

Stuart Zaugg, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
February 17, 2005
tape 1, side 1

- BL: Today is February is, [uh], February seventeenth, two-thousand and five. And, can you please state your full name for me?
- SZ: My name is Stuart Stringham Zaugg.
- BL: And, your date of birth, Stuart?
- SZ: I was born on August the nineteenth, 1927, in the old Grande Ronde Hospital.
- BL: O.k. So, you've been, [uh], pretty much raised in this area?
- SZ: Pretty much. [Uh]...We were...gone a few times, [uh]. I went to Corvallis to school for awhile, and, and graduated from there, and then I was in the service for a couple years, and...and then we spent eleven years up in the...northern Washington, after we were married and working. And then, we came back again.
- BL: O.k.
- SZ: And, I've been here...all the time since.
- BL: O.k. Now, had your parents come from this area as well?
- SZ: My parents...My father was, was born in northern Utah to a Swiss emigrant... and his family...and they moved to Canada...and they came to here...from Canada in 1911,...and lived out on the Mt. Glenn Road. My mother's folks came from way down in southern Utah...in 1899...and they moved to Imbler. And, my mother was born just across the river from Imbler in 1905.
- BL: Um-hmm. [click] Were you ever told any of the details about your birth?
- SZ: Yeah. Yeah, several...intresting things. [Uh]...My, [uh], mother went to a [click] a Dr. Gilstrap, who was one of the...more prominent doctors in the area. And, [uh], it was his policy, or his procedure, to have a baby nurse eight-ounces of milk and...and that was all. And, [uh], ...[clicking sound may be a tongue click like a tsck]...to be able to tell that, they, [uh], each mother had a pair of scales. And, after so much nursing, the baby would be weighed on the scale, ____?____ 027 [may be a short chuckle], and then...if it...she had...the baby hadn't received the eight ounces yet, why it was back to nursing [click] until the amount was...[uh]...on the...showed on the scale for eight ounces. [click] And then, [uh], the baby could only nurse every four hours. They had...no tidbits in-between or...
- BL: [laughs]
- SZ: There were times when I liked to had a sandwich, I think, ...
- BL: [laughs]
- SZ: ...but, but, [uh], [uh], ...They said I cried quite a bit because, they thought, I was hungry. And, it was also his...his recommendation that you sleep by an open window. [click] And so, during the winter months, they said my hands would come out from under the covers, and ____?____ 035 they would be blue in the morning...
- BL: Um-hmm.
- SZ: ...[click] from the cold, and...and so...That's why I'm so puny today...
- BL: [laughs]

SZ:I guess.
BL: [laughs] [microphone cord sounds] Did you have any siblings?
SZ: [click] I eventually had [sigh] five, [uh], [click] five brothers. Excuse me—four brothers and one sister.
BL: So, you were raised in a large family?
SZ: [click] Yeah, six of us altogether.
BL: Um-hmm. What was it like growing up in your home?

[The click sound occurs frequently and sounds somewhat like a tongue tsk.
Continued transcription of this sound will make the manuscript cumbersome, and so it will be omitted for the remainder of the transcription.]

SZ: It was...It was real intresting. My...I was the oldest. And so, it was my responsibility to help with the chores [clunk]...the...milking the cows, feeding the pigs and...chickens and the horses and all that. And,...two of my younger brothers—right under me—they would take turns...[uh]...Every week, one of them would help with the chores, and the other'n would help mother in the kitchen. And...so, they changed off...with kitchen help, and they grew up knowing how to...to prepare food, breakfast and things like that. And, I never did kn...learn how to do that. And...
BL: How did you get out of the kitchen help?
SZ: Well, [sound] they said I was more needed, [uh],...I could milk the cows, and those, those kids couldn't milk the cows quite. They, they could feed the chickens, and...and feed the pigs and things, but...the milking was a little more difficult, and so...that was my chore ____? ____ 053...
BL: Um-hmm.
SZ: ...____? ____? ____, terrible chore. [Uh]...There's about twenty-years difference between me and my youngest brother, so...so there's....So, there's more of less the three of us older ones and, then, the...three kinda younger ones.
BL: Um-hmm. So, tell me more about a typical day in your childhood, [uh],...the chores that were involved and...
SZ: [Uh], [microphone cord sounds], ...The, [uh], the chores, as I remember them, [uh],...We had...quite a large number of chickens, and...Of course, the eggs and the, the milk, [uh], and, [uh],...We separated the cream, [uh], milk from cream, [uh], ...So, we brought our cream to the creamery, and...s...and fed the skim milk to the pigs. And, the cows and the pigs and the chickens were our...prime source of income. We, [uh],...This was kinda the...____? ____ 067 the thing that really saved us...getting through those...tough years o' the depression, and...and, [uh], ...kep us going. And so, [uh], ...We all took our turns. It was not uncommon, on a Sunday, to...come home from church and...mom would say, "Go out and get a chicken for dinner," and so I'd have to go out and catch a chicken and chop it's head off and...tear the feathers off of it, and...bring it in, and mom would cook it for dinner. And, my brothers, of course, would help, but, [uh],...We did get along pretty good as a family, and, and, [uh], seemed to have accomplished quite a bit anyway.
BL: Did you have any pets?

