and written on cards and, uh, up above the blackboard along the room. And, we had these old, um, seats that were on runners. Um, I don't know if they had any special name. But, they were hooked together, the seat would be the front of the desk behind you.

BH: Oh.

DF: There would be like, maybe, six in a row. And, then they would have several rows of them. And, or course, the teacher had her desk. And, uh,...

BH: So, it would have been impossible to move your desk around.

DF: You could...

BH: They had to be in rows

DF: Yes. Um, so that's just a kind of passing in my mind. Um, when I got to the second grade I had Mr. Heffy (SP). No, I take that back. I had Miss Deal. Ruth Ann Deal. And, the Deal family were real old timers in this area too. Um, but I think before that we moved up here. And, uh, I went to school then with my sister from here. And, uh...

BH: How did you get to school?

DF: Walked. Um, everybody walked everywhere. Um,...

BH: There was no bus available?

DF: No, no buses. Uh, the folks had a car, but uh you didn't ride in it to go to school. Um, it was years later, that, uh, if the weather was real bad, they'd take you. But, even then you'd walk to school and walk home.

BH: Do you remember how long your school day was?

DF: Not really. Um, I, uh, I remember Miss Deal having a party for us. I think it was probably either a Valentine Party or a... I am sure that was what it was. And, then they, they ran out of space. So, they moved some of us into the third grade. So, I only had a half of year of second grade. And, then I was moved into the third grade. And, I don't remember who the teacher was there. But, Miss Deal was a, a real gem. A lovely lady.

BH: I want to sort of skip over to, um... We'll come back to your growing up years and going to school in LaGrande. But, you had mentioned that one time (end of tape 1, side A).

Tape 1, Side B

BH: Dorothy, we were talking just on the other side of the tape here about your father's involvement with the dance hall. Can you tell me more about that? How that began?

DF: This was my grandfather. And, after he built this place, um, a few years later, he built a round dance hall. And, it was made of logs, um, it has a huge, um, well, I guess you'd call it a log (laughs), that, uh, stood upright in the middle of the hall. And, uh, it had windows that could be removed in the summertime for, um, ventilation. Um, it, um, the whole thing was, um, on big stones. The foundation.

BH: Were the stones put close together, so it was..... move.

DF: Um, no, I don't know just how they may have done it. But, after the hall was gone, these big boulders almost, there were several, on which it had been placed. But, there had to be some other foundation I think to make it level. It had a very nice dance floor. And, uh, he wanted to start a place like in Switzerland they call a beer garden, but it's family oriented. And, uh, so they would have musical instruments and, and people would dance. And, uh, then when my grandparents had to leave here, because of my grandfather's health, he couldn't run the dairy any more. They went down on 4th Street to run a little grocery store across from where I was born. Then, my aunt and uncle, there was eleven in their family, moved into here and ran the dairy. And, they also had dances at the dance hall.

BH: So, the dance hall was in the same area on Morgan Lake Road?

DF: Yes, it was just next to the road, um, just above where this house is.

BH: Okay.

DF: Just on the flat up there. Um, and people would come from downtown, and, uh, walk or ride horses or bring buggies, or a few cars. There wasn't a lot of parking and, uh, so there weren't many cars. But, this, the road was just a dirt, dirt road. And, when it was wet it was very muddy. So, only horses could pull the wagons through.

BH: Did you attend the dances?

DF: Um, my memory is of going, um, to the dance. Yes, we would go to the dances. And, my aunt would hold my hand and let me step on her feet and then she would dance around, and so I was dancing. (Laughs). And, of course, I always loved to dance, just like my mother and all the rest of the family. Uh, loved music and dancing, singing.

BH: Did your grandfather charge admission to the dances?

DF: I don't believe so. I ha..., I can't say positively. I am not aware that sums ever changed hands. But, at midnight they would stop dancing and serve hot coffee and sandwiches. And, they would put them on big trays. And, these trays had the picture of a beautiful lady on it. And, I just remember those trays and always wished I had one. (laughs). And, they'd pass around the refreshments. And, then they would resume dancing and the children would go in the little kitchen area and throw down coats and go to sleep.

BH: Now, who was responsible for making the refreshments?

DF: Well, I guess the family.

BH: Your family did that?

DF: All, all of the Hofmann's. And, I suppose the Hildebrandt's helped and friends. I suppose people brought things. But, uh... I don't know these things just happened (laughs).

BH: So, there would have been no fees for refreshments either. It was just a fun evening for the community.

DF: Yeah, yeah. I think so. Then when the Lovins moved off and closed down the dairy, um, the dance hall was closed also. Um, when they moved down, then it was during the depression. And, uh, our family moved in for a while. So, I, I grew up here, uh, a little bit too. They, um, I had scarletina while I, while we lived here. And, I wasn't very sick. It wasn't like scarlet fever. It was just a milder form of it. But, when, um, when I was getting better, this house... I need

to tell you a little bit about the house and that it was two story. Um, and a family lived downstairs and had a kitchen. And, a little room that they'd called the milk room because they put the pans of milk there, at, to be, to have the cream scooped off. And, uh, then the upstairs had four rooms and one room was for the boys, one for the girls, one for the parents, and the other room was a parlor. And, you only went in there on Sunday. And, they had either a pump organ or a piano. And, I'm not sure which. I think it was a pump organ. Um, so then they would go in there on Sunday and enjoy themselves.

BH: How many families were together then at that time?

DF: Well, we just, just my grandfathers family at that time. So, there would be the ----, John, Ed, Fred. I guess it was five girls and three boys in the family. Um, let's see. What else do I remember about... I just loved it here. I can remember seeing my mother being cased off the hill by young bull and she just barely slid underneath this barbed wire fence before he got to her. (Laughs)

BH: Oh, wow.

DF: So, there were things like that, that we would climb all over the hills and have a great time.

BH: How large was the dairy that was here?

DF: I don't know. Um, I have no idea. Except there were about 8 stalls in the barn, where they would have had the cows. Um, and there was a milk wagon in one of the little buildings and they would back the horses up to it and, uh, load the milk wagon bottles of milk. And, uh, deliver downtown. And, my uncle Fred told me about there being such deep snow. And, they would have to even sled the milk and climb through the, the, uh, big snow drifts to deliver.

BH: Now, we'll move forward just a bit, from what we were talking about before when you were going to school. And, you mentioned the desk that you had.

DF: Yes.

BH: I, I wanted to ask you another question about the desk.

DF: Uh, uh.

BH: You told me that they hooked together, but there was another feature that you didn't mention about the desks.

DF: Um, there was a little shelf underneath to put your, your, uh, books. And, then on the desk top itself, there was an indentation across the back of it to put your pencil and your pen. And, there was hole cut in the desk, so that you could put your ink, there was an ink well. And, you'd put your bottle of ink in there. And, of course, this would, not in my first few years of school, but later, uh was given a pen with removable points. And, uh, then we would just dip the pen into the ink and, uh, then write on the paper. And, you had a blotter, um, that you could press the, what you had written and that would dry the ink. I guess that was just a square of, it looked almost like cardboard, only it, uh, would soak up the ink.

BH: Do you recall if you provided your own ink, or did the school give you that?

DF: No, we provided our own.

BH: So, it's something you could just go and buy at the store, your ink-well and your, your writing utensil? Did you call it a pen?

DF: A pen. Uh, uh.

BH: Is there anything else about school, that maybe would have been different.

DF: We enjoyed going to get our supplies and we would get new clothing at the same time. They would give us a list of things that we had to buy. And, it was usually a pencil tablet, a pencil, and later on the pens and ink. Um, I don't know whether there, there may have been some booklets that we had to buy. Um, that would have lessons in them. And, we would work the lessons in the book. Um, um, let's see... Oh, we would get crayons, that was always part of the, eight colors of crayons.

BH: Eight colors?

DF: (Laughs). Yes, the box of Crayola crayons, eight of 'em. And, that,

BH: That's a big difference from the forty eight, or fifty two that you get now.

DF: As we got older, then we got sixteen. And, that _____ was very grown up (laughs). Oh, and, we would get new shoes, and a coat, and stockings, and clothes, and, uh, a couple of new dresses.

BH: Where did you do your school shopping?

DF: Mostly at JC Penney's and Montgomery Ward.

BH: Where were those located?

DF: Downtown, on Adams Ave. Montgomery Ward was on, um, for pitty sakes (laughs)... Oh, _____, Washington.

BH: On Washington?

DF: (Laughs) Yeah, one of those senior moments. I have quite a few.

BH: So, JC Penny and Wards were THE place to go school shopping?

DF: Right, right, right.

BH: And, do you remember the types of clothing that you wore?

DF: Well, the shoes, of course, were always heavy brogues to

BH: Brogues?

DF: Brogues. B-R-O-G-U-E. Um, just a heavy shoe to last you through the winter. And, uh, you'd have a pair of boots too. They call them galoshes.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: Um...

BH: Now, were these lined boots, the goulashes.

DF: Yes.

BH: They were for

DF: Well...

BH: Winter?

DF: They were for winter, no they weren't lined. They were just, um, what I would say would be rubber. Rubber boots with buckles. Two or three buckles on them. Um...

BH: Now, you would wear these over the brogue?

DF: Over the shoes. Uh, uh. And, the shoes were ties. You know, it's, uh... They weren't anything really strange. It's just any heavy shoe, to last. Because, you only bought two pair of shoes a year.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: And, uh... And, anklets, we called them.

BH: Are you referring to socks?

DF: Uh, uh. Yup. And, lets see...

BH: Were you required to wear dresses to school, or could you wear pants also?

DF: We weren't required as far as I know. We just did. Um, we got more towards upper grades, in high school, we'd wear skirts and blouses and sweaters. Um, when we were younger, um... Well, the anklets was when we were in high school. But, when we were younger we wore long heavy cotton socks that would cover our knees. Then, when we got to high school and it was winter, we were to proud to wear those. And, so our knees would be very red and almost frostbitten by the time we'd get to school. (laughs). No, there was never any thought of wearing trousers. If, if you had, I don't know what you'd call it. Um, any kind of a suit with pants, um, you would remove them when you got to school. It'd be kind of like a winter, I don't know what I want to say...

BH: More of like a snow pants?

DF: Yeah, snow pants. Yeah, that type of thing. Then you would take them off and wear your dress to school.

BH: Now you mentioned, um, school shopping downtown.

DF: Uh, uh.

BH: Were there other stores that you frequented?

DF: There was Payless. I don't know when that went into LaGrande. Whether that's when I was real young or not. But, that, uh, it would be that type of a store or a stationary store. Where you would get your papers, and, um... You know like typing paper and that type of thing.

BH: Did you family dine out?

DF: Very rarely. Uh, when my dad would get his paycheck, then we would go to a movie and eat out. And, usually when we ate out it was China Mary's Noodle Shop.

BH: Can you tell me more about China Mary's.

