

JUSTINE PARKS

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Interviewed by Shannon Carter

Transcribed by

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[audio begins]

JP: I should have kept it though.

[audio clicks - no delay]

I think so.

SC: And what is your full name?

JP: Justine Florence Parks.

SC: And when were you born?

JP: I was born in 1918, on September the 16th, 1918.

SC: And were you born here in La Grande?

JP: Yes.

SC: Where at?

JP: In the Grande Ronde Hospital. That's a story all in itself.

SC: Well, what happened?

JP: There was-- there's eight children, and I'm the only one that was born in a hospital. And I'm owed-- the only one without a birth certificate.

SC: And you were born at the hospital?

JP: I was born at the hospital, mm-hm. [chuckles].

SC: Amazing. And who were your parents?

JP: Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Cade. O-S-I-E is Osie Elmer Cade, C-A-D-E.

SC: And were they originally from here or did they come--?

JP: No. They came here.

SC: And where did they come from?

JP: My mother was from Wisconsin and my dad was from Indiana.

SC: And where did they meet?

JP: They met in the apple orchard up in Washington. [chuckles].

SC: And what brought them to La Grande?

JP: Work.

SC: Do you know about what year they came?

JP: Oh gosh, no. I would imagine around 1900.

SC: And what did your father do for work?

JP: Everything. He would-- he got jobs for him in full with eight kids. He had to work, but mainly he was a railroader.

SC: And did your mother work outside the home?

JP: No.

SC: No?

JP: But she could sew, and she did sew for other people. But not very-- not steady and stuff.

SC: Where was your house located in town that you were raised in?

JP: 501 Jefferson.

SC: Is it still there?

JP: Uh-huh. [chuckles].

SC: Where did you attend school?

JP: Central.

SC: Same building or is it different now?

JP: Oh, it's different, much different. It's where the middle school is where I-- where I went to school, yeah, mm-hm. And the high school was right next to it. It was all on the same block. Then they tore those things down, okay.

SC: Tell me about your experience at your elementary school. Was it good?

JP: Oh, yes. I'm still in plenty of contact with a lot of people.

SC: Are you?

JP: Uh-huh, that went to school with me. There was Mary Jerome. Now, we live-- I was gonna say Mary Jo Lemon. The gal that I have lunch with, or had a table with went to school with me, but she didn't. She was from Island City, and so _____ little bit. But oh gosh, who'd I go to school with way back when? I don't know whether you know Tom Cook or not, but he was with that other than _____ teachers.

SC: Do you?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: And what was a average day at the school? What did you do?

JP: Oh, [chuckles] I have no idea. I just went to school. [laughs].

SC: You went to school? How was your high school experience?

JP: Real good.

SC: And did you do any sports?

JP: No, but I's-- I was-- I had a good voice, and I could sing. That was the most important thing. But I was the yearbook queen my senior year.

SC: Wow.

JP: So, it all comes together.

SC: Were there dances? What did you guys do for fun?

JP: Oh yes, I danced. By the-- by that time we had moved to Island City and those four girls went-- went to school. We walked to school from Island City to the high school, and then at night if we wanted to go to the dance, we had to walk to the dance. So, we were on the road a lot.

SC: And what was the dance at the high school? Is that where they were held?

JP: No, no. There were several bands that we could go to. There was a band in Sacajawea and at Eagles. Where else? But that's enough. They kept us busy.

SC: And what type of dances did you do? What were the main ones?

JP: Oh, the fox trot and waltzes and whatever. Not-- not boogie-woogie. [laughs].

SC: [laughs]. What year did you graduate from high school?

JP: '36.

SC: '36. What do you remember from the Great Depression? How did that affect your family?

JP: Oh, really. We-- my parents lost the house that we were all in on-- in Jeffer-- on Jefferson and moved to a shed-- a shack, a real shack in Island City. We were lucky to have a stove, an iron stove. But there's-- by that time there was four of us at home. And yes, I can remember a lot of it. We did without. We never went hungry. We didn't have to do that, but we went without a lot of things.

SC: What type of things did you go without?

JP: Oh my, I don't remember for sure. I know that I had one dress when I was a high school-- in the high school. I wore it all the time. It was green plaid. And oh gosh, I don't know. But like I said, we never did go hungry.

SC: And did you work to help?

JP: No, no. I was sick.

SC: What were you sick with?

JP: Don't mention it. [laughs]. Oh, me! I don't go into that--

SC: _____?

JP: very often. I-- I had a big stomach. I mean a big one like a pregnancy and everybody thought I was pregnant. But-- and after Christmas in 1932, I think it was they took me to the doctor. In those days we didn't go to the doctor every day, you know. They took me to the doctor and he examined me, and I had a cystic tumor. So, he took me back home again-- took me back home again, and he called the next day or so and rushed me to the hospital and took this seventeen pound tumor from me.

SC: Wow!

JP: You can imagine what that was--

SC: Yeah.

JP: when I was only fifteen years old.

SC: You probably didn't weigh a whole lot.

JP: [chuckles]. No, no. But-- and so that was a big blow to my parents and to me 'cause I didn't go-- course, I only went to school a half a year my junior year and that was when I was sick. But I went to

school and went on to senior year and made up the difference and graduated with my class.

SC: What did you do after graduation?

JP: Got married. [chuckles].

SC: And who did you marry?

JP: Robert Umbarger from Pendleton. And he was a nice guy, and he had a car and a cl-- and a-- and a job. [chuckles]. So.

SC: And how did you meet him?

JP: I stayed with my sister in Pendleton. That was part-- part of it and-- and I went to school in Pendleton my sophomore year. Really, I can't remember all those things! And I met him when I was a sophomore. And then we-- we kept each other from the time that I was a sophomore until I graduated from high school.

SC: Did you live in La Grande with him, or--

JP: Yes, mm-hm.

SC: in the Pendleton area?

JP: Always. They had a big farm in Pendleton on the Indian reservation. And we lived in the bunkhouse.

SC: Oh?

JP: [chuckles]. Do you know what a bunk--?

SC: [chuckles]. Mm, yeah.

JP: Anyway, we had two children there.

SC: What brought you back to La Grande?

JP: My divorce. Yeah, I-- I divorced and came back over and lived with my parents, oh, down on Spring. In that area there down--

SC: What year was that?

JP: Oh, maybe 1945. It was just after the war.

SC: It was after the war?

JP: Uh-huh. I had only been there-- living there about, well, less-- less than a month when I applied for work at Montgomery Ward's. Luckily, I knew the manager at Montgomery Ward's, and he put me right to work. I had no trouble getting a job.

SC: Good.

JP: I wish that everybody could do that.