SZ: Yeah. We had, o' course, Old Blue, the dog. [Uh]...He, [uh], ...He was a, a German...police dog type. I don't...I don't know just how pure he was, but...he was a big ol' dog, and he was...He was our, our buddy. And, [uh],...When my folks...They had quite a bit o' business to do in La Grande, and they'd leave me in the house at night ____? ____ 082. After I'd come home from school, and, and so I'd bring the dog in the house with me, and...we'd light the coil-oil [coal oil] light, and...build the fire in the stove, and,...and the good ol' dog would sit there and be my friend. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

SZ: We'd watch the...the highway for the car lights that would turn, finally turn and come down the road. It would be our folks.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: Then, we'd have to go out and do chores. And, ...later on, we had a...We had a, [uh], ...What was the, [uh],...a big dog, [uh],...can't think of the name of 'em right now...great big dogs [snaps/claps?]... ____? ____ 091...the name of 'em. And, he was a real good friend of ours. And, [uh],...[uh], [door bell] [clunk]

[?] [Distant male voice] Yeah, c'mon up.

SZ: [Whispers] The name of that dog? [Distant male talking]

BL: Was it a St. Bernard?

SZ: No, it was a ... [pause] ...big...Oh, I can't think o' the name of 'em. It wasn't a Bernard. It was a...had pointed ears...but he was a large...[simultaneous speaking]

BL: Great Dane?

SZ: Great Dane!

BL: O.k. [laughs]

SZ: Great Dane, that was it!

BL: I want to back up just a minute, when you talking about, [uh], having to go out and get dinner,...and...

SZ: Oh.

BL: ...cut the head off of the chickens. [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: ____? ____ 101

BL: ...How do you suppose you were the first time you had to do that?

SZ: Oh, I was probably...[distant male and female conversation in background]...eight or nine?...right in there somewhere.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ____? ____ [simultaneous speaking],

BL: Do you remember it being a difficult, [uh],...[simultaneous speaking]

SZ: Well,...

BL: ...or was it just part of life and you didn't think about it?

SZ: It was just...I had watched dad do it,...you know, all the time, and...We had a long wire hook. And, we'd reach into the pen and hook a chicken by the leg—preferably one that was kinda...scarred up a little bit, didn't look like she was very productive—and, and catch her and pull her out and...And, I drove two nails in the stump, so that I could stick her head in it, and she couldn't duck and I'd miss...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: But,... That was kind of an awful chore, but...one that had to be done.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: [laughs]

BL: If you wanted to eat, I suppose, with...[laughs]

SZ: I guess, yeah.

BL: ...six kids in the family.

SZ: Right.

BL: So, did your mother do all the cooking and...and things like that?...

SZ: Mom...

BL: ...or did she work outside of the home?

SZ: My mother never... The only time she worked was, [uh],...she completed a year at...at Oregon State and then worked in a b...in the bank at Imbler for a year...[male-female conversation continues in background]...before she got married. Other'n that, she worked full time in the home, and, and took care of the family, and...She was an excellent cook. She...She, [uh],...prepared all kinds o' meals, did all kinds of canning and...food preparation and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...preserving,...drying...drying apricots and peaches and...and...She made some beautiful quilts. She painted. She ____?____ 124 painted.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: And, [uh],...So, she was kind of a...full time...mother.

BL: Um-hmm. And then, your dad, I suppose, kept busy with the cattle and...

SZ: With the farm.

BL: ...the farm. Did you have any crops?