DF: It was upstairs on Adams Avenue. And, uh, we'd go to the movie and then go eat. Or, we'd go with the folks dancing and then go up there to eat. And, just everyone would come in that had been at the dance. And, so it was kind of a party atmosphere. You knew everybody and you'd visit and have your bowl of noodles. And, it had, uh, strips of , of, chicken and, um, pieces of hard boiled egg on it. And, uh,

BH: Was this a very formal dining experience?

DF: No, no.

BH: Very casual?

DF: Very casual. Yes. In fact, I don't know of any formal dining (laughs) experience in LaGrande.

BH: You were talking about the noodles. Um, was it a very small menu at China Mary's.

DF: I have a menu.

BH: You do?

DF: Yes, and, uh, I can show that to you later, that we'll, and, um, I have a picture also of people who worked there.

BH: That would be great. So, was this, uh, just a favorite dish of yours or was that quite common...

DF: That's what you had. Unless you went in for lunch. I think they had hamburgers if you wanted a hamburger. But, I think the thing was that you were going to China Mary's for noodles. It was just a foregone conclusion. (laughs).

BH: Now, what about the theater. You said that you would go to the theater.

DF: Yes, um...

BH: Can you tell me more about that?

DF: We had the Granada Theater and the Liberty Theater when I was growing up. There was also one, I think they called the State Theater. And, I only went there once. And that was a funny experience. Because, I went with my cousin Edith Lovins. And, before the lights went out a man came in carrying a watermelon and went up front and sat down in his seat to watch the movie. And, I don't know whether he ate the watermelon there or if he took it home. (Laughs).

BH: A whole watermelon?

DF: Yeah, yeah. (laughs).

BH: So, the Granada Theater was ...

DF: Now, the Granada... Yes, because it was, uh, the westerns and, uh, and I suppose you'd call 'em grade B movies. Um, we'd go every Saturday. Um, costs five cents. And, uh, until you were twelve years old. And, so we would get a lard pail. I don't know if you know what a lard pail...

BH: A lard pail?

DF: A lard pail. It's, um, like a coffee can, um, with a bail or a handle and a lid. And, we'd fill it with candy and cookies and sandwiches, apples, oranges, whatever we wanted to eat and take it to the theater with us. And, then we'd stay through two showings. And, uh, there would usually be, as I recall, there may have been two movies, cartoons, um, I don't think they had news at the Granada. They had that at the Liberty Theater. Um, but you'd just spend the afternoon there and all the cousins would go together.

BH: Um, um.

DF: And enjoy the day and the parents had an afternoon off. (laughs).

BH: So, it was mostly children at the Granada Theater?

DF: Yes.

BH: Was that true also at Liberty?

DF: In the daytime. Now, I am sure adults went in the evening. But, while we was growing up we went in the daytime on Saturday. The Liberty Theater was, um, they had the Shirley Temple... Oh, I think Gone With The Wind was there. There was, uh, what you might call a higher class movie. And, uh, you were more grown up there. There was a balcony at the Liberty Theater. And, they, um... It starts with an M. Well, it doesn't matter.

BH: Starts with an M?

DF: Yeah, it had, had, um, davenports in it and, uh... Where people could rest if they wanted. It was very nice.

BH: So, much more formal?

DF: Yes,

BH: At the Liberty?

DF: And, it cost more.

BH: Could you also bring your own food into the....

DF: We, we never did because about that time a lady had a caramel corn shop just down from the theater. And, you would go there and buy your caramel corn, or pop corn, or other snacks and, uh, like candy bars, and take them with you. It was much later that they ever started having pop corn for sale in the theaters.

BH: And, of course, now it costs more to buy the popcorn than it does to see the movie.

DF: (laughs)

BH: You mentioned the State Theater, but you said you didn't...

DF: I just went there once.

BH: And, what, what kind of...

DF: That was the man with the watermelon.

BH: Okay.

DF: And, I have no idea what the movie was.

BH: Was it, um, was it more informal at the Granada or more ...

DF: I think it was in, informal. Uh, it was probably between the two theaters, the type. Um, but it was noisy, I remember, until the lights went out. Um, but when you went to the Liberty you just didn't make that kind of noise before the movie started. I don't know...

BH: You must of felt it was a much more proper setting than...

DF: Yes, yes. You, you just knew how you were supposed to act when you went different places. And, you just did it.

BH: Was there a difference in dress code?

DF: No, I don't recall that there was. Although, when, when you were getting high school age, um, you were tempted to try out heels, high heels, and hose. And, that made you feel more grown up. So, you acted more grown up.

BH: What other kinds of entertainment did you, um, participate in as a young child, (gets to light to hear).

DF: Well, mostly we played outside. Played games. Um, tag, and hide-n-seek, and, uh, oh, kick the can, um, walked on stilts. You know what stilts are.

BH: Um, um.

DF: And, roller skated, went dancing, um... What else did we do. In the winter, ice skating. And, the older ones went skiing. But, we played in the hills, um, it was just a hike. I had a cousin who lived on up beyond here up at Morgan Lake. And, uh, we'd hike up there to visit for the day. And, it wasn't just the children, but, uh, usually the mothers, and some of the fathers, would just take a day and go visiting. And, you'd just walk to get there. It was about two mile up to Morgan Lake. We'd go up the inside of the hill, instead of following the county road. Uh, we'd just climb up the hill back there. Oh, let's see. Entertainment. Indoors we played, um, board games. Like, um, monopoly and checkers, and Chinese checkers. What other games did we have at the time? Cards. Pinochle, um, plenche (SP), tidily winks,

BH: Now, what is that?

DF: Plenche (SP)? It's a card game where you match numbers. It's almost, kind of similar to playing dominos, in that you, you match your... Uh, that's not right either. You make books. And each card has two numbers on it. I've kind of

forgotten, now it's been so long since I played it. But, that was just one of the card games...

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: That we played.

BH: What kind of work responsibilities did you have as far as chores?

DF: Feed the chickens, gathered the eggs, I say slopped the hogs, I take the buckets of garbage out and feed the hogs. Um, put hay out for the cows, feed the rabbits, um, carry water. Um, up here the water was the creek, _____ Canyon Creek goes by here. And, there was a spring up on the hill that they had attached pipes to, to bring it down for the dairy. Um, and then there was a spring down at the foot of our house, down the hill. Uh, there were 88 steps going down the front of the house. You'd cross the road and go down into the canyon there and get water from the spring in buckets and carry it back up. And, that was your drinking water.

BH: Was this a daily responsibility?

DF: Oh, yes.

BH: Once a day or more often.

DF: Probably once, because there would be several of you and you'd all bring buckets of water. Then, when we had a garden out here, we'd go across and carry water in buckets, dip it into the creek, and bring the water over and water the garden from there. Then, when we moved in here, when I was seven, my dad hooked up the water from the springs and brought it into the house. And, I remember vividly that occasion when he turned on the faucet and he said "There you are mom, there's your water." (laughs).

BH: So, no more 88 steps to the creek?

DF: Um, I guess not. But, we still watered the garden from carrying it up there. Um, we had to carry water for bath water. Because, there was no bathroom in the house. There was an outhouse built into the barn. So, you would go out there. But, for taking your bath, you'd take the laundry tub, the galvanized tub, and put it down on the floor of the kitchen and heat the water on the wood stove. And, then pour it into the tub and then you would take turns bathing there. When the once that was the most clean, as a kid, up to the adults. And, in between baths and you'd just add some more hot water.

BH: So, you several, uh, siblings during that time. It must have been, uh...

DF: I had a brother that was younger and a sister that was older, then my dad's two boys lived with us off and on. Uh, I don't remember them living with us a lot. But, I know they did live up here and, uh, so they would have been part of the bathing regime. (laughs).

BH: So, it must have been a treat to have the first bath?

DF: Yes, yes. (laughs). I think I quite often was the first one.

BH: You got to have the first bath?

DF: Yes.

BH: Because you were the cleanest?

DF: I was the cleanest.

BH: And, then the one who was the dirtiest had to go last?

DF: Then my sister and then my brother. Because he played in the dirt a lot. And, then my mom and then my dad. Those were fine times. I feel I lived in the best of times.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: We didn't know what we didn't have. We had all we.... (end of tape)

Dorothy Fleshman, narrator

Brenda Lawson, interviewer

October 17, 2004

Tape 1, side 1

BH: Remind me who I am visiting with today.

DF: I am Dorothy Swart Fleshman.

BH: Um, we're going to start, uh, talking about school today. And, I would just like to ask you what was it like for going to school in Union County.

DF: I first attended the Central School at 4th Street and K Avenue. It was known as the school of the first through the 8th grade. Um, it faced 4th Street. It was a brick building, some of the bricks in it had been used, and stuff had been, the um, the cabinets, the Blue Mountain University when it was torn down. It was in the same place as where they built _____. And, um, some of the bricks went into the making of that. There were stone steps leading up to a double wide wooden door. And, when you would in through this door, you were always met by the janitor. And, his name was Zachary Lilly, L-I-L-L-Y. We called him Zach, but of course the students always referred to him as Mr. Lilly. And, he was usually leaning on one of these wide brooms, like you'd sweep the garage with, only it was a soft broom, so that it was polished and the oil the wood floors. And, he always kept them shining so nicely. And, he would always greet every child that came into the school. By the end of the school year, he usually knew each of the names of all the students in the 8th grade. He was a wonderful man. And, he always enjoyed _____ when we'd leave for Christmas vacation, he would, uh, say "Well, I'll see you next year," as though that was going to be a long time. Of course, next year was as soon as Christmas vacation was over. That was something he did every year (laughs). And, you got to expect it as you got older, and yet _____.

BH: Was he there throughout your time in school?

DF: Yes, yes, he was. In fact, he stayed quite a bit longer. He's gone now. He was the father of Kenneth Lilly, who has retired as the principal in the school. Anyway, uh, first grade I had Mrs. Stella, S-T-E-L-L-A, um, Ingle, I-N-G-L-E, and, uh, she was a very nice lady. But, she was stern. And, being first graders we were all rather terrified what school might hold for us. She had a policy that no one could go to the rest room, except during recess. And, so of course, there's always a lot of little puddles on the floor. (laughs). And around the seats. Our seats were wooden, with metal. And, then they were fastened together. That kept them in rows. And, then the runners were fastened to the floor. So, they were very sturdy desks. And, placed just inside, it wasn't a door, but just a little shelf

under the table cloth to put your supplies. And, on top there was a hole for an ink well and, also, a place to put your pencils and pens. Um, when we went the first day, I was five years old. And, my birthday was September 10th. So, we always had school just before my birthday. Because, then we were out for Labor Day and when we came back I was a year older. So, school started I was five, and then I was six. And, we met with the teacher. The room had windows, long, tall windows, along one side of the room. And, there was a cloak room, that went along one whole side. One wall. And, you'd hang you coats and put your lunches in that. And, then, uh, the one wall was given over to a black board and a chalk railing and erasers. And, across the top, um, on printed cardboard, as I recall, it was black with white lettering. And, it had script writing, and printed writing. The upper and lower case. And, so then you learned your alphabet, um, form big letters and how to write. We had the Palmer printing method. So, when you went to town to buy supplies, you got pencil tablets. But, we also got one that had, um, wide lines and then a little dotted line through the middle of it. And, you could learn to print or write by using the whole or the half of the line to make all of the letters the same height. And, lets see. When we went to town we got those and we got the Crayola Crayons. One box of eight. And, we go several number two pencils.

