

Laurose Hibberd

4/4/03, T1, S1

LH: ...1924 and it tells my grandparents trip coming West. Now Scott Edwin Harris was born...now that's my father...on June the 20th, 1878 in Fayette County, Illinois in the old Harris home ten miles northwest of Adalia, Illinois. In March 1880, which his...let's see...with his...I don't know what that is...oh, with his parents and sister we moved to Louten, North Dakota and lived there six months then on October moved to Glencoe, Minnesota and lived there for one year. Moved to Mill Bank in South Dakota, there one summer. Scott was a very ill, sick, little boy...now that's my father...had fever and was hardly able to get up when we left the North for the West coast along to Minneapolis, down to Davenport, Iowa, took the Emigrant Train for San Francisco, came from there up the Pacific Coast in a steam ship, *Queen of the Pacific*, and arrived in eastern Washington in November and stayed there one month. Let's see...you may not want to use this. Wintered at Steptoe Butte. Came to Union County in April. Took a donation claim in the Trout Creek area eight miles north of what is now Enterprise. When we first settled there it was all in Union County, Wallowa County and Union County was all together. And I become the postmistress...postmistress in the seat. I would...oh...in the party was John King, Scott King and others of our relatives expected to come later, but as we did not like the life in Wallowa County very well did not encourage them to come. Our scattered community erected a little log schoolhouse on our claim. When Scott was eight years old...old his mother and aunt, the first teachers, teaching five other kids and they got twenty-five dollars a month for services for five months. Public school...the next year Mrs. Hart...well, that isn't what I want. I've already read this. The next year Ms. Harper was the teacher the next year his sister taught for four months. In 1890 when he was eleven years old we moved to Elgin and as there was no school building here he asked...we asked for the Mayes and Mastrickson building in their small merchant store next to...somethin'...attending school in an old building. A new one erected that year, U. S...U. S. Bernard, Mrs. Procter and Mae Harris...now that was my aunt...were the teachers. In 1894, Leonard Couch opened up a preparatory school in Elgin taking the place of the high school. Summer of 1898 and '9 he taught school on...now this is my father...he taught school on Gordon Creek and he taught...he taught school in Gordon Creek...no...the following year. He graduated in 1900 from Oregon State University, the first pharmacist to graduate in pharmacy from Oregon State and he established the drugstore down here on the corner, my father did. And anyway, this is a picture of...she's the one that wrote this letter...and it was in this trunk and Carrie's gonna type it off. She said they got it done. Alright __

EC: So your father was the first pharmacist and you grew up here?

LH: Yeah. I was born and raised in Elgin. Yeah. And right this drugstore right down on the corner, he established it. And he graduated the first pharmacist at Oregon State University.

EC: So were you born in Elgin in the town of Elgin?
LH: Yeah. Right over there about a block from where I live now.
EC: And how was...was there any special circumstances surrounding your birth, or just a home birth there?
LH: I didn't hear.
EC: Was there... You just had a home birth at your house?
LH: Yes, yes, yes. And the...a real good friend of my mother's...they had a sawmill up Clark's Creek...lived across the street and Dr. Whiting was the doctor and I was delivered at home and Mrs. Brown was the first lady to see me. And there was a lady by the name of Grandma Russell who was kind of a midwife and she went with the doctors and helped take care of the baby and then she generally stayed for a week or so with the mother and went on.
EC: So was your mom born here, too?
LH: No. My mother came to Elgin in 1906 to teach school. And my dad had the drugstore and the eventually got married in 1912 and I was born in 1915, June the 3rd.
EC: So you went to school in Elgin? Can you describe that?
LH: Yes, yes. I graduated from high school in 1933 and I was president of the senior class and was active in sports. Here's a picture of the basketball team when I was a freshman. This is me on the corner. And when I was a junior and senior the basketball team from Elgin High School was never beaten. We were an undefeated team. And we beat Imbler...I shouldn't say this...48 to 2. [laughs]
EC: Cool.
LH: And I have a gold basketball someplace. I was the Most Valuable Player on the team. But it was different basketball than now. Had six kids, you had a jump center and a running center and you had...your court was divided into three sections. You had forwards on one side and guards on the other. You could only dribble once.
EC: Oh, that is different.
LH: Yeah. We had man coach and he was good.
EC: That's good. So what...what about early grade school and stuff?
LH: Yes, I started grade school and graduated from the eighth grade. We had a little ceremony in those days. Yeah, I went to school... Of course, my dad was down here in the drugstore and both my parents, my mother being a teacher and my dad...my dad was school clerk for many years and when he died my...they hired my mother and she was school clerk till she was not so young anymore.
EC: So do you remember like the games you played and things like that when you were young?
LH: You mean games when you were a kid?
EC: Yeah, like a little kid.
LH: We played Hops...that wasn't a game, but there was Hopscotch. I don't know whether you know...you hopped and jumped and hopped and jumped. And then as we got into high school and older...and I was in high school during the Depression and kids didn't have a lot of money and we made our own entertainment and we had the farmers out on Cricket Flat a lot of times had a house parties or dances maybe. They'd take all the furniture out of the front room

- and you'd dance. And there was always...and my mother used to say, "I'd think those people would get tired of you kids comin' out there." But they'd be maybe a carload or two of kids and we'd bring our own sandwiches and we'd circle two-step and do everything. And it was generally a fiddle and a piano, you know, the music. And our north here was the...what's the name of the grange hall...is it Brockwall Grange Hall...the grange, I'll have to check that name...anyway, they had dances. And us kids would go out there and the last dance about ever went out there was we were a senior in high school and one of the boys had a team of horses and a sled with hay and there was probably about twenty of us kids went out there. And it...there was snow...we were in a sled, you couldn't get a car through there...and it rained on us all the way out and all the time we were there and all the way home. I don't know what we looked like! [laughs] We had a good time.
- EC: That sounds like fun. So was the school...like how was it divided into classes like?
- LH: There was eight grades and when you graduated from the eighth grade, why, you...and the county school superintendent, I think, as I remember, used to come out...they had an eighth grade graduation...and would present the certificates to ya and then you went into high school. And, well, you had freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior. And, well, you took...you didn't have a lot of maybe extracurricula subjects that you took, but there was...let's see...I had algebra and geometry, I had four years of English. And down in grade school you had penmanship and you had this Palmer method. And in high school there was typing and I had law and...I don't know...it took...I think you had to have about the same number of credits that you do this year. What is it? 21, 22?
- EC: Somewhere.
- LH: Yeah, that's about what we had. I was president of the senior class and was active in sports and we had...oh, and we had operettas and we had plays, each class gave a high school play, __ in the play, and we had a debating team and I was on the debating team. So we had a well-rounded education. And out of our class, and this was during the Depression, only one, one boy, went on to college and he ended up he taught school over at Milton-Freewater, but we got an education that was adequate for our times. My mother wanted me to go to college, but, you know, at that time you think about gettin' married and so I got married instead of goin' to college. [laughs]
- EC: So when...like in the grade school were the classes grouped together or did each class...?
- LH: No, we had eight grades.
- EC: Each class had it's own teacher?
- LH: Your own grade, yes, and I had eight grades. And the school...I've got a picture of it in there, it was a brick schoolhouse...it burned during the war, but the grade school and the high school was all the same. And the grade school gym that's here in Elgin now was brand new when I was a freshman in high school. It's kind of inadequate...the grade school kids play in it now, but it was brand new.
- EC: So who did you play when you played other teams?

LH: We played what was known at the Two Valley League. We played Joseph, Enterprise, Wallowa, Elgin, Imbler, Cove, North Powder and then we had scrimmages, or practice games...they weren't in the league...there was a Catholic school in La Grande...I want to say St. Mary's...but we played them and then we...and I think St. Elizabeth had a Catholic school in Baker and we played them, but they didn't count in the... And like I say, we were undefeated for two years here in Elgin. I threw that up to Carrie and Mary. [laughs]

EC: So what'd you do when you graduated from high school?

LH: It was right during the Depression and of course the first I stayed...I didn't go to college and I probably could've, but I didn't, but my dad had an apple orchard...let's see...there was a lot fruit out around Elgin and he had a packing shed and this here is my dad and my grand...well, I don't...that isn't my grandfather...I've got one with him...but that's...they took and cleared this land over here, it was like this, then they planted these little trees...that's Elgin...and there was three apple packing sheds...and this is my grandmother there by an apple tree...and I sorted apples. And they shipped carloads of apples out of Elgin. It was a big...a big industry. And that's what I did the first year I's out of high school and then I got married the second year. I was nineteen when I got married.

EC: So how did you meet Dick?

LH: He...[chuckle]...he had inherited the ranch where Mary lives now and he was young and he used to come down to Elgin to the dances, I guess, and got acquainted. Anyway, I went with him...I went with him this...when I was working in the packing...well, back when I was in high school they used to...some of these other...and Dick refereed, said when you played Elgin you couldn't beat 'em 'cause the referees girlfriend was on the team. [laughs] You don't need to print that.

EC: So then you got married and how long was it before you had kids?

LH: A long time, seventeen years before Carrie was born. And we lived...it's not now, it burned...there was no electricity. We had a well with a hand pump out the back kind of a door. It's that little... Have you been on the ranch where J. D. lives? Well, it was a bunkhouse then and it burned to the ground, but it was just about that big. And we lived there and had an out...a toilet outside. And in about 193-...I was married in 1934...in about 1936 or '7 we put electricity from Imbler down and we had to pay 'em \$500 to do it and then guarantee 'em...and I don't know...maybe we had to guarantee 'em \$500 for five years...so I forget what we paid. And by then we lived over...do you know where Jack O'Brian lives on the ranch? There's four houses there and we lived...we lived in that one and we lived there all during the war and then we...I guess...that's that part of it.