SZ: Yeah. We had, [uh],...Well, the farm grew through the years, ____?____ 128 When we first came to Union, it was...he had bought 46 acres, and then it...it increased ____?____ 130 We had 200 acres. And,...He...He would hire out his, [uh], farm equipment. He would...do, [uh], custom...custom haying and custom grain-cutting and, and, [uh], such things for...a little added income, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: But,...most of the time he was...tied to the farm.

BL: What...What sort of crop? I'm not sure if you said?

SZ: Oh, we had...we raised, [uh],... 'course we raised alfalfa for the cattle, for the feed. And then, we...raised wheat and barley and oats and...and, [uh],...[uh]... We had quite a bit of pasture for the summer, for the cattle ____?____ 140

BL: Um-hmm. [loud background talking continues]

SZ: ...for the summertime, ____?____

BL: Were you producing for local consumption, or, or was it all being shipped out?

SZ: We did it for our...mostly for our own animals, and what...what surplus we had, then we...we sold at the local mill.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: And,...I don't know, they probably shipped a lot of it, and then...I know they made a lotta feed, chopped a lotta grain for feed, and...that kind o' thing.

BL: So, at that time you were living in Union?

SZ: Here in Union, yes.

BL: Um-hmm. That was the family farm?

SZ: Yeah.

BL: O.k.

SZ: It was the old Dobbin's [?] estate, they called it. [Uh]...Out here on ____? ____
149 Road.

BL: Dobbin's estate?

SZ: Dobbin's estate, yeah.

BL: Do you know why they called it that?

SZ: Other people that owned it Dobbin—were named Dobbin's.

BL: Um-hmm. The people prior to your...

SZ: Yeah.

BL: ...parents.

SZ: Um-hmm. The house was built in the late...well, from mid to...kinda toward the
late 1800's, and...it was an old simple house, and...and, [uh],...

BL: Where did you attend school?

SZ: I walked to Union. It was a...it was a mile and a half to Union. The first three
years, or first two years, I walked...up along the highway, ducked, cut through the
field and...go up along the highway. [clock chimes] And then, the third year,
...[uh]...they provided a bus route, so...so from then on it was run down the, run
down the road and catch the, catch the bus at the highway...quarter of a mile.

BL: Were you ever involved in any, [uh], extracurricular activities at school?

SZ: [Uh], ...Do to my having to...milk cows, and...we eventually milked quite a
few, and especially by hand, it took quite awhile...so, I was unable to
play...football or basketball ____? ____ 168 They're...Those were kinda...it was
just too late in the nig...evenings to do that, so...

BL: Um-hmm

SZ: ...My brothers got to play those games, and...I played, [uh], [uh],
baseball...and...track. I held the, [uh], high-jumping record...for a couple of
years at the high school.

BL: That's great!

SZ: And then, I played in the band.

BL: Um-hmm. And...

SZ: So, I could after I milked. After the cows were milked, and...I could go up and
watch my brother play basketball. I played in the band. [laughs] [microphone
cord sounds]

BL: What instrument did you play?

SZ: I played the trumpet and, [uh], French horn.

BL: Did you learn to play, [uh], before you had started school?...or [simultaneous
speaking]

SZ: No,....

BL: ...did that come along?

SZ: No, that was part of the s...school curriculum.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: Yeah. After school was out, we played for a little while. We had a little band, a
little dance band, three or four of us, and...and we had a little fun with that for
awhile.