BH: We you responsible for bringing your own supplies?

DF: Oh, yes. Yep.

BH: Do you recall if there were students that didn't have the money to buy supplies, how that would be handled in the school system?

DF: If they didn't, we didn't know about it. It was done quietly. And, I'm sure there were some. But, I was never aware that anyone without anything. Um, when we went to town and bought our clothing for the year, uh, we'd get a pair of nice heavy shoes, that would last a year. And, uh, boots that are goulashes that would buckle. And, um, then, heavy brown socks, they'd be kind of like panty hose of today, only real heavy. And, uh, we would wear those in the winter to keep warm. Uh, we always wore dresses. We didn't wear slack/pants like they do now.

BH: Did you teacher also wear a dress?

DF: Um, she wore a dress. Yes, always. And, um, we'd quite often work skirts and blouses. And, the boys wore, um, overalls mostly. Because coming from a rural community, they wore heavy shirts and overalls. As we got older the boys wore jeans and then, finally, in high school, it was kind of dress pants. But, uh, all through school the girls always wore skirts or a dress.

BH: No, the male teachers. Did they wear a suit and tie?

DF: Yes, yes they did. So, that pretty well tells about the first grade

BH: Okay, so we are talking about the first grade. So, what happened after that?

DF: But, then I was promoted to the second grade. And, uh, I had Susanna Deal, that spelled D-E-A-L, Susanna Deal. And, she never married and never had children. But, she was a very kind, helpful, loving woman. And, she, her students showed that by the way they behaved and learned. In the middle of the year, they must have had to many children in the third grade. Because, they asked about half of our class to move into the third grade, so that they had two third grades. And, the

second grade, evidently, was too big too. And, I was one of them that was taken into the third grade. And, our classroom was down in the basement. And, the basement was, uh, a dark, a very dark place. And, uh, one side was a, the girls restroom and the cafeteria, that they had later on. They didn't have it right at first. But, they did have a room where you could go in and eat your lunch. And, then the furnace, evidently, was either coal or wood furnace, was in the center. Then, on the other side, was the boys restrooms and the classroom. And, we'd have to go down from the main floor, from the main floor, the boys would lineup and go down one stairway to the basement and the girls would lineup and go down the other stairway to the basement. So, that they were going opposite directions. Then they'd end up at the restroom. The only time that you could go on the other side was if the boys came to the lunchroom to, or if the girls went to the third grade room. And, we were told not to look in those boys restroom when we went by there. Because, they were so straight. Everything was just kept very much boys here, girls there.

BH: Did you have a sense of that at the time, um, of that separation?

DF: Yes, we did. Uh, not to the point where we questioned it particularly. We just knew that was what was expected of us. You girls line up here, you boys line up there. And, we would go out of the room two by two. But, um, we didn't think a great deal of it, because that was just the way it was. Um, Imogene Russell, that's I-M-O-G-E-N-E Russell, R-U-S-S-E-L-L-, was the teacher there.

BH: In third grade?

DF: In third grade, down in the basement.

BH: Was it warm down in the basement, was there a difference in the temperature?

DF: A little bit different. But, not bad. Um, the room was a little darker, but there a few windows and, of course, we had lights. Um, I would not recommend doing that to a student now, after looking back. We, uh, the next year things changed and we took the third grade over again. Because of the number of students.

BH: You wouldn't recommend changing, moving a student up?

DF: No, no I wouldn't.

BH: Okay.

DF: Because, I lost a whole half a year of second grade. And, that was a very important grade to get the basics. Um, eventually, _____ recovery pretty much. But, I felt that school was harder for a while because I had not been taught certain things.

BH: And, then you repeated the third grade.

DF: Yes.

BH: Because of changes in policy, or...

DF: I think that just the number of children. Um, I can't now why that happened. But, I just remember being in third grade a year and a half. And a half a year in second. It was kind of strange, but that's the way it was.

BH: And, that entire time was with Ms. Russell?

DF: As far as I can remember.

BH: Okay. So, then once you advanced into fourth grade, then did things sort of taper out as far as changing?

DF: Fourth grade was back on the main floor and was over in the northwest corner, with Mrs. _____ Mahaffny, M-A-H-A-F-F-N-Y, I believe. And, she was another very stern teacher. Um, we heard warnings from everyone about Mrs. Mahaffny being mean and how she would hit your hands with the ruler and all these things, or shake the boys around. I would...

BH: Was hitting the hand with the ruler for discipline?

DF: Yes.

BH: For behavioral discipline or academic discipline?

DF: No, for behavioral. And, I never had any trouble with her because I did my work and I was very quiet. I didn't make any waves. And, it was usually just the older, taller boys who would chew gum and talk out of place, or push each other, little things. Just being boys. There were a few girls, no very many, who, uh, uh, maybe got a tongue lashing. Um, but chewing gum in school was one of the worst offenses. Um, when I was in an older class, the male teacher brought a boy up front, um, by the neck, by the hair on the back of his head. And, that was very painful. And, he took him up to the waste basket and had him spit out his gum. That, that was not a nice class. (laughs).

BH: What were the other discipline policies like in school?

DF: Go see the principal, um, you might have to write on the blackboard and number of times, some saying, um, you might be getting more lessons to do, uh, you might get a note home to your parents, that you didn't want to take.

BH: Was spanking allowed in school?

DF: Uh, I'm not positive. There may have been a swat or two. Something like that. I'm not aware there was any beatings.

BH: Were the spanking administered from the principal or from the teacher?

DF: The teacher usually, with a ruler on the seat of the pants. But, uh, I think that at the time of the real beatings had passed. Um...

BH: Had you heard of beatings in the school? Did you have some knowledge of that, or...

DF: In, in the long ago past, they would say that they used to beat. So, we went with the fear that we were going to be beaten. But, it didn't happen. Other than the ones that were misbehaving and got a swat. Um, you could, uh, you might wash woodwork, or some cleaning, uh, job to pay for whatever you did wrong. But, um...

BH: How long was the school day?

DF: I suppose it was 8 to... Well, the lower grades probably got out at 2:30-3:00. But, as you got in the upper grades that was 8:00 to 4:00 or 5:00 for high school.

BH: And, how were you transported to and from school?

DF: Walked (laughs).

BH: Did most people walk?

DF: Oh, yes. Yes. Even the ones from... Oh, not way out in the county, because the schools were divided in areas. But, it was not unusual to walk two miles, two or three miles. Um, I lived at the end of 4th Street, 4th and C. That was, oh what, half a mile, three quarters of a mile, something like that. Um, when I then lived later up on Alder and walked to the college. That was probably close to the three miles. In all weather. It didn't matter how cold or hot it was, you know. You

just dress accordingly and got outside and hurried. But, we were all together, you know, it was kind of fun. That was your social time. Joining in with the others that were walking to school.

BH: Uh, um. Now, we talked about fourth grade, what about fifth grade?

DF: The fifth grade, um, my folks and our family had moved to Island City. I don't know if it is important where I had lived during the earlier years. We moved a time or two. Seemed like my family moved a lot. But, we were never out of Central School area, except this one time. That was big drag. We moved to Island City and I started the year there. And, I remember the playgrounds. That was where I was queen of the merry-go-round. (laughs). And, to study, we had three grades in one room. There first through the third in one room and fourth through the sixth in another room. And, then seventh and eighth in a third room. And our fifth grade was in the middle, of course, the fifth. And, uh, the fourth and the sixth grade. That didn't seem to be a problem. We had, um, a very good woman teacher, Harriet Singleton.

BH: What was it like transferring schools at that age.

DF: I thought it was going to be bad. But, the children in the school were so friendly, that I was immediately accepted and just loved it there. And, we were there... We had a fair at the first of the year, and, for the school. Like a fair, at... I couldn't find anything to take. We each had to bring something to show at the fair. And, my dad dug around in our potato bin and found a real odd shaped potato with a lot of different parts to it. So, I took that to the table and it won a first prize. (laughs).

BH: (Laughs)

DF: See how nice they were to me. And, then I was in a play at the, I guess it was just a community hall or it could have been a church. But, it was a Christmas play and I couldn't remember my lines and I'd not had a good... I had the ability to memorize things. So, they had to cue me a lot to get me through that play. Then, um... Oh my, what parts would be important about the Island City School. They had a harmonica band. We'd go over to the 8th grade room and that was our band is everybody playing harmonicas. (laughs) I enjoyed that, it was my first taste of that type of music.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: My mother's family had been very musical with the Swiss Heritage, and that they had, uh, sung professionally, and yodeled and all of that. But, this was my first chance to try an instrument. And, I think that's the way it was for a lot of the children who were in it.

BH: Were they loaned to the students or did you.....

DF: We had to buy our own.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: I got a Homer Harmonica. (laughs). That was very important. Then after Christmas, we were transferred back to LaGrande and, uh, and I came into the fifth grade back at Central. Because, we moved back into Old Town.

BH: And, what was that like? Transferring again? Did you find the same sort of friendliness when you came back?

DF: That was not the best, uh, for me personally. Because, the friendships had already been formed, even though I moved most of the students hadn't gone to school with me in the fourth grade. Just being away, say three to four months, things had changed. And, uh, there was one time that it, I just really, really hurt because I was given a part in a play. It wasn't a play, it was just a musical. Oh, each class had to contribute some, something musical. And, we had, it was supposed to be a Japanese scene with flowers and the main person, I don't know why, stood in the center and at a certain time everybody would line up like flowers coming in bloom. And, I was given the part. During the rehearsal a mother came in and talked with the teacher. And, then after she left, the teacher told me that they were going to, that I was to be a flower. That I would be one of the flowers. The daughter of the mother that came in was then the center. And, it did upset me. Upset. But, um, I had been so proud to have that part and then I knew why I had been taken out. And, it didn't seem quite fair. So, that, the fifth year wasn't really nice. But, then I went into the sixth grade.

BH: Same school?

DF: Same school. (mumbling, couldn't understand). (Laughs) And, that seemed to go alright. I don't remember much about sixth grade actually.

BH: Who was your teacher?

DF: I don't even remember that. It's funny how is just a few things will be in your memory and, and there's really no good reason.

BH: Was that your last year at Central then?

DF: No, then I went into seventh grade. And, that was where, what I remember about that was that, uh, we had a music period, in which we would sit with our eyes closed and listen to music and try to pick out the instruments. And, uh, we would learn to recognize the different instruments in there. And, that was about the time I went to my cousins house and he played the clarinet. And, he let me try his clarinet. Then I knew I wanted to play clarinet in the band.

BH: Do you remember the teacher in seventh grade?

