

**MONA SUDBROCK**

**September 1, 2005**

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[audio begins]

I: An oral history interview with Mona Sudbrock. It is September 1st, 2005.

[audio clicks - no delay]

An oral-- all right, so we're interviewing Mona Sudbrock, and could you tell me your full name, please?

MS: Mona Maxine Miller Sudbrock.

I: And when and where were you born?

MS: Stanfield, Oregon on February the 7<sup>th</sup>, 1924.

I: You lived in Stanfield, but you've basically been in La Grande all your life for the most part?

MS: I stayed in Stanfield only two years.

I: Right. What took your parents to Stanfield? Do you know?

MS: A job, farming.

I: Is that right?

MS: Yes.

I: And then what brought 'em back to La Grande, or the area I should say?

MS: I think probably because his mother lived here.

I: I see.

MS: My-- my father's mother.

I: Now what did your-- your father was a farmer? Did he do anything else?

MS: He worked for-- for-- when he came back to La Grande he worked for Mt. Emily Lumber Company.

I: Was that the only job he held?

MS: Until he started farming again for Grover Grimmett.

I: And then, how long did he do that?

MS: Must have been about nine years.

I: What did he do after that?

MS: He worked for California Pacific Utilities as a meter reader.

I: And did he-- did he--?

MS: He tried \_\_\_\_\_--

I: He was--

MS: \_\_\_\_\_.

I: fired from that job?

MS: Yes.

I: Did your mother help employment, or was she a homemaker?

MS: No, she was homemaker.

I: And where did you live when you came back to La Grande? You said you were about two years old when you returned to La Grande, which would have been about 1926?

MS: Well, we rented the house first on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. And then later we bought a house on Washington but were not able to finish paying for it, so.

I: What happened there?

MS: Well, the-- they phased out a lot of the men at the mill because of the Depression, and so my dad was laid off. And that's when he went out to farm, started working for Grover Grimmett.

I: They-- they couldn't pay off the house because of the Depression and losing their job and all of that? Now--

MS: No income.

I: Where was this place with Grover Grimmett located?

MS: It's on Sandridge Road just a little bit north of the Conley warehouses.

I: Tell us about this house that you lived in.

MS: A big, old, farm house, two-story, had two bedrooms downstairs, three bedrooms upstairs with a big attic, just one bathroom and a huge big kitchen with a pantry, porches all the way around.

I: A wrap-around porch?

MS: Mm-hm, a balcony porch up above and so forth.

I: How was that house heated?

MS: An oil stove and kitchen range of course.

I: How long did you live there?

MS: I think it must have been about nine years.

I: When you-- when you lived up there, where did you go to school?

MS: Storybrook, Alicel and went there one year and then changed to Valeria.

I: Now tell me about Alicel School. What do you remember of that? Was that a one-room schoolhouse?

MS: Yes, it was one room.

I: Do you remember who your teacher was then? I believe I read here that your-- your parents didn't like your teacher. I was wondering if you might wanna tell us about that. Do you know?

MS: I really don't know why. For some reason they didn't. His name was Scott Buntin, but why they didn't like him I really don't know.

I: That was your teacher, Scott Buntin? So, you went there about one year--

MS: Yes.

I: of maybe first? No, you weren't in-- were you in first grade?

MS: I went to first grade there.

I: Then where did you transfer to?

MS: To Valeria School.

I: And that was another one-room schoolhouse?

MS: Yes, it was.

I: Tell me about that.

MS: Well, it's just one big room. You know, there's desks and a big wood stove in the center of the building-- building.

I: What grades were taught there?

MS: One through eight.

I: And did you go clear to eighth? No, you didn't go to eighth grade there.

MS: I moved to La Grande when we were in the seventh grade-- when I was in the seventh grade.

I: So, let's talk about that school a bit. It was a one-room schoolhouse. You say it was heated with a wood stove?

MS: Yes.

I: Do you remember some of your teachers?

MS: Yes. Edna Turner and Mary Kale were two of the main teachers that I remember.

I: Now did they change teachers? Is that why there were two that you remember?

MS: Yes, Mary Kale first and then Edna Turner later.

I: What were they like?

MS: Well--

I: How did they manage their classrooms? What do you remember?

MS: Very strict teacher, I would say, which they definitely were in those days, but we all knew that we had to mind the teacher and be quiet in the school.

I: Right.

MS: If you didn't you were in trouble at home.

I: Word would get home?

MS: Yes.

I: Is that a fact? How far was it to get to the school from home?

MS: It was two and a half miles.

I: No bus?

MS: No buses.

I: No.

MS: We, part of the time had a horse to ride. When a neighbor wanted to borrow the horse for awhile as we didn't have any riding horses on the place, they were all-- they were all work horses. But when we had the horse, they didn't. We'd only let one person, or-- or two people ride at a time. And there were three of us, so one of we-- we older ones had to walk one way a day.

I: Take turns walking?

MS: We had to take turns.

I: Because there were three of you?

MS: Yes.

I: How-- what was your school day like? Tell us about it when you-- when did it start? What kind of-- how would it work?

MS: I think it started at 8:00. I'm not sure and probably we're out at 4:00. I can't remember for sure. But uh--

I: How did the class day go? What-- how would it work with one teacher being there?

MS: Well, we were just each one assigned our studies for the day, and the teacher would help us when we needed help.

I: About how many students did they have when you went?

MS: I'd imagine there were about twelve or fourteen of us, not a very big school.

I: Was-- was every grade--did every grade have a student in it, or did they have gaps at times?

MS: I'm sure there were gaps at times. I'm not sure about that.

I: I see. Did you have duties or responsibilities in the classroom?

MS: I don't remember.

I: Did-- did boys have to pack wood or water or--

MS: I'm sure they did,--

I: or anything like that?

MS: but I don't remember too much about it.

I: Did you have running water?

MS: No.

I: Did you have a well to get water--

MS: Yes, we had a well.

I: or do you have to bring water in?

MS: We had a well.

I: And you went there until your-- you-- you were in grade seven?

MS: Right.

I: And then what happened?

MS: Then I finished Greenwood-- finished school at Greenwood. And in the eighth grade we were at the middle school, which was the old Central School.

I: I see. And did you go to high school here in La Grande?

MS: Yes, I did. Four years.

I: All four years?

MS: \_\_\_\_\_ built\_\_\_\_\_.

I: Let's talk about that. When did you graduate?

MS: In 1942.

I: So, you've been there from about 1938 to 1942.

MS: Yes.

I: What was it like in high school then? Can you tell me about it, what you remember, some of the things you did?

MS: Well, we had different activities, like home economics. We had-- it's hard to remember all these things; a girl's club that we took part in. I was in the Belief Club, in the \_\_\_\_\_ for a choir. I don't know, but you need to know I'm \_\_\_\_\_.