EC: So were you involved a lot of things, or just mostly being out on the ranch?

LH: Probably...yeah, I was involved in lots of things. We had lots of friends here in Elgin. And not so much right then because the war came along and it took a lot of the young men, you know, went to war. And of course farming and agriculture was important because you had to feed the army, you know. And Dick had enough points...that wasn't what I want to say... If you had so much income or so much land involved in farming it counted for one man to be deferred. And we had enough points to get five men deferred, but we just didn't have it so during

the war...well, it was kind of hard. A friend of ours that lived out on the Cricket Flat and us went together and our hay land would get ripe, or ready to hay, before they would out there and then we'd go out there and put hay. And we milked a bunch of cows and had hogs and then Dick established a hold...a herd of...oh, I don't have it...well, I got a clipping of Fold Herefords...he bought them before we were married and eventually we ended up with two hundred head of registered cows, Hereford cows, and very active in livestock sales and shows and stuff. And he was inducted into the Fold Hereford Hall of Fame and I've got...I'll take you around there and show you. The fact is I've got a picture someplace with him with his...gettin' his hat. They took an old...one of his old work hats...they inducted several breeders throughout United States into this...back then they took and bronzed it and then hung on the wall back there in Kansas City. And it's...we go the hat back. Anyway...

EC: So I bet that was a lot of work.

LH: It was and we had a show string. And we took...showed cattle and sold bulls...well, we even shipped Herefords to Japan and to Alaska and, I believe, China. And had...and your livestock shows were more...more...you had more purebred cattle whether they were Angus or Hereford or Shorthorns. Now you have so many mixed breeds and also you take...oh, Portland had the Pacific International and Denver had the National Western and I forget San Francisco, what the name of their shows. And Dick was a director of the American Fold Hereford Association for six years and that was in...all over United States and headquartered in Kansas City. And then he was also on the board of the National Western, and that was a big show in Denver. So...well, Bess and Lois Dotey how they came here they came as a herdmen for us and Mike and Jim were, oh, just little kids. I think Jim was about six months old. And they lived at the ranch. And then you probably didn't know Dave and Judy Sheppard, they worked for...but you know the Doteys, don't you?

EC: Mm-hmm.

LH: And they...they came from Carnation Milk Farms. They had a big...well, they had Holstein cows and a big dairy outfit, but they also had purebred Fold Herefords and Bess had charge of the breeding of the... And then after they were with us for a few years he got a job with, you know, Boise Cascade and where they live over back at Summerville now.

EC: So how...like how many people worked for you and helped you with all the cows and all the land?

LH: We have...let's see...there's where Mary and Russ live and then there was Bess and Lois live...oh, where...I don't know who lives...well, anyway, there's a couple lives there and then over there we had...let's see...one, two, three...two bunk...we had two bunkhouses and four houses on the ranch. And we've still got 'em, I mean, Mary rents them and J. D. lives in one of the bunkhouses. He lives where it burned and then we rebuilt it a little better than when Dick and I first lived there. But when Dick and I's first married that was the only place on the ranch was this...no toilet, a pump and no electricity and everything.

EC: Was that a hard change for you to go to?

LH: Well, growing up in Elgin, of course...but, you know, I think when you're young and your busy, you know, and I didn't have kids... I just didn't miss it. I used to have to come to town when I come to Elgin to visit my mother I always took a bath. [laughs]

EC: So how has animal care changed that you remember?

LH: There's not...of course we had a purebred herd and we sold bulls and heifers and then we had a show string. And if you were showing cattle you had to feed 'em real good. Nowadays there's not the many breeds that have their own shows anymore and they do a lot of, oh, artificial insemination and that type of thing where it used to be all your commercial breeders...generally you figured one bull to twenty-five cows and there was quite a bull market that there isn't now. And they don't have the show strings that they had then because they don't have...then different purebred herds that sponsor shows and bull sells and things.

EC: So you'd have to pack up the show string into a trailer and haul it?

LH: Yes, that's right. You'd have to wash 'em and curl their tails and teach 'em how to stand and scratch 'em on the stomach. That's right. They used to say I was the best bull tail-curler in Oregon. I don't know whether I was. Nowadays you just clip the tail, you don't...we used to have to fluff 'em up like this and...

EC: In a ball.

LH: Yeah, in a ball. And you tied that ball up on the back of the tail and you wanted 'em to look taller or bigger and if the tail was down long and kind of draggin' on the ground so you wanted to get so you made that ball and tied it up.

EC: That's a little interesting.

LH: And I had a...both Dick and I...I led a 4-H club for almost twenty years, a beef club and also when Carrie and Mary were up in...I had a sewing club, too. And then Dick led the horse club. It was the Indian Valley Riders, which is still in Elgin. He had about thirty-five kids in that and he...he was...he and another lady was the horse leaders. And we took the kids campin'. And one trip we had was nice, we started out here at the stampede grounds with the...kids brought their horses, trucked 'em down here, and then we rode up Clark's Creek to where Billy...you've heard of Billy Hyman's ranch...and then we rode...and we camped out up on the top at that spring up there...I can't think of it...the one night and then we ended up at Cove and the kids all went swimmin' and then the horses they brought 'em to Cove and that was a nice trip. And then Dick and I myself...you know they had...stampedeers have a drill team. Dick and I...and I'm the only one left...were charter members of the Elgin Stampedeers and Dick was drill master for twenty years and I...we...we did square dances and it was...instead...mostly kids are in the drill now, but it was couples and we had to be, you know, and we had about twenty of us and we were dressed alike. And we went to Chief Joseph Days and over to Union and La Grande, put on our drill and rode in the parades. We were quite active.

EC: That sounds like fun.

LH: Yeah. Yeah, we were busy.

EC: So there was a strong sense of community in this area?

LH: Oh yes! Yes. Yes.

EC: Were churches and important part of what's goin' on?

LH: Yes, yes. My grandparents and I...there was a Presbyterian church here that burned down. It's not here anymore. It was on the Tollgate Highway where that beauty shop, Artistic Hair, used to be...or Josh's...in there was a Presbyterian church in that block. And then the little Methodist church used to be...and it burned...it's over here now. I started out as a little kid over at the Methodist church and I...I've got of my sisters...I don't know whether I got one or not...she had seven years perfect attendance at this little Methodist church. And then we was at the Presbyterian and I was married in the Presbyterian church. The minister from La Grande came out and married us.

EC: Did you have brothers...what were your brothers and sisters?

LH: Just...I had one sister, right here she is. This is me and this is her.

EC: So she was young...how much younger than you?

LH: Two years.

EC: Were you guys close?

LH: Yes. Yes. Yes, we were.

EC: And when you...

LH: And she went to college and she did...she got married before she finished and I think she was over sixty years old went back to college just to get...finish up a year or two and she graduated...what is it...cum laude or something. But I never went. Now here's Dick and I with horses.

EC: Oh, that's a cute picture.

LH: And here's this house here. Looks like...I don't know...like a fly in the thing.

EC: Looks nice.

LH: So about technology, have you seen lots of change...like has the technology changes made a big difference in your life?

EC: Not so much in my life 'cause I figured I was too old to tax my brain. [laugh]
But when we had two hundred head of registered cows and you had to know what bull they were bred to, when they calved and if it was a heifer or a bull and then you tattooed 'em and everything. I did that all by hand. Now Mary's got it in the computer, you just punch it in. and then she can talk to somebody e-mail or...fact is, there's a relative of mine, he's a...his...let's see where's the picture of my grandparents? His grandmother was a sister of him. And when Grandpa and Grandma came West I never...well, I knew he left a family back there and Daddy was a little boy...never...no contact with 'em till this fall. And there was a...he went on the Historical Society here in La Grande, had some lady that her job is if people's looking on the internet...anyway, she...he got in contact with her...Sue Wells was her name...is her name...and he said he was looking for any descendants of Edwin Louis Harris and he knew he came West. And she did a lot of research around and found out that he was buried here in Elgin and all...and then all at once she dawned on her that I was the granddaughter so... And I've gotta get... I've gotta get...that's another one of my projects. I've gotta get all of this information back to him in Illinois. But anyway, I was found on the internet.

LH: That's cool.

EC: Do you remember when the telephone came in?

LH: We always had a telephone here in town. Now we... And when I lived on the ranch it was a kind of a farmers' line and it went down Brooks Lane, up on

Pumpkin Ridge. I think there was eleven people on it and it was a crank...crank phone, you know. And then we...Dick put down to the ranch...we eliminated that eleven people on it and just the own phone that come to the ranch. But of course we even had...we had a crank phone.

EC: So when you were young did you ever go to La Grande? Like was...