DF: No, I don't. Um, in the eighth grade then, we, we went from class to class just upstairs there in Central School. And, so we had several teachers.

BH: What were some of the activities that you were involved in during early years of school?

DF: I don't remember anything in particular. The early elementary years, we would go outside at recess and swing and, uh, climb the poles that held up the swings. They were metal, like a tent and the swings would hang down and then you would swing up the metal poles. And, that's about all there was out there. In the wintertime, you'd throw snowballs, um, play tag. We would, the windows in the basement were real wide. And, you could sit in those windows on the ledge and read or eat lunch if the weather was nice. We'd play jacks, I don't know if you know what that is. What jacks are with the ball? That was kind of a favorite sport. Not sport, but game. And, that's about all, because the rest of the time was taken up with school. We did some art work, that type of thing. Um, it was when I got to the eighth grade, then I could join the band and, so, I was in "B" Band with the clarinet. And, we would practice over at the high school. Then, we

graduated from Central School. And, it was a graduation a lot smaller, but similar to the high school graduation. We felt that we had...

BH: Was it a formal ceremony, then?

DF: Yes, uh,uh. Not a big one, but just an acknowledgement and, uh... Oh, my sister was graduating from high school and the folks gave her a Lane Cedar Chest. And, because I wasn't getting the large chest, because I wasn't graduating from high school, I got a small one. And, it had a mirror inside. And, I still have that. And, uh, a watch. That was my first watch. I'd never had one before. And, my dad had gone to town and picked it out for me. So, that was a very special occasion.

BH: Was it, did it include a celebration with your family, or...?

DF: No, no. They just came to the graduation and got the gifts. That was all.

BH: Where did you go to high school?

DF: Right behind Central. (laughs).

BH: You didn't go very far away, did you?

DF: No, I didn't. Um, the high school was built right next to the old Central School. And, uh, between back behind the two schools, was a long building that housed, um, a gymnasium on one floor and a band room and orchestra room upstairs. And, then downstairs was a room for a shop where mostly boys learned how to use tools. And, they could make, maybe they'd make a cedar chest, or a table, or something like that in that classroom. There were classrooms for, um, um, foreign languages and gymnasium, not gymnasium, shower rooms for boys and for girls. Because, everyone took gym. Um, let's see...

BH: When you were in your gym class, were you required to dress down in gym clothes.

DF: Oh, yes.

End of Tape 1, Side 1

Tape 1, Side 2

BH: You were recalling the uniform for gym class.

DF: As I recall, they were blue shorts and white blouses. And, that's, we dressed whether we were exercising in the gymnasium or if we were out on the field playing baseball or, um, we had a little bit of archery, that sort of thing. Ran around the track.

BH: When you were indoors, did it require special shoes?

DF: Yes, we all had tennis shoes.

BH: Tennis shoes.

DF: Yeah, uh, uh, yes. The four years in high school were very good. Um, I became involved in the band, um, eventually I got into the "A" Band. And, I was also in Orchestra. And, I was able to follow journalism in a class and I learned typing. I took Camera Club, so that I learned to develop film, take pictures and develop, print the pictures. Um, I was in the girls league, which kind of oversaw the girls in the high school to be sure that they were accepted into different groups. And, I wrote for the school newspaper. And, then helped publish the _____ at the

end of the year when we graduated out of school in 1944. I felt good about high school.

BH: Did you drive when you were in high school?

DF: Oh, no. No. I didn't drive until I was close to 30 years old. I had no interest in driving and cars weren't that available. The family had a car, and if they wanted to take you someplace or if you needed to go someplace. My mother would drive the car with band kids to go to Baker City to play in the band for the football games or the other towns nearby. But, uh, there were very few students who had cars. There were no worries about where they were going to park. There was a bicycle rack, quite a few of them road bicycles. But, we mostly walked.

BH: Were you involved in any kinds of activities outside of school during those years?

DF: Just during the war. I folded bandages for the Red Cross. And, I helped with the selling, not selling, but giving doughnuts to the troop trains that went through LaGrande. That was all during the war.

BH: What was the general feeling like in a small community like LaGrande, during the time of war?

DF: Very cooperative. Everything was for the war effort and the boys... It was mainly boys, there was one girl from my graduating class that went into the service. And, made clear of it that all the others from the class were boys. Um, but everyone was very supportive of them.

BH: Was there a lot of discuss about wars then?

DF: Well, yes. Uh, townspeople, uh, did talk a lot about war. It was a lot, um... My dad was a, um, a guard, a home guard, wore a uniform. And, uh, he would go around to see if there were to be black outs, that people had their shades pulled and, um, they gathered iron to be sent away to be made into war equipment. Um,...

BH: Can you say more about the blackouts?

DF: I don't think we had very many of them. Um, there was a scare at one time with airplanes flying over. They were afraid they would be enemy planes. They had spotters to watch for airplanes. They would the duty and they would stay in a certain place and, uh, report on any planes going over. I had a classmate who did that. And, uh, she took it very seriously. But, nothing ever happened.

BH: So, do you recall practicing doing sort of a drill for a blackout or actually having a blackout?

DF: Not really. We had fire drills at school. But, um, I don't know. We just lived. (laughs).

BH: The idea then would be if there was an enemy plane in the area, then everyone... Would there be some sort of and alarm that would sound?

DF: We did have a drill. I had forgotten about that. From the school. We had to go home and keep track of how long it took us. So, that they could figure out if, if you lived to far away, if it took you too long to go home, then they arranged for houses closer to the school. You'd be assigned to go to the house. But, like I said, nothing every happened. But, they were prepared, but... Which was good.

BH: Was there, um, discussion from your teacher regarding the war?

DF: Just... (mumbling). Whatever was going on...

BH: More of an update of information?

DF: We didn't have television. Um, we didn't have access to World News like we do now. You'd read it in your newspaper or hear it on the radio. But, it just wasn't the same as getting this day to day, update with pictures. It was something that out there, you knew it was happening. And, you prepared for it. But, it didn't seem quite as real as it is now. It was a sad time, especially when _____ started coming in. But, uh...

BH: The news that you were receiving through newspaper or on the radio, was that mostly, um, old news?

DF: Yeah, by the time it got here. Uh, uh.

BH: Okay.

DF: Um, we, uh, in school, we had what we called the victory corp. And, we sold, um, war stamps and bonds to support the war effort. And, we gave up a lot of things. There were stamps to buy sugar and gasoline, and things like that, uh, and shoes...

BH: What do you mean by stamps? Is it sort of a government program?

DF: Yes, yes. It was ration stamps where you would sign up and get a book for your family. And, then you would tear out these stamps whenever you got, like a bag of sugar, or a pair of shoes, or a gallon of gasoline. You'd have to pay with these stamps. You had to pay money, but you had to have a stamp in order, or they wouldn't sell it to you. And, then, uh, there was a savings stamps, were little green stamps that you would stick in a book and when you had enough in there you could trade it in for a war bond savings. And, go to the Post Office and buy the stamps and then there was a place to leave the book, so that eventually you would get the money. But, at that time you were supporting the war efforts by buying these stamps or bonds.

BH: What sources of employment over the years?

DF: Well, while I was in school, I would baby sit, and I did house cleaning. And, I had a paper route for the Observer. Then, I was a nurses aid at St. Joe's Hospital for a while. And, uh, my aunt ran the hospital laundry out back of the hospital and so I worked out there for a while too. That's quite an interesting, um, part of how things were done for the hospital. Then, I worked in the Key Harvest, and also, I done work in the harvesting of strawberries, cherries, and green beans, other fruit.

BH: Now, while you were a student worker, were you allowed to keep all of your wages, or was that to help the family?

DF: I think I pretty well got to keep it. Um, we, um, we would buy birthday and Christmas gifts for people. And, if there was a movie, that was our prime entertainment, was go to the movie.

BH: So, you were able to pay for a lot of the extra things that you wanted to do?

DF: Yes, it just, uh, so that the folks didn't have to buy all these things when the money was close. It just made it a little easier. And, the price that you got paid wasn't all that much. (laughs). Like you would baby sit for hours and hours for a quarter. But, it didn't amount to much. But, it gave you the feeling of you were learning something, you were being independent, um, and responsible. It was a good training to have these small jobs available for students.

BH: When you worked for different companies, were there minimum wage laws at that time?

DF: Oh, no.

BH: So, they could pay you whatever they wanted.

DF: Whatever you would accept.

BH: And, as a student, of course, you work for a lot less than other employees?

DF: Yes, yes. Because, you weren't full time. These were all just part time or a one time job. And, when I was older I, um, counted cars for the State, with my mother or my sister. And, we would go out and sit in the, a vehicle, and count the cars and trucks, each way they were going on the highway, so that, uh, this would help the State know where the traffic was and what kind of traffic was on it. That was kind of interesting. They paid pretty well. (laughs). Only, we didn't do that very long. Oh, and I sold ice cream and sandwiches, and, uh... They called me a Soda Jerk. Um, then I worked for Montgomery Wards as a clerk and also in the catalog department. Of course, I was a reporter and an editor for the two newspapers in town. The Observer and Eastern Oregon Review.

BH: NOTE TO EDITOR: Please see tape 2 for that next addition.

DF: And, I was a clerk, a reality clerk for a while. Also, I was a church secretary. I was a waitress, I sang for funerals and weddings. I did ironing and house cleaning. And, uh, just, uh, any little job that came along that someone needed something done I guess. Maybe there was some pay for it, maybe there wasn't. It was a good training ground for, uh, being responsible. And, learning any kind of a trade really.

BH: Did you attend college?

DF: Yes, I did. I went to Eastern Oregon College. That was, um, the same year I graduated in 1944, and then that Fall. Uh, in the summertime I worked for the Observer and they gave me a scholarship to go to the college. Which I did. And, I was there for four terms. And, then I didn't complete the course. I got the job in town and ...

BH: Did you stay with your parents or did you live on campus during that time?

DF: I stayed with my parents, because, uh, well, they were called _____. And, very few of the people who lived in town stayed in the dorms. They were all people from, students from out of town. And, you'd of had to pay, pay money for it. And, uh, it was easier, cheaper, if you were going to go to college at all, to live with your parents.

BH: What was it like going to college?

DF: I thoroughly enjoyed it. Um, I started to blossom a little bit, I think. I did much better in my studies. I was accepted by the students. I was the co-editor of the college newspaper when it was called the Beacon. I played in the band and the orchestra. And, it, uh, it was a very nice time.

BH: How were the professors then?

DF: Nice people. (laughs) Uh, uh.

BH: Did you feel like there was a lot of one on one interaction with the students, or was there more a lecture type, you just went and listened?

DF: You'd take notes while you were in class. But, if you needed extra help, or, it, uh, it's a friendly situation. The students, of course now, were more mature. So, it

wasn't like high school or grade school, where they would be noisy or anything like that. They were more of a studious.

BH: Did you find the classroom experience in college to be the same sort of orderly, organized way that it was in earlier years of school.