I: I'm just asking things that you might remember. Who were some of your friends?

MS: Did you want names?

I: Well, only if you-- you know, just some of your closest friends maybe that you ran around with quite a bit because in your written history you named a lot of people that you seemed to have spent lots of time with over the years.

MS: My closest girlfriends were Adeline Crouse, Marian Snyder, Frances Carl, and let's see-- and the boy were George Fleshman, and Virgil Sudbrock, Bruce Bray, and we were all from, except for Bruce, we were all from the same church. So our activities were church activities of loving fun to it.

I: Now, if I read this right pretty much the majority of your friends and your social contacts all through school, except maybe out in the country were church-related.

MS: Yes.

I: Okay, what church was that that you all attended?



MS: First Christian Church.

I: First Christian.

MS: In La Grande.

I: And you say George Fleshman was one of your--

MS: Yes.

I: your friends during the--?

MS: In fact, I called George Fleshman my brother because his family and my family were very close all through the years. I just feel like he's almost a part of my family.

I: Well, you've known him quite a long time.

MS: All my life since I lived-- first moved to La Grande.

I: Right. Now where did you live when you moved back to La Grande?

MS: We lived on Washington.

I: Did you finish--

MS: \_\_\_\_.

I: school in that house?

MS: No, 'cause that's when we moved to the farm.

I: You moved back out to the farm?

MS: After we quit there on Washington, then we moved to--

I: Now--

MS: Sandridge Road.

I: Did-- but you-- you finished out at La Grande High School.

MS: Yes.

I: So, how would you get to town then?

MS: Well, we moved onto U Avenue down here when we moved up to La Grande. And then later on \_\_\_\_\_ Lane, and then on to 2<sup>nd</sup>, and finally my folks bought a house on Hall Street. And that's where actually I was living when I went to high school--

I: I see.

MS: was on Hall.

I: Now I read in your history here that you-- that your future husband was-- was the guy who had the car.

MS: Mm-hm.

I: So--

MS: The only one that had a car.

I: The only one period that had a car at school?

MS: That was-- that I ran around with, yes.

I: Now were you dating him originally when you started-- when you would start to socialize with the car?

MS: No.

I: And I h-- and um--

MS: It was just a group of friends together.

I: It was just a group, a social group.

MS: And then-- then veered off a little--

I: I see.

MS: to begin with.

I: Now what color-- what kind of a car was that?

MS: Well, to begin with it was a Model A Ford, and then later a Model T.

I: Now--

MS: Well, let's see wait, I think it was a Model T and later he had a Dodge, an old Dodge.

I: Was that a car that you had to crank to start? Do you--?

MS: I think so, yes. I'm not sure.

I: So, where would you go when you're a-- first of all, can you remember who the group as some of the people were that you would pile into the car with and go?

MS: Well, the ones that I've already mentioned and sometimes my sister, Betty and her friend, Ruby June Paul would go with us. Whoever might be available to go.

I: And wanna go.

MS: And sometimes there was quite a group of us.

I: I read that sometimes nine or more people in that car, huh?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: Where would you go? What kind of things would you do?

MS: Well, we always like to drag Main as we called it, only it was Adams Avenue.

I: Uh-huh, and uh--

MS: Just drivin' around.

I: Tell me about dragging that Main. Was-- was that-- was that a common activity--

MS: Yes, it was.

I: in the times? And--

MS: It was fun.

I: What would you do? Would you just drive from one end to the other?

MS: Yes. And we'd-- they'd wanna to go to the movies, then we'd-- and sometimes go to Cove swimming at the swimming pool in Cove and just different activities.

I: Any adventures while you were on any of those activities?

MS: Well, I remember one night when-- I think that was after graduation. We drove out to Cove early in the morning and my-- and George Freshman wanted to drive the car. And he did, but he went in the ditch.

I: He did?

MS: In that turn. About two or three o'clock in the morning we had to walk to one of the neighbors and call my husband-- soon-to-be husband's dad and tell him we had-- had a problem. And he was a wrecker driver for Perkins Motor Company, so he came out and pulled us out.

I: Your father-- your future father-in-law, you mean?

MS: Mm-hm. And it was a long time before he knew that George was driving because that was a no-no.

I: So he wasn't supposed to be driving?

MS: No, no one was supposed to drive it but Virgil.

I: And so Virgil had to kind of manage the tale a little bit?

MS: Cover it up for George.

I: Now, so you'd been out the night before, and you were out late?

MS: Cele-- I think it was the prom probably.

I: I see.

MS: It's either that or graduation night. I'm not-- I don't remember, but anyway, that was one of our misadventures.

I: Now, what would be a --when-- when you used to like to run up and down on Main-- on Main, or Adams Avenue, where were the--where were the end spots then?

MS: Well, Foley Hotel was where the annex part of it is now. Well, there was a Foley Hotel across the street too. And then the Sacajawea Hotel was on the other corner. That was kind of the business district at that time--

I: Was that--

MS: in the \_\_\_\_\_.

I: one end of the-- would that have been one end of the--?

MS: So it would have been from about 4<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> or just in that street down Greenwood.

I: Were there-- were there places for you when you were young people to stop and eat, or-- or-- what-- what-- what places were there then for you?

MS: Well, Wright's Drugstore was our big hangout. They had a little lunch counter and a soda fountain, and also later Moon Drugstore had-- also had lunch counters.

I: Now, where was Wright's Drugstore?

MS: It was in the middle of the block where Domino's and Foley's Station-- right in that area.

I: And how 'bout the other place that you mentioned?

MS: It was-- Moon Drug was where Clausen's is now.

I: I see.

MS: On that corner.

I: Were there any other places for you to go along-- along Adams that young people could go to that--?

MS: Well, we attended the theaters. There was the Liberty and the Granada theaters at that time.

I: The State Theater wasn't there then?

MS: Yes, and the State Theater. There were three.

I: And the State Theater too. Any other places you would go along there?

MS: After we started dating we liked to go to China Mary's which was a Chinese Restaurant. That was-- the building isn't there now. It was where-- right along 3<sup>rd</sup>-- the Wells Fargo Bank is now.

I: And that was a Chinese restaurant?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: Do any dancing, or--?

MS: My family didn't dance. We were allowed to go to school dances after we got in high school, but that was it.

I: When you--?

MS: There was a Zuber Hall where some of them did go. We also had a

skating rink.

I: Where was that?

MS: It was on-- it was on Washington like kind of behind I think where the Sacajawea Annex is now.

I: Did you ever go to Zuber Hall?

MS: No.

I: Oh. So you didn't dance?

MS: I went to the skating rink, but I didn't go to there, no.

I: I see.

MS: No.