SC: So there was a Montgomery Ward's in town at the time?

JP: Yes.

SC: And what-- what were your duties?

JP: Oh, they put me in the ready-to-wear department which-- and I sold ready-to-wear. And then in the-- the shipping department became available, and I went down there. And I did a lot better-- good-- better work down there.

SC: How long did you work for Montgomery Ward's there?

JP: Oh, maybe a year-and-a-half.

SC: Now, how has shopping changed over the years when it--

JP: Oh my, gosh!

O: You!

SC: _____?

JP: Yes! You know, if you go into the store and a clerk wants to help you, usually you think you're-- [laughs]. Back when-- that was when the clerks always had to help you regardless of what they looked like or what they wanted. The clerk was the one to get you, and she followed you around the store.

SC: What did you do after Montgomery Ward's?

JP: That's when I got married again.

SC: And who did you marry?

JP: Ivan Parks. And he was just back from the world war, and he was a Safeway manager. And when he got back from the war there was four managers in La Grande. They had all-- you know, everybody-- they had to have their jobs back. And so he knew he was on the way out. You know, I didn't pay any attention. I didn't know. I was just in love with him. But his sister had a dis-- her-- her husband was killed in a railroad accident. And she had got quite a settlement out of that. So, the sister and my husband and me went into business and bought a grocery store.

SC: And where was the grocery store located?

JP: Union. It was-- it was just-- it was hardly as big as this room here, but we did it. We did-- we did a good job.

SC: And what year did you open the grocery store?

JP: Oh, we were married in '46, in December of '46. By March we had a grocery store.

SC: Wow. So, what were your jobs at the grocery store? What were you in charge of?

JP: A little bit of everything. You don't take charge of anything. [chuckles]. You-- [chuckles]-- you stock shelves. You-- you do all kinds of things.

SC: And so were you in charge of bookkeeping? Who did that?

JP: No, my sister-in-law did that.

SC: And where did you order your goods from, like your dry goods?

JP: Baker or La Grande. It was-- yeah. There was a grocery that was wholesale grocery store here at that time. And I think there was one here. But you had to let the salesmen on the road all the time. We had all kinds of salesmen, and so we were alright. But we know-- when that little, bitty store furnished-- finished the skating rink in U-- in Union, so we had lots of room in there. We had to buy all the equipment to go into it. And you know, we had-- we-- we-- in competition, had lots of competition, but we-- we made it.

SC: What type of changes did you have? I mean, what-- with your stock and that type of stuff? You went from a small grocery store to a larger one?

JP: Oh, yeah.

SC: Well, what else did you offer that was--?

JP: Well, about like I told you, there were salesmen everywhere. Everybody had salesmen. They would come and help you stock the shelves or rearrange your shelves or just do most anything. But we had fresh meat too.

SC: And where did that come from?

JP: A place here in La Grande. Yeah, Larry Sweet had it. They had a big _____ chicken, and then we bought 'em.

SC: So did it come already packaged, or how did you sell that?

JP: Oh no, we cut it. They would come in ha-- in quarters and we'd cut it and put it out. So, I was a butcher as well. [laughs].

SC: As well?

JP: As well, yeah. [laughs].

SC: And your produce did that come from local farms?

JP: No, it come from everywhere. We had local farmers. Very few times do you ever buy anything from local farmers. Its-- I don't know whether it's not good business, or whether you get bug-- bugs and worms and stuff like that with local farmers, but you nearly always have to buy it from a produce company-- company.

SC: Were you the only grocery store in Union at the time?

JP: No, we had comp-- competition.

SC: And who was your competition?

JP: Carl-- Carl-- Union Cash. Oh, what was his name? [chuckles]. I can't even think of his name. His first name was Carl, I can remember that.

SC: And where in town were the-- was your grocery store located?

JP: Oh, in the-- the-- it was a dance floor and a skating rink. And they-- the competition was about, oh, maybe two blocks-- two or three blocks from each other. He was on the railroad, and we weren't.

SC: And what's some of your fondest memories of running the grocery store?

JP: [chuckles]. I don't think there was any. [laughs].

SC: Okay.

JP: Any fond-- [laughs] of those memories. No. Ohh-- oh gosh, I don't know. Even though it was-- it was-- you worked twelve-- fifteen to eighteen hours a day, no time off, nothing. I don't even get-- didn't get vacations or even have any time off. If I had time off, I had two kids after that, and if I had time off, I-- then I could take the eggs to La Grande and sell them. Or I could go to-- go get some things from La Grande and bring 'em back home. I never had-- could do anything that--

SC: Worked for it?

JP: Uh-huh. Something was going on at all times.

SC: What was your biggest challenge at the grocery store?

JP: Oh gee, keeping our heads above water.

SC: And how long were you in business for?

JP: We celebrated our twenty-sixth anniversary there, but my husband was sick. So, we had to get out, and that was somethin' else. He wasn't sixty-five yet. He couldn't be retired. So, I went to work. And of course our-- our boys were gone by that time. And he was at home, but I went to work for the county.

SC: What did you do for the county?

JP: I was a secretary for the county judge.

SC: Which county judge?

JP: Misener.

SC: Was that here in La Grande?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: At the courthouse?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: Was it the same courthouse?

JP: No, it's the one that they tore down.

SC: And where was it located at?

JP: Right by legal-- well, up on K.

SC: Where the current one sits?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: What did you do for the judge?

JP: Just secretary. You know, I did all kinds of things. Oh-- oh, I forgot. I had taken typing in school, in high school. And so when I got my job-- secretary's job, I went back to night school and brought my typing up to par. I never was good at it. [chuckles]. No kids, but he put up with me. Bless his heart he was the nicest guy I ever worked around. And he-- and when-- if I made a mistake, he'd say, "Or maybe I didn't explain that to you." Gee, you know. So it was-- it was a real joy to work for him. I worked for him for ten years.

SC: So, you typed documents?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: And what else did you do for him?

JP: Oh gosh, do-- I did everything that a secretary does. Made him a-- appointments and accepted appointments, and of course I knew everybody in Union County anyway. So, I was a real asset to him 'cause he was-- wasn't from Union County. He was a military man. And so, we got along fine. But I wish everybody could work for people like that 'cause he was wonderful.

SC: And I'd hope at-- because he was a judge, so he saw cases and that type of stuff?

JP: No, not particularly. Before I start to goin' work-- goin' to work for him, he had juveniles and was the judge on the juvenile court. But he got rid of that, so he wasn't that. Why he was called a judge, I have no idea.

SC: So what was it that he did?

JP: Oh, maintained the personnel, taught the personnel. He was-- and he-- they had a lot of different-- oh, darn-- company-- not companies.

