

AUDREY MALDONADO

December 18, 2005

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Transcription revised by Paula Helten (01/12/2012)

[audio begins]

I: The interview with Audrey Maldonado. The date is December 18th, 2005. Could you tell me your full name?

AM: Audrey Copeland Maldonado.

I: And when and where were you born?

AM: I was born in Pendleton, Oregon in the old Saint Anthony's Hospital. I can still pick out the room. [laughs]. Uh, in January 15th of 1918.
[audio clicks - 3 second delay]

I: Now, what brought you to Union County? How did you get to La Grande? What were the circumstances?

AM: I had been living-- I graduated from Pendleton High School, went to California for about ten years as part of the school and was married and came back to the Northwest. And my father, "Copey" Copeland from Pendleton set us up in the electrical contracting business here in La Grande and that would be in September of 1947.

I: And who was your husband?

AM: My husband was Jules Vincent Maldonado.

I: And was he from here?

AM: No, he was born and raised in Berkely, California and lived-- oh, New Mexico Military Institute he went to. He also had a couple of years in Hong Kong with a stepfather and his mother.

I: I see. So, you got set up in Pendleton in this new business, then-- or-- or where was that at?

AM: No, we-- the business was set up here in La Grande.

I: In La Grande. And where was that located at?

AM: Down on Adams Avenue, but I can't show you--

I: That's fine.

AM: Yeah.

I: And did you have a part in this business?

AM: Well, yes.

I: What did you do? What was it about?

AM: Well actually, the business was in my name because my husband also was working as an electrician and there was a difference, as I recall, in licensing and maybe insurance between a worker and an owner. So the business was in my name.

I: For legal reasons?

AM: For legal reasons.

I: Okay. And what was the name of the business?

AM: La Grande Electric.

I: And what did they do?

AM: Well, we could-- of general electrical concerns. Although, outside of electrical contracting, you know in building things. And we had a part in uh, the electrical part of the second story I think of-- of old Saint Joseph Hospital.

I: I see.

AM: Um, Greenwood School and places like that, but we also were Westinghouse appliance dealers.

I: So did you sell appliances then?

AM: Yes. Well, I didn't _____ unless I got caught. [laughs]. If the lady goes to lunch and I'm there.

I: So you had a showroom and you sold--

AM: Oh!

I: appliances, washers, dryers--?

AM: I-- well, we didn't open there. Our first building was about where Joe's place is now, right in, you know.

I: That coffee place?

AM: Coterie. Joe makes--

I: Oh.

AM: Uh, Joe Sugar-- Joe and Sugar or something.

I: Right, the coffee shop.

O: Oh okay. It would have been right across from there.

I: Yeah.

AM: And then we were only there maybe a couple years, and then we opened in the corner of the building that is now-- let's see straight across the street from the old US Bank building. But I don't know the name of that building now. There's a new brokerage house or insurance or--

O: Down by the-- by _____ _____?

AM: No, no, no, no.

O: Oh? Oh, okay.

AM: The Red Cross or--

O: Oh?

AM: Red Cross Drug--

O: Oh, right! Okay.

AM: our store, the old U.S. Bank and _____.

O: Right. The Old US Bank is now-- oh, what's his name, _____?

AM: Yeah, I don't--

O: We barely afford 'em.

I: Okay, okay.

O: I can pay it.

AM: I have nothing to do with that type of business anymore so names are not familiar to me.

I: That's fine. Now, how long did you have that business?

AM: We were there until about 1957.

I: What happened then?

AM: Well, just things didn't work out, period.

I: Did you sell the business or--?

AM: I don't rec-- yes, we must have.

I: Okay. Now, did you work within the business?

AM: Well,--

I: It was in your name. What did-- what was your job?

AM: A little. I did part of the bookkeeping and that type of office recording, you know. And oh, once in awhile if I was there I would sell some of the appliances. I remember we used to put the new ranges, you know cooking ranges out at-- into the high school departments for their classes, home-ec classes. And I would help kind of set that stuff up.

I: Where did you live?

AM: [chuckles]. Actually, we were in a little apartment for a few months, and then we were at 2117 Cedar Street for uh, I don't know-- probably eighteen years or more. And then we built a home, beautiful home up on Modelaire Drive, and I stayed there until oh, probably '73 or '74. My husband decided to go another way, and I _____. I stayed. He didn't go through the change of life, but the change in wife. [laughs].