I: Okay. Now, your soon-to-be husband, Virgil Sudbrock Jr., where did you meet him? When-- when did you first know him?

MS: When they first moved to La Grande they started coming to First Christian Church--

I: Did you say

MS: when he's ten years old.

I: he was about ten?

MS: We were both ten.

I: And that's where you first knew him?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: And then you always knew him after that?

MS: Yes.

I: When did you two begin to date seriously?

MS: When we were juniors in high school.

I: And how long did you date him before you married him?

MS: The last two years of high school and one year after school-- after we graduated.

I: Where did you get married?

MS: In La Grande.

I: At the First Christian Church?

MS: At First Christian Church.

I: Where was that located then?

MS: It was on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania.

I: Is that building still there?

MS: No, it's not.

I: And when did you get married?

MS: July the 10th, 1943.

I: Did you go on a big honeymoon, or have big plans for--?

MS: No. We went to Portland and stayed overnight. Well, we went to Pinecone the night we were married which was just a little service station and swimming pool area outside of La Grande where the truck stop now is, and that was our first night. And then we went on to Portland and stayed in a hotel one night. And then we went to Vancouver because he was working at the shipyards in Vancouver at that time.

I: I missed some things I want to go back and ask about here. I'd like to



return a little bit to your earlier days where you were living out on that farm. And you talked about that your mother had made a lot of your clothes--

MS: Yes.

I: out of-- it looks like out of flour sacks. Can you--

MS: Some of it, yes.

I: tell me about that?

MS: The flour sacks were printed usually with a nice pattern. Some of them would be plain and mostly used for dish towels, but the printed flour sacks were made into clothing. You made dresses, aprons, skirts, whatever.

I: Was that a common--

MS: Yes it was.

I: a very common thing that people did--

MS: Yes.

I: at that time? Talked about some of them were embroidered with pigs or wheat?

MS: Well, my mother did the-- the embroidery.

I: Oh, she did?

MS: Yes.

I: Oh, I see. When was laundry day?

MS: Monday.

I: You have--?

MS: Always Monday.

I: Do you know why that was?

MS: It was just a routine. Usually we'd wash on Monday and iron on Tuesday and had a pattern for the week.

I: Now, did you continue that pattern when you became an adult and-- and got married?

MS: No, I didn't. Especially after I started working, I just did it whenever it was-- was convenient.

I: But it was Monday-- was wash day?

MS: Mm-hm. That's when that was.

I: Now, you mentioned that-- and I imagine that it was tough times during the Depression there. That it looks like you had to make a lot of your own play activities and things like that. I was reading that you-- that you made paper dolls out of the Wards' catalogs.

MS: Yes, we cut paper dolls out of the catalog.

I: And did you have dolls to put those on, or did you cut the dolls out also?

MS: No, we'd cut figures out of the catalogue and that was our-- our dolls.

I: Oh, I see. Did-- where'd you-- where'd you get the clothing? Did you cut those out of the catalog too?

MS: Yes.

I: Everything was cut out of the cat--?

MS: Yes.

I: Was it already pre--?

MS: They were dressed figures out of the catalog.

I: I see.

MS: And we pretended they were our paper dolls.

I: You mentioned that you especially liked this game Uncle Wiggily.

MS: Yes.

I: Can you tell me about that game?

MS: Well, I don't know how to describe it exactly, but it was a board game that we had being moved. If you straight shook dice to get the amount of spaces you'd move.

I: And what was the object in the long run?

MS: To get to a certain point on the board.

I: I see. And what made that fun?

MS: Because it was one of the few games we had, I guess as much as anything.

I: Was that a popular game with others?

MS: Yes, it was.

I: It was a common game that people played? Would that have been in the same vein, say, as Monopoly or--

MS: Yes.

I: or something like that?

MS: And we did have Monop-- Monopoly too.

I: You did have Monopoly?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: Now Uncle Wiggily, was there money involved, or you--

MS: No.

I: shook dice and you just tried to move around--

MS: No, there wasn't any--

I: around the board to get to the end curve?

MS: Uh-huh. And of course there were obstacles like there are on Bo James.

I: There were always what?

MS: Obstacles that if you just lit on that certain place, you had to do something else, and all of that.

I: What-- what might that be?

MS: I can't remember.

I: Okay.

MS: It's been too long now.

I: Has it? \_\_\_\_\_.

MS: But we all loved-- all three of us loved to read. And we did have a mobile unit that came out to the school during the summer and to the homes and brought books out from the library.

I: Would it actually come to your house then?

MS: Mm-hm. And we got to take out books every-- every week, and of course return them then the next week. So, we did love to read them, really enjoyed that.

I: And they would come out weekly?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: Well, as long as we've backtracked, let's talk about being in school in the winter. That could be pretty tough with the snow out around.

MS: It was, and sometimes when the road snow was really bad, our dad would take us in a sled with the horses. But occasionally you'd go in a car, but most of the time you did walk.

I: Now, when your dad took you on the sled with the horses, did that hold everybody? Was that a large sled or--?

MS: Yes, it was.

I: I see. One \_\_\_\_\_ could actually, like a passenger sled then?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: I see. Could it get really bad snow?

MS: Yes, there was some very bad winters.

I: You talked about being able to walk right over the top of fences.

MS: Yes, the snow was very deep at times. It wasn't that way every year, but we did have some rather bad years.

I: How would you keep warm at home? I think I read that your bedroom wasn't heated?

MS: No, it wasn't. You kept the doors closed in the daytime of course, to keep the heat in the living room and-- and into the kitchen. That was the two rooms that were heated during the day.

I: How would your mother help you stay warm?

MS: Well, sometimes if it was really, really cold she would keep flatirons on the stove. The old flatirons they were using at that time and wrap

them in rags and put them in the foot of our bed to keep us warm.  
And we had feather beds.

I: That helped also.

MS: Mm-hm.

I: So did you-- were your parents-- your mother using a-- was she using a-- a wood stove--

MS: Yes.

I: for cooking?

MS: Yes.

I: A wooden stove oven I think, or--?

MS: Mm-hm, a big wood range.

I: Did you learn how to cook on that?

MS: Yes.

I: Did you like it?

MS: Well, I prefer the electric, of course. [chuckles]. But I-- when I first got married I did have a wood stove because there in wartime you didn't have electrical appliances. So, it was some time after the war before we were able to get a wood stove, or electric stove.

I: Were you proficient at using the wood stove, or did it cause you problems or--?

MS: Well, I guess I learned to use it reasonably well.

I: Do you remember getting your first electric range?

MS: Yes, I do.

I: Was that exciting?

MS: Yes, it was.

I: What did you like about it?

MS: Well, the ease of use mostly. No wood to stoke in the fire [chuckles] or any of that.