LH: When I was little... When I was little...let's see...where's that picture with the two of us? Once...about once a year at Christmas time...I've got another picture of my dad when he had the drugstore...it's over there...had a picture of me on it, it was 1916...and that picture would've been taken in La Grande. And maybe once a year you'd go in town, do a little Christmas shopping. One time...maybe about the time this picture was taken...the old highway...instead of coming as it does now...you know the top of Hamburger Hill there's a gate and it goes down through our pasture...but come down that way and that old muddy road down into Elgin... And we'd stayed in La Grande a little too long and it was raining and there's an apple tree out there...somebody must've tossed an apple seed out...we got stuck in the mud and Marie and I were in the back seat and the folks had a coyote robe made out of four coyotes, there was a tail on each corner then it had some kind of a blanket on the back. We were wrapped in the coyote robe and Mother out there in the rain trying to push this car. And it was...my folks were a little unhappy with each other and the rain and it was after night. But yeah...of course the older I got... When I...well, when I was in high school we went, you know, not like people do now. Sometimes they're there three or four times a day. But...and then of course we did most of our business in La Grande. There used to be a dance hall, the Zuber Hall, in La Grande and when Dick...and of course Dick was raised in La Grande... Excuse me, somebody's at the back door.

EC: Okay. [tape pause] Okay. So what was day to day life like when you were young?

LH: When I was married?

EC: Uh-huh.

LH: Like I say, we didn't have...we didn't have a refrigerator or anything and on the farm...and we had a wood stove that had kind of a reservoir, it's where you could heat water, and you heated your water and washed the dishes on the top of the stove. But as we progressed from then and when we got electricity and then we had water and a toilet and bath in the house. With the first year...and we had...the hay crews were different. Now you do...you can swath the hay and bunch it and go with the bale wagon and one person can do most of the work. But the hay was stack long on a haystack. You generally had two or three men on the stack and had buck rakes to bring in the hay and you probably had, oh, four or five in your haying crew and you fed 'em. You had to cook then you didn't have the modern conveniences that you have now and you're...had a trashing machine for the grain and you brought the...you bound the grain and brought it to the thrasher and then it had a big straw stack that...of course now it's all combines...and you had way more hand labor, I mean, than you do know. And you had to feed the men that work for you then. We had... We had of and on over the years quite a nice crew of kids, but you generally had to feed 'em.

Nowadays they bring their sandwiches or go to the Imbler store and get something. But...

EC: What about homemaking...like homemaking?

LH: Now you mean cooking and sewing?

EC: And keeping house. How was it...like do you think it's less important now?

LH: I never worked out. And when you had the kids, and we generally had a girl in the summertime to help cook, you know, and do...well, I did every summer. I did home work. I liked to get outdoors a lot, but I always had a good...and here's some of my home work...that's the Best of Show at the county fair.

EC: Oh, you got lots of...

LH: Pickles. Pickles. [laughs] And I canned food. Even yet I...lookin' in there I shouldn't do it, but anyway, it was the Best...Best of Show. And that's all pickles.

EC: That's a lot of pickles.

LH: And I canned and I even canned...I canned meat. And my mother...now, when I grew up as a kid we canned everything. The folks had this fruit orchard along...of course that was...Daddy'd sold the drugstore then...and had berries and we had a big garden. And down in the basement was a big...Mother washed down there...and shelves were just full of canned foods, even put down eggs in water glass...I don't know whether you ever heard of that...in a crock. And you...this water glass kind of preserved and they...they weren't a good egg to really eat, but to make cake, you know, and stuff. And my mother...we milked a cow at town...you were allowed a cow...and we generally had a pig or two and chickens and we were very self-sufficient.

EC: How did the Depression effect...did the Depression have a big effect on you?

LH: Pardon?

EC: Did the Depression have a big effect on you?

LH: It did on my folks, yes, because it...my dad...he lost these orchards during the Depression because you'd get a carload of apples back in Kansas City wrapped and packed and everything and then there's no market for 'em. It isn't like wheat, you know, they rot. And his health wasn't good and the Depression...he sold...he sold the orchards, but he had to. He got...and then he got it in town here in Elgin. He was Justice of Peace and did what Joe Degarlic does, city clerk or whatever it was. And so...but it kind of broke his health and my mother...the first...well, when I was in high school she took in boarders, you know, to get by and she kept schoolteachers and they stayed with her. Yes, it affected our life. But, as far as Marie and I growing up, we always had plenty to eat and we always had a good time. We...all the kids was the same. There used to be a song...what was it... "potatoes are cheaper, tomatoes are cheaper and now's the time to fall in love." I think that's what it said. [laughs] Anyway...

EC: So why did your dad sell the drugstore?

LH: Yes, and I was about...it was before I started to school. Well, he decided...and he had these apple orchards...there was two of 'em, the Rainbow and this one was new...and he'd sold the orchards and he decided that he was gonna relocate in the drug business down to Portland. And so when I was about five years old and Marie was about three and Daddy took Grandpa and Grandma with him we

- moved to Portland, spent a winter. And he...well, we just spent a winter and my grandparents was...had an apartment house and we were there... Well, he had to take the orchards back. The sale didn't go through so he come back to the orchards and that got him into the Depression sort of. Because when he sold out the drugstore was about 1922, '21 and when we came back was probably about 1923 and was before I started to school.
- EC: So if you...if he hadn't of had to come back for the orchards you would've lived in Portland?
- LH: Probably. I don't ____ [laughing] so I's glad to come back, I guess. Of course it was hard on my folks and then the Depression come and anyway... But then in later years, too, Daddy did a lot of relief work in the drugstore. But then...then he...I've got a picture of where we lived in town. It wasn't necessary where I'm at now. But anyway, it did affect us.
- EC: What about when the war started? Did that effect your, like, life a lot?
- LH: Yes it did because it took all the...on the ranch it took all the young...young...and we generally had, oh, high school kids and several families living on the ranch and it...it did affect us. We...fact is I was drivin' grain truck and tried one summer to run the buck rake, but I backed up and broke all the cables on it so...[laughs]...they didn't have me out in the field.
- EC: But did it affect like...like did you know someone that went to war, like, you know, personally? Was it upsetting to you?
- LH: Oh yes! Oh yes! A lot. We had a young boy by the name of Lee Rudd, he's still alive, he was...we had several...several kids at the ranch went. But Lee lived on the ranch with us and we had him deferred. Like I say, we...at the beginning of war we could have five people deferred. We got down just Lee was the one that left and he come to Dick and he said, "You know, all my friends are goin' to war and," he said, "I think I should...I want to go, too." So he went and then is when we put our crews together with these people on the Cricket Flat and, well, women worked out in the fields. And I had a girl that helped with the cooking. We got...well, we did alright. But it was...I know one thing, when Lee left we sold the milk cows and the hogs, we got rid of them.
- EC: Was there a lot of patriotism?
- LH: Oh yes! And you never, never saw anybody burn the flag or protest on the street. You know, everybody was behind the war a hundred percent, you know. That's what irks me now. And we didn't... Another thing that irks me...of course it's different...about the only news you saw of the war, Life Magazine, you know, had pictures of the war, and you'd go to the picture show and they had news reels and, you know, maybe before the show. And the picture show was always in the Opera House. Oh, maybe a news reel of the war. But you know, you get so much of it now. You get... And I don't know whether it's good...whether seein' all this or not... I get tired of seein' it, I know that. [laughs] Don't put that in the paper, though.
- EC: So what...how old were you when you had kids?
- LH: I was... When Carrie was born I was thirty-seven and Mary was thirty-nine. And we were married seventeen years and so I didn't have any children all during the war.

EC: Are you glad that you didn't have kids when that was all...?
LH: No. We wanted to have kids, but we just didn't have kids. And I did a lot of doctoring and I think I probably could've had a dozen after __ whatever was wrong with me.
EC: So did that change your life a lot?
LH: A lot. Yes, a lot. But you... If you've been married seventeen years and you have a husband that likes to go places...and he could come and go to China in five minutes and expect you to be ready...when you have little ones you just don't do that. But it was nice. And of course my mother was alive then and she lived here and my dad was dead. And she...she liked to be with the kids and she'd call up and say, "Now don't you and Dick want to go someplace this weekend?" She wanted to come out the ranch and baby-sit Carrie and Mary. And she did a lot of it.
EC: So can you describe, like, what life was like after kids? Like stories any anything you can...you know, fun things about your kids?
LH: After Carrie and Mary were born and come along we got active in kids' activities. Dick...he had...I had a 4-H club and he had a 4-H club. We got involved with school activities. I ended up on the school board, which I...that was good or bad. [laughs] But I enjoyed it and we...and the kids, you know, showed cattle at the fairs and stuff and anyway... And we were involved with kids and always had a bunch of kids around. I think you can always have kids that will get involved if you have adults with 'em, you know. And like I say, Dick had thirty...[end tape]

4/4/03, T1, S2

LH: ...those wagon wheels are still there. That was a St. Bernard puppy was the biggest thing. Those trees are still there. Here's...here's...now here's down at the Pacific International with us with a show string.
EC: There's those big, balled-up tails.
LH: Yes. [laughs] Yeah.
EC: That's cool. Did you...I forget what I was gonna say...oh, what were some other clubs and things that went on in the Imbler area that you can...?
LH: You know, when I first was married the little Methodist church on the corner...it's vacant now...had the Lady's Aide Society and I also taught Sunday School there. But most of Dick's and our activities social was here in Elgin. And like I say, we were charter members of the Stampeders and then I belonged to the Eastern Star and was real active in Eastern Star.
EC: What'd you do... What'd you do in it?
LH: I ended up Grand Matron at the state of Oregon before I got through. [telephone ringing] [tape pause] ...have motorhomes, you know, and they...and we belonged to the Indian Valley Good Sams. And anyway, oh, I did quite a few things. I don't know...like I say, Dick was a director...a national director and I'll probably think of other things I did.
EC: What did he have to do for being a national director?