Oh, what do I want to say? Different people that work-- work together on different things?

SC: Committees?

JP: Committees, uh-huh, had lots of them. And oh my-- but he-- he was supposed to be a head of all the personnel. However, they finally-- I don't know how-- I can't remember for sure how it worked, but they looked up to him. Everybody did. So, he was a good boss.

SC: What type of changes did you see over the years in Union County?

JP: What?

SC: What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in your lifetime in Union County?

JP: Well, there aren't any more-- yes, I guess there is some dance halls. But-- but it's a little different when you're going to a dance hall now. You've got to go and have a drink or something, you know. And it wasn't back then. We didn't have those kind of things. I was pretty well secluded. I mean, I didn't do a lot of things that other people have done. Yeah, I could. I don't know whether we'd have to _____ men.

SC: How has Adams Avenue changed in the last fifty years?

JP: Oh my. There again, I didn't get much-- I remember going to Falk's with a girlfriend of mine, and I wore cotton socks. You know cotton socks? And she wore ny-- silk hose. She could afford silk hose. And that was my first awakening that I [chuckles] had been-- that I was poor and wore cotton socks. But-- then to this day I'm a good friend.

SC: Are you?

JP: Yes, we're-- we're good friends. But I envied her because she had the nylon-- hadn't been at home, so they-- hers were silk socks.

SC: So, after your job at the courthouse what did you do? Did you retire?

JP: Yes.

SC: And what year was that?

JP: '82.

SC: So what did you do during your retirement years?

JP: Oh, we had-- what we had-- had an RV, and for the first two or three years we went anywhere with our RV. My husband was blind so I did the driving, and he didn't like it. And so, [chuckles] that's somethin' else.

SC: Were you involved with any church groups?

JP: Oh, I'm-- I've always been.

SC: And which church do you belong to?

JP: Yeah, I belong to the Presbyterian. But when we lived in Union I was active in the Methodist Church over there.

SC: So your children were raised in the Methodist Church?

JP: Mm-hm, mm-hm. And my daughter married a Mormon.

SC: So tell me, were you involved with some of the groups, the ladies' groups--

JP: Oh, yes!

SC: in the Methodist Church?

JP: Business Women. What else?

SC: Tell me about the Business Women.

JP: [chuckles].

SC: What was it you ladies did?

JP: We had fun. Once a month we met, and somebody was on our-- the committee to get our entertainment. We played games. We did a lot of things. We were involved in decorating. We decorated for three or four, oh, Union-- what-- anyway. Oh, let's see, what else did we do? But mostly we-- yeah, we met once a month and did those kind of things. We just had fun.

SC: What type of entertainment did you get?

JP: It was-- it was political or something like that, you know. But not-- we didn't get serious with it. It wasn't anything like that.

SC: So, what other were you involved-- what other groups were you involved with?

JP: Oh, Good Sams. You don't know what that is.

SC: Yeah, it sounds familiar.

JP: [chuckles]. Well, that's where we took the RV and went with them. We'd go in a group, and all of us had RV's. And we had a lot of fun with that because that would be camping, different things, and fishing, and to different state parks. And that was fun. Of course my husband was a VFW and a Legion member so he was involved with that. And he was also the mayor of Union for a while. [laughs].

SC: [chuckles]. So, you went into politics along the way?

JP: [laughs]. Along we had politics!

SC: So, how was it being the mayor's wife?

JP: Just the same as it is with sitting right here.

SC: [chuckles].

JP: [chuckles]. It didn't bother me one bit.

SC: Did you have any duties that you _____?

JP: No, no, no.

SC: Did you attend dinners?

JP: No. [laughs]. I don't think so.

SC: What was your husband's biggest challenge as the mayor of Union?

JP: Oh, keeping people happy. One of-- one thing that he just often told afterwards was about a lady that lived a very-- just a little ways from the store. And she came a bustling into-- into the store and wanted to know what they were going to do about the bees. There was a lot of bees in her house. And Ivan reached over and gave her some spray. [laughs]. She thought that she was going to get some big help! [laughs].

SC: _____?

JP: There is that. [chuckles]. And so, Mrs. Peterson got a free bottle of spray. He enjoyed it. I'm pretty sure he did. He never complained about it.

SC: And how many years was he mayor?

JP: Back then, I think eight.

SC: And did he run for mayor, or was he--

JP: Yeah.

SC: appointed?

JP: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

SC: So, what brought you back to La Grande? So, you lived in Union with your second husband?

JP: Yeah, well when we sold the store, and I went to work here in La Grande, then my husband died. And I had-- I was sick sick again. I had a stroke and a heart attack, and I couldn't take care of my house.

And after-- whenever you-- you hire somebody to do something for you it just doesn't work. It just isn't-- unless you're not particular. I'm too dang particular. I couldn't hire my getting things done for me. And so, I knew about this place, so I just moved over here one _____. I took a lot. I had all my kids with me, and then we went through here and said, "Yep, this is the place we're going to go." So everything I've got is right here. I-- I sold my house. Oh, that's something else! [chuckles]. I-- you ought to do it. But I knew Roger Goodman.

SC: Okay.

JP: When we-- when I worked at the courthouse, he was there. And so then when I decided I'd sell, I called him and told him. He came over on Friday afternoon, looked at my house, and he said, "Okay, let's see what we can do." Saturday morning he called me and he said, "I think we ought to get between \$80,000 and \$85,000 dollars out of your house." By Saturday night he'd put--

[recording clicks - no delay]

So, I was real lucky. They come and put a sign up in front of my house, and it surprised all my neighbors. [chuckles]. That they didn't know I was gonna sell, but anyway.

SC: What year was that? What year did you move here?

JP: Oh, I've been here eighteen months.

SC: Oh, you haven't been here very long then.

JP: Huh-uh, huh-uh.

SC: And so tell me about the-- you're involved with the Presbyterian Church here?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: And are you involved with some of the ladies' groups there?

JP: Not particularly 'cause I've been sick all the time I've been back here so I don't get to go like I should. And I don't know how it-- well, like

I said, I had a car though until last week. And my-- I gave my car to my grandson. So, I'm afoot, really afoot. And I think everybody figures that I've had a car, or I do have a car, and they don't even offer to come and get me. So I'm gonna have to tell 'em I-- that I'm-- I'm afoot. [chuckles].

SC: No car anymore.

JP: No car.

SC: So, do you have any brothers and sisters left in town?

JP: No. I've only got two sisters left. And they live-- one is in Oregon City and one in-- in, oh, Vancouver.

SC: So, your parents came here. Where are they buried at? What cemetery?

JP: Island City.

SC: Out in Island City?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: And your husband?

JP: He's in Union.