I: Oh, I see.

AM: And so-- and then my boys who I've had three beautiful sons. And they were old enough and left home, and the house was starting to get - Jeannette Baum lives in that home now.

I: I see. And so, what did you do? So then we're talking about a divorce then, a split with your husband? And this is after the business has been sold? Now what have you done during this time? Did you-- were you a homemaker? Were you able to work?

AM: Well, in 1968 I think I went to work at Grande Ronde Hospital as-- in their head office. So many changes have been made up there, but right or wrong, that-- it used to be the first facility you would come into from the parking lot, you know. And now it's so changed that I worked in the head office for probably a couple of years and then was demoted to the credit manager. I worked at Grande Ronde Hospital for sixteen years and about twelve of those as the credit manager.

I: And what does a credit manager do?

AM: [chuckles]. Tried to get money out of the people that would pay, but you can't get blood out of a turnip! [laughs].

O: [laughs].

I: Okay. And it's a specialized field. It's medical. We're talking about hospital billing?

AM: Well, I didn't-- I wasn't involved in actually creating an account. Careful dear. Over there on the terrace.

O: On the terrace? _____?

AM: No, that.

I: So the accounts were already created?

AM: Well, yeah. Admission offices take all the valuable information and accounts are set up, but then people supposedly were sent to me to make arrangements either through their insurance or personal arrangements. Where'd he go?

I: [phone rings]. Um, and the phone is ringing.

O: I got it. Okay. [phone rings]. It's my daughter.

I: Okay. Okay, so as the credit manager then your-- your duties, your responsibilities were to help that person make a satisfactory arrangement?

AM: Well, yeah.

I: And um,--

AM: Well it was a pretty loose-knit thing back in those days. I did not have any kind of free education for such a job, and frankly I never cared for the work. But as a single person I had to work, and so I did. I must say the administration fired me in 1984 because they said I had trouble getting along with people. But in sixteen years there were eight phone calls or letters in my personnel file for something, you know would _____ because I had tried to get them to pay their bill. So that wasn't too bad, one-- one a year.

[audio noise - no delay]

AM: Okay.

O: Be sure that's locked.

AM: One every two years, it would be. Anyway, it was very disappointing to me because I am an extremely honest person, and my dismissal from up there was, I felt very poorly done. It was not legitimate. It wasn't legal. But at that time I was-- let's see, I was 67, and of course I hadn't applied for Medicare then. But I had a good lawsuit I could have gone after, but I would have had to wait for two full years because the courts were so full that they couldn't bring my case up.

I: Right.

AM: And so I just quit! Or, I didn't quit. They gave me a check and said, "Goodbye."

I: What did you do after that?

AM: [chuckles]. I went into retirement. [chuckles].

O: You earned it.

AM: Yeah, yeah.

I: And-- and you've been retired since?

AM: Oh yeah.

I Okay.

AM: But I had kind of an active life before I went to work at the Grande Ronde Hospital. Uh, older people around here would remember June McManus who owned the original Red Cross Drug Store. And she got me involved in what we called the Youth Activities Program, and we had programs during the day in three grade schools. And at night then-- I think it was just the high school. And we had everything from dancing classes to lifetime to cooking to, you know a variety of hobby-like things that the students were involved in.

I: Do you remember what night of the week it was?

AM: Well,--

I: Did they hold it on a regular basis?

AM: Oh yes, it was a regular school night.

I: Like a Wednesday night or--?

AM: Yeah, just like that.

I: Okay, all right. And did you lead any of these groups?

AM: Well, I set up for the whole thing.

I: These courses--?

AM: I had probably oh, thirty, forty volunteers. And I did teach at the high school, a dancing class because way back in my youth in San Francisco I had worked for Arthur Murray, and so I had some background with dancing.

I: I see.

AM: Not very good I don't think, but--

O: I bet you were great.

AM: [laughs].

I: But you taught some ballroom dancing--

AM: Yes.

I: for the program?

AM: The dancing apart, jiglet kind of dancing was just coming in, and I was trying so hard to revert young people back to the fun of court dancing. And teach them, you know like about travelling in a

ballroom and a little tango maybe, so.