LH: You...twice a year they had a...the board had a meeting in Kansas City...and I generally went with him...and they met for about three or four days. And then, of course, you...all your livestock shows, you big ones, he's supposed to kind of be around. And we had lots of friends all over the United States. I've got a picture out here when they put Dick in the Hall of Fame and I know practically all of those people real...real good people. We did a lot of things. I's tryin' to think. The Eastern Star we put on plays to raise money in the Opera House. I generally was in 'em.

EC: Did you like being... Like what kind of plays did you do?

LH: One play we did...I was in plays in high school, of course, each class gave one...was Aaron Slick From Pumpkin Creek was the name of it. And about twenty years later...'cause we did it in high school...we had the same cast other than one person. [laughs] We never got very far away from home. And, well, I played bridge. I don't know... But mainly after the kids come most of our activities involved the kids and their activities, you know.

EC: Are you still good... Like who were you friends with in high school that ___ for a long time?

LH: Am I still in friends with 'em? Most of 'em are gone now. Our class was small, there was only ten in the class. There's only two of us left. I don't know whether you know Bud Scoves. His father was student body president and I was president of the senior class and we're the only two left. But there's...in our basketball team up until about two years ago there was four of us still alive, but there's...well, there's two still left.

EC: When you had kids and stuff did you have like a group of friends that was really close and your kids were friends and stuff?

LH: Yes, yes, we did. Of course being seventeen years difference when my kids come along my kids...their parents were not friends of my kids because I was younger...I wasn't younger, I was just as old, but their parents were younger people.

EC: Yeah.

LH: But we...we...as far as our friends when we were older we were quite close to older people's friends and so a lot of their friends were just like our kids, too. And then generally there was the families at the ranch that had kids so we always had kids around.

EC: Can you describe any political issues that you remember having a significant impact on like the community? Like things that...like laws or something that were passed that everyone was upset about or for or anything like that?

LH: You mean political things that you were promoting?

EC: Yeah, promoting or any kind of political...like our laws, things like that?

LH: We were quite...Dick got involved with getting electricity out in the valley. What did they call that? The PUD. The got himself on the board and was responsible for getting a lot of electricity...it was government electricity, cheap electricity...to farms and things. Like I served on the school board and led... Oh, and I was district deputy for the Rainbow for Girls here. We had a Rainbow assembly, if you know what that... Well, it was a youth organization that the Eastern Star sponsored and we had an assembly here in Elgin of about thirty-some

kids. And, well, La Grande had one and Union had one, Baker, Enterprise. But with the coming of so many girls getting involved in sports, why, it got so it was hard and they don't have Rainbow anymore.

EC: Do you remember any particularly strong leader, like, government leaders, local ones, like a mayor, that stood out a lot?

LH: I'm sure I do. Of course, Imbler didn't have a mayor. My folks were quite involved with the school and with the city. Daddy was on the board and Mother was on the school board for years. And I was president of the State 4-H Leaders Association and won a trip to...where was that...Salt Lake City. Let's see...I've done quite a bit. I can't think of what I did. Let me look at some of my stuff here.

EC: Okay.

LH: Oh! Right here. I was on the Fair board for probably twenty years and I was also a rater appointed by the Department of Agriculture here in Oregon and you went around rating fairs. And I...every summer for...I rated about six fairs and they received their money...each...each...we rated 'em. We had things that we...they got points on. You gave 'em so many points and each one of those dollars represented...or each one of those points represented so many dollars and the money they got from the State of Oregon for the fairs was rated on the rater. And I did that for...did six fairs...every fair in Oregon but Union County and Polk County. I did that after the kids was up and gone. And I enjoyed that. And we had the motorhome and we'd...and Dick went with me and we were both retired and it gave us somethin' to do in the summer.

EC: When your kids were in school were you involved like helping with sports at all there?

LH: I was on the school board. I helped with 4-H and they had a Brownie Scout group that I helped with. And I was on the board...or, well, with the fair and they had a committee then at the...oh, the fair maids and I was one of the...on the fair maid board for several years. And each...the way it started out each school had...they don't have as many fair maids as they used to...and I was the representative from the Imbler school. And we were responsible for the fair maids, you know, getting 'em and getting 'em clothes and getting them there.

EC: I bet that was a fun job.

LH: Yeah. It...yeah. It was nice, though.

EC: So it seems like now at least in Imbler sports is a really big...like a community building thing. Was that the same? Like were there games and teams and your girls play in stuff like that?

LH: When my girls were in high school they didn't have a girls' basketball team.

EC: Oh really?

LH: No. No, they didn't. Mary was a cheer... I guess both of 'em were cheerleaders. But I followed...basketball I've always liked it. I went to most of the games, you know.

EC: In the boys?

LH: The boys, too.

EC: Was it a community thing where a lot of people went there?

LH: Not too...not too many. Our boys didn't have a strong team, but we did...we did. It was part of my life was basketball in high school.

EC: So when you were on the farm did you get the water from the river, or...?

LH: We had a well.

EC: Oh, did you?

LH: And we had a hand pump before we got electricity. You just went out the...

EC: But like for the farm, like for the cattle, how did you like water your farm?

LH: After electricity come we had watering troughs and you had...you irrigated your land, but, you see, we lived along the river and there was a slough and so the cattle watered in the...either got their water from the river or the slough.

EC: And you just dry farmed?

LH: Yes, we dry farmed. We got water...oh, I don't know...it's been so long I can't think. It was before the...after the war, I think, we got irrigation system down there. And of course that's changed. You used to have to hand pipe...pack the pipe now and of course they're on wheels and everything's a lot easier.

EC: Yeah. It's easier hopefully__. Do you have anything else you want to say?

LH: I'll probably think of it after you're gone. Oh, I want to show you this. Now here's Dick with his hat. We were back in Kansas City when he... And this is...Mary was married to Jim then. And that's me and then this is Ross and Carrie. And I'll show you that, it's back hangin' on the wall.

EC: Okay.

LH: I don't know whether you want to use any... Another thing we did a lot of, being on the Stampeders, we packed into the...every summer we went into the High Lakes. That's me right there. And this lady here she was wife of the druggist. And she...well, anyway, that...we went...did a lot of camping and Dick liked to hunt and fish and every summer we'd pack up and go into the mountains.

EC: Was hunting a big part of...?

LH: I never hunted much, but Dick did. Dick did. I have hunted, but, no, I never hunted much. I liked to fish, though. I fished.

EC: Where did you guys go fishing?

LH: This was a fishing trip here to North Minam Meadows. Then we went up to Boulder Park quite a lot, West Eagle. We never had a boat, we did stream fishing. Up at Jubilee Lake out of Sumpter is that there. We... Anyway, the older we got we eliminated the horses and went in the motorhome. [laughs] I can't think...let me...I don't... Now here was Carrie and Mary showin' horses at the fair. That was a colt and that's Mary...no I think that's Carrie there and that's Mary. November '61.

EC: Cool.

LH: Anyway. [recording stopped]

Laurose Hibberd

10/4/03, T1, S1

ES: This is an interview with Laurose Hibberd on October 4th, 2003.

LH: ...over the years I wrote stories or articles for the...[recording interruption]...probably...thirty, forty years.

ES: When did you start that approximately?

LH: Oh, back...well, way __ before the war.

ES: The Second World War?

LH: Yes. I was only three years old when the first one...

ES: Yes.

LH: But anyway...

ES: But there've been some wars since then.

LH: Yeah, well, about the Second World War I wrote stories or if there was something happened in Elgin I'd report it. Our writing club, the Elgin Stampeders, which I am the only charter member left – we used to have activities and we camped every summer into the north Minam meadows or one of the high mountain lakes. When we'd come back from the trip I'd...they always wanted an article in the paper and I wrote several of those. I was secretary of the Oregon Bull Hereford Association and I wrote a newsletter that was published about every month which it was entitled “__ Herefords Along the Oregon Trail.” I just got in the habit of writing and...

ES: How did you make the arrangement with the editor of *The Recorder* that you would write weekly articles?

LH: For *The Recorder*?

ES: Yes.

LH: I don't know. I either volunteered or he asked me, I guess, and I don't remember who the editor was now.

ES: Was there any question of being paid for them?

LH: No.

ES: Why did you want to write...go to the trouble of writing them and having them published?

LH: I guess I just enjoyed writing.

ES: Had other people asked you to do it?

LH: I wrote over the years for maybe an organization, maybe it was something that happened or somebody, I generally ended up writing the story for the paper. Or when we went camping up the Minam we went two or three different summers and they always looked forward to my stories. Some of 'em were exaggerated a little, but it made good writing. [laughs]

ES: What did people say about your articles?

LH: They enjoyed them.

ES: Did they say anything specific?

LH: They...well, they enjoyed them. Even yet people will say, “I wish you were still writing.” Of course the fact is we have...what is it called now...*Valley News*, but I think it's been discontinued. He always wanted me to write for him, but I don't know, as I got a little older and I was moving, my husband was sick and I just __.

ES: Were you aware when you were writing these articles that you were helping to preserve history?

LH: No, but I always enjoyed history. I always...in school I enjoyed history.
[recording interruption]

ES: Did the subject for the articles just kind of occur to you or did you make a list of things you were going to write about? How did that happen?