DF: Pretty much.

BH: And, what about a dress code, was that still a very formal – girls wear dresses?

DF: Mostly, skirts and blouses and sweaters.

BH: And, then the boys, what was their dress code in college?

DF: It was a little more dressy. Um, there may have been some jeans, but, uh, mostly there were dress pants and sweaters, shirts and sweaters. Neat, neat and clean. You didn't have to be fancy. Um, there wasn't much, um, thought to find, um, oh, famous brand or anything like that.

BH: Did you ever notice any sort of separation between campus and community?

DF: There was, um, we were aware of it. But, didn't know why. Um, I never got to involved in that. I had friends, I didn't pay attention whether they lived in the dorm or if they lived in town. It was the person. I didn't, wasn't involved in, uh, _____.

BH: Did you see more, more cultural diversity once you entered into college life, and what was, what was familiar to you in this school.

DF: Cultural?

BH: As far as any racism, were there people that come from different backgrounds.

DF: No.

BH: No.

DF: No. I didn't. Um, we had, um... You see during that time is still war time. And, when I got out was when the service men were coming back. And, so there were mostly girls. There were some boys, all right. Yes. But, uh, um, the makeup of the school was different than it was later. But, in high school we didn't have that.

BH: In what way?

DF: Well, like they always asked "What about the black population?" We elected a black student as our class president.

BH: In high school?

DF: Yes, yes. We didn't see them any differently than anybody else. They were our friends and, uh... Maybe, I, being shy, I wasn't about to get in a lot of things, but, uh, I wasn't aware if there was much. We, we did know that there were certain classes of people. Like the rich, the middle class, and maybe a little lower class. But, um, you could cross classes whenever you wanted to. It wasn't, you were just aware that some people than any of the other people. But, it didn't mean that you couldn't be friends. It was the understanding.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: That's what I was kind of... The college was a _____.

BH: So, when you left college then you continued to work for a while?

DF: For a while at Montgomery Ward and that was when George walked into my life.

BH: Do you want to tell me about that?

DF: Well, he, um, had been in the service and before that he had worked at Montgomery Wards as a window fellow. So, he came back to see if he could get his old job back. And, of course he did. So, we were both working at the store.

But, my first, first time I saw him was, I'd gone to a high school basketball game, with a friend, a girlfriend and we were a little late. And, we walked in the door and looked across the court and, um, there was George with another friend, who was a friend of both of us. So, we went over there to sit with them, and so I looked across there and saw him. I went "Oh, I'd like to marry him." So, we went over and I thought he didn't pay attention to me. Then the ball game was over, and we all went home. Then, he walked in with this same friend into Wards and I made sure that I turned around, as soon as I was done putting my purse away at lunch time. (Tape garbled) right there so, that I could meet him again. And, he started working at the store, of course. We dated, that was in September, right after our birthdays. His was the 7th and mine was the 10th. And, then we were engaged in October and married December 21st.

BH: Wow.

DF: I knew that I (laughs) who I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.

BH: So, when did you start, when did you decide to start a family?

DF: Oh, it was about a couple years later. Uh, George finished school up here, at the college. And, we, we spent the first winter in his folks' home as I mentioned so that they could south. And, then when they came back in the spring, we lived in a trailer on the college property. They had housing for service people. And, we stayed there for the rest of that spring. And, then in the summertime, we moved down to Eugene, so that he could finish school down at the University of Oregon. Then, we moved to Salem, so he could be in Montgomery Ward Manager Training Program. And, uh, let's see. We were there for a while. We had our first son, was born in Salem. And the other two later came along a couple years apart.

BH: So, in Salem or back in LaGrande?

DF: In Salem.

BH: So, you didn't have your children in LaGrande?

DF: No.

BH: But, did they go to school here?

DF: Yes, they were here a lot, because most of our family were here. And, every chance we'd get we'd come home. It was as though we never left. And, even though we were gone for over 15 years. But, we came back when the boys were junior high age. So, they started school here in junior high. Uh, Randy was the one... We were here a few months, in the late 50's, 57, 56, something like that. (mumbling in background). Um, our middle boy was in the first grade here, um, and, uh, the older boy in the third grade. And the younger boy, of course, he was too young. But, then we had to go back to Salem, and, uh, then when we came back the second time to stay, then they were... Let's see, Randy, Randy, Randy did go to Willow. Huh, all three boys went to Willow School for a time. And, then to the junior high school. And, high school and then after that they graduated from the college.

BH: So, you had three boys. What was it like for them coming back to a small community and a _____ school?

DF: Oh, it was no problem to them, because they had been here so much. And, the knew so much family and friends that, um, in living here those few months and

been here for every vacation, Christmas, Thanksgiving, summertime. We were just here. And, in Salem, you can go there with 50,000 people. It still had a small town feeling. And, the area we were in, the schools (garbled taped) weren't really very good. So, the transition was not, not bad at all.

BH: Were you working at this time, while they were in school or were you a stay at home mother?

DF: I, I went to work as a church secretary in Salem, um, when they were in school. Um, but it was only across the block from where we lived. And, I could be home before they got home from school. So, even though I was working out part time, that way, I still was a stay at home mother. _____ for the children was a prime importance.

BH: And, did you continue that when you moved back here?

DF: No, I had, um, I didn't for a while, and then I was a secretary here for a short time. Just a fill in for sicklies. And, um, then, off and on, I worked for the newspapers and, and the electric company (???).

BH: Were you involved with any school activities with your boys, like PTA?

DF: Um, yes. (Garbled tape) PTA.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: Oh, we had been an Indian Guide and Boy Scouts. Uh, (Tape is muffled) . I don't know.

BH: What was it like raising the boys and a family?

DF: I don't know. (laughs) We didn't have any problems.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: We had our rules and, uh, they abided by them. They were good boys. And, uh, they were actors, they were into a lot of things. And, uh, I don't really know how to address this question. They were athletic at, at like school, hiking, and things like that. Not, like for football, or anything like that.

BH: They liked the outdoor activities?

DF: Yes.

BH: Did they like to hunt and camp?

DF: Not hunt.

BH: No?

DF: No, they did a little bit, but not much. It was nice _____, things like that.

BH: Now, when your boys graduated and because they went to college here, and then did they get married and move on, or

DF: I'm afraid so. No, no. Two of them married local girls and the other one married one from The Dalles. And, then in order to get, um, _____ families. The oldest and the youngest were into computers. And, um, they moved around the valley, so that they could have _____ there. And, um, the middle boy, um, had been in the service and then it turned out that he got into, um, the Postal Department. And, then his wife, uh, uh, had physical problems so she had to have a lot of time. And, so they went to Nevada. So, they are all gone. _____ (laughs).

BH: Do you have any grandchildren?

DF: Yes. Um, let's see, the youngest had two girls, the middle had two girls, and they lost a little boy, and then the oldest had a boy and girl. And, uh, _____, um, the two older granddaughters each have three children. So, we have great-grandchildren. And, then, the oldest had, uh, one girl, had married and has a child. Then, the youngest, those two are not married at this point.

BH: Well, I think, uh, you had a very special Christmas gift one time, that involved your son. Can you tell me about that?

DF: That's probably the doll house. I was always never quite grew up, because I liked doll houses and paper dolls, and dolls, and things like that.

End of Tape 1, Side B

Dorothy Fleshman, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
November 4, 2004
Tape 2, side 1

BH: It's November 4th and I am here... Is it November 4th?

DF: Yes. It's the 4th.

BH: It's November 4th and I am here with Dorothy Swart Fleshman. Um, and we are going to talk about what happened after graduation and you started working _____. So, can you tell me what your first job was after graduation?

DF: It wasn't immediately after graduation. But, in late summer, I got to go _____ newspaper _____. And, I applied for a job with a Mrs. _____. And, she hired me as a, as a reporter. And, uh, so that fall I went to work at the newspaper. And, the next school year, they asked me if I would like a scholarship and go to Northern College and continue my, my education. And, maybe get into being a journalist. And, uh, so I did that. And, they gave me a scholarship for \$75.00 and that paid my years tuition. It was for three terms. And, um, I had to buy my own books, but they had a lot of used books. So, it didn't cost a great deal to get the books that I needed for the classes. And, going to college seemed to (tape gets too quiet. I have used the several different kinds of speakers on this). My grades came much easier than they did in high school. And, I enjoyed being in college and I took up, um, band and orchestra along with the regular and needed classes. I did try German. But, I dropped out when I couldn't, just couldn't seem to, uh, understand and learn the language at that time. But, otherwise, everything went very well. And, I became co-editor of the Beacon-Hudson(???) Newspaper.

BH: When do you suppose you became interested in journalism?

DF: It probably backs up to when I was about in the third grade. My teacher, she found out that something about the history of Union County. And, I _____ about Union County. I went to visit my Aunt _____. Because, across the street from her was what used to be the old club house. It was on Cedar and B Avenue. And, the house that is still there, but of course is still no longer used as a club house. People by the name of Russell lived there at that time. But, now _____ it had been the club house. And the fact that

there was home of _____ that had settled at Old Town. Then, uh, from there, I guess I had imagination and wanted to write stories, so I would put things down on paper then. I got acquainted with the Librarian, Lucy Wagner, at the Public Library in the children's department. And, she, uh, encouraged me in my writings. When I would write something, I'd take it to her, she would look it over and make suggestions or any corrections. But, even though I now know that it was very primary, she encouraged me all along the way, even up into high school. When I got on the school newspaper, the Tiger Highlight, and she was still there for me. She was a very strong influence in my young life.

BH: Were you more interested in writing stories then, or in editing, or what, what part of the business really drew you?

DF: It was the writing. But, I, I didn't do to well in writing stories. That's what I tried to do. I found that what I really was strongest in was _____. So, I began researching the history of Union County and collecting data and that. And, so, that's what have the files of little notes. But, uh, things about Union County.

BH: So, this love of Union County and writing and journalism, led you into another interesting career really.

DF: Yes, with the newspaper. When I finished college though, I didn't go back to the newspaper. And, I wondered to this day why not. Um, I got a job at Montgomery Ward in the catalog department and there (laughs) I met my husband, George Fleshman, who was coming in the door with a friend of mine. And, uh, I had just gotten back from lunch. So, I very slowly put my purse away and arranged turn around about the time they got to the catalog desk, so that my friend, Myrna would have to introduce me to the fellow that she was with.

BH: So, this was a life changing moment?

DF: Yes, it was. Uh, uh, I found out that he was a window dresser at Montgomery Wards before he went into the service. When he came back, uh, he was trying to again to get a position there, _____. And, of course, the, uh, they told _____ as a couple there in the store, went to a movie, as I recall. And, uh, we then met in September, just after our birthdays. His was the 7th and mine was the 10th. We met just after that. And, we were engaged in October and then we married on the 21st of December of 1946. So, we didn't waste time, I guess along towards _____. Why don't you marry. Um, at that time, he was finishing school up here at the college. So, we lived in a, um, trailer house on the college campus for a short time, before moving to Eugene, where he wanted to finish his schooling at the University of Oregon. While there, I played in the university summer band and, uh, with my clarinet because music was always a very strong part of my life too. And, um, and then from there we moved to Salem, where George was in management training with Montgomery Ward. We had a home in Salem and, uh, had three sons that we raised to teenage in Salem. At that time, we moved back to LaGrande because he was transferred with the Social Security Administration to LaGrande Office. And,

BH: _____.
Now, when you returned to LaGrande, did you return to work?