I: Did they enjoy that?

AM: Pardon?

I: Did they enjoy that?

AM: Yes. In fact, years later I ran into some young man, and I can't recall his name now. And he said, "Oh! I remember you!" He said, "You taught me dancing!" [laughs]. 'Cause this is here, here, here _____. But anyway, it was a fun thing to do.

I: Now um, the program-- the Youth Activities-- oh, uh the Youth Activities Program, were you part of a group that got it started, or did you become involved?

AM: I was the group that got it started! [laughs].

I: Okay. And how long did--

AM: _____.

I: How long did that go on?

AM: I think we-- we lasted for two years.

I: And uh--

AM: And there was a variety of-- I can remember a Vern, and I think her name was Pat Pridgen. And she had a background of, not aerobic dancing, but-- anyway, she-- her family had been involved in professional-- well, acrobatic dancing. The kind they do in circuses and so forth. She was one of my volunteers. I have now-- I can't even recall all their names now, but there were quite a few. And even though I was a little mother I found the time to set up and call and involve all of these people into volunteering their time, and as I say it was quite successful for a couple years.

I: Were your children students then? Were your children in school

then?

AM: No.

I: No. So, this was after they were already grown?

AM: No. This was be-- well,--

I: Or before?

AM: I had-- I had them at home. Well, I had two of them had home, my-- my firstborn and my second born. Oh lord, what-- they'd be, you know young, young toddlers.

I: Okay, okay. What else can you tell me about living in La Grande?

AM: Well, having been born and raised in Pendleton and you may or may not agree with this, but from the time I was very young I realized that Pendleton was a very cliquey town socially. [chuckles]. And that always displeased me terribly. And so then when I got out of there I was very anxious to leave Pendleton and went to-- to school-- San Mateo Junior College in California for a year and a half or two years. I can't remember. And when I worked-- while I was there at-- you're too young to remember these things-- on Treasure Island which was in San Francisco Bay, and it was the World's Fair. I worked there for-- for over two years that they were open that they, you know. And so I had a background of other people [chuckles] _____. And I-- I found that when I first moved to La Grande people were so outgoing and so friendly, and they didn't care if you drove a Cadillac or a twenty year old jalopy. You know, you were a person that made your way. And so-- and I have always felt that about La Grande that if you kind of put yourself out to do your share, that things will come to you, friends and acquaintances, and--

I: And has that proven to be true then?

AM: Yes, very true, very true.

I: You're still here.

AM: Pardon?

I: You're still here.

AM: Yes, I'm still here. [laughs]. Well, as I say one mistake sometimes that parents make is you encourage your children to get a good education. You know, and so all three of-- well, two of my boys, the two oldest boys virtually put themselves through college and got good educations. And then went on to Master's Degrees and so forth, but you don't come back to La Grande for many jobs so they're thrown all over the country, you know. So, I have never had the privilege really of living close to my children once they were adults. And my youngest son, he went into the service when he was nineteen, I think. He graduated in Colvin High School because he wanted to go and live with his father for awhile. And anyway-- and his father had been in the military, and I'm sure he encouraged him, you know. His father had been an officer in the Army and so forth. Anyway, my dear Jim served twenty years in the service. Oh, in Europe and South America, Hawaii and wherever, came home, and they discovered on his medical examination for discharge that he had an inoperable brain tumor, cancerous brain tumor. And I lost him at 41, so that was a very bad blow on my life.

I: Sorry for your loss.

AM: Yeah, well, things happen. [chuckles]. But uh, well--

I: So, do your children-- any of your children were not raised by you here in La Grande?

AM: Oh yes!

I: Okay.

AM: I raised all of them here in La Grande.

I: Okay, so your children did go to school here in La Grande?

AM: Yes, they went to the grade school. And my second son, he was interested in-- oh, c'mon Audrey! _____. Anyway, he had a

scholarship to Eastern Oregon for one year, and then he transferred to Southern Oregon in Ashland because he liked the professor that taught the-- oh, what's the word?

O: Criminology or--?

AM: Criminology!

O: You're welcome.