SC: In Union?

JP: Mm-hm. I don't know how to tell you, but my grandparents are all in Island City, too.

SC: Oh, your grandparents are?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: What did your grandparents do here for a living? Do you know what your grandparents--?

JP: The only thing I can remember is my grandfather was a mail-- he drove mail-- not mail truck. No, he went horseback from Hilgard up over the mountain to-- oh, what's a ski name-- ski place?

SC: Anthony Lakes?

JP: No, that's the wrong way.

SC: That's the wrong direction?

JP: Uh-huh. Uh, well--

SC: But by horseback?

JP: Uh-huh, uh-huh, to get the mail. That was back up by _____ thing. He died before I was born. And oh, Spout Springs!

SC: Spout Springs, was that? And what about your grandmother?

JP: She worked for different people.

SC: And what did she do?

JP: Housework.

SC: Housework?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: And then, would-- was-- when you were born was your grandmother alive?

JP: Yes. And that's something else. People at that time didn't go to a rest home. You know, they-- they stayed with their kids. And my grandmother lived with us most of the time, but people don't do that anymore.

SC: No. What are some of your fondest memories of your grandma?

JP: She bought me a pair of slippers. [chuckles].

SC: And you remember that?

JP: I sure do! 'Cause I knew she couldn't afford it, but she gave 'em to me.

SC: So, she lived with you here in La Grande and then during your time in Island City?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: Now at your place out in Island City, or here in La Grande actually too, was there a run-- running water or electricity?

JP: Oh, the one in Island City had a pump that we pumped. And there was no running water except that. And the-- the toilet was outside.

SC: Outhouse?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: And a stove was for heat?

JP: Oh, no.

SC: No?

JP: [chuckles]. We had a couple of pot bellied stoves to heat that place. It was a big barn.

SC: Was it?

JP: Yes, just a barn. And I can remember that I slept upstairs with a girlfriend. She's-- you know, one time. And-- and there was snow on our bed when we got up in the morning. And-- and-- I-- I don't know whether I'd have remembered that or whether she reminded me of it one time.

SC: What were your chores at home?

JP: Not any.

SC: Not any?

JP: I can't remember of any. That's a-- she didn't give me my sheets.

SC: So--?

JP: Where's Mathew?

O: He's comin'.

SC: So did you bake bread?

JP: My mother was, uh-huh. Mm-hm, yep.

SC: And did you break-- did Mom-- Did your mother bake bread on a certain day?

JP: No. That was on--

SC: And how was laundry done?

JP: Oh, on a big galvanized tub. Uh, yep, mm-hm. 'Cause we didn't have a machine at that time. I don't know whether there was machines available or not. But I can remember that we had a telephone, and there weren't very many people with telephones.

SC: Did you have a telephone out in Island City?

JP: Uh-huh, uh-huh. Yeah, you bring back-- [laughs].

SC: See, it's in there. [chuckles].

JP: [laughs]. Oh, gosh.

SC: So how long did you live out in Island City?

JP: Well, my-- well, four years of coll-- of high school, except when I was in-- in Pendleton. And then I married so it really was only about two-and-a-half of four years.

SC: And how long did your family live there?

JP: Oh, they stayed there even after I left maybe two or three years, so yeah. You can kind of tell I can't remember.

SC: And as for family activities, did you guys do picnics? Did you--?

JP: No, not particularly.

SC: Would-- would you like-- what did you do for fun as a child?

JP: I don't remember playing ball or anything like that. We had roller skates. That's about all I can remember. Nope. And there was so many of us that we just couldn't do all those fancy things.

SC: Because they're busy.

JP: [chuckles]. Yeah, uh-huh. Yep. Well, I-- I think we were more hap-- we were happier than most people are in this day. We took care of ourselves, and we-- and we played. We lived on the corner of Jefferson, and I had friends all through that line-- that street. And we played together.

SC: And what did you play?

JP: Oh, house and-- and Hide-and-Go-Seek. But their-- oh my yes! We played everything as long as you had a group you could play.

SC: Well, I don't think I have anything else, unless you can think of something that I might have missed.

JP: [chuckles]. I didn't realize I was going to tell you so much! [laughs].

SC: No, I'm glad that you did!

JP: Oh, yeah. Of course living here there are so many people that have the same memories that you have so we compare memories all the time.

SC: Compare notes?

JP: Yes, I do.
[audio ends]

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[audio begins]

SC: Can you state your name and date of birth for me?

JP: My name is Justine Parks, and I was born September the 16th, 1918.

SC: So, that makes you how old?

JP: 86.

SC: And where were you born?

JP: In La Grande in the Grande Ronde Hospital.

SC: I just want to check--
[audio clicks - 5 second delay]

What-- where was the hospital located at the time of your birth?

JP: At the west end of Adams Avenue where there's a-- heavens, what are they? Apartments now and they-- they didn't tear-- tear down the hospital. They just made it into apartments.

SC: Oh?

JP: And as long as this is over, [chuckles] try to think of things. I-- I have-- there's seven siblings all born at-- at home, except me. And I was born in the hospital. I'm the only one without a birth certificate.

SC: Now, why were you born at the hospital and the others not?

JP: I don't remember. I don't have any idea, but then I think the hospital was here-- was new then. And maybe my dad was working, you know, but I'm the only one without a--

SC: Birth certificate?

JP: [chuckles]-- birth certificate.

SC: Who delivered you? Do you know what doctor?

JP: Dr. Bacon.

SC: Dr. Bacon?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: And he practiced medicine in La Grande?

JP: Yeah, mm-hm.

SC: And did-- do you-- did you mom tell you any stories about your birth, or about being in the hospital?

JP: No, I don't think so. There was so many at home-- at home that they had to take care of 'cause I'm the fifth in line.

SC: Out of seven?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: And what house did you grow up in in town?

JP: We lived in several different places. Oh, I think my family lived on Main Street when I was born. But we learn-- we'd learned that-- I'm down with their _____, and I don't know why. They were-- and they were old people by the time they bought a house. So, I-- but I never did know why. You don't ex-- you don't talk about your finances when you're little.

SC: Yeah, that's true. What elementary school did you attend?

JP: Central.

SC: Central?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: And where was Central located at the time?

JP: Well, it's where the hi-- the middle school is now.

SC: And was it a one-story or two-story building?

JP: Two-story, mm-hm. At least two-stories, yeah.

SC: And then, were there inside bathrooms, or was it an outhouse?

JP: Oh, yes.

SC: So, it was plumbed?

JP: Oh, yes.

SC: And do you remember about how many students were going to school there?

JP: Oh, we were average, and so I imagine about twenty-five to thirty people.

SC: And what grades?