I: Was it as easy to-- well, did you find it easier or more difficult to account for the temperature range or anything like that?

MS: Oh, it was so much better. [chuckles]. Wood burning was hard to \_\_\_\_\_ that.

I: Now, you talked about-- you talked about some childhood diseases. I'd like you to tell me about the business with scarlet fever.

MS: Well, scarlet fever is just a strep infection, and sometimes it causes you to break out in a rash. And I had been in the hospital from a mastoid operation. And how I got the scarlet fever I really don't know, but through the quarantine because at that time they thought it was very, very contagious and had no way of treating it like they do now. Now they just treat it with penicillin and antibiotic.

I: Were you isolated during that time?

MS: Yes.

I: Now, was this at home that you were isolated?

MS: To begin with, from-- I was in the hospital when I got it. And they had a house across from the hospital where they would send you if you had a disease of any kind of communicable disease and so I was transferred across there. And then when I was able to go home, mother and I were quarantined. They had a sign on the door no one could go in or out.

I: Now, when you were in this house across from the hospital, were there oth-- were they all of the same disease or were you segregated?

MS: We were segregated, I guess. I was only four so I don't remember--

I: I see.

MS: that much about it.

I: I see. And then I assume it was the doctor who issued quarantine orders?

MS: Yes.

I: Now did that happen to you again down the road? Did you have another one here? I'm trying to--

MS: Well, I had measles.

I: Yeah, right.

MS: Hard.

I: Did you have to stay--

MS: You don't imagine when these--

I: Did you have to stay isolated during that time?

MS: We did, yes.

I: Was that you--

MS: Well--

I: and your mother again?

MS: my mother and my sisters had it too.

I: Oh, they did?

MS: All-- all of us.



I: Uh-huh, so--?

MS: My dad took care of us, and then when-- when we-- we got whooping cough, which was quite prevalent then, then Dad got whooping cough with us [chuckles]. And Mother didn't so--

I: Now did your mother--

MS: they took turns.

I: get the measles when you had the measles?

MS: No, but-- well, uh--

I: But your dad?

MS: Yes, mother did, but dad didn't.

I: Oh, I see. So they could--?

MS: Then the whooping cough they traded.

I: So, they traded off what they got--

MS: Right.

I: and didn't get? Did one-- when your-- when your mother got the measles, did your dad have to leave?

MS: No, no. He was there.

I: He didn't--

MS: But he didn't get them.

I: didn't get it? Uh-huh. When the--?

MS: But we were confined to our home as far as visitors coming in or anything. They aren't that particular about it anymore.

I: Not at all, are they?

MS: 'Course there are shots for all of these things now.

I: That helped. Now, you said that you-- you fell off a ladder. Do you remember what you had to go through after you fell off the ladder 'cause there were no tetanus shots in those days?

MS: No there weren't. My mother just got a big pan of vinegar and they had me kneel down. It was on the side of me and kneel down with the wound in the vinegar. And each time it would get real bloody, why then, she would change it, and I never had any infection or any problem with it at all. It healed right up.

I: Was that a cut that today would--?  
[audio change]

I: It's September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 and we're still interviewing Mona Sudbrock. So, at-- you wouldn't have gone to the doctor at that time unless it was very, very serious-- over just anything?

MS: It was eight miles to La Grande.

I: Oh?

MS: And just, the doctors didn't come out there unless it was a really, very, very serious.

I: Do you remember how-- how your mother treated that wound? Did she just wrap it and keep it--

MS: Yes.

I: closed tight?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: Let's talk more about your-- your church and your church activities because that was such a central part-- I assume it's still such a central part of your life.

MS: Yes, it is.

I: Do you have memories-- do you have memories of your early days attending the First Christian Church?

MS: Yes, I do.

I: What was that about? What was that like?

MS: Well, it was the main activity in our lives except for school. That was our social life was through our church.

I: What kinds of things were you involved in at the church when you were young?

MS: Youth groups, Sunday School to begin with and then youth groups.

I: Now you had lots of friends from church.

MS: Yes, I did.

I: And, did you--?

MS: All of my best friends were from First Christian Church.

I: Did you socialize at each other's homes on Sundays--

MS: Yes, we did.

I: or have meals? Tell me about that.

MS: We'd have potluck. We used to-- had company or went to someone's house nearly every Sunday.

I: And was this common within the church--

MS: Yes, it was.

I: to move around from home to home on that day?

MS: Of course, there were special families that your were with the most, such as the Fleshman's.

I: Your-- your brother, George's family? Were there other families you can remember that you also did love visiting with?

MS: Yes, there were quite a few. The Smutz's, Dee Smutz and Charlie Smutz, stop and think on that one. There were a lot of church families that we-- and then-- and Lois DeLong. And Lois DeLong is still living. She'd be a good one to interview if she can remember, but I'm not sure she can that much, you know.

I: Is that the mother of--

MS: Dale DeLong.

I: Dale DeLong, the mayor of Island City?

MS: Yes.

I: You were-- I read, you've got a nice list of some of the pastors--

MS: Yes.

I: from this church. Let me find that. Yes, you've got quite a-- you've done quite a list. You-- you've--

MS: Yes.

I: remembered a lot of the pastors or ministers that you had at this church. Tell us about Mr. Putnam, what you remember about him?

MS: That was far enough back that I don't really remember too much about him, so.

I: That would have been when you were very young?

MS: Yes.

I: So, you do remember there was--?

MS: We have pictures of the church too, of some of them, of most of them.

I: How 'bout Mr. Mortimer?

MS: Yes, that was more in my time. And he had two daughters I remember that we were friends with through our church.

I: Were they your age, his daughters?

MS: One was close to my age, yes.

I: And he wasn't with-- was the-- how long was-- was he there a significant amount of time?

MS: Quite a long time, yeah. You'd have to look at the dates,--

I: Yeah.

MS: but I'm not sure.

I: How 'bout Mr. Titus?

MS: Yes, I remember him too then. He had a family too. They were in the old church.

I: On 7<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: Gene Robinson. Now, this is a man that I've-- we've discussed on another interview with another church member here.

MS: Yes.

I: What do you remember of him?

MS: Very outgoing, very active in the community and could remember everyone's name. If he met you, he knew you and very friendly, outgoing person.

I: Now was Mr. Robinson, was he with the church when the new building was built?

MS: Yes, he was.

I: Was he at-- he was at the pulpit then?

MS: He's the one that really got the building fund going so-- so that we were able to build an educational unit and then later the sanctuary.

I: How 'bout this Jean Chamberlain?

MS: He was there a very brief time; probably a year and a half or maybe two years, just a very short time.

I: Arthur Stanley.

MS: Art Stanley's the minister that married my husband and I. They were-- he's deceased now, him and his wife both. But they were able to come to our fiftieth wedding anniversary party.