BL: Did you have any favorite places that you liked to hangout here in Union?
SZ: Favorite places...[pause]...The only places we [laughs] hung out were those we had to—and that was...the creamery and flourmill and school. [Uh]...We used to play on an old railroad tracks...that...and the old railroad engine that...pulled the cars in from the main track. But, [uh],...No. Other than that, not...I don't think of, right offhand, of any...that were...special, anyway.
BL: So, most of your time was just spent working and...[simultaneous speaking] _____? _____ 192
SZ: It was...A lot of it was just spent working.
BL: Um-hmm.
SZ: Just spent working.
BL: Did you feel, at the time, like you were missing out on activities?
SZ: I don't think I did. I...I, [uh],...I might have complained, but I, I don't think I really did. I...There were just those things to do, and...
BL: Um-hmm.
SZ: ...and we did "em, and, and, [uh],...it seemed like that was...that was the way it went.
BL: Um-hmm. So, tell me about what happened, [uh], later on, as you kind of left school and....
SZ: [Uh]...Graduated from high school, you mean?
BL: Um-hmm. You graduated from Union?
SZ: Yeah. I, [uh],...Since I...couldn't start school 'til I came here, 'til we came here...When we lived out on Mt. Glenn, we were too far away from a school, so it was...I was seven-years old when I started school. And,...and, [uh],...As I started my senior year, I got a draft notice from the...from the government, [uh], for World War II...that I was to be drafted. But, they typed across the bottom of it—this would be deferred until I graduated from high school. And then, during that time, why the war ended, and so I was never drafted, and, and, [uh],...After school, just as soon as I graduated from school, I got a job driving cream truck...for the local creamery. My dad was kind of opposed to that, and he didn't want me to do it, but it only took two days a week. One day I'd go up to Pondosa and Medical Springs and pick up cream, and, ...and heave those ten-gallon milk cans up into the truck, and...And then, the other day, I'd go out Ladd Canyon and, and kind of out on, what they call, the Sand Ridge, [uh],...out past Hot Lake and in that area, and pick up cream. And,...as soon as haying season came on, dad said, "You've gotta quit one or the other." He said, "We can't do this." And, and I had a real good school friend. He, why he was my best friend in school. He didn't have a job, and so...he took the job of driving that truck. And, on the second or third trip, coming down from Pondosa, he lost control and went off the road and hit a tree, and, and, [uh],...it killed him. And so, I had to go back and drive for a little while, so they could find another driver, but...That was kind of a sad...point in my life.
BL: Um-hmm.
SZ: It was the first time...I'd lost a real good friend, and...
BL: Um-hmm.
SZ: ...and, [uh],...it, [uh],...made quite an impression on me.

BL: Were there any kind of services, [uh], to help kids deal with a situation like that at the time?

SZ: Not at that time. No. Not that I'm aw...really aware of, and [simultaneous speaking]

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...I don't think there were. No, we just...we just dealt with it.

BL: Um-hmm. [pause] [Uh], tell me a little more about the creamery business. Were you involved at all...at the creamery itself, and...[simultaneous speaking] _____?_____ 246

SZ: Yeah. I...I'd get in...I'd leave real early in the morning and come back in this...oh, ten and a half truck, and old International truck. And, I'd be loaded down with ten-gallon and five-gallon cans of cream. And, I'd have to unload them off the truck onto a, onto a...a set of rollers, and they rolled into the creamery. And, a butter-maker would sample each can. He had a, [uh], dipping spoon, and he'd, he'd dip into each can and sample it and see wh...what it tasted like.

BL: Really?

SZ: And...and then, it...

BL: With the same spoon?

SZ: Yeah.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: Each time. [laughs] It was...had a long handle on it, 'nd [laughs] He stirred it up a little bit and then sample it. Once in awhile a mou...a mouse would come up [simultaneous speaking] _____?_____ the can.

BL: Oh, no!

SZ: [laughs]...out of the can. We'd have to destroy the c...or throw it away, but...As he was doin' that, I was unloading, and then I'd go around and wash...put the cans into a steam cleaner, and...then come back out and unload for awhile and then go back and wash more cans, and...And then, the rest of the day, I would help him make butter. [Uh]...big butter churn, and, [uh], ...I'd help the butter-maker. We put it in one pound, make one-pound...why little quarter-pound pieces, and then one-pound sections of butter.

SZ: So, the containers that were coming in with the cream, were they all the same size?

SZ: [Uh], they were either ten-gallon or five-gallon...cans, metal cans. And, they're heavy, quite heavy, metal cans.

BL: So, when you had gone around to pick these up, where did people keep them?...while they're waiting for you to come? They just set 'em out? [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: They set 'em...

BL: _____?_____ 274 [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: ...[uh], they set 'em...They generally kept 'em in a cooler or a shed, where the, where it was cold. And, of course, they knew what, about what time we would be there, so generally they would set 'em out a little bit more convenient for...for us to...to grab 'em and throw 'em up on the truck. [Uh]...A ten-gallon can weighs...eighty pounds plus...ten, so ten or more pounds for the can, so you're

looking at almost a hundred pounds of, [uh],...of, [uh], can. And then, we would leave...They'd have an order to leave so much butter, [uh],...And, that was right after the war, and the butter was still rationed, and we had the little ration cards, and I'd have to pick up their ration cards, and, and report...turn those back in...to the creamery when I got back. And, ____?____ [simultaneous speaking]

BL: I haven't heard of the ration cards before. Can you explain...a little more...?

SZ: There was a...

BL: ...Where were they...Who was rationing?

SZ: The government was. [microphone cord sounds] We had so much rationing. It went along with the gas rationing. You've heard of the ABC cards that we had to stick on our car windows?