AM: Yeah! So, he was there, and my oldest son did graduate from EOC here and then was with insurance companies from-- he recently retired as the senior vice president of Regence Blue Cross, Blue Shield. But he was with Blue Cross actually, for thirty years, but in many places, you know. That's why I couldn't follow him. [laughs].

I: What grade school did they go to?

AM: Uh, Ackerman.

I: Oh, they went to _____?

AM: In La Grande when your child was at least a month old you went up and registered them for Ackerman.

I: Why?

AM: Because it was not a public school. And Ackerman, all they had morning and afternoon which would involve I'm guessing, but I'd say no more than thirty children in the whole city. You know, for kindergarten, but then after they went to kindergarten there then all three boys went the full time at Ackerman.

I: Was that the sixth grade then, seventh, or eighth?

AM: Well, I think that just was to the sixth grade. If I-- my memory-- yeah.

I: And then did they go to uh-- the--?

AM: Middle school.

I: Your older sons went to the middle school?

AM: Middle school and then high school, yeah.

I: And one of them went to Eastern--

AM: No.

I: for awhile?

AM: The second-- second son and the oldest son both went to EOC.

I: I see, I see.

O: EOC, that was a--

AM: Yeah.

O: [laughs].

AM: EOC, that was the--

I: It was EOC then, huh?

AM: [chuckles]. Yeah. In fact, I had a sister that was born and raised in Pendleton too, and she went to the old Draper Business College in La Grande.

I: Really?

AM: [chuckles]. Have you heard that one before?

I: No, I haven't.

AM: The old Draper, yeah they were well-known. [chuckles].

I: So, let's talk about some of these places here in La Grande. Where would you go to socialize, or maybe go out to eat, or somewhere like

that--

AM: Well,--

I: when you were a young, married couple?

AM: We didn't have a lot of money even though we had a business. Uh, we were not affluent, and so with three little children-- what do you want?

I: I don't know.

O: [laughs].

AM: There's another bowl over there.

I: Oh, okay. I'll find it eventually.

AM: Um, I can't remember. There was a good, good, social life though for young people. I mentioned earlier about this June McManus that got me so involved in those youth activities and being on the radio with her and so forth.

I: You were on the radio with her?

AM: Well, she had a weekly program, and had people on to interview. Anyway, we had only been here just a few months, and I can't remember how she announced it but she informed me that we were now members of the Country Club. And she and her husband, Pat had paid our initiation fee, or I did. And I don't remember how much-- much that was that many years ago, but then we picked up a monthly membership. Never able as we grew up much to take advantage of that because you know, it required babysitters to get away to you know, do our week thing. But my two oldest boys did start playing golf there, and to this day it's their love. They are both deeply involved in golf, you know.

O: [laughs].

AM: Well, it's a lifetime sport!

I: Yes, it is.

O: So--

AM: Yeah.

O: Yeah.

I: Yeah, it's _____.

AM: And even-- even I _____ for oh-- I finally quit playing what I laughingly call golf when I was 82 because I wasn't sure if I was gonna get my bowl first or the ball was. [laughs].

O: [laughs].

I: Do you have what they call a handicap?

AM: [laughs]. I never was that good to get a handicap.

I: Okay.

AM: But I just enjoyed it. I loved, absolutely loved getting out there and playing.

I: Now what were the-- what were the general requirements to belong to the Country Club at that time _____?

AM: Money, I guess. If you had enough money to--

I: _____?

AM: I don't know if there was any criteria or--

O: Did you have to be like nominated, or the people that signed you up did you have--?

AM: No, I think people could apply. You know, and maybe the board passed on somebody. I have no idea about that. But then, like June, uh you know sponsored I guess you'd say, or something like that. But

anyway it was a good social outlet. We used to have glorious Fourth of July picnics and fireworks out there at the old-- well, same Country Club that we got. And you know Christmas parties and New Year's parties and _____. And then at the same time too people used to entertain more through the holidays. And I did belong to a little group called Beta Sigma Phi which is a _____ Scholastic Sorority thing. And we had parties and so forth, but there was quite a nasty social life.

I: Who belonged to the Beta Sigma Phi?

AM: Oh, dear, I don't remember that. I have-- too many years ago.

I: But--

O: _____.

AM: Well, you might have been, but I can vividly remember--

I: It was a local service, or--?