LH: They just occurred to me. Just occurred to me. This little article is about visiting my grandmother's grave. She came West – Now this is not this grandmother, another one – and homesteaded up Supper Creek, which is out of Caldwell. Something would come to me. It's also a little bit about the stock show. It was all bits and pieces, you know, but something that come to me.

ES: What means for the writing did you use? Did you start with a pen or pencil or typewriter? You didn't have a computer, I'm sure.

LH: No. My girls tried to get me involved with a computer, but I didn't want to tax my brain. Yes, and I broke my wrist and arm and I couldn't type so they were handwritten. However, my daughter, Mary, would take them, the last groups that I wrote, and fax them to somebody ___ on the typewriter or the fax machine or type them off so they were readable. I am a poor writer.

ES: How long did it take you to write each article, do you think?

LH: Probably four hours, maybe. I get my thoughts jotted down the first day and then I kind of go over 'em and reword 'em and try to make my spelling so they could read it ____. I did it every week in the paper ____. Other stories, accountings of things we did in the Stampede. It wasn't every week, it was just if somethin' happened I'd write it.

ES: Were you writing at all about events that occurred before you were born?

LH: Yes. This here is about my grandmother – other grandmother – about homesteading and visiting her grave. Yes.

ES: Was that information coming from stories people you had told...or what other people told you?

LH: Other people or my parents.

ES: Were you using any kind of research?

LH: I researched that, yes.

ES: Letters? Diaries?

LH: Yes. I used to write... Yes. Jacob Hug, I think was his name. The Hug family homesteaded up on Punkin Ridge and he had a diary and it...his son or grandson gave me his diaries and I, you know, I'd write from what he'd say. He'd either go to Summerville for the dance on Saturday night or the family would have a big potluck on Sunday or he was taking apples and something else to Elgin in the wagon and going to the flouring mill at Island City to have his wheat ground into flour. It was all in that. I suppose those diaries are still alive...are still around. His grandson's dead, but I think maybe they ____.

ES: That's what I've heard.

LH: Yeah.

ES: Alright. I will look in the museum about...for the articles themselves and read many of them.

LH: Okay. And when you're in there there's two things ___ one, see, my dad established a drugstore here. He was the first pharmacist to graduate in pharmacy from Oregon State University in about 1898, '99 and there's a copy, a front page, is a copy of the alumni magazine probably about seven, eight years ago and a picture of my dad and it says "First pharmacist to graduate from Oregon State

School of Pharmacy.” Now that’s down at the museum. The other thing in there is a picture of the inside of the city drugstore and he established it and it’s the same store down here on the corner. It’s the same drugstore.

ES: Which corner?

LH: Right down the street...

ES: What’s the street name?

LH: Gosh, I wouldn’t know, but it’s the only drugstore in Elgin. It’s right as you turn to go up the Tollgate Highway.

ES: Oh yes.

LH: And on the corner there. The city drugstore.

ES: The very same building?

LH: Yeah, very same building.

ES: It’s been a drugstore ever since he had it?

LH: Yeah. And it’s kind of unusual, everybody that’s owned that drugstore had two daughters. My dad and then he sold it to Mr. Foster, he had two daughters. Mr. Foster sold it to Mr. Stringum, he had two daughters, and Durve on the corner, who owns it now, has two daughters.

ES: How do you account for that?

LH: I don’t know. [laughs] It’s just a quirk of history, I guess. Anyway, there’s a picture of the inside of that drugstore and there’s a picture of my dad in the museum down there. Here’s a little article. This was the house that I was raised in in Elgin and that is printed in *The Observer*, I don’t know when. This is a picture of the house.

ES: There’s no way of dating this, is there?

LH: I know when the house was built.

ES: Oh, 1921.

LH: And this was probably, oh, ’28, ’29. I don’t know.

ES: Good.

LH: Same picture, though. And that’s where I was raised. And this is a picture of my father and mother and this is about 1928 and it’s under a weeping willow tree at this house. You can see the tree there. Taken by that tree.

ES: Scott and Josephine Harris, father of Laurose and...

LH: Marie.

ES: ...Marie, yes. You’ve got 1928 or ’30 scratched out here. Is that probably wrong?

LH: No. No, that’s about...

ES: That’s about right?

LH: Yeah, about right.

ES: Alright.

LH: It’s under that... See that weeping willow tree there?

ES: Mm-hmm.

LH: It’s taken right back in there.

ES: Right next to the house. I see a hammock, too.

LH: Yes. I don’t remember the hammock. [laugh] You know, I think that hammock is made out of barrel staves. You drilled holes in it.

ES: Uh-huh. Then you'd need a few pillows on there to make it comfortable, wouldn't you?

LH: Yeah, it had pillows on it at one time. And this is my grandmother that wrote that letter that's in the front parlor.

ES: Oh yes. This is Anna L. Harris.

LH: Yes.

ES: Married at Elgin.

LH: Mm-hmm. Yeah. I've got my grandparents, my great-grandfather and my mother and father and my husband and sister and her husband are all buried here at the cemetery. And my grandfather was on the first cemetery board and my mother said he always got enough ground to bury half of Elgin. Anyway, it'll bury ten or twelve.

ES: I don't know exactly where the Elgin Cemetery is.

LH: It's down this road and you cross...

ES: Down Eighth?

LH: No. This is Eighth this way.

ES: Oh, down Cedar.

LH: Yeah. You cross the river, you can't miss it. You cross the river bridge and it's up on the hill.

ES: Good.

LH: Well, I don't know. Some of this you won't want. Now this is me taken about 1917.

ES: Oh yes, I'll want that. There you are being very cute with ribbons and fur. [laugh] This is Laurose Harris Hibberd in 1917.

LH: And this here I was active in sports when I was in high school and in 1932 – this happens to be 1931 – we had the only undefeated girls' team in Eastern Oregon.

ES: Excellent. I heard...remember reading about that. And this, of course, is the old Elgin High School I have a picture of in here. Are some of these other young women, now older women, still living?

LH: About four years ago there was four of the basketball team. This lady is still living. She's still living in a retirement home.

ES: She's the one holding the basketball?

LH: Yeah.

ES: What is her name?

LH: Ida Schnor?

ES: S-n-o-r-r'?

LH: S-c-h-n-o-r.

ES: S-c, Schnor.

LH: Yes, Schnor. And that's me on the end.

ES: On the front row, right end. I have to say these things in the tape recorder so I can remember.

LH: Yeah, this one right here.

ES: That's right.

LH: Right there.

ES: Yes.

LH: On the left on this...

ES: You were one of the shorter ones on the team, I guess.

LH: This was my...I was just a sophomore. We had our good team the next year.

ES: I see.

LH: But I enjoyed sports.

ES: Who was the man who was the coach? You said in a previous interview he was a good coach.

LH: He was the superintendent. And elderly man. They were having school problems off and on...well, not off and on, but, you know, sometimes kids kind of get ___ things and of course my dad sits on the board and they decided they needed a new superintendent and he was an older man. I think he was of retirement age, but he still kind of wanted...and so they hired him to straighten out the school. He'd only been there three weeks so we decided...the kids, I won't say we, decided that we'd better shape up. [laugh] He was a great guy.

ES: Good.

LH: The kids... Everybody... You know, and kids need discipline and they respect discipline. He died of a heart attack the second...maybe the third year he was here and everybody...all the kids that went to school with him felt so bad. And prior to that we'd had some teachers that kids could get away with things and they're sharp even in those days, you know.

ES: What was this man's name?

LH: F. C. Smith. He come from Priest River, Idaho. His wife was teaching over there the first year that he was here and then she got a job teaching at Union and then she continued teaching at Union after he died.

ES: Now this is the...oh, it says volleyball?

LH: Yeah, that's volleyball.

ES: Not basketball.

LH: No.

ES: 1931.

LH: Yeah.

ES: Oh, I see. And you do have the names of...

LH: Most of them.

ES: Yeah.

LH: I don't have a picture of the basketball team, at least I didn't find it. Now this was about the time I got graduated from high school. I got married the next... I graduated in '33 and got married in '34.

ES: It says Laurose Hibberd, valedictorian of the class of 1933, Elgin High School.

LH: Yeah. And you know, have you ever been in the opera house?

ES: Yes.

LH: Have you seen the curtains backstage?

ES: Yes.

LH: Everybody signed their name and my name is on that curtain up there, I and a couple of boys. There's a little peek hole, you know, you could peek out and see the crowd and it says, "The Vitage of 1933" is what it says. I look at it every now and then.

ES: Was your graduation ceremony in the...

LH: Opera house.

ES: ...opera house?

LH: We all... In those days that's where we graduated. And then they had alumni association that had a banquet for the graduating class that same night. We'd walk down the streets and it was upstairs above the drugstore – it was a kind of a lodge hall and a banquet room – and they always had dinners or banquets in those days for the graduating class. They don't do that... And now the alumni association still meets, but hardly ever any graduating class ever comes to it, I don't know, kids are too busy...

ES: Do you remember anything about your valedictory speech?

LH: You know, some place along the way, and I don't know just where it's at, I think I have read a copy of it, but I don't...actually...I couldn't...and I didn't have time to look it up. I may have it around, I don't know. And I was on a debating team. We had a debating team. They don't have one now. And that one I know what we debated, resolve the chain stores – I guess...I don't know if that's the word – or detriment to the good of the community, like Safeway and all that. Either took one side or the other and I couldn't tell you what side I was on. I think I said they weren't maybe, I don't know what that...