I: Is that right?

MS: Yes.

I: Oh, how nice. Wallet \_\_\_\_\_?

MS: Yes, fact they lived right next door-- next door to us at 1806 Walnut, where we lived at that time. So we were quite good friends with them. And I still of course find it-- well, his wife. He is deceased.

I: Were they here a long time?

MS: No, not very many years.

I: How 'bout Gordon Mildrum?

MS: Gordon Mildrum is the one that I worked for in the church office for quite a number of years.

I: He was here awhile then? Jack Hart?

MS: Yes, Jack was here fifteen years. He now lives in Kennewick. He's retired from the ministry.

I: Scott Kryser.

MS: Scott now lives in Sun City, California and has a big church there, Christian church.

I: Was he here a long time?

MS: Several years.

I: And then the last one which is the present, Mark Schless-- Schlessman?

MS: Schlessman, yes. Yes. He came from the Midwest. A much younger man than we'd had bef-- sometimes and very outgoing because he taught school and also has done lots of counseling.

I: Now you've-- let's talk about your employment. Now you began I think, was it your first-- well, I-- I know you worked a little bit part-time while-- while your husband was in the service. But in terms of-- in-- in your regular married life post-war, it looks like you began working with First Christian Church. What did you do for them?

MS: I was a secretary in the office.

I: And what did that involve?

MS: Well, we put out a weekly newsletter, and we also did the bulletin for Sunday and whatever else needed to be typed up for them.

I: Did you compose any of this, or did you just type up somebody else's work for the most part?

MS: Well, some of it was somebody else's work, but of course I'm the one that compiled it and put it together. I felt like an editor.

I: I see. What other duties did you have?

MS: Whatever was necessary in the church office, answering the phone, definitely.

I: How long did you do that? Looks like you thought you started about 1965.

MS: Must have been, yes. And I'm not real sure how long. I was there until after Gordon-- Gordon Mildrum left. And then we had interim ministers. I worked for one of the interims for a short time before I went full time for Dr. Rose.

I: Let's talk about Dr. Rose. How did that come about, that you--

MS: He was a member of our church, and one of these gals that worked for him had cancer and was off work for a period of time. So I was filling in for her, but it came to be where he worked she wasn't wanting to be able to come back. So then he asked if I wanted to come full time. So I started working full time and quit the church job.

I: And what was your job with Doctor Rose?

MS: I was a senior receptionist bookkeeper.

I: And what-- what were the duties? What-- what were the-- what were some of the routines?

MS: Well, it was the phone and the window--

I: Right.

MS: when anybody came and of course bookkeeping. The \_\_\_\_\_ could occur.

I: So, in the terms of bookkeeping, are we talking about customer accounts?

MS: Yes.



I: People who would pay their bills?

MS: Yes.

I: And so you would make entries on that?

MS: Mm-hm. I did the banking and all of that.

I: Did you pay the bills for the practice too?

MS: Yes. Those checks of course went out for some of them, but.

I: Right. What-- what sort of practice did Dr. Rose have?

MS: He was a general practitioner.

I: I see. And 'bout how long did you work for him? Did you enjoy it?

MS: Yes, I did very much; had very nice people to work with.

I: What became of that? What happened next?

MS: Well, I retired finally because I was having a very bad time with my knee and needed the knee replacement, and I felt that it wasn't really fair to take a long period of time off. Knee replacements were not as easy then as they are now, and it took quite awhile to get over. So I quit, supposedly retired. Only later I took another job, so.

I: Yeah. So, how did that come about?

MS: Well, one of the girls that worked for Dr. Hicks, who was a pediatrician, was going to have a baby. And she needed some time off until after the baby was born, so I filled in for her in the office.

I: What doctor was that now?

MS: Dr. Frances Hicks.

I: And what-- what was her practice?

MS: She was a pediatrician.

I: And tell us about that. Was that the same sort of duties?

MS: Yes, general office duties.

I: Now, was there-- were there any exciting moments in either of those jobs that maybe everybody became involved in from time to time, or--?

MS: Well, I remember one in Dr. Rose's office when one of the patients died in the waiting room which was something that we didn't want to happen, but. And there were other times when someone died shortly after being taken to the hospital of one thing or another.

I: Well, let's not mention any names, but can we talk a minute about the person who died in the waiting room?

MS: I really don't remember what was wrong now.

I: But--?

MS: It's been too long ago.

I: Were they brought in by somebody else?

MS: Yes, I'm sure they were.

I: And it just happened?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: Now how long did you do the-- these jobs now? You were with Dr. Hicks last,--

MS: Mm-hm.

I: right? And you worked up until June of 1986?

MS: Mm-hm, yes. And then I retired for sure.

I: Then you retired for good, uh-huh. And you haven't fallen for a job?

MS: No, I haven't.

I: None what-- nobody's talking about you with--?

MS: Only just volunteer things.

I: Let's talk about your church activities because you've got a long list of things that you've done for the First Christian Church. You've been a Sunday school teacher.

MS: Yes.

I: Tell us about that.

MS: I was in the nursery for a lot of years. I loved the little ones, so I spent a lot of time in the nursery. I think I have taught some of the other grades, but I don't remember exactly which ones, you know.

I: What things would you do? How-- what-- what kinds of lessons or things would be presented in the nursery?

MS: Really not anything. It was mainly babysitting--

I: Was it?

MS: because it was small children, babies.

I: Like say, toddlers or smaller?

MS: Mm-hm, yes.

I: Then it says that you were a youth leader? What is that?

MS: Well, we had a leader that oversees the group. It was-- it was Christian Endeavor at that times that we called our youth group. Now it's Christian Youth Fellow-- Christian Youth Fellowship,--

I: And--

MS: CYF.

I: who was that made up of? What-- what ages or--?

MS: The CYF and Christian Youth Fellowship were high school age.

I: Is that right?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: And what sort of things would you do as their youth leader with them?

[whistle sounds]

MS: Well, we had a-- a little-- it's my clock. It's gonna do that two or three times here.

[audio clicks - no delay]

I: On the hour? That's interesting.

MS: Yes.

I: Okay, so we're-- we're talking about the youth leader,--

MS: Yes.

I: and they're made up of high school kids?

MS: We had-- always had our devotion of some kind and usually refreshments and quite often we had extra activities. We'd play games or have some kind of activities to keep us busy and happy.

I: Now the youth leader, are we talking about this took place on Sundays during their Sundays, or was this a different--

MS: No.

I: time of the week?

MS: It-- I think it was Wednesday night, but I'm-- I can't remember for

sure when we had it. To tell you the truth, it must have been Saturday or Sunday during school because-- especially when we lived out on the farm. I wasn't in the youth group at that time, though. It was after we moved to La Grande, so. I can't remember for sure when we met now. I'll have to ask George. Maybe he'd remember. [chuckles].