AM: Yeah, what you've got-- well no, I think it's National.

O: It's a-- it's a big one.

AM: Yeah. [chuckles]. And I actually started that involvement in an original group with-- did you ever meet Barbara and Beverly _____ [sounds like Guide] who married some of the _____ [sounds like Rockloffs]?

I: No, I haven't.

AM: Identical twins? Well, they were members over there, I remember. But anyway, we had just meetings, oh weekly or monthly meetings you wore the long dresses, you know?

I: Huh.

O: Oh.

AM: And making it the realist-- re-- what am I trying to say-- ritual, which I was never fond of. Carrying a candle and I can remember coming home [chuckles], and there I stood. "If you ever catch me going out that door again in a long dress with a candle," I said, "Just let me have it!" [laughs].

O: [laughs].

AM: Right on the balcony. [chuckles]. But they're kind of a philanthropic group and-- and part of it was fun. And we entertained you know in our homes and so forth.

I: Where would you go if you had an occasional night on the town?

AM: Well, those were seldom, but--

[music begins playing]

I was thinking one of the fun places [chuckles]--

I: Oh.

AM: to go after our dances _____--

I: Wait for a minute. That will overtake us.

O: [chuckles]. That's cute, Audrey.

AM: I've been playing it. It's not very loud.

[music stops]

I: No, but it will overpower your voice. Okay, go ahead.

AM: We used to have our formal holiday dances down at the Sacajawea-- the old Sacajawea Ballroom. Then we'd go to China Mary's.

I: Where was that?

AM: Well, it would be in a building that now is where the First National Bank is. And what the First National Bank's in now, I don't know now. I love these corporations that love to eat each other up. [chuckles].

O: _____.

AM: Hm?

I: Okay.

O: _____.

I: Alright.

O: I told him somebody needs dinner when we got home.

AM: [chuckles]. Oh, did you?

O: When we get done with you--

AM: Ohh!

O: I'll feed him.

I: Did you go dancing?

AM: Oh, sure.

I: Where?

AM: At the Sacajawea Ballroom. There were two beautiful ballrooms up there.

I: Did they have live bands, or--

AM: Oh, sure.

I: or was it recorded?

AM: Yes, in fact there was a death in the paper last week of a Bickle, and the father, Elmer Bickle had quite a popular band here.

I: Did you see this band?

AM: See it?

I: Did you hear--

AM: Oh, yeah!

I: this band?

AM: Yeah, yeah! They played at, you know every big, formal function we had. [chuckles]. Oh, and I'm trying to think of some-- Don Grey. You may be familiar with the artist. I can remember, I think it was for my son's Christmas cotillion or dance or whatever they're called up in the Sac Annex. He did a French roving mural clear around that big wall that was just flabbergasting! And I can remember going up to some of the young people now on Sunday after the dance-- the _____ was down!

[Side B]

I: [chuckles].

O: That's the interview tape.

I: And we're continuing the interview with Audrey Maldonado. It's still December 18th, 2005. And you were saying that Don Grey is a pretty famous or well-known--

AM: Oh, yes.

I: He's well-known for--?

AM: Local people would remember him well.

I: As an artist?

AM: Oh yes, always.

I: Where else might you go to say-- what would you do if you went out for dinner? Where might you go?

AM: People didn't do that that much--

I: No.

AM: then, but there was the old Trop. But you know, we-- we didn't go there very much. I can't remember. We didn't go out to dinner very much.

O: Did you go to the Inland Café?

AM: Inland?

O: You know down-- it was across the street from the Tropicana. Yeah, it was a little café that my dad liked to go to. And then there was one on Jefferson Street that my dad liked to go to once in awhile.

AM: I remember there was a pretty good um, probably a sandwich bar in the PayLess building which is, I think where JC Penney is now.

O: Mm-hm.

AM: Is it?

O: _____,--

AM: Yeah.

O: right there.

AM: We used to stop in there at noon, and then there was a wonderful coffee bar in the Wright's Drug Store which is where I think the Foley Station is now. And they served coffee in bone china cups. I'll never forget that. It was so elegant. You know it was just fun.

I: Was it cloth napkins and all of that?