ES: Often on debating teams you're asked to debate both sides.

LH: Yes. You have a rebuttal, too. And Dick and I was quite active...well, we were charter members of the Elgin Stampede and this is taken...we were grand marshal of the Stampede parade and I don't know what year that was. Probably ten, eleven years...

ES: Uh-huh. This is a color photo that says, "Dick and Laurose Hibberd, grand marshals, Elgin Stampede parade."

LH: Maybe ten years, twelve, something like that. And these three pictures we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary and this is my family.

ES: Taken in front of this house.

LH: Yeah.

ES: Dick and Laurose Hibberd's family at 60th wedding ceremony, the names of the people.

LH: That's my grandkids and my two daughters. Here's the cake.

ES: "Happy 60th Anniversary, Dick and Laurose."

LH: And here's Dick and I.

ES: "Dick and Laurose Hibberd, 60th wedding anniversary, taken at Elgin, Oregon."

LH: And now this is the sixth generation of that land that Dick's grandfather... He was just born. He was just born June the 4th just this year.

ES: Nathan Wade Bingaman, ten weeks, Grandma Rose.

LH: And that's my first and only great-grandchild. And for years – and I've got some more pictures, they should be together – the Stampeders packed into the high mountain lakes and they're packin' up one of our horses. I've got other pictures that goes with that.

ES: This is a color photo, 1956, packing the horse, Ginger.

LH: Yeah, that was our horse.

ES: At North Minam Meadows.

LH: And here's part of the crew resting at the top of Bowman Basin. After you climbed up on top to Bowman Basin and then you went down about five, six

miles to the North Minam Meadows. We went... We went every summer back there. We had our own horses and we camped all over that country when we were younger.

ES: Mm-hmm. This photo was taken in 1950.

LH: And this... And here's one cooking around the campfire and this is my daughter Carrie and Dick's givin' her pancakes. And this was taken in August of '61. That was all the camping pictures.

ES: 1961 the Stampeders camped at North Minam Meadows.

LH: And there would be... There would be from ten to twelve of us and then they had...then we generally figured two...let's see...two pack horses. I don't know, we'd end up with twenty or thirty horses. And in those days – can't do it now – but they had poles each end of the meadow and when you got into the horses could...we had horses that did get out...they couldn't get out of the meadow and it was kind of nice, you know. Of course nowadays I get they can still go in horseback, but they can't turn loose and you can't...we used to make a hitching post between two trees, you know, and then tie your horses up. We can't do that now. You can put a rope picket line or something.

ES: Would these trips usually last about a week?

LH: A week to ten days, yeah. And we... One time we went from Wallowa Lake up through Anaroy up...Anaroy's the lake behind Wallowa Lake...up through Tenderfoot Pass and down into the Imnaha and that was a nice trip. They would be from ten to twelve, you know, people. And of course we had, well, my husband...his father had a string of racehorses when Dick grew up and Dick usually jockeyed as a boy. He was a good horseman and we had several Stampeders, you know, ranchers that were good horseman, knew how to pack a horse.

ES: What was your job, usually, on these trips?

LH: Getting everything ready to go and in the pack.

ES: Once you were on the trip did you have specific responsibilities?

LH: We all took turns. Everybody had to take their... And my husband liked to cook and he was quite particular about the cooking so he generally cooked the pancakes and the bread. Then the rest of us, maybe two or three women, would plan your big evening meal and they had enough food and every family took lunches. Once you set up a permanent camp then you could ride to different lakes, too. Maybe they'd go for a day trip someplace. I've got a picture someplace, and it's not here, it was during the war and the North Minam Meadows for some reason was closed to fishing. I don't know why. But we camped at John Henry Lake and then we went down to the meadows and up through Green Lake. A cousin of mine, a boy about fourteen, and another couple and their girl and us and we went...we couldn't fish North Minam so we went to Green Lake and you could... Green Lake for some reason was overstocked and they wanted to get rid... We caught... There was six of us caught ninety fish in about three hours and then we smoked 'em, took 'em down and smoked 'em like the Indians used to. And oftentimes we would smoke fish and bring 'em out.

ES: Did you use some of those for dinners while you were still on the camping trip?

LH: Yeah. Generally, we'd bring 'em out and then we'd have a dinner or a party and serve 'em, you know, after you got...maybe the rest of the Stampeders that didn't go or something like that. Now Dick and I were grand marshals at the Stock Show parade several years ago. There's that picture.

ES: This says, "Question mark, 1996."

LH: Along in there.

ES: In Union.

LH: Yeah. Not too long ago. And this was snow one year in Elgin when we lived here. We moved off of the ranch in '86 and lived here for eleven years.

ES: This picture is dated 1988.

LH: That was what it looked like right out there by that tree.

ES: Uh-huh.

LH: We haven't had a winter like that, but we need one. Now I was grand marshal of the Stampede parade and I don't know...by myself and I don't know what year that was. I'd say it's in the last fifteen years.

ES: The American flag appears to be as big as you are.

LH: Yeah. Yeah, you know, when you carry the flag on a horse you had what you called a boot thing. It was strapped to your stirrup and then it was that big around and you set the flag in that.

ES: A flag holder.

LH: Yeah. Right. To the saddle. Anyway, when La Grande celebrated their...Elgin's...not Elgin... When Oregon become a state would that be a hundred years would that be...

ES: 1859.

LH: '59, okay. Anyway, La Grande had a big parade and the president of the Stampede said they want us to ride up there and wanted us to get horses so I got a horse. And I was carrying a flag that day. We had banners kind of we carried. [laugh] And I shouldn't say this, but my pants were quite thin and, you know, you get to stretch to get on a horse, they gave away. Anyway, I carried the banner down the streets of La Grande and we had a band behind us. You know what that made a horse antsy. I just...that horse it dumped down there by the bank with that flag and all. Anyway, we had a lot of good times.

ES: Why do you think you and Dick were chosen to be grand marshals of parades?

LH: For years of service, probably, you know. Both of those times we were senior citizens and they were recognizing you. At the Stampeders they tried to recognize and honor their charter members. That's the reason I would think.

ES: How did you feel about being chosen?

LH: It was an honor, you know. The fact is I rode in a parade...my last parade right here. I felt it an honor.

ES: Yes, it certainly was an honor. I'm just wondering more specifically how did you feel?

LH: I was... I was pleased in a way. I rode in a lot of parades and it was recognition, you know. ____

ES: Did you get tired of waving?

LH: Yes, yes. It's always frustrating, you know, and your horses get antsy. That was a... Imbler had a little 4th of July parade this year and the Union County Historical Society... That's just a back...

ES: I think I saw this one when...

LH: Yeah. It was in the paper. And this is my sister and I when we were little kids about 1920.

ES: Where do you think this was taken? It doesn't say anything on the photo.

LH: I would imagine about once a year before Christmas there was a photographer in La Grande and my folks would take us kids up there. My dad used a picture in 1916 of me, little, on a calendar that he gave at Christmastime and this would be taken in La Grande. I don't know whether this was the time, but one time we went up after Thanksgiving and the old road into La Grande – maybe you know...

ES: Yes, I know where it goes.

LH: Yes. Well, it goes down... The fact is, that's part of our pasture up there. Anyway, there was a place up on top by an old apple tree that was muddy and we got stuck in the car in the rain.

ES: That story's in the oral history.

LH: Yeah.

ES: Did you know a photographer named Mae Sterns?

LH: Yes, yes.

ES: Did you have your picture taken by her ever?

LH: I don't know. Probably when this picture was taken I don't know whether she was in La Grande.

ES: I think she came to La Grande in 1944.

LH: This would be taken in about 1918.

ES: I think it says 1920 on the back.

LH: Yeah. Well, that'd be about right.

ES: But otherwise you didn't have any direct experience with Mae Sterns?

LH: No. No. Really I think...

ES: Quite a bit older than you.

LH: Yeah. Yeah. This picture probably was dated wrong 'cause I don't think...I don't think I was five years old and my sister...I was probably about four and she was about five. It don't matter anyway. And this was taken the picture of me... I don't know whether you're familiar with fraternal organizations?

ES: Oh yes, somewhat.

LH: I was worthy grand matron of the grand chapter of Oregon Eastern Star in 1957, '53. And I had... And this was probably taken a little later, but that was at one lodge convention, a state convention.

ES: It was a requirement that you wear a fancy dress?

LH: Yes, yes. And you couldn't wear pants. You didn't always have to have a fancy dress, but you weren't allowed to wear pants.

ES: This says 1957 to 1953.

LH: That's when I was worthy grand matron.

ES: Should it be the other way around? 1953-1957?