JP: I went through all's there. Yeah, eight of 'em.

SC: At the elementary-- at Central?

JP: Uh-huh, at Central. And the high school was right next door to us, so it wasn't--

SC: So, how many kids in your class?

JP: I would imagine there were twenty-five or thirty.

SC: Twenty-five?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: And did you bring your lunch to school?

JP: I don't ever remember bringing my lunch to school, but I must have because I-- I can remember gravy sandwiches. Yeah, uh-huh. And peanut butter sandwiches and always it wasn't a big deal about sand-- about lunch.

SC: About lunch?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: So, they didn't serve lunch at school?

JP: No.

SC: And as far as books and that type of thing, did you share books with the classmates, or--?

JP: I think that somebody donated the books or something. Oh, really-- really the only book that I can remember having was a geography book, and it must have been about the fourth or fifth grade. And it was a big book. And my-- I walked to school, of course. And I can remember sliding down 4th Street during the snow time on my book.

SC: On the book?

JP: [chuckles]. Uh-huh. And I think that book curled up because we had it there where-- when my-- when my parents were alive. I'm sure that your-- and though I wasn't supposed to ride [chuckles] on the bridge ever, but-- but it was a big book. But-- and you could sit on it and ride it.

SC: What other subjects do you remember learning in school?

JP: Oh, I don't know, but I must have had a lot of them. My mother was bright. She had gone-- she didn't go to high school, but she did go to a business school. And she was very particular about the language we used, very particular. So, I learned to _____ to speak like--

SC: Properly?

JP: Properly, mm-hm. We never used any bad words. My-- I think if my dad did, he got reprimanded 'cause we never were allowed to say bad words.

SC: What type of activities did you do, did you play out on recess?

JP: Oh, lots of things, ballgames, hopscotch-- rope?

SC: Jump rope?

JP: Jump rope, uh-huh. I can't-- I don't know. The river-- you know, there was a lot of different things for us.

SC: And was there any after school activities?

JP: Not as long as I was in grade school. There was after I got in high school.

SC: And did you-- now, with high school on-- what class-- did you have any after school activities that you did?

JP: Oh, yes. I was in the-- oh, and you can have music, and I was in it.

SC: What types of things?

JP: I was in a [chuckles]-- what do they call them when there are black people?

SC: Jazz? Were you in a jazz choir?

JP: No, huh-uh. Ours when you painted black.

SC: Ohhhh! I don't know what that's called.

JP: Oh, yes! 'Course they don't allow that anymore, but won't they? But anything that would sing, I was in it.

SC: So, were there musicals at school?

JP: Mm-hm, lots of 'em.

SC: And were there plays? That type of thing?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: So, did you play any instruments or--?

JP: No, no, I didn't. And my parents had a piano, but I didn't ever play it. I can pick things out of it, but I never did play it.

SC: So you sang?

JP: Uh-huh, sang.

SC: Did you-- what other types of activities? Do you play any sports?

JP: No, not that I could tell. There was-- caught the fish or anything like that, no.

SC: Just for fun?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: What about school dances? Did you have--?

JP: Oh, yes! [chuckles]. Not the school dances, but there was dances in two or three different places downtown, like the Eagles and the-- and yeah. And they were open here to young people. And I don't think-- if we had to pay for it, it was only a nickel or a dime.

SC: What type-- did they serve refreshments at the dance?

JP: No, no. Just-- I don't know whether they were drinkin' or not. [laughs]. I never got any refreshments, but some people-- and my mother did too-- when they got through dancing, why, some of us would go to different homes and have cake or pie or however-- do refreshments.

SC: What type of music did you dance to? What type of dancing?

JP: Guy Lombardo was-- well yes, there was a high school band, dance band, and they played. And the-- the only one I can remember was Ryder. Okay.

SC: Do you remember any of the dance moves that you did?

JP: Nope. Waltzes and stuff, but it came naturally. I mean, I didn't have to learn to do anything. That just came naturally, and that was--

SC: And was there a lot of courting going on?

JP: Not that I remember. I wasn't without friends of all kinds. I always had friends. But I sure don't remember whether people would go with each other or what happened.

SC: Were you involved with any other social clubs?

JP: No, no.

SC: And did you attend church during your childhood?

JP: Yes, I did.

SC: And what church did you attend?

JP: Presbyterian Church. And when my parents moved to Union or wherever they moved, I had four different _____ that I had been-- I had attended Sunday School four years. So, I was doing pretty good. But that was one of the nice things that we did

SC: Where's the-- is the Presbyterian Church still here in town right now?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: And where is it located?

JP: Washington and-- and I don't know.

SC: I think I got it.

JP: It's across-- yeah.

SC: Yeah.

JP: From the old fire station.

SC: Okay.

JP: And it's still there, same kind of church that I went to when I was a kid.

SC: And did you have potlucks, special gatherings in that church?

JP: No, no. I didn't go if there was. There again, if they had special bible study or-- or whatever, I always went. My mother was a Seventh-day Adventist, and my dad was a Baptist. So, you can see--

SC: So, you went to the Presbyterian Church?

JP: [laughs]. Right. I got a good-- a good divorce-- diversify, yeah.

SC: Now, what house did you grow up-- when-- in during your school years?

JP: Well, on Jefferson was when I went to school at the Central School. And then in 1932, my parents lost their house, and I don't know. I understood that if they rented it, that they had to get out of it. So, my brother-in-law got us a house in Island City, and we moved to Island City in _____. When I first went to-- to high school, and two or three days before we went, they opened the high school. In 1932, it burned.

SC: Oh?! What caused the fire, do you know?

JP: Yes, it was-- it was set.

SC: And did they catch who--?

JP: Yes. He served several years in prison.

SC: And why did he set it? Did--?

JP: I think he was on the volunteer fireman.

SC: Oh.

JP: So, uh-huh. I started really my first year in-- in high school was all over town. We had classes everywhere. Any place-- any place that had a room that we could get into was in-- we were there. How they arranged that, I have no idea.

SC: So, did you walk in groups then?

JP: Yes. At that time when the Mormon Church was in where the-- the Observer is now, and it had a gym and there was two or three classes in that gym besides down in the church part. And in the City Hall, there was classes at the City Hall. And then there was another place called _____ Hall, and there-- there were classes in there. Ohhh. So, the truth-- classes-- you had to go to different--

SC: Purview.

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: Now, did the school burn all the way to the ground?

JP: No. But it-- it was closed for a long time.

SC: Was it closed for an entire school year?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: So, your sophomore year then, you were back?

JP: No fair, you bumped into a jam. [laughs]. My parents couldn't afford-- couldn't afford to send me to school. So, I had to sisters that lived in Pendleton, and so I went to Pendleton and lived with them my sophomore year.