AM: Well no, just not for a cup of coffee, but it was very, you know. And then-- I was trying to think of that other-- oh, drug store where Hallmark is now. They had a-- a nice coffee counter, you know. Yeah, that was fun.

I: How 'bout shopping?

AM: Well, shopping was good. In fact, I used to love in later years for my friends to come to La Grande to visit because they had such interesting, interesting shops. Pre-Walmart, and I'll raise my voice on that one.

O: [chuckles].

AM: [chuckles].

I: Let's talk about--

AM: I'm giving-- I'm giving away my likes and dislikes. But uh, there was the Peruvian Shop, and oh, I probably can't name them all now. A darling, little, boutique, thrift shop, uh, one big children's shop where oh, about where um-- where the building that's where the Foley Station now. I don't know what that would be. But it was people by the name of uh, what, Bob Turner? Geneva and Bob Turner, and uh-- and it was quite a large store and a very good one.

O: Before Trotter's?

AM: Hm?

O: Before Trotter's was down there?

AM: Well, Trotter's was you know-- everybody got clothes at Trotter's, and loved it! And it was a charming, charming ownership of the two men, _____ and uh-- well, I can't--

O: Bob?

AM: Bob _____'s father.

O: Right.

AM: Anyway, they were wonderful people and really community-oriented.

I: You shopped there a lot?

AM: Yeah!

I: What did you get there?

AM: Pardon?

I: What-- what did they sell?

AM: Oh, upgrade! Good men's suits, jackets, shirts, Brothers. They had down in the basement area-- they had a teenage department for, like high school kids and so forth. But they also carried quite a lot of cowboy boots and hats and, you know shirts and some of those things. Yeah, a great store until a Walmart! [chuckles].

I: Right.

AM: [laughs].

O: [laughs]. _____.

I: Do you think that La Grande though, however has retained some of its downtown flavor? I mean, there's still variable shops in places down here that you don't see in Pendleton.

AM: Well, I'm missing all those old, lovely, shops, you know.

I: Right.

AM: I really am. And I don't see-- you know I-- I could 'course still shop at, like at Hallmark's which it hasn't always been where it used to be.

O: _____?

AM: Where they have the uh, _____ and stuff, that building.

O: _____?

AM: Well, anyway. But I think some are coming back. I'm so proud of the-- of Kelly Lindberg.

O: Lindberg.

AM: Yeah, with her uh, Marie Josephine Shop. She's doing it the hard way, and she's making it. And--

I: Do you shop there?

AM: Yes, I do. I can't afford a lot of their stuff, but boy, I wait 'til it's on sale and I buy--

O: Absolutely.

AM: lovely, beautiful stuff. But oh! You know, she has quite an inventory. I walked in there the other day, and here is a beautiful, not pink, darker than that, suede, _____ loveseat. [chuckles].

[audio noise - no delay]

I: You said that you were working at Grande Ronde Hospital, and--?

AM: Yes, as the front reception girl, and this old, beat-up van pulled into the parking lot. And this young man with a very beat-up, sloppy, old, leather hat, a brimmed hat came in, and he asked to speak to the administrator. And I said, "Well, may I tell that he is in. May I tell him whose calling?" And he said, "Yes, it's Dr. Petrusek."

O: [chuckles].

AM: He looked sixteen, at least sixteen.

O: Yeah.

AM: And anyway, I was _____.

I: Was that your new position, your new uh, _____?

O: _____.

AM: That was you.

O: That's who I worked for, _____.

I: That's who you work for now.

O: That was when he first moved into _____.

I: I didn't--

AM: That's when he rolled into town!

O: That's when he first rolled into town.

I: Was he a specialist then?

AM: Hm?

I: Was he a specialist then?

AM: Oh, yes!

I: What's his specialty?

AM: _____. I don't know some _____ because of name--

I: _____. Okay, you don't-- don't know.

AM: for it.

I: EMT?

O: He's an-- he's an otto--

AM: Yeah.

O: Otolaryngologist.

I: _____.

AM: Yes, and I never learned to say that.

O: Well, some of them-- they're a rhino-laryngologist, but he's just _____.

I: Otolaryngologist.

AM: Well anyway, he's got the charming of _____ family.

O: He's not so young anymore.

AM: Well, he's sixty. That's pretty young! That's twenty-seven years younger than I am! That's a kid!