BL: I have heard about that. ____?____ 295 [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: And,...and we had butter, ...tires,...oh, [uh],...at least butter and tires and...There were some other products, but I c...escapes me now. And, you'd receive, in the mail, your monthly allotment or your yearly allotment of, ...of...little stickers...

BL: Um-hmm [background voices continuing conversation]

SZ: ...little coupons. And so,...when I'd leave a pound of butter, why they'd have to give me so many coupons for a pound of butter...or so much for a cheese, or...or, [uh], a...whatever product, [uh],...Sometimes we had...a few different varieties of things, but m...it was mostly butter and cheese. And, I'd pick up the coupons and bring 'em back and turn 'em in, to the creamery.

BL: And, the creamery then would keep records...

SZ: Um-hmm.

BL: ...whose allotment was up? [laughs]

SZ: Yeah, [laughs] who ____?____ 312 [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

SZ: We had a...They had a little round token, about the size of your fingernail. There was the stamp and the tokens, and so you had to keep...the tokens...I don't know, two tokens made a stamp, or five tokens made a stamp, I can't remember exactly. [simultaneous speaking] ____?____ 318

BL: Do you know what their system was based on? Was it income?...or family size?...or...

SZ: No. I...It was, [uh], based on family size as I remember,...if I remember right. Yeah, my...my folks had them, too. And, [uh], ...but,...

BL: So, they would keep that much for their portion, and then the rest would be processed and sold?

SZ: The cream?

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: Um-hmm.

BL: And then, the butter?...also?

SZ: The butter, yeah. The...The creamery...we...He'd make big vats of butter, and,...oh, I imagine they were...probably at least a hundred pounds in each vat. When he'd pu...This big...big round churn. He'd stop it a certain place and then reach in and, and pull out, just paw out with his hands, and, and, [uh], kind of a

wooden scoop...pawed out to his stomach, and then drop it into the...to these wooden containers.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: And, [uh],...And then, they'd pound 'em and ...weigh, weighed these containers, and then,...we'd...from that container, then we'd make, we'd take and make the little pound...[uh],...[drum or beat-like sounds]...cubes and other little...cubes of butter and put 'em the little boxes and fold the boxes, and, and, [uh],...And, 'couse they...They shipped it to grocery stores, and then...different things like that. But, I took...I had...so many that I took with me on my route ta, to deliver to the...[uh], back to the farmers. [laughs] [click—recording paused?] ____? ____ 347 [well taught?] [laughs]

BL: Yeah.

SZ: Why, it helps when you...kinda give me sumpin to say.

BL: We're just going to back up a minute and talk about, [uh], some of the work that your father was involved in.

SZ: In farming?

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: [Uh]...Dad was a...He was a...He went [clock chimes]...He was in World War I, and he trained as an airplane mechanic. And, he was [microphone cord sounds] war in England. And, when he came back, he kinda maintained that mechanic ability. He'd, he'd help people overhaul airplanes. I have seen airplanes parked under a tree out in our field, so they'd be out workin' on this airplane.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: But,...Dad would, [uh],...mechanically...take care of ...th...the cars and the trucks and the tractors and, and, in fact, he...kind of insisted that I help him, and I'm kind o' glad that it did. [Uh]...I could overhaul an engine for a tractor or a car before I could legally drive, and, [uh],...But, he was...real good mechanical-wise. [Uh]...If, [uh],...If there was somethin' he couldn't fix, then it wasn't broke. [laughs] Th...That was...used to be the motto around the house.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: He would fix pert-neared anything. But, we did...He did do a whole lotta mechanical work,...welding and...and repairing the repairing the farm machinery. And,...[uh],...He was a...a good irrigator. He knew how to make water...run up hill, just about. He knew how to take of...crops and...that type o' thing.

BL: And, did he work in La Grande?

SZ: No, he never did. He...He would do some work at the sawmill up here—when they needed some help some extra time—worked a little bit at the sawmill. But, he, he never did...[uh]...work, for any extended period of time, off the farm. [faintly] He would...[microphone cord sounds] [click—recording stopped?]

BL: ____? ____ 390

SZ: Sumpin like that, maybe. [microphone cord sounds] It's so hard to keep track, and what to do.

BL: O.k., we're going back, [uh], again,...and we're t...we're picking up some information about your father and, and who he worked for, and the situation surrounding...I believe it was...

SZ: O.k.

BL:right after your birth?