DF: No, I didn't. And, I was raising the boys. I had to work as a secretary at, in a church in Salem. Um, so when I was here in LaGrande, I filled in for the woman

- who was the secretary of the Christian Church for a couple weeks while she was on vacation. But, basically, I didn't, wasn't employed for quite some time, not 'til later on.
- BH: What kind of work was it that you continued in after _____ raising kids?
- DF: I did, uh, work at the newspaper for a while. Um, but I had another job too. It was just a reality, reality... Uh, it was the secretary that kept track of the business of the multiple listings for, uh, real estate. I worked at that for a while. Um, then they needed someone for summertime to fill their offices spots, when someone was on vacation. So, I did that. And, I wanted to stay, but of course, there were no openings. And, just as I finished the term there, the owner of the Eastern Oregon Review, which was the weekly newspaper, came over and asked me if I would like to be Editor for the Eastern Oregon Review. I had never thought about being an editor, just a reporter. But, he made so they would help me and, uh, _____, so I did.
- BH: Where was the Eastern Oregon Review located?
- DF: It was on Adams Avenue, next to the Sacagawea Hotel.
- BH: Can you tell me more about the building and stuff?
- DF: The Review had been there for quite a few years, but, uh, it wasn't there originally. And, I moved to, look at my notes to find out where it was located.
- BH: Dorothy, you have a lot of knowledge about the history of newspaper. Can you share with me some of the details?
- DF: As far as I've been able to research, it was originally called the LaGrande Tribune. That was in 1931, and was owned by a Mr. Cook and Mr. Arent, that's A-R-E-N-T. Um, _____ bought the Tribute in 1932. He was leasing the Joseph Herald in Joseph, Oregon. But, he moved to LaGrande and took over the Tribune and changed it's name to the Eastern Oregon Review. And, _____ printed the paper in Joseph, um, several months, uh, when he purchased the newspaper plant and, uh, moved into the Curry (???) Building at 106 Elm Street in LaGrande. The Curry Press had been located there in 1928. They _____ next to the, um, fire department, where it's the old fire department where the museum is located. And, uh, the address next to it then became the Dweisel, that's D-W-E-I-S-E-L, Printing Company, at 106 and 108 Elm. Mr. _____ had to the shop in one part of the building and, uh, his stationary store in the art and photography shop. So, he ran both of those businesses from there. In 1938, he moved the shop to the _____ Hotel Building at 1408 Adams Avenue. And, it remained there until Kenneth and Lorraine Kessler purchased it in 1962. And, it was Mr. Kessler that came to ask me to be the editor of it. Uh, that was in 1942 that he bought the review. And, uh, also, he bought the Elgin Reporter. So, he ran both newspapers. Um, but, uh, the Review was published on Thursday and the Elgin Report on Friday. And, then along with that, they put out the Union County Shopper and the Review Advertiser, published on Sunday. And a bargain ballot, um, that was sent to all papers.
- BH: What was that, a bargain ballot?
- DF: Yes, ballot, B-A-L-L-O-T, ballot. I don't recall now exactly what that was, because I didn't have anything to do with it. I just wrote news for the newspaper,

- itself. But, some of my article were put in the Elgin Reporter. And, um, then Mr. Kessler would, uh, would put some of the articles in the Review advertiser to show people, interest people, in perhaps taking out a subscription to the newspaper itself. We stayed there in the, uh, Adams Avenue... Uh, I should say that Mr. Kessler had mainly job printing shop, which recorded the newspaper. Because, the newspaper couldn't of made it on its own at that time. So, he had, had the print shop which did a good business. And, he got himself a particular printer, because he was, tried to be absolutely sure that everything was perfect before it went out, when he did job work.
- BH: You know what, what was his main goal in having the newspaper, since it was an economic reason?
- DF: I don't know if he had been in newspaper once before he came to LaGrande, but he may have. Um, but I think the opportunity was there. And, with the combination that he had there, all the machinery to the newspaper, and, uh, _____ wanted to sell, and he purchased it in and was doing a good job, he just made it more people on the staff at the time. He had, um, correspondence from out across the Union County, the different towns, they'd gave a correspondence column in the newspaper. And, uh...
- BH: How significant was the newspaper to the community during that time?
- DF: I think very much so. I suppose every took the daily, but lots of people took the weekly because it was filled with a lot of personal news. If someone came to town to visit, or if they were sick in the hospital, any of these things, then they were in the weekly newspaper. And, it was very popular with people had moved out of town, that wanted to stay in touch with things that were happening locally. They had a big mailing every week.
- BH: You talk about, um, news of people visiting, and news of hospitals events and things like that. Um, I imagine this is quite different from today, with privacy issues,...
- DF: Oh, yes, ...
- BH: And, all that.
- DF: And, no one wants there address listed if they're going to be away from home or anything like that.
- BH: Was there a potential to have gossip in the paper during that time, or not to much?
- DF: Oh...
- BH: Or was it considered gossip, or was is just considered news?
- DF: It was considered news, because you wanted to know about the neighbors. It was that small town, a family feel (talking in background). Yes, every time George Fleshman came home to visit, which was quite often, then his name would appear in the newspaper.
- BH: So, you couldn't just sneak in and out of town that way.
- DF: No, no, no one could do that. And, then of course, uh, people would clip out these articles about people they knew. And, put them in their family scrap book. And, one lady, um, would cut out articles and put them in a scrapbook if she knew anybody, or anything that was happening. And, she ended up with something like 58 scrapbooks, which were given to me to care for over the years. I still have them, waiting for an archive to put them in. (laughs). Let's see.

BH: Is there more about the history of the paper that you would like to share?

DF: Let's see. At one time, the newspaper was the full-size, like the Observer is, a big paper. But, um, in 1964, he went back to the tabloid size newspaper. And, the next year he added, um, Steve Rose the staff, and, uh, that's when they began the green papered Union County Shopper. Which was mailed to every resident in Union County. Um, after two years, they changed the name of it to the Review Advertiser and put it on orange paper, and delivered it, uh, Sunday morning, free of charge to every resident in LaGrande. And, then they extended it to Island City, as well. In, uh, July of 1965, is when they purchased the Elgin Reporter, which was also a weekly. They bought it from Dick Lynman, with Jack Jewell as it's editor. And, working with him were Normal Carlson and Myrna Jean Harvey. The bargain spot was an ad that cost nothing, unless it got results. They'd put it in, and if they sold the items, they would pay for the ad. But, if it didn't sell, then there was not charge.

BH: Was that by a percentage then, or a flat rate?

DF: It was probably a flat rate, I don't know. Again, I wasn't involved in that part, that was Steve Rose area. Um...

BH: Okay.

DF: They introduced the Mini-Review in March of 1966. And there were 450 copies placed in motels, restaurants, and places of business. It included jokes, advertisements, and basic information. And, by 1968, they were printing over 1000 copies weekly. So, it was on August 3rd, 1968, that I was hired as the Editor.

BH: Can you tell me about your, your daily duties as editor?

DF: I, um, went out on the street and, and, got the news. And, I'd attend the City Commission meetings, and I went up to the court house and got news of record. I, um, did the society page, like weddings, and, and birthdays, funerals, the obituaries, the _____. Um, I interviewed people and wrote feature articles about them. I had learned to take pictures with a camera that Ron Cooper at the Observer had taught me how to use. So, I was able to also do the photographic work at the Review. Um...

BH: How large was the staff?

DF: Very small, I was it for a while. (laughs) Except for the correspondence.

BH: Well, that explains why you have so many different categories (Laughs).

DF: But, a weekly, you just got into a routine. And, then articles would come in from organizations, clubs, and that type of thing. There was a lot of editing those and getting them ready to be printed.

BH: What about national news? How did you get that information?

DF: Um, in an envelope by mail, we would get things like that. But, it wasn't, uh, we didn't get it the day it happened. We didn't try to be a daily. Uh, since it came out once a week, it was more a summary of what had happened in the week. But, we didn't stress national news, particularly. It was local news, that was what the newspaper was for. Where we put _____.

BH: _____ oriented?

DF: Yes.

BH: Okay.

DF: That was a very good time, it was a good crew. There were (long pause in tape)
They had, uh, a printer, Jack Jewell, and Joanne Mason ran the line-o-type, so did
Ken Kressler's son, Ray.

BH: Now, what was that called?

DF: Line-O-Type.

BH: Line-O-Type?

DF: Line-O-Type. It was a machine that they typed and hot lead would form letters
and they would drop down into, what you called a gallery, and it would make a
column of print. And, then after they got done printing it, they would print it on a
piece of paper and bring the paper to me, and then I would proof the paper and
make corrections or anything that they had missed. And, then I would send the
paper back to them. They would, uh, recast the mistakes and put them in the
column corrected. Then, lead columns would go to the printer, and he would put
them in a case that would lock down. The case would be put on the press, uh, that
had big rolls of paper. When they would run it, they would go over the, uh, the
type, print it, which would print it, and then it would come out. They'd cut it in
newspaper size and fold it. Then, Anna Muilenburg would, uh, would see that it
was mailed out. She did a lot of things around the office that I wasn't aware of.
Bookkeeping, and just whatever needed to be done, she was there to do it.

BH: Can say any more about the equipment that was used?

DF: Somewhere, I have a (laughs), something that tells the name of... the 11 Ton
Premier Press. That's P-R-E-M-I-E-R. That was 11 Ton. And, we moved from
1408 Adams Avenue to 218 Depot in LaGrande. And, they moved the press
down the street and into the other building, into the basement.

BH: Did it have to be disassembled to go into the other building?

DF: Not particularly, no. It, they put it on the back of a truck and, uh, they brought it
down. They put it into the building. (laughs)

BH: That must have been a sight for people to see the press going down the road.

DF: Yeah, it very slowly does.

BH: On wheels or on a trailer?

DF: Trailer, but its on wheels. I have a picture of it. You can see how, what it was,
and how it was brought in. So, then they were able to have a lot more room in our
new headquarters.

BH: How did this printing press operate?

DF: Well, I guess it was run by electricity. To turn it on and off. Um, again, I wasn't
the printer.

BH: It wasn't your job.

DF: I was just aware that the big press would run and, and, it would just rumble the
whole floor.

BH: Was it loud in there?

DF: Um, it was quite loud in the print shop. But, if you close the door between you
could hear it better. It wasn't to loud.

BH: So, what was your work space like for editing?