LH: No. That should be an eight. It says three. If you've got a pen I ought to correct that. It's...[end tape]

10/4/03, T1, S2

- LH: This picture was taken three years ago over to my daughter's ranch. That was just with a horse she took our picture. And Dick died in 2001.
- ES: He was ninety-one here then?
- LH: Yeah. He was ninety-two when he died.
- ES: May 24th, 2000.
- LH: Yes, when that picture was taken. Now this is me with my grandparents, my grandfather and my grandmother when I was about three years old, about 1918.
- ES: The same women who wrote the letter that we...
- LH: Yes.
- ES: Grandmother and Grandpa Harris.
- LH: Harris.
- ES: Hibberd, Uncle Scott's daughter, 1918.
- LH: And this was me... We lived... I just moved back here to Elgin about a year ago. After we left the ranch we rented a small mobile home in the town of Imbler and that's taken there.
- ES: 1992, Laurose.
- LH: This is me with two little grandkids.
- ES: 1995. This is Mick and Reba West?
- LH: Yes. Mary and Russ had two little kids. This was taken in front of this house.
- ES: 1995.
- LH: Yeah. I was on the county fair board for at least six years and I was on the county fair commission for the State rating fairs. Are you familiar how the fairs got their money?
- ES: Yes. Yeah, you explained that in the oral history, too.
- LH: Yeah. And each point is worth a dollar. I rated all the fairs but two. You couldn't do your own fair and I never got to Polk County. Anyway, pickles was my hobby and I took these to the county fair in 1998 and I had Best of Class and I won all the ribbons for the pickles. [laugh]
- ES: Oh my! 1998 on both of these.
- LH: Yeah.
- ES: Canning Division...
- LH: Yes, Best of Class.
- ES: ...of Union County Fair.
- LH: Fact is, see the ribbon? It's still hanging right there, one of the ribbons from the corner of that...
- ES: I see it, yeah.
- LH: And this was when we celebrated our 50th anniversary. We had it at the branch ___ clipping in *The Observer*.
- ES: It says 1984. And they're asked to get on their Sunday best, hitch up the horses and find the trail to the ranch.
- LH: And then this is this house taken back I'll bet fifteen years ago.
- ES: Can you tell me a little of the background of this house?

LH: Yeah. It's listed in Houses of Historical Note in Elgin. It would've been... We could've... When Dick and I moved here back in 1986 we put the flues in here. There was one there and there was one there, you know, in the old days you had to heat. They would not stand heat. I mean you could not put a stove in these old flues so we put in...we got a gas heat over there in the corner. We had to put a new flue up on the outside. That's the only thing that kept it from qualifying as a historical house because that addition was on the out... But it is listed and there's pictures of it down in the museum of the Houses of Historical Value in Elgin.

ES: Is there a written explanation of who built it and when?

LH: Yes. A man by the name of... They called him Bob Masterson. He was in the bank here at Elgin, a banker, and he built it. I have a picture and it may be in the museum. There was a picket fence around it and owned the whole block off in here with a horse carriage and a barn for a cow and a little orchard out there. It was built in about 1895 or '6.

ES: That's what I would have guessed.

LH: Yeah. That's what somebody told me. And then I don't know who they sold it to. Over the years it was known as Indian Valley Lodge and a Mrs. McClure...McCloon... It wasn't a bed and breakfast, but it was a place where you could stay. And then when the fair used to be at Elgin, the Union County Fair, and the 4th of July celebration which would big fairs for Elgin... You've heard of the Connleys that live out by Cove?

ES: Yes.

LH: Maxine is a good friend of mine and her older sister Vina was just a little girl and said she remembers coming to the fairs at Elgin and sleeping in this bedroom upstairs. Anyway... And when Mother bought it – she bought it at the end of the war about 1946 – my father wasn't well and Mother didn't drive and she was two ___ from town here. It was called Indian Valley Lodge. These two cabins out here were a motel, really Elgin's first motel. She rented... She rented the rooms in the motel and she lived here till she died, lived here twenty years. I rented it for twenty years and then it was time for Dick and I to get off the ranch so we fixed it up and...

ES: Did you ever hear where the plan for the house might have come from?

LH: I have no idea. I have no idea.

ES: It's a recognizable style, so...

LH: I know.

ES: ...I don't imagine somebody local just dreamed it up.

LH: No. This grandfather of mine – this is a picture of him here with me – and he built...he built a lot of these early big houses. They came to Elgin in 1890. I don't know whether he worked on it or not. An older lady that told me her father worked on the house and she guessed about 1896 ___ I have no idea. We've lowered the ceilings and they're still tall, but we've taken three feet off of these ceilings and insulated. The house was real comfortable, cool in the summer. And the same way with the upstairs. But I have no idea. I haven't delved into it. I don't know...

ES: Have you found any photographs of it in the earlier days?

LH: I've got one of Mrs. Masterson. There was a picket fence and she's sitting in a rocking chair out on the front... I think it's down at the museum. And that'd be...

ES: Certainly one of the more interesting old houses in Elgin, I think.

LH: Yeah. This Christmastime the Methodist Church is sponsoring it this year – they do it as a money-making affair – they pick out houses and they'll have a tour. Then they'll end...they're gonna end up down here at the church with a buffet lunch or something. They asked me if I would be the house. I said yes kind of reluctantly, not that I don't mind them coming, but I'm not so young and decorating a house, you know, it's a little work at Christmastime.

ES: Maybe they'll help you.

LH: What?

ES: Maybe they'll help you.

LH: They said they would. But this lady lives over there at the cabin she's awfully good about helping. I'm not gonna go all out, though. Some years I have. But anyway, they wanted it and wanted a little bit of history. So I don't know what day and it'll probably be a Friday or a Saturday in December. I guess that's about it.

ES: Alright.

LH: Back... Now, there was quite a lot of apple orchards. I just pulled this picture out. When my dad sold the drugstore he invested in apple orchards and this was the little apple orchard looking off toward Elgin about 1919 probably. I think that's it. And this is the same picture of the last parade. I was thinking with the parades my first parade was in probably I was about four or five years old and it was the 4th of July parade. It had what they called the Liberty Wagon and it was horse drawn and a popular young woman by vote of twenty years old was ___ the Liberty and of course she ___. And then there was probably thirty or forty little girls dressed in white ___ up rode the Liberty Wagon. I can remember my mother curling my hair with a curling iron. Then this last ___ I've been in parades for a long time. I guess that's it.

ES: Alright.

LH: [recording interruption] ...things that I've done in my life if you want 'em.

ES: May I ask you questions as you...as you mention them?

LH: Oh yeah.

ES: Alright.

LH: Okay. I've got about Daddy ___ and the drugstore. I was a 4-H livestock leader, president of the county 4-H Leaders' Association and State 4-H Leader Association President.

ES: Could you describe what happens at a 4-H meeting, typically?

LH: Yes. You start... The 4-H... Are you familiar with 4-H clubs?

ES: No. One of the reasons I asked is I don't know what goes on in the meetings?

LH: Oh. They have a little bit of – what do I want to say – form that they follow. They give the 4-H pledge which “I pledge my heart to...” I've forgot it. They pledge allegiance to the flag and then they open their business meeting. If they're gettin' ready to go to a fair... It can be cooking it can be sew... It can be

anything, I mean, it's like nowadays. I was livestock and my husband was forest leader.

ES: The name 4-H, that stands for four h's. What do the h's...?

LH: They have a... I've got a pin some place. It's a clover leaf and they've got four h's and, you know, I can't tell ya.

ES: Would it be something like home...

LH: Health.

ES: ...health.

LH: Yeah.

ES: Happiness.

LH: Something like that, but I... And you make this pledge __ but I forgot it. It's been a long time since ____.

ES: What would you say are the ideals of the 4-H?

LH: It's to develop leadership... Wait a minute... Well...one of those clippings in there __. It's leadership, working together, teaching skills and knowledge. You can belong to a 4-H club that involves about any type of thing from livestock to sewing to cooking to mechanics to anything, birds or anything.

ES: I thought everything was related in some way to farming?

LH: Well, not... Yes. Originally probably, but a lot of city kids and in the Portland area belong and the same way with Future Farmers of America. It started with farming, but nowadays your farming community's in a real minority. So it's any type of club that you're wanting to develop knowledge.

ES: It sounds as though it's become very similar to Scouting then?

LH: Similar. It's probably... I imagine 4-H is probably at one time stronger than Scouting because they have 4-H county agents, you know, they have hired... They've lost their 4-H agents here in the county in the last year __ according to budget shortage, you know.

ES: Back to the meeting, after the pledges and the formalities would you have a speaker or...

LH: Oftentimes.

ES: ...somebody there to teach a skill of some kind?

LH: Yes. Oftentimes, or if you're getting ready to take an animal to stock show you'd make a halter or they'll have demonstrations how to fit an animal and get it ready for the stock show. If it's a horse, the same way. I led a cooking and a sewing class, too, and if you've gone to the county fair you've seen 4-H sewing and you've seen cooking ____ I remember one time the kids were getting ready to take their steers to the fair and they were also baking bread. They'd run out and wash a steer or an animal and then come in and work on their bread a little and then they'd go back. Anyway, Carrie let her... Mary won a blue ribbon with her bread, but Carrie lingered a little too long out workin' on the animals and her bread raised and had holes in it. She got a white ribbon. She was quite aggravated.

ES: Where were the meeting...the 4-H meetings usually be held?

LH: Right now they're held at the school in Imbler, the one up... In homes. In homes most generally. The horse club one, Dick led it, and it was in – they still have it, the Indian Valley Trail Riders – met at the Stampede hall a lot.

ES: Would any given 4-H group be subdivided to boys' activities and girls' activities?

LH: When I was active in the 4-H State Leaders' Association and I won a trip back to Kansas City to a leadership training. A lot of those Midwest towns would meet in a local place and then they'd break off into different clubs, maybe a horse, sewing, cooking. It was one meeting, but then it went into several different other... They've never done that in Union County. I don't think Oregon has ever taken that approach, at least they didn't when I was active.

ES: So might there be some boys learning how to sew and cook?

LH: Yes.

ES: And girls, of course, taking care of horses?

LH: Yes. That's right. Yeah.