I: There's no telling what George remembers.

MS: Yeah.

I: He remembers a lot.

MS: Yes, he does.

I: And you said you were also a deaconess?

MS: Yes.

I: What does a--?

MS: We-- we prepared the communion for Sundays. Our church serves communion every Sunday. We prepared the trays for that, and then we had to wash the cups and everything afterwards. Now they have disposable, but at that time we did wash the cups and use them the next week. And we were in charge of flowers and the other duties, and we helped to serve them some punch. It helped to serve the communion. Although most of the time men-- it was men, the deacons, served the communion. Now there are women that serve too.

I: Now, how did you be-- how do you become a deaconess?

MS: They're elected.

I: Is that right?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: And how long do you serve?

MS: Two years at a time, and then you're off a year. Then they can re-elect you.

I: I see.

MS: \_\_\_\_.

I: So, when you're elected you have to take a one-year break after your term of service--

MS: Yes.

I: before you can be chosen again.

MS: You can take a different office but not as a deaconess.

I: How many times have you done that, do you know? You've done that multiple times?

MS: Yes, several times.

I: Now, I think you told me you're now teaching as emeritus.

MS: No, I'm a older emeritus.

I: Oh, okay. Well, let's move from--

MS: I was elected as an elder--

I: Okay.

MS: in later years.

I: Let's move to the elder, then. What does an elder do and how do you become one?

MS: Well, we had shepherding groups, for one thing. We were assigned a certain number of people from our church that we were to kind of keep track of; then if they had problems or anything, to help out in any way that we could. Thus, we served at the table for communion

each Sunday. One-- two of us each Sunday and they have twelve-- twelve elders I think on the list each time.

I: And did you-- did you parcel those people out that you were shepherding? On there, did you take some and somebody else took a few?

MS: Yes. They were divided up among the church membership.

I: Do you-- do elders have meetings or-- or obligations?

MS: Yes, we do. We meet once a month, and we plan what we're doing and any problems that come up or anything.

I: Did-- I-- I'm just guessing, did you report to the ministers?

MS: Yes.

I: And so really you were a kind of helper for-- you had to make sure that everybody got attended? You were taking care of your own.

MS: Trying to.

I: Now how do you get emeritus status when you're an elder?

MS: When you get older and unable to do the things as well. My hands are weaker than they used to be and handling and making trays and things is not as easy for me. When you've been in the church for a lot of years you can be elected to elder, and that's where you can be emeritus.

I: And so, that's an-- that's an election that takes place?

MS: Yes.

I: To your-- to bestow that.

MS: Yes.

I: Is that an honor?

MS: It is.

I: Now, I have it here you also recently it looks like been \_\_\_\_\_ in on the Christian Women's Fellowship.

MS: Yes.

I: That's an organization was in the First Christian Church.?

MS: It's the women's.

I: What do they do?

MS: We have many, many projects and give money to not only nations, but many organizations. Quite a few in La Grande, \_\_\_\_\_, Neighbor to Neighbor. We send to in Portland the health group. You better turn it off while I think about it.

[audio noise - no delay]

The Northwest Medical Team.

I: I see.

MS: And we send donations through our state and through the national organizations and churches. But we just have many activities that we do up here. We help with \_\_\_\_\_. A Christian House they have at the college and also the one at the high school.

I: How do you raise money for these activities?

MS: Well, we have our biggest project probably is our bazaar in November. We have articles we've made and-- and things we've canned and all that, so. Plus a very big used store, our big yard-- big yard sale. And also good-- goodies that we've made, baked goods.

I: You have-- so, the church has a used-- a used items store or a--?

MS: It's for the bazaar, yes.

I: At that time, so it's not an ongoing--



MS: No.

I: after that time?

MS: And then in the spring we have usually-- and they have a-- a rummage sale. And that's also a good used store of anything that people bring in which is always huge with all our good people. But we have had to let to \_\_\_\_\_ too. Until we're through we've always had our booth at the fairgrounds or the County Fair. This year we didn't \_\_\_\_\_ but the first year we hadn't, but there were other activities too where we raised money.

I: Now were you-- were you involved, or were you around when the new church was built?

MS: Yes, I was.

I: And do you know anything about this story-- about those-- about the crossbeams or the--?

MS: Yes, I do.

I: What do you know about that?

MS: Well, as we moved in from-- from the Elmer's place-- he's the one that did made them. And they had to get-- well, the state police had to look the other way because it really wasn't legal. It was too large. They had the electric company and telephone company hold up the wires to get them out of the way so they could move 'em into La Grande. It was quite a project.

I: So, ev-- everybody participated to help the church?

MS: The community was very good to help them get them moved.

I: And the state police were involved in the conspiracy to be quiet about it.

MS: Uh-huh. They looked the other way. I remember right we had a policemen in our church family at that time at \_\_\_\_\_. His name was

Ray Grisenbaum that was deceased now. But I think he probably had a hand in keeping it quiet 'cause they were oversized.

I: How long did that take? Do you remember? Was that a one day, two day--?

MS: I don't know how long. No, I'm sure it was a one day thing. It would have been just in the valley.

I: And that was when-- that was during the period when you said that they'd finally gotten serious about the building fund. This was-- Gene Robinson was the pastor or the minister at that time?

MS: Yes, but this was the funds for the sanctuary which was the second unit we built.

I: Yeah. The education building was already there?

MS: Already there.

I: So this was really an add-on to the church?

MS: Yes.

I: Or maybe finishing the larger project?

MS: Which had been planned in the first place but we did the best we could afford to do it.

I: Now I saw a picture, when I was interviewing Mel Elder that was a group picture of the church, and it had Pastor Robinson in there. Were you in that picture too? It looked like it was maybe a congregational photograph.

MS: I don't know. I probably was, but I'd have to see it to know.

I: I might bring that buy if I can. Well, you should ask him about it.

MS: Okay.

I: I mean because I'm-- I bet you'd see him before I do.

MS: On Sunday.

I: On Sunday, but he had one and that Gene Robinson was in it. And he identified some people that were in it; for some reason he wasn't but he had this photograph. I just mention that at another \_\_\_\_\_ tends to be a popular. But, now-- oh, here's an item. It appears to me that the congregation built the church rather than using contractors or hired labor. Is that right?

MS: We had contractor that worked with the church. Well, someone had to be in charge. So yes, we did have a contractor that worked with the church people, but a lot of the labor was from really--

I: By the members of the church itself?

MS: Yes, yes.

I: And it says that your husband helped.

MS: Yes, he did. And my dad was still Chairman of the Board-- Building Committee Chairman.

I: Your father was?

MS: My dad, yes when we built it.