SC: And then you came back your junior year?

JP: And then I came back here for my junior year. By that time the high school was all built. And-- but I folded right in with everybody, you know. I knew everybody, and so it wasn't a bad thing for me to come back to school.

SC: Tell me about your house on Island City Avenue.

JP: Oh, we were across the street from the school where it is now.

SC: Okay.

JP: And it was a big-- and that-- an anyone now wouldn't have lived in it. It was just a big shed, but we made do. There was four of us that lived at home, yeah. And really, I can remember I-- my bedroom was upstairs, and I can remember snow coming in and on top of me at night.

SC: How did it come in?

JP: Through either the windows or the cracks in the side.

SC: So, there was no insulation?

JP: No insulation.

SC: And how much snow would end up in your room?

JP: Just barely like a rain. Just barely we had-- remember waking up in the morning and we had-- you wouldn't have lived in those kind of places by now! Buy my dad was out of work.

SC: Was it during the Great Depression?

JP: Uh-huh. '32 and '33, uh-huh.

SC: And was there electricity in the home?

JP: Yes, there was, and we had a telephone. I've often remembered we'd do-- it did have a telephone. And why, unless my dad was connected

to the railroad and had to have a telephone so he could be called. Why we had a phone, I don't know.

SC: And did you use the phone often?

JP: No.

SC: And when you did use the phone, was there an operator that connected you? How did that work?

JP: I don't remember. Yes, there was. But I was a little kid, and kids don't -- didn't do those kind of things. That was only for parents, so I-- I never-- I don't ever remember using the phone. Except, I think I had a girlfriend that I had-- could call. But it wasn't one of those things that you like they do now, hang onto that phone. Ooo, that makes me mad!

SC: And was there an indoor bathroom?

JP: Yes. Ohh, no! I was wrong! [laughs]. It was outside!

SC: So, was it an outhouse?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: And how far away from it-- from the house was it?

JP: Hm.

SC: Pretty close?

JP: Hm-mm. You want to be sure to be warm when you went out there. [laughs]. No, it wasn't. But it was covered. I would imagine it was a good twenty-- twenty-five feet, something like that away from the house.

SC: Now what about taking baths?

JP: We had a great big barrel, not a tub. And until I moved over here, I had a tub like that, a galvanized tub. Well, we took-- and we had to

warm the water on the fire-- on the stove-- cooking stove. And pump it from a pump.

SC: Did a pump inside the kitchen?

JP: Yes. We were lucky. _____.

SC: So now, how was the-- who took the first bath? Did you use the same bath water?

JP: No, we didn't. We were-- my brother was little, three years younger than I was. And my little sister was six years younger than I was. No, I don't think so. I never remember having a bath order. I can remember my mother taking a bath though, and she was a big, fat, woman. [chuckles]. In that galvanized tub. And she would call me once in awhile. I don't remember how many times, but she'd call me once in awhile, and I'd scrub her back. [laughs]. No, yeah. Oh my, gosh! You know, you don't think about those things! [chuckles].

SC: No.

JP: So, I don't-- yeah. Oh dear.

SC: How was laundry done and that type of thing in the home?

JP: By hand. My mother had a washtub-- _____ washtub board. And she, good heavens to may! You know, you only washed your underwear maybe once a week, but never anything more than that. I can remember when I had a wool dress-- a nice wool dress. And I don't-- I can remember it being washed on the weekend or something like that, but there was no drying. There was no-- nothing to do about it.

SC: Where would you hang it to dry?

JP: On the back porch.

SC: Even in the winter?

JP: No, I don't think so in the winter time. But you were very careful about it because it was wool, and it shrunk. So, yeah.

SC: What did your father do for work?

JP: He was on the rail-- well, really on the railroad. He was connected to the railroad, and-- but he was off work for two or three years. He-- he worked for farmers. He worked for-- doing everything. I remember he dug somebody's cesspool for him, and he smelled. I can undoubtedly remember that. But he'd milk cows for the somebody _____. And course, when they had a cow, they gave it to us so we had milk. And those-- those were very depressing times, but we didn't know we were depressed. We were get-- just getting along because everybody was in the same boat.

SC: So, there's always something to eat?

JP: My-- mm-hm. My mother was real good to have that. I never remember getting-- being hungry. And we had a garden. My dad was a real good gardener. So we had-- she canned a lot of things. And she was a good cook because we weren't hungry.

SC: And did your mother work outside the home at all?

JP: No. But she was a good seamstress. She could make over things. My-- I had an aunt that lived in California, and she would send us a box of things, maybe once or twice a year. And my mother could make over the dishes or the things for me because I was the only one home. Or something like that, and so, make 'em fit. Make 'em look good. She was real good about that.

SC: So, after high school did you go to college?

JP: No, no. When I went to school over in Pendleton is when I met Robert Umbarger. And he had a job, and he had a car and [chuckles] so I-- I married him the week after I graduated from high school.

SC: And tell me about your wedding. Where did it take place?

JP: It was private in our own home-- in our home. And my brother-in-law's sister performed the marriage.

SC: Really?

JP: Uh-huh. Her name was Josie Bach, and-- but she was a minister and she performed the marriage. Oh, that marriage. I was married for eight years, and I had two children. And then they _____, and then it broke up. We broke up.

SC: And then did you come back to La Grande?

JP: Uh-huh. And we--

SC: And did--?

JP: lived with my parents.

SC: And then you met your second husband?

JP: Yes.

SC: And what was his name?

JP: Ivan Parks. He was a-- he had just gotten out of the service. He had performed overseas and just got home, and he was a manager of Safeways. But there was five managers in the Safeways, and at that time-- then of course it will be this world war time too. Everybody is entitled to their job when they come back home. Just see what happens with these people because there was five managers in-- in the Safeways. And he knew he was gonna be out because they couldn't keep 'em. And he was Relief Manager for awhile, several times. But his sister had married a man, a railroader, and they had a real his/her _____ of the brother-in-law parents was killed in a railroad accident. So, there was a compensation or insurance from that injury-- injury. And so, Ivan's sister-- I don't know whether she sued there or what, but she had to go to Los Angeles for a hearing. And so she didn't go to Los Angeles for the hearing, and she got quite a sum of money for that injury-- death. So, she had that much money, and I had my divorce money, and Ivan had the railroad, [chuckles] so he didn't have

any money after he got back from the service. But we had enough money gathering them altogether that we bought a chur-- bought a store in Union. It was a real small store not much bigger than my room right here, but he was a good manager and a good man. So, we had that store for about, oh, three or four years, and then the _____ and the skating rink in Union came open. And so we bought that. So, we moved our little tiny store into a big-- we called it a super store, but you wouldn't know it by now.