ES: Did they pay dues?

LH: Yes. They have a little dues. And they would have a money-making project, too, for some of their activities. Now when Dick was leader of the 4-H horse club here in Elgin we camped at Wallowa Lake one time, took the horses and then they rode up to Anaroy and up around. And then another time trucked the horses out to Hyman's farm there ___ and then we rode to under Point Prominence, I believe, and spent the night. We had a wagon that trucked the bedrolls and the food and everything. Mrs. Hyman had the food. Ate around the campfire. The people that had the hardware store in Elgin had a grandson in and they come out at night with ice cream, little ice cream cups. And then we ended up at Cove and the kids went swimming and then they trucked the horses. That was one of our better outings.

ES: We got that story in your oral history.

LH: Oh, is it there, too?

ES: Alright, what's next?

LH: I was district deputy for Rainbow Girls, which is an organization for young girls

—.

ES: Now did that have purposes that were at all like 4-H?

LH: No. Well, yes, the same quality of developing young people and especially girls, teaching them how to walk and live. We expected them to be dressed up when they come to the meetings.

ES: When you say teaching them how to walk what do you mean?

LH: Have you seen some kids slump around?

ES: Yes.

LH: And teaching how young women present themselves in front of the public.

ES: Stop slouching?

LH: Yes.

ES: Stand up straight.

LH: Yes. I better do that myself. [laughs] To be just the nice young lady type. They're thinking about reinstating it in Elgin because they figure a lot of young girls need to know how to dress and need to know how to present themselves in front of the public and to speak and, you know, speak out in front of people.

ES: Would the Rainbow organization have said anything to the girls about moral behavior?

LH: Yes. You were expected to... Yes. You didn't get into details, but you expected 'em to be good young women that set an example. Fact is, I was talking this last

winter to a mother...a lady that was a Rainbow Girl before. She said, "I wish we had it now." She said, "the kids today just...they just don't have the values that we learned when we grew up." Well, I won't say that to everybody, but there's lots of...you know, they could help.

ES: Do you think Rainbow could still be a powerful influence on them?

LH: They could, but you know there's so many activities for girls now and there's girls' sports that there wasn't when Rainbow was... If you're playin' on a girls' basketball team the coach expects you to be there to practice.

ES: But you did that when you were in high school?

LH: Yes, but I didn't go out to Rainbow. We had one... We had our strongest Rainbow group here in Elgin superintendent of schools set aside...set aside Wednesday evenings for church and Rainbow activities, there was no school activities on Wednesday nights. You know, there's church organizations... I belong to the church group when I was growing up and that was the night for those activities and no school functions. But you don't find it... And he was superintendent for seventeen years so that was a good number of years. But you don't find that nowadays. Well, they...there's a lot of emphasis on sports. ___ I was a charter member of the Elgin Stampede. I served as treasurer and was on the queen court committee for a good number of years and responsible for the Queen's Luncheon. I served six years on the County Fair Commission rating fairs and I rated all the fairs in Oregon but two. I was on the Union County Fair Board for six years. I was past president of PTA in Imbler. Served on the Imbler school board and was chairman in 1970. In 1960-'61 I was president of the Oregon Cowbells or Cattlewomen. I was advisor with Dean Fresnick of Oregon State University to the Junior ___ Herefords Association. We put on a display in Meier and Franks' windows during Agricultural Week in Portland, 1969. I had John Williams, who's a county agent - he was a boy then over in Wallowa County - George Chandler - a grandson of Chandler Hereford in Baker - and a Conklin boy and my daughter Carrie and we put on this display in the corner of Meier and Franks' window. Now this is one of the traumatic episodes of my life. Anyway, there was a doctor in Portland had two boys that Herefords ___ and I contacted them to ___ a Hereford calf to put in Meier and Franks' window and promised that they'd do it and all. It was four kids and myself from Eastern Oregon and we got our meals paid, our room paid for a week at the Imperial Hotel in Portland to put this display on. The kids... My kids had to get up and go down... The Chandler boy and the Conklin kids from Baker they brought a pickup and they had to go down in Portland someplace and pick this calf up and get it. They had a beautiful display. Anyway, I was kind of walkin' up Broadway headin' towards Meier and Frank and the Chandler kid come runnin' down and said, "We've got to tranquilize the calf, he's wild!" He said, "Run to the phone and call a vet." So I went back then clear to the hotel and the vet said, "Oh, he'll be alright. Just everybody back out of the...quietly out of the window and turn him loose." We had a rail fence, we had chaps and saddles ___ and straw. So I got out of the window and I was walkin' down the steps ___ Meier and Frank and then at all at once I heard the tinkle. That calf took three circles through that window, jumped right through the window and sitting on the ground underneath was... Remember

when they had all these Hari Krishna, these kids with their hair shaved and the white robes on 'em. They were settin' up at the window playing their guitar. He jumped right over them and these two boys from Baker jumped right out the window after. They flanked the calf on Broadway. Anyway, we were all in shock, we were just in shock! There was somebody – now I don't know whether it was Gary, Frank or some executive from Meier and Frank on the top floor come down. He said, "Who's responsible here?" And I said, "I guess I am." He said, "Was anybody hurt?" I said, "No." And he repeated it four times, "Are you positive nobody was hurt?" I said, "Yes, nobody was hurt." And then he stepped out of the window and just laughed and laughed. They got a big piece of plywood and put it up that day and then... If you'll notice that big window it was __ glass. They had to go to Australia to get knew glass so it's divided. So anyway, that's what... That was...

ES: What was the purpose of having a calf stand in the window at Meier and Frank for many hours?

LH: Just daytime. It was just a display and... Oh, and afterwards there was another boy from Oregon City that belonged to my club and he said, "I've got a gentle calf. I can go bring it in." He'd bring it in in the morning, stay there, and there was a little calf in the window. It did draw... We made Paul Harvey about goin' through the window and the display and then they had a big steer down on one of the intersections. It was Agriculture Week in Portland, that's what it was.

ES: I see.

LH: I'll never forget that.

ES: Like bringing a zoo to a department store.

LH: [laugh] Yes. I don't... Dean Fresnick he was head of the animal husbandry department at Oregon State and he...I don't know, I guess Dean Fresnick dreamed it all up anyway.

ES: You weren't invited again?

LH: No. I don't think they've ever had it again either. [laughs] I think they didn't like that...

ES: Too much trouble and risk.

LH: Really. I rode in the Elgin Stampede horse drill team for many years and in parades throughout Eastern Oregon.

ES: Tell me a little more about the drill team.

LH: There was... We were an adult team, husband, wife. My husband was the director. We've got... down at the museum we've got our outfit that we wore. We did, oh... We did square dances on horseback. We moved...in a gallop and did the figure eights and thread the needle. We did... It was a horseback drill team, on horseback...

ES: This must've taken a large amount of practice?

LH: Every summer from about the first of June till the middle of July once a week and my husband was the drill master. We took it to Chief Joseph Days, Pendleton Round-Up, the Stock Show. We were asked... We were a mounted drill team is what we were.

ES: Would a drill master at that time have had a book or a manual to get ideas from?

LH: No, no. It was my husband and he figured out what...

ES: He figured out what could be done.

LH: ...what we'd do. We ended up with a big S, which meant Stampede, you know, we formed our S and then we unwound it.

ES: Were you performing in a large arena with people in the stands?

LH: I would think so, yes. Out here at the Stampede.

ES: How long did each routine take?

LH: Oh, eight minutes. They still do it. They've never discontinued the drill and the Stampede's about fifty-six years old but they're more kids now today. We were an adult team.

ES: About square dancing, you weren't standing on the horse?

LH: We were riding, galloping.

ES: So you'd do...

LH: We'd do an alaman-lift, you'd bend in and out and then you'd meet your partner and you'd sachet through the middle and turn around.

ES: I think it would've been somewhat difficult to get the horses to do the right things.

LH: Yes. It was a good place to break a horse. Not really. After the first time or two those horses were pretty manageable.

ES: Do you think they enjoyed doing it?

LH: No. [laughs] I don't know.

ES: You know so much about horse I should think you could tell their moods.

LH: They were ready to go when the music started and they opened the gates.

ES: Was this recorded music?

LH: Yes, it was recorded music. It was...

ES: Different kinds of songs.

LH: It wasn't songs. There was... The one that we used that nowadays they don't...they have their own...it was called the Banjo Gallop. And, you know, the horses almost galloped to that rhythm of the tune, you know. It was fun. Once a week, maybe twice a week. But horses got so they pretty much...they pretty much knew what they were doin' and we were adult riders. There was one time there was a couple of the fellows maybe by Sunday had a little too much to drink, you know, __ and there was one... And I had to meet him on an alaman-left when they were doin' that and I could see that I was gonna hit that horse. I kind of pulled out and I thought, "Well, it's just my knee on horse flesh, it's not gonna hurt too bad." So I really should've pulled out a little more. It did hurt, you know. A horse is pretty solid to hit on a gallop. We had... It was a good drill. They still do it now. I mean they still have a drill, but it's a lot of younger...you know, younger kids, sixteen on up to twenty. Let's see. I was secretary of the Oregon __ Hereford Association and I wrote a newsletter entitled " __ Herefords Along the Oregon Trail." I was worthy matron of Blue Mountain chapter.

ES: It was on __ Hereford. Would you tell me why __ Herefords are so admirable?

LH: It's just like any breed, if you...[end tape]