I: So did they both work on that?

MS: Yes they did. They both did, spent lots of hours there.

I: Did-- did women help with the building or anything with the construction at that time?

MS: I'm sure we must have done some-- I don't remember exactly. I didn't do that much myself. I had small children.

I: And you may have been working by then. No, that--

MS: No.

I: that was before you went to work, okay. Okay, now I have some--

MS: Would you turn it off just a moment?

[audio noise - no delay]

I: Let's talk about your activities or your involvement next with the VFW which apparently you've been involved with them for quite some time.

MS: My husband joined in 1946, and I joined in 1947 in an auxiliary.

I: And what's the-- what's the name of this VFW post?

MS: Mt. Emily number 2990.

I: And did you hold office with the auxiliary?

MS: Yes, I did hold every office there is to hold I think, including president, little \_\_\_\_\_, and district president for two years.

I: What kinds of things were you involved in with the auxiliary?

MS: Anything to do with the veterans in a way. We sent money, raised money and sent to the veteran's hospitals. And sent our items, especially at Christmas time, sent books through the hospitals, clothing, whatever it was it needed, made afghans and bathrobes.

I: Would you-- would these items go to local hospitals or VA hospitals or both?

MS: They were VA-- VA hospitals, namely yes. Our biggest one was Walla Walla and Boise because they were the two closest for us.

I: Did you make visits to these hospitals?

MS: We had visited the Walla Walla hospital, but I think I've been to the Boise hospital once perhaps is all.

I: What other kinds of activities were you involved in?

MS: Well, we meet once a month and have a potluck dinner which is a good social time and do whatever needs to be done in-- in our business, and.

I: Where is the Mt. Emily post located?

MS: It's at Ten Depot Street up there with the--

I: Oh, it is?

MS: \_\_\_\_\_Ten Depot Restaurant. We're upstairs. That is the-- the building belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I: Now are you considered a life member?

MS: I have not taken out a life membership.

I: So, you're-- you just continue to renew your membership from year to year.

MS: Yes, I do. My-- my husband was a life member.

I: Was he? Now, we were involved in some activities-- you lived for awhile in Union?

MS: Yes.

I: What caused you to move to Union?

MS: My husband was stationed then for the telephone company; West Coast Telephone Company at that time, later G.T.E.

I: And they needed somebody to be out in that area?

MS: Yes. And he was on call all the time. We never had anyone out for dinner but what he was called out to work.

I: I-- I read here that you felt that the phone company owed you some

wages because were-- weren't you the--?

MS: Should have had, but I answered the phone all the time because they didn't call the office. They called the house.

I: They would just call direct to the house and say, "We need you, Virgil?"

MS: Mm-hm, and he'd always go.

I: What-- so, you were out there until about 1960, I read. Were-- you have some VFW involvement with that same post in Mt. Emily, or--

MS: No.

I: did they have their own?

MS: No, I've got \_\_\_\_\_ in that so when we joined the one in La Grande was after the one in Union. There didn't seem to be enough attendance, but now they have started a new one over there several years ago. And it is very active, so they do have one in Union. At that time it was called Craig Mountain, but that's not the name of it now.

I: I-- I read that you were involved with a women's club. What was that about?

MS: It was just a group that got together, and we had social activities more than anything, some community things.

I: How 'bout this sportsman's club? Were you a member of that, or was that your husband?

MS: We both were.

I: What-- what was that about?

MS: That was just a group that liked to hunt and fish and that kind of thing. We'd get together and that was more a social than anything else.

I: Let's see, not from the people we've been interviewing here obviously - easily talked about George Fleshman, your brother, and all of that. I believe you said you knew Ehrman Bates also.

MS: Yes.

I: Was he-- now, did you-- I get confused about my geography. Was this out in the area where you were growing up where he was at? Is that--?

MS: Well, I knew him mainly through his sister, Anna-- Annabelle Brown.

I: I see.

MS: She's a member of our church and is a close friend and still is.

I: Two of your neighbors in Union were also interviewed, Opal Burford and Mamie Jones.

MS: Yes.

I: Were you neighbors with them?

MS: They didn't live very far from me, just a few blocks.

I: Did you have interactions with either of them over the years?

MS: Oh, yes. They were in some of the same things that I belong to. Mamie Jones' daughter, Gere, graduated from high school with me in La Grande.

I: Is that right?

MS: She was in my class.

I: Did-- so, you-- you knew her-- did you-- did you--were you socializing with her? Did you--?

MS: Yes, some. Not best friends, but we were together some especially school activities.

I: Now, it wasn't really common around here to have people who were maybe, obviously sort of handi--  
[audio ends]

[audio begins - 8 second delay]

I: -- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. We're continuing our interview with Mona Sudbrock. So, we're talking about Gere Zacharias now that had some school--?

MS: Yes.

I: And this is before she really was involved with the-- the--

MS: Being blind, yes.

I: being blind and being involved with--  
[background noise]

MS: She had trouble with her eyes at that time but not that bad. We had a blind girl that did go to our class, so. Her name was Elizabeth Foley, but everyone talked to her, and she was a very likable person, very well liked.

I: Because I was told that in high school people sort of pitched in and were very kind and considerate.

MS: I think they were.

I: And so-- so, Gere is actually your age, then?

MS: Yes.

I: And do you attend high school reunions now? Do you still--

MS: Yes.

I: meet here lots of people that you'd--

MS: Yes.

I: worked with and that now?



MS: Mm-hm. One of the last things my husband was able to do before he died was to go to our school reunion. That would have been our fifty year school reunion.

I: How often does your class meet?

MS: We didn't meet until our twentieth year, and then we met at-- at forty years. Now we're meeting every five years.

I: When's the next one?

MS: It would be in-- '07-- 2007.

I: 2007.

[audio clicks - no delay]

I just have a question here from-- from your document-- from your work.

[audio clicks - no delay]

You talked about having to clean the clinkers out of the stove and--

MS: That was a coal stove for a furnace.

I: And that was where?

MS: On Walnut-- where we lived on 1806 Walnut.

I: What is a clinker?

MS: Well, it's what is left after the coal has burned. Leaves in a residue and it's like little rock, they have to be taken out of the stoker.

I: And they were called clinkers?

MS: And those would be used for--

I: I thought it was a pan.

MS: They are-- they were a pan, but you had to \_\_\_\_\_ it if you had a coal furnace.

I: I see. You had a-- you had a crank telephone out on the ranch there.

MS: Yes.

I: What's your memory of that?

MS: Well, everybody on the line listening into-- on your conversations.  
[chuckles].

I: Could you tell when somebody was on the line listening, or they would usually wait for--?

MS: They would usually wait for-- yes.  
[audio noise]

Whenever you lifted the receiver you could hear it.