I: [chuckles].

AM: [laughs].

I: Was the freeway in when you moved to town?

AM: Hm-mm.

I: Um, well whatever you know--

AM: You and Terry _____. I don't recall when that freeway was built. But many, many, years later when we first moved here into 2117 Cedar where we lived for eleven years was like a block and a half from the railroad tracks. And there were still steam engines. That's all for years after we lived here that's all there was was the steam eng-- engines. And I can remember my charming, charming, dear, little, old, German neighbor took in washing, but she just had these loads and loads of lovely white sheets, you know. And then the steam engine would go through, and all of the soot would float down on the white sheets. I remember that. That's something I remember.

O: Beyond the _____, but coming down from 2nd Street.

AM: Oh.

O: So, I'm about four blocks over, three blocks over from where you used to live.

AM: Huh, oh. Are you across from 7th?

O: No, I'm on 2nd, but I live next to _____.

AM: Oh, oh.

O: _____.

AM: _____, yeah, okay.

I: When was laundry day?

AM: For her?

I: For anyone.

AM: I don't really have--

I: Was there a particular--

AM: Well, I wasn't that--

I: laundry day when you were--?

AM: Well, I wasn't that kind. I didn't wash on Monday and iron on another and cook on another and--

I: Okay, that's what I was getting at.

AM: [chuckles]. No. I wasn't-- I'm still not a very organized person. [laughs]. I wasn't that, you know cut in the groove. I was trying to think of anything where we-- I was here when we had the-- we had a tragic flood in La Grande. And then I think the year was--

O: '64? Was it?

AM: No.

O: '60-somethin'.

AM: It might have been.

O: _____.

AM: But the water actually came off the hill. You know we had a deep snowfall, and then it turned very warm. It wasn't the river that came

up that flooded. It was all the moisture coming off of the mountains. And that was kind of exciting.

I: Did you have to evacuate? How did you--?

AM: No, but the-- the high water was within a-- oh, a block and a half of our home.

I: How did you deal with that?

AM: I didn't have to deal with it because I wasn't a factor. The schools and the business district weren't _____. The-- uh, the-- okay, what am I trying to say-- viaduct?

O: Viaduct, you know that--

AM: That goes under the railroad tracks, whatever street that is, that filled up. And I'll never forget the paper saying some idiot in a little powerful Jeep thought he could run through it! So he [chuckles]-- he goosed that old Jeep up, and he got about halfway through and then he had to _____, you know. [laughs].

O: [laughs].

AM: That was a fun thing. [chuckles].

O: Well, I remember the _____.

AM: Yeah.

O: We never told him.

I: So, how did you get back before-- to Pendleton before the freeway?

AM: Well, there was a Highway 30, I guess it would be. Yeah, and it was an interesting road. Let me tell you, you didn't see too much on that because it followed every little crook and curve and so forth, the same as there is now, but you know. And it was an interesting, beautiful drive that we would course drive like everybody else and their freeway. There weren't very many yet, like accidents, and so then

that old highway in the winter was really as big a challenge as the new one is now because we didn't have the wonderful equipment to clear the highway in the ice and snow.

I: So you could be stuck at home easily then--

AM: Well,--

I: if they didn't routinely take care of that.

AM: [chuckles]. They are right now. You know, when Ladd Canyon and uh-- uh, what-- oh, the hill out of Pendleton.

I: Cabbage Hill.

AM: Cabbage Hill are closed down each day. So, we haven't progressed that much.

O: No.

I: No.

AM: They haven't computerized the highway yet. Have you watched the--?

O: There's-- there's still a couple of mountains that they're dealing with.

AM: Yeah. And we still have heard of 'em because-- yeah.

[audio noise - no delay]

I: Well, I'd like to thank you for participating in our project. I think you've shed a lot of light on La Grande and what was going on. If I had other questions could I talk to you again?

AM: Well, I guess so. I think to me my life isn't very interesting, but if someone else might I don't--

[audio noise - no delay]

O: I think the stuff you told about Grandpa _____ when you talked about the _____--

AM: Oh yeah.

O: area--

AM: And did I tell you that my darlin' uh-- uh, you know--?

I: Thanks again, so.
[audio ends]