SC: On your first store, what type of-- did you sell all grocery items, dry goods--?

JP: Yes.

SC: Meat?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: Where did you get your meat from?

JP: Valley-- Valley Meat, and it was local because they butchered their own meat.

SC: And did they wrap it for you, or did--?

JP: No, no, we wrapped it ourselves.

SC: And who did the wrapping at your store?

JP: Me.

SC: You?

JP: [chuckles]. A lot of it, uh-huh because it wasn't individually wrapped until a person-- a person bought it, and then it was wrapped. And it ground to a lot of hamburger, and a lot of sausage. We did custom cutting too. Anybody that wanted a cow or a deer or an elk, we would cut it up for 'em.

SC: And package them?

JP: And package it, uh-huh.

SC: And where did your dairy products come from?

JP: Ohh, there were at least two different product-- dairy people that brought us milk. And-- and I don't know that whether--

SC: Now they come in glass quart size?

JP: Mm-hm. And I saved several glass bottles for years because they-- you don't get the glass bottles anymore. Well, and then I had to give them up [chuckles] when I come over here.

SC: An eggs an that type-- you sold that type of things here?

JP: Oh, we-- we'd buy eggs from different farmers, and we had to candle 'em and all that kind of stuff. We had a lot of-- we--

SC: Did you package the eggs yourself, or did they come packaged from the farmers?

JP: No, we packaged 'em, mm-hm. They would-- they would come in fifteen dozen, mm-hm. You know that. [chuckles].

SC: Ha! When I go to the grocery store, so now you know--

JP: [laughs].

SC: twelve eggs and you--

JP: [chuckles]. Yeah. Oh, yes. We had to separate the large and the small and those kinds of weighin'. They don't do that anymore in the grocery stores.

SC: No. And--?

JP: And we did.

SC: And did you have butter and that type of stuff?

JP: Yes, and it came directly from the creamery.

SC: Now, was it already packaged, or did you have to--?

JP: Yes, they packaged it, uh-huh. But there was a creamery in Union.

SC: Really?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: What was it named, do you remember?

JP: No, I don't.

SC: But that's where your butter came from?

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: And your vegetables and that, where did that come from-- your fruit?

JP: There was a produce house that would bring it to us. Now, where all they got it, I don't know. But we had all kinds of vegetables and fruit.

SC: And dry goods?

JP: Uh-huh.

SC: How were the dry goods stored? Were they already in packages, or did you package them out?

JP: No, they-- they were already packaged in the cases. So, we had shelves to fill every day and _____.

SC: What was your least favorite job of running a grocery store?

JP: I really don't know. No, I really don't remember.

SC: So, when you moved to the bigger store, were you able to offer more items?

JP: Yeah-- no, not-- well yes, more items. And then we had at least one of two. See, there was the three of us, Elvie and Ivan and me. And we could hire at least one more person, and most of the time it was one and a half. But we had boys. Elvie had a boy that did the-- the delivery, and we had a couple boys that delivered and helped us in the _____ store. And believe me, when they started to go to college, then they said they had worked in a-- in a grocery store, they were welcome! So, they didn't have any problem.

SC: When you say they were delivery, what did they-- did they deliver groceries?

JP: Yes. People'd come and buy their groceries and-- and Safeway is doing that now, but you have to pay for it. But we didn't have to-- you didn't have to pay for it. You buy-- you get your groceries if you pay for them in the store, and then we would deliver 'em. We got a few telephone calls and for delivery, but not many.

SC: And did people shop on a weekly basis? You made--?

JP: Yes, I think so. We had a few customers that were in every day, but we loved 'em.

SC: Did you have a bakery?

JP: No. In a bakery-- oh, the-- the bread man would bring the bakery stuff. Hm, okay. You're makin' me think! [laughs].

SC: It's good for you!

JP: [laughs]. Ohh.

SC: And when you deliver groceries, cause I-- when I think of grocery stores, I think of brown bags, plastic bags.

JP: Mm-hm.

SC: Did you guys use-- what did you use as a--?

JP: Boxes.

SC: Boxed goods?

JP: Boxed goods, mm-hm. And _____ want us to because they were easier to handle and equip with. But we saved every box-- every box that we ever had.

SC: And how long was the grocery store open for?

JP: Oh, every day, except for Sunday. And when we first were over there at Union had a stock show, and we closed for the stock show. But at that time, La Grande was closed on Friday afternoon when every-- everybody had a parade, and so closed. And we would, you know during the stock show. But they don't close anymore.

SC: No. When did the-- when did you finally close the store completely?

JP: Oh, dear. My husband was sick, and we put it up for sale and sold it to a guy that gave us a sob story. But he was-- didn't have the money today, but his grandma was comin' by and he would get the money. Oh, come. So, we-- we suffered through that part of it, and he went broke. He just walked out of our store, closed the door, and let us have it back. Well, we couldn't handle it, couldn't possibly do that, so we put it up for sale again. And then-- then there was another guy, and that didn't work either. So, we did not make any money on that grocery store. You know, when-- when you sale something you're supposed to make money on it? We did not make money. The guy that was going to take the-- I'll close it, _____. And I didn't get to go, but he said that we were lucky to have anything left. We didn't even get any money out of the building. So, Ivan had short term-- bought-- jobs that he would do. He'd-- he peddled the Observer for a little while. He peddled senior meals for awhile. Ohh, he wasn't able to do a lot of things. And so, I was fifty-five years old and had to go to work, change entirely. So, I applied for a job-- a number of jobs. And it burned that all of us had a-- you know, I'd one with _____. But if I was fifty-five years old, I could go to work and they would pay me. Okay, I applied at the county courthouse, and I got a job with a county judge. Whoa!

O: Hello, would like some _____?

JP: No, thanks.

O: Alright.

JP: And the county judge hired me for th-- what is it, three months or something like that. And so I went to work for him, and the Employment Office paid me. And then the county picked me up on the first of September, and I worked for ten years for the county judge.

SC: What did you do for the county judge?

JP: I acted as a secretary. I went back and took typing lessons at night so that would help, but I was more or less oriented to the public anyway. So, I knew a lot of people, and I worked out pretty good for him.

SC: What was the judge's name?

JP: Misener.

SC: And the courthouse is located in Union?

JP: No, here.

SC: Here?

JP: Where they tore it down.

SC: Where was that at? Do you remember?

JP: Ohh, well that's now behind the Catholic Church.

SC: Oh, okay.