I: Of course you didn't do that to anybody else?

MS: Oh, I'm sure we didn't.

I: I'm sure. Do you remember your ring?

MS: I think it was two longs and a short.

I: Do you remember how many people maybe were on your party line?

MS: Probably twelve, something like that, quite a few.

I: And when did the crank telephone get replaced by a dial?

MS: I can't tell you--

I: Did that--?

MS: for sure.

I: Were you-- do you remember that happening, though?

MS: Yes, I remember it happening, but.

I: Did everybody still have a party line?

MS: There-- some of them in the valley still had party lines, but in later years then we went to mostly just main ones.

[audio clicks - no delay]

I: Some other little tidbits here as I go along. Going back to the-- to the group-- to the group social things when you all piled into the car, do you know how it was that George Freshman always seemed to be on your date when you started dating your husband?

MS: He-- he and my husband were both had their lots of mates at school, high school, and they were best friends. And so they-- he went along. Oftentimes we'd take my sister Betty to be his date.

I: Oh, I see.

MS: Or someone else. He went with a girlfriend of mine. Well, different ones.

I: He just sort of was there.

MS: He was just part of the-- of the date.

I: Where would you go on your dates when you were dating in high school?

MS: Oh, to the movies or-- or church-- church or-- or school activities.

I: Was there a drive-in movie when you were young?

MS: Yes, in later years. It was I think probably after I was married before I was grand dame, not when we were in high school.

I: Did you take your family there when you were young?

MS: We used to go once in awhile, not very often. Mainly-- mainly because we couldn't afford it. [chuckles]. You know, young families don't have a lot of money lots of times.

I: Right. Did you attend college?

MS: Just one year.

I: Where did you go?

MS: Eastern Oregon.

I: Did you have a plan, or did you just take classes?

MS: Well, I just took classes thinking maybe to be a teacher, but I didn't finish so.

I: Were you involved in any activities while you were in college that year?

MS: Just with school things mainly.  
[audio clicks - no delay]

I: Who did you live with when you went to school?

MS: I lived with my grandmother.

I: Was this your maternal or paternal grandmother?

MS: Paternal.

I: Paternal?

MS: My dad's mother. And she lived at 1204 M Avenue which was right under the hill from the college, so I stayed with her. She had had her son, Herbert living with her, and he was called into the service. When he left she asked if I'd stay with her again \_\_\_\_\_. So, I lived with my grandmother.

I: Was that enjoyable?

MS: Yes it was very much so.

I: Sounds like it was also very convenient.

MS: Yes, I just had to walk up the hill, and I was at school.

I: Are you-- is that a term for local people who were going to college then?

MS: It was three terms for the year. Then, in the summer time, if you wanted to go, but I didn't go to the summer term.

I: I mean, what I'm saying is, were you aware that there was a term for people from the immediate area that went-- Now, I can't remember it. Townies, I think. Was that in use then?

MS: Not in my--

I: That-- that would distinguish people who were from La Grande as opposed to people who came to \_\_\_\_\_.  
[audio noise - no delay]

MS: No, I don't think it was a distinction as such.

I: Okay.

MS: I'm not sure about the terms. I think we had two semesters right in terms at that time.

I: Is that right?

MS: Mm-hm.

I: What kind of-- what classes did you take? Do you remember?

MS: Just the beginning classes in English and-- and Social Studies and Economics. I remember for all of it just basic classes.

I: Now the-- I was reading some information here about it looks like when you had your children, you had some difficult times. You had anemia.

MS: Yes.

I: You had anemia every time that you became pregnant. I-- I was reading here about-- about your son being born and you got quite ill that time.

MS: Yes.

I: It looks to me like they might have given you the wrong blood both-- what happened with that?

MS: Well, they didn't cross-match it close enough, and I had a reaction to it. And my temperature went to a hundred and five and oh, probably higher so.

I: What hospital were you in?

MS: At St. Joseph's Hospital--

I: Now is that the--

MS: which is a \_\_\_\_\_ hospital.

I: old courthouse, or is it-- is that the courthouse?

MS: Yes.

I: And now it's the old St. Joseph's--

MS: Yes, it is.

I: hospital? And-- but they did do a type and cross-match. I guess that's the name.

MS: They had to discontinue the first one, and then they did cross-match it. And then the second one went well.

I: I see. Did that take awhile to recover from?

MS: Yeah, I had some postpartum depression afterwards.

I: Yeah.

MS: I'm sure it was because I was weak. My mother stayed with me for a week though in the room, so that was good.

I: Do you-- was there a routine for women who were having babies at that time? Did you have to stay so many days and--?

MS: When my first baby was born in 1945 I stayed two weeks. And then it was cut down to a week the second one, and I think the third one I just stayed about five days.

I: They're getting quicker.

MS: Now they kick 'em out the next day.

I: You're out! Did you have to lay flat or be still for--?

MS: The first two weeks the first one was. They wouldn't let you out.

I: Did that make sense?

MS: No, it didn't.

I: Did-- did--

MS: So, we kind of--

I: new mothers--

MS: got up.

I: talk about that amongst each other?

MS: Well, we thought it was the normal thing to do, but it makes you too weak. You can't function well afterwards. You \_\_\_\_\_ so well. So, I think that was happened.

[audio clicks - no delay]

I: Well, let's talk about that for a minute. Tell me about this Vacation Bible School you used to do in the summer.

MS: Well, it was just an activity through-- a religious activity. We called it Daily Vacation Bible School, and we'd come from all over in the area and got together. We had craft things and then about the Bible, memorized verses from the Bible and just sang songs. Just the usual things you do in Bible School.

I: Now was this when you were living out in--

MS: On the farm.

I: on the farm out there,--

MS: Yes.

I: and where did it take place?

MS: In \_\_\_\_\_.

I: Was it in a school?

MS: It was in a school building, but I can't remember the name of it.

I: Was it a another one-room school building?

MS: Yes, I'm sure it was.

I: And this happened every summer?

MS: Yes.

I: Did they divide you off by age? Was it a big group effort?

MS: It was a big group. I don't remember too much about it, but I do have some certificates that show that I graduated from Daily Vacation Bible School, that I attended.

I: Did you do that every summer until you came back to La Grande?

MS: Several summers. I don't remember exactly how many.



I: Was it non-denominational?

MS: Yes.

I: It didn't matter where--?

MS: It was nominally non-denominational.

I: Did-- do you have-- Can you remember some of your friends that you've kept over the years that you did that with?

MS: Well, Betty and Jack Kerr who were our closest neighbors at that time. They lived on Sandridge Hill Road also.  
[audio clicks - no delay]

I: Now, did you have to pay to go those?

MS: No.

I: No?

MS: I can't remember there being any charge.

I: Mm-hm. Uh--  
[audio ends]