DF: When we were on Adams Avenue, I just had a little desk right in among the
machinery. It was a long dark narrow room and with all the jobs printing, it was
very crowded and dirty. And, so when we moved over into this other building,

they were able to have the office in one part of the building and the press print shop in the other. And, that made it much better.

BH: Now, when you were editing, um, you mentioned that you edited, um... I'm not sure what you called them...

DF: The galley, the galley proofs. That's what they were called.

BH: So, those are actual metal papers?

DF: Yes, yes.

BH: So, you edited them in that form.

DF: Um, they, they had printed the galley on paper. So, what I got was a paper column that, as it would appear in the newspaper, then it would put all these columns together across the page, whatever, and then you could set picture in. The pictures were metal. We had to pull the metal. And, since it was a picture, I don't know again how that is done exactly. But, that would come out on the newspaper print.

BH: Then you would edit and make your notes on the paper and then send it back.

DF: Yes.

BH: For changes.

DF: Uh, uh.

BH: And, was this a process that was done only once, or then did you have to edit a second time?

DF: At one time, I was, um, proofreader at the Observer. And, I was down stairs with their big press and that was noisy. Um, when they would bring me the galley proofs, I would proof

End of Tape 2, Side 1

Tape 2, Side 2

DF: Um, um. And, they would bring me the galley proofs. I was down there with the big press, where it was very noisy. I had a desk there, near the line-o-type machine. And, uh, I would proof the galley's and send them back and then they would bring me a corrected one. And, if there were more errors, I would mark them again and send them back. It got to the point where they finally stopped making the corrections. I kept wanting more galley proofs, because there were still errors. And, I was a little bit to (laughs) insistent that everything had to be correct. That was early on at the Observer. Um, then with the Review, I think we just did it a time or two. The operators were very good, sometimes errors came through, but they were very careful with their work. It wasn't necessary to do it that many times.

BH: What would you say was your favorite part of, of working for the paper? What did you enjoy the most?

DF: Seeing the paper come out.

BH: The finished product.

DF: Uh, um. The finished product. Yep. Because, you spend all these hours gathering news, writing it up, seeing the whole process and then to have it in your hands. That this is your weeks work and you look at it and wonder if you could

of done a better job, or what you should do for the next weeks follow up stories, or new people to interview. It's an exciting, um, employment. I didn't think of it really as employment, as much as I could hardly wait to go to work everyday. And, I still feel the same way about it.

BH: Now, you wrote a lot of different stories. I am sure that you had a variety of topics in the stories.

DF: Yes, I did.

BH: What are some of the most memorable ones?

DF: Well, I attended the commission meetings, as with the council at that time. Uh, up in the upstairs of the Fire Department, and then through meeting the counselors, I went with the City Manager on a tour of the city. And, we investigated the new dog pound that they had out by the fairgrounds. And, I rode in a police car, so that I could see what they did in a days work. I went out to Hot Lake when it was a nursing home and interviewed some of the ladies there who were going to have an art show. And, uh, I wrote a story about, um, firefighters who went out and fought the wild fires, forest fires, in the summertime. And, I wrote travel articles. Just, uh, a variety. And, I think that's what I enjoyed was the variety. I even went up to the school and, uh, um, then wrote a critique about the play that the high school had put on. Just did that on my own. And, uh, the next time they put on a play, they asked if I would come and do it again. So, I thought that was very nice of them. Another thing I was asked to do was to go to the high school and teach a class on newspaper work. I felt very unqualified to do that, but again, they talked me into going up and having this class of young students. And, the interest that was shown made it an easy task. Because, we just more or less visited about what it was like to work for a newspaper, and what was required. And, I think probably they, a number of them went on to do newspaper work. Or, at least be involved in journalism in say the school paper or the college paper.

BH: When did you begin to see changes in the technology of the way the newspaper was being put out?

DF: Oh, goodness. I went back to the Observer. I had quit the Review because we wanted to travel the world. And, uh, later on, after we had done that, I worked at the Observer again for a short time. And, they were beginning to do the... Oh my, what were they called. They would make these plates... Uh, I don't know if they were tin, aluminum. Um, where everything appeared on this metal sheet through a camera. And, I don't know how it was done. But, that was the beginning of the technology. So, I, it was strange to me at the time. I wasn't there long enough, really, to, to get acquainted with it. But, at that time, I was doing dummy work. Which, you take the, uh, the pieces of print on paper, cut them out. And, you lay them on what is called a dummy sheet. It's a piece of paper and you put them in the columns. You fit in your square for your pictures, and all that. And, so I was doing part of that too. And, then that wasn't so necessary, because I don't _____ coming up with new ways. And, so, when you get to that part, I really don't know the new technology with the computers and the, all this. We didn't have any of that at all. We had an old fashioned typewriter (laughs). Uh, non-electric, um.

BH: With the old ink ribbon that...

DF: Yes, it was a different world.

BH: Um, um. Did it change your interest at all in what you were doing? The changes in technology?

DF: It's the way you feel about the past. Um, you regret that you don't have the past. But, the future is exciting because of all the more things you can do easier. And, faster. And, better. The one thing that I would probably miss the most is the smell of ink.

BH: Yeah.

DF: When you walk into a newspaper office. There's not that smell of ink. And, that to me was the newspaper. (laughs) What to tell ya'.

BH: Did it change the, uh, expectations of the people as far as what they see in the newspaper?

DF: It wouldn't in the weekly.

BH: Huh.

DF: No, you would a harder time getting information about them, as we did before, as far as going on a trip or being in a hospital. That wouldn't be allowed. People are afraid to have anything known about themselves now because of the change in rules. That's why I've always said I lived in the best of time. We didn't have much, but we all we needed and we had a relationship with people that was warm and friendly and, and, very important to, to _____.

BH: Um. Okay, I am gonna ask kind of a two part question here. Um, as far as the community, what kind of, how did they perceive the paper? How did they see that as a part of their community?

DF: You mean the people who, um...

BH: The people of the community.

DF: It was highly thought of. But, it was... Um...

BH: And, then would, uh, how was it seen by other people? Other sources of means, or other organizations?

DF: There's an Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. And, they have a contest every year among newspapers of... Um, they have them according to so many subscriptions, or, I don't know just how they do it. But, their divided so that they can, can, receive recognition for their work according to their size and staff, and all that. And, they, uh, the Review, after I had been there for five months of the twelve allotted months, we had to make a scrapbook and send in to the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, to enter this contest. And, just after five months we were awarded a third place winner in community service division, for what we had accomplished in just that short of time. We were very proud of that. Um...

BH: So, it was definitely seen as a service to the community, but not only by the community members, themselves, but by it had received recognition from outside of that.

DF: Yes, by the Newspaper Association. And, after I had left, I had prepared another scrapbook and, as I recall, I think they got a first on that. So, we were very proud of that accomplishment.

BH: Now, you also mentioned that, um, not to long after that, the newspaper was sold to someone else?

DF: I'm not sure of the actual date. But, they, um, after I left the newspaper plant burned. Um, it burned in November of 1975. And, Mr. Kressler when in with Mr. Otis Palmer, at Palmer's Printing Shop, and, for a while. And, then in 1979, they moved to where the hobby shop is across the tracks. They were in that building for a while. And, uh, then Mr. Kressler finally sold the paper to Gary Eisler, E-I-S-L-E-R. And, Gary set up shop near the shop where we had been on Adams Avenue. So, I went over there to be there for a while, until he got adjusted. And, so I helped, helped him for a short while. Then, eventually, Gary left town and sold the paper again. It went through several sales and, eventually, and I don't call recall the year the people that had it left town and left the equipment that they had. By now, it was all, there was no press, uh, it was done, by how, what you call it, (laughs). I should back up just a little bit. When Mr. Kressler sold the newspaper to Gary Eisler, he kept the print shop part, the job shop. So, it was still called Particular Printers. Um, then, when Gary moved over to Adams Avenue, he didn't need a printing press, because it was all done computerized, and, and then it was printed, I think he may of taken it to Pendleton, to the Eastern Oregon, East Oregonian. Somewhere, over there were it was actually printed. I know there was also a print shop in Baker City that might have done it. Uh, so, they didn't, they just had a very small office and wrote up their articles and, uh, then Gary would take it. And, I don't know how it was done. But, they, uh, the life of what we knew as an old newspaper then, no longer existed. I left from there, and, uh, the eventual demise of the newspaper was a very sad thing. And, since then, um, out at Elgin, I believe they have tried to have weekly newspapers. But, nothing has really lasted for any length of time. Which is unfortunate. I think everyone would enjoy a weekly newspaper about people. The Observer is doing a good job now. But, there's just something about the weekly.

BH: What do you suppose kept you interested and kept you going back? Because, it seems like you sort of worked for a while, then you left for other things, but you came back several times.

DF: They asked me.

BH: Is it because they asked you?

DF: Yes, yes. At one time, oh... _____ in Arson Hill asked me to do a couple of feature stories. They were putting out a special edition. And, Jesse asked me to do that. So, I did that. And, I'd take it in to her and she would get out her computer, (laughs). That things so strange to me, because that wasn't how I knew newspaper was. But, that, uh, here again she asked me.

BH: So, if they asked you today, would you go back?

DF: Probably. (laughs) No, I probably wouldn't, because it is all so different now. And, uh, getting into... Actually, not writing, but gathering material for a publication about the history of Union County is where I am putting my efforts now. I am working with Eugene Smith and a board and other people who are trying to do and encyclopedia of the history of Union County, as well as the

_____ on individuals. Such as this, where they interview the person about how their life has been involved in Union County.

End of Tape 2, Side 2

Dorothy Fleshman, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
October 17, 2004
tape 2, side 1

BH: (mumbled)

DF: Yes, that's how it was back in 1980 I would always, like... Let me see if I, that has _____. And, uh (garbled tape). _____ I have a doll collection. I must have talked about wanting a doll house, or about the doll house that I had as a child. Because that doll house came in a box. It folds up and had to be put together by my dad. It's made of metal and quite small. But, it had a, an opening on one side so you could get the furniture in. It didn't have roofing endings or anything. Everything was painted on, including the flowers on the outside. And, uh, one Christmas there was a little tiny box under the tree. Very, very tiny. And, when I opened it, there was a set of keys in there and a note that said "Welcome to your new house." And, uh, it turned out that our youngest son had made a doll house for my present. But, I couldn't get it until summertime, when they could bring it over in the pickup. And, when they brought it in, I thought it looked like a bookcase, because it looked like a box with shelves in it. And, then, uh, my son brought in its top, its roof, and, uh, he put it together. It had wiring so it could have lights on it and, uh, um, he'd come here and work on it to finish putting it together. Um, then, uh, had some wood _____. He cut the little spindles, it _____ spindles _____ the doll house as its sitting in our house. Um...

BH: So, was it modeled after this house?