JP: Well, yeah. That's about the only way I can remember because they tore it down since then, and I cried. Yeah, anyway, he was real good to me 'cause anything I'd-- I would do wrong, if-- if I ever did anything-- normally did anything wrong, he would say, "Well, maybe I didn't discuss that," or "Maybe I didn't tell you how that that was." So, he was so kind to me.

SC: How many judges were at the courthouse at the time?

JP: At that time, there were three. But Judge Misener didn't have anything to do about the judge part. He was a _____, simply-- he had charge of all of the-- oh, what do I want to say-- employees. But it was the-- there's two other judges that _____, the juvenile judge and the senior judge. But he didn't have anything to do with the rest of 'em, so we just-- it was just-- oh, what I want-- employee.

SC: So, when you were working for the county, were you still living in Union?

JP: Yes, uh-huh.

SC: And where in Union did you live?

JP: Ohhhh, it was-- well, I moved out [chuckles] just a couple years-- just a year ago on Delta Street.

SC: And how big of a house was it?

JP: A three bedroom.

SC: And I'm sure it had running water and--

JP: [laughs]. All of the--

SC: all that?

JP: Yes, uh-huh.

SC: And did you attend church in Union?

JP: Oh, it kind-- yes, when my kids were home, we went to the Methodist Church in Union. But then after my kids were all gone and Ivan was gone, I came back to the Presbyterian Church.

SC: Were you involved with the Methodist Church a lot? Did you attend--
?

JP: Yes, as long as my kids were there.

SC: Did you attend ladies' groups?

JP: No, uh-uh. I was working. [laughs].

O: Yes, she was.

JP: Yeah, uh-huh. From twelve hours a day. You didn't-- didn't work your eight hours. You always worked twelve hours and lucky to have a day off.

SC: So, did you see some big changes in Union from the time you moved there, and then you left and moved here?

JP: Well, when you're involved in it, you really don't pay that much attention, but yes. My husband was a mayor on the city council for years. But at the time, when you're involved in it, you really don't pay that much attention. Since I've been over here and watched the newspaper and talk-- talk to my friends over there, they know what-- [chuckles]. There seems to be like-- like it's really changing, but it really hasn't.

SC: And did your husband-- what were his duties as the mayor?

JP: To absorb all the complaints. [chuckles]. Yeah, he didn't do bookwork or anything like that.

SC: How many terms was he mayor, or how many years?

JP: Oh, I think two, at least two.

SC: So, after you retired when you were sixty-five--?

JP: I was fifty-five.

SC: When you retired?

JP: Oh, when I retired from the court job.

SC: So, what did you do during your retirement years?

JP: Oh my, gosh. We had an RV and went south during the winter. So, we had kids down there, and we could go see them. And-- and we travelled south and went to Arizona like everybody else does. And, oh dear-- well, we-- yeah, that was about what we did.

SC: And in the summer time were you involved with any type of groups in Union county or--?

JP: We were always busy. I don't know what we did. Oh yes, we were in the Good Sams. So, that was a group, uh-huh.

SC: And what did Good Sams do?

JP: Go camping.

SC: And where would you camp at in this area?

JP: Oh, we camped everywhere with-- in a group. There was, oh, ten or twelve or fifteen of us that had camp-- either campers or RV's, and we'd all go together. We went lots of places. I think they're still quite active.

SC: Do you have any recollection of Hot Lake?

JP: Oh, yes. We danced in there. We went to dinner in there. I was never in any of the rooms, but then when-- well, when-- when Ivan-- I'm so glad that they're restoring it. When there was a bunch of us girls that were walking, you know after I retired, and they were all retired, and we walked. We decided that we'd like to have Bill Gates come and [chuckles] take over Hot Lake. But we never got enough of the courage to write to Bill Gates. [chuckles].

SC: Never got the letter written?

JP: But, yeah. [chuckles]. But I think that people are doing a good job of it.

SC: So, you-- what type of dances? I mean, just--?

JP: Just the ballroom dancing.

SC: So, did you get all dressed up for it?

JP: Oh, sure.

SC: Did you have dance cards?

JP: No.

SC: No?

JP: Hm-mm. Just a group of us would go. My parents had their anniversary there. I don't remember which anniversary it was, but fiftieth anniversary. Must have been their sixtieth anniversary, or their fifty-fifth anniversary, and we had it in the Hot-- Hot Lake.

SC: Do you remember when it had both wings, or just the main wing 'cause at one time part of it burned down?

JP: I don't remember that.

SC: You don't remember that?

JP: Huh-uh.

SC: I don't know when it burned. So, you remember dancing and having dinner--?

JP: Mm-hm. With the-- yeah, I don't remember who the orchestra was, or anything like that about it. Might have been just a-- a record, but I do remember going over there dancing. We square danced there a couple times besides the ballroom dancing. It was hemmed in. We must-- we enjoyed it.

SC: Did people come from all over the county?

JP: Uh-huh. It was real nice. What was the man-- man's name that ran that? He wasn't a doctor, but he was called a doctor. Oh, shucks. That would have been the-- huh, oh well.

SC: After the dance-- I mean, after it-- didn't it turn into a solarium about-- what did it turn into, an old folk's home?

JP: An old folk's home, yeah. A lot like this. And I think that's probably it. Now, that I'm having a _____. What do you call it? Oh, there was old people there. But at one time, long time ago, before my time, they grew their own vegetables, and they knew how they were gonna sell something lived over there.

SC: It's a huge building.

JP: Uh-huh, and once while I was with the courthouse-- with the courthouse, there was somebody that was gonna make a hot house? Oh, how to say that?

SC: A bath-- like a hot bathhouse?

JP: No, not bathhouses. They were gonna grow vegetables.

SC: Oh!

JP: And because the water, you know is-- is hot, so they could-- and they would talk about tomatoes and cucumbers and all kind of things you grow over there, but it-- that didn't work. And there was a couple of guys that were in the court-- would be with my county judge from California some place, and they had such big ideas, dreams about what they were gonna do. And I think they had quite a bit of money in that, but they went broke or they didn't do anything more about it. That was one of the things I did. I had to interview them or whatever, and that was my job. And I like 'em. They were full of B.S., but then. [chuckles].

SC: But you liked them?

JP: [laughs]. I liked 'em! Uh-huh. I didn't have much use for them after I found out that they were so full of-- they had all kinds of big ideas. But I think the people that have it now have got better ideas.

SC: They've got bright ideas?

JP: [laughs]. Yeah.

SC: Well, can you think of anything else that you'd like to share?

JP: [chuckles]. Oh, you! You've pumped me far enough!

SC: [chuckles]. I've pumped you pretty good today.

JP: [chuckles]. Uh-huh, yeah. Uh-huh.

SC: I'm gonna turn this off.
[audio ends]