DF: Um, more or less, yes. It's a, he had a lot of stairways and the chandelier in the, the living room, uh, was patterned after the one that hangs in our house _____. Uh, but, not entirely, then he, uh, _____ up there along _____, some that is _____ and some that is _____. Um, the same old, um, um, furniture formed out of picks. And, uh, I did needle point on the chair seats with embroidery floss. And, it took as many stitches as it would for real sized chair. But, uh, it's been a lot of fun over the years to fill it with furniture and, uh, _____ stained glass _____. Um, _____, and, um, oh, make windows for it and doors. There's still a lot to be done. It's one of those projects where you never really get done. But, it's, it's been a lot of fun and it is seven feet high and, uh, five and a half feet wide, and twenty four inches deep. So, it won't fit anyplace except in our living room. (Laughs). That's the way it is. It'll have to stay here until we decide what to, _____, but, I don't know.

BH: I have to just say it's a beautiful piece. And, I love walking through the front door and seeing that...

DF: Thank you.

BH: In your entry. It's a perfect place for it there.

DF: (Laughs) It _____. (laughs)

BH: And, you've also filled some of the rooms with people.

DF: Yes, there was a lady in the state of Washington who dresses little miniature dolls and, uh, so we put in two that are Alpine, two, a couple that are, I used, and a couple who I got. I could put one more couple _____. Or, then, I a few couples and things (laughs)

BH: And these represent all of your ancestors?

DF: Yes, yes, it does. And, uh, need to work things over, _____, um, its uh,

BH: So, your son, your husband, and yourself. _____ working on this, what about the other boys are then involved as well?

DF: The little boy, _____, made some chairs out of chips for it. Um, the older son never had anything to do with it. But, uh...

BH: What do your grandkids think of this project?

DF: They thought it was great. But, they learned right a way that its not to be played with. It's, it's to fragile. Um.... Um...

BH: So, do you try to continue to work on this.

DF: Oh, yes, yes. Not, uh, everyday. The dusting is terrible. (Laughs) But, uh, whenever I find something in a yard sale or town, or some little trinket I could make, uh, to fit in it, then I do that.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: There's still stuff that needs to be done. But, (whispers) _____ (laughs).

BH: Now that you've moved into retirement age, um, what kinds of things did you do after retirement?

DF: Well, right now, I'm in the, uh, community _____ band. That, uh... We set the place and the director is the band director from the high school. We are both active in our church doing different things. Um, uh, _____ sings in the choir now and then, I sang in the choir for over 50 years and, um, finally decided to retire. But, once in a while I go back and sing a little bit with them. And, uh, let's see, what else. Oh, we belong to _____ Sports Club. And, uh...

BH: What's the _____ Sports Club?

DF: Oh, it's a dinner a club, where you go and have dinner and then have a program. It's, um, by now its composed mainly of older retired people. Because, young people don't seem to like to join and organization.

BH: What do the programs consist of?

DF: It's a variety and it could be musical or there would be speaker. Um, we had one man imitate Elvis Presley. Uh, another one, uh, Red Skelton. And, uh, sometimes they are just funny stories, other times it's a serious program. We just had one where, um, the women, and a group of people told _____. It was a slide show and she told about this trip that they had made all over the world. That was very interesting. It meets, um, three or four times in a year. But, it's not an every month or every week type thing.

BH: So, how many years have you spent in Union County?

DF: Well, I was born here. Uh, I've, I don't know if you can count the years that we lived in Salem. But, I was in La Grande for... I have a feeling that I've been here all 78 years of my life. (Laughs)

BH: It sounds like _____. (Laughs)

DF: (Laughs) It's been _____ in September. So, uh, I feel like I've always been here. But, its been _____.

BH: As you sort of reflect on those years. Seventy-eight years in Union County. Is there one thing that really sticks out here about living in this area and growing up here?

DF: I think it has to do with family.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: Because my fathers family and my mothers family were both liked. And, there were a lot of children and a lot of them have stayed in Union County. We were almost a community unto ourselves. It, uh, we always had someone looking out for you and, uh, helping you or, um, seeing if you were behaving yourself, um, all, all of those were wonderful and that everyone got together _____ things. But, uh, _____ it, it's the togetherness. And, unfortunately, now, neither George nor I have much family left here. And, I have a few, but very few. But, growing up here was when it was so terribly important. Then, it was that feeling of connectiveness.

BH: How do you explain that sense of connectiveness, when the family does start to move away and things aren't the same?

DF: Well, it's difficult, and you try to, um, to uh, letter, and of course you have e-mail now. (Laughs) But, you hear from people more often. And, so that part is _____. We do have some here, that have my mothers side, that are once a month for lunch. And, _____ draw in the younger people now, some of them, who uh will come to that. Um, my dads side, there are very few of us, but we still once a month get together for lunch. I think that's, that's strength for staying in touch with one another and trying bring in the younger people. That's the hard part. Because, well, people seem to, well, _____, you want it to be something different in your life. Here you're almost crowded with family, knowing everything you were doing, every minute of your life, and telling you what you should do and shouldn't do. And, say you wanted to be independent and do your own thing, it was sort of a natural _____ growing up. But, you come to the point when you realize that, that, uh, having family, being a family, is so important to your life. And, if it isn't, if you don't have lots of family, you grew a family with friends or any organization that you belonged to. And, this same thing, once again, was not blood relatives. But, uh, it's being connected to people. And, as you get older it is important to connect with those people. Even though, it's harder to be around small, larger children.

_____ and you _____ connect. That's all that I can think of. And, this has always been a wonderful area to live in because, even though we have _____, um, we have harsh weather, it still seems like an oasis away from the rest of the world. We can communicate with the world, but we don't have to be involved in all the horror that's going on, at, at, _____. I'm about out of breath.

BH: That sounds great.

BH: What are some of the other things that you are involved in now in Union County?

DF: Well, I had been involved in the Union County Museum Society and Union County Historical Society. I kind of dropped out of both of those _____ now. But, uh, we had some things, that in the past, um, the thing that I'm working on now is with Eugene Smith, is the Union County, Oregon History Project. And, that is to record the lives as best, people who have lived in Union County a long time. (Tape is garbled) and also, to do, uh, _____ encyclopedia of Union County history. And, uh, we are working on both of these projects at the same time. Uh, _____, it takes a long time to put together historical information. But, it is underway and, uh, Eugene leadership and all the work that he does. _____.

BH: Uh, uh.

DF: There have been, something like, 30 of these interviews that have been finished, and redone, um, and there are I think, I think, there were around 100 interviews that have been made so far. And continue, right along, with people like yourself as and interviewer.

BH: Why are you so interested in this project?

DF: I have no idea. Except _____, when I was in about the third grade, the teacher told us to find out something about family and something about the history of Union County. So, I went to my Aunt Rosa Louvin, who lived across from the original courthouse had been built on, uh, B Avenue and Cedar. And, uh, she told me that the building had been the courthouse years and years ago. And, that a Russell family was living in it at that time. And, also, she told me that there had been school up B Avenue towards the hill, up the hill. Um, I don't know if it had a name and that there had been a school called Art House. And, so I made note about that and turned my paper into school. And, also, that my family had come from Switzerland and also Ireland and ... At that time, I didn't know this, they came from Holland also. But, as the years went by, and I began putting pieces together and by the time I would find, uh, a new clue, get more information, then it became exciting to add it to what already had. And, so it had just grown over the years. It, uh, it seems to be important to, um, put it down where it can be read by someone else. Whether it's your grandchildren or great-grandchildren, the great-great-grandchildren or a stranger. Or someone who may have lived here and didn't have that information. And, uh, in the last few days I have had three neighbors of my family, younger than those, who wanted information about our genealogy. And, uh, I am working genealogy too. And, that's encouraging to me, even though I'm still in the process that they now have taken interest and want to know that background.

BH: That's wonderful.

DF: I think we have the background of our families and an important part of history.

BH: Have you had an opportunity to read some of the other interviews that have been taken.

DF: Yes, I have. I have been proofreading as many as the _____.

BH: What's that like for you to look at the perspective of others living in the same county? Have you found that it's really similar or were you shocked to see how different...?

DF: No, we're all the same.

BH: You're all the same?

DF: Uh, uh. We all came out of the cloth. (laughs) Yeah, I enjoy reading, especially about the railroad in history because my dad was a railroader. And, uh, so I have that and then, uh, um, it just seems like whatever they write about of Union County. It's part of me as well.

BH: So, there were no surprises.

DF: Not really. Uh, _____, I don't know what it was called.

BH: I just, I think sometimes, um, other people have different perspectives than we do of how things were when you grew up.

DF: Oh...

BH: Maybe you read something that you thought, that you didn't recall happening, or...

DF: Oh, it takes a little of that, yes. Uh, and, and some, there has been a little bit of not bitterness, exactly, but disappointment maybe, that these people have gone through, but it's simply because that was the time of the place where they were at that moment. And, it didn't make _____ everybody, it was their own personal reaction to some things. And, as long there's truth in it, there are going to be differences of opinion. But, basically, I'd say that its, uh, its just like its community.

BH: Uh, uh. Do you see a difference in the value of a history taken now, of people who grew up before you did or about the same time as you did, compared to people growing up now? And, let me just clarify a little bit about what I've been... When we look at the changes that happen in your lifetime and in your parents lifetime, for instance, all the changes of technology and, and, you know the addition of cars, and electricity, and things like that, that we see a real major things_____. When you look at the value of that history and compare it, I know that technology continues to change even in our time too, but do you see that was a time that just, it has maybe even more value, that we need to just capture that and hang on to it and what where the things for someone sitting here fifty years from now _____?

DF: Um, well, (laughs)

BH: (laughs)

DF: You need to simplify it a little bit.

BH: Okay, is the history that we're taking now, are the histories that we're taking now, do you see them as more valuable than histories that will be taken 50 years from now?

DF: No, I don't. Because, each generation has it's own history and it's the connecting of the different histories that make a total history. And, things that are happening now will seem old fashioned to the future. Because, you can see everyday that things are changing so rapidly in every way. That your children, your children's children are gonna have an entirely different viewpoint of life. And yet, each description is equally important because they tie together to show a total picture.

And, so I think _____ is important in the same way. I think yours will be as important as ours. Ours is important, _____ there. The knowledge is so vast and to means of drawing it out... (telephone rang, tape shut off)

BH: We were continuing to talk now here about the, the values of oral history and how people change over time and Dorothy you were saying....

DF: Well, just that our generation can really appreciate the coming generation. Because, we hand on to what we had and know how important it was in our time. But, when your generation, um, comes around full circle, as you will have such valuable things in own, um, but it's, you mentioned the speed that things are happening. And, the, you loose connectiveness. And that, to me that's the important thing in any generation. Is staying connected to somebody or something, mainly somebody, um your memories, when you look back, you will find things that you value so much. And, it's that, the same as we were. My parent worried about their generation and they had practically nothing. But, it was the people that tied them together. I think each generation is the same.

BH: Well, thank you so much.

DF: You're very welcome. It's been nice to have. I enjoyed knowing you.

BH: I've enjoyed the spirit of _____ all about your connection.

End of tape. This tape is an addendum to previous tapes. 05/06/06 nly