SZ: Right after my birth?

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: [Uh]...When I left the hospital, we...we were living, at the time, on Hunter Lane...on Hunter Road and Woodell Lane, ...which is four or five miles outside La Grande, north of La Grande. It's called the "Teeter" place now.

[Uh]...And,...My father had six-hundred and forty acres there, and...[uh]...I was born in '27, and in '29...he lost that whole six-hundred and forty acres because of the depression. And, [uh],...He had just built a new house on the ...property; built it himself. And so, the men dressed in black when they came out. They...They took the...the farm and the house and everything, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...and kicked us out. He moved to Enterprise for a year, and, and that didn't pan out, so we came back, and...that's when we went for Enkay West, out by Imbler...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...on his farm. He had a...quite a large...farm. I don't remember how many acres. But, [uh], ...Dad and one of his brothers operated that for a year. And then, we moved to another place...a little closer to town on Hunter Road—there's no buildings there anymore. And, that's when I remember the...first remember the deep snow. We had a...I remember that one winter we had a tunnel dug into the house, so we could get into the house through the tunnel. [Uh]...The snow was clear up over the roof. And, that's the year that, [uh],...We would load the old Model-T coupe onto the bobsleigh...and pull it up the hill to the...to Hunter Road—the county had the road plowed out. We would pull it up there with the horses, and...then we'd go to town in the old car.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: And,...come back and...I don't know the mechanics of the thing, whether dad brought the horses back down and then walked back up to the...the road, or what, but anyway, when we came back, why they'd load that Model-T onto the bobsleigh and bring it back down to the farm. [Uh]...I was gonna throw in there, I can remember shopping at...One of the favorite places to go shopping was, [uh], J. C. Penny's. [Uh]...We...I think we mentioned this before; they had the...As soon as you go into J. C. Penny's, in the main door, right above the main doors there's a balcony,...and that's where the cashier sat, in that balcony up there. And,...there were about, I'm guessing, eight or ten trolley lines...ran down to different desks on the main floor. They were just little cables with, with a c..., with a metal cup in it. So, when you bought something, it...[uh],...down on the main floor, the clerk would take your money, unscrew the cup off of that little trolley, put your money in the cup, screw it on there, and then she'd pull a...pull a cord, and that trolley'd go scootin' up to the...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: ...to that balcony. And then, the cashier would take...take the cup out, take the money out. And, if you had some change comin' back, she'd put the change in the cup, put it back up, and she'd send it back down to you.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: And then, the clerk would unscrew it and give you your change, and...[faintly] I don't know. That was...That used to fun, watchin' those trolleys...
BL: I bet it was!
SZ: ...run from all over the main floor up to that...
BL: Um-hmm.
SZ: ... 'Course, as a kid, it kinda fascinated me, and... [microphone cord sounds]
But, [uh],... [end tape 1, side 1]

Stuart Zaugg, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
February 17, 2005
tape 1, side 2

[conversation in background]
BL: You were just talking about how cold the winters were.
SZ: Yeah, the...The winters were awful cold, [uh],...We have some pictures, and I'm s...in the process of tryin' to get some of those. [Uh]...Always bundled up, clothes, and then wrapped up, 'n'...and, [uh],...Dad would be out ridin', getting cows on the horse, and...he'd freeze to horse. The ____? ____ 008 ice would be all around their legs, and the...____? ____ . We've got pictures of those somewhere. But, it was awful cold.
BL: How did that change your daily routine?...
SZ: Oh, it...
BL: ...as far as getting your chores done, and...and ____? ____ 010 [simultaneous speaking]
SZ: Oh,...You just went at it kinda slow, and...you took your time, and it...you just took all day doin' what...what you needed to do. But, it...Since you didn't have nowhere to go, and...
BL: You didn't have to go to school?
SZ: ...no schedules to meet, why...Pardon?
BL: You didn't have to go to school?
SZ: I did...Well, I, ...There was no...The o...closest school was in La Grande, and that was...There was no way to get there. I...
BL: So, this was before you started school? [background conversation continues]
SZ: Yeah. There was no busses, and...and my folks...couldn't afford to drive me to school everyday. [Uh]...I did want to mention that in 1934, then, when we moved to here, to Union,...we were hauling some farm machinery along the...bringing some farm machinery over, and, [uh],...That's when they, [uh], stopped at Hot Lake, when it was...the building was burning.
BL: Tell me about that day. [microphone cord sounds]
SZ: Ah,...My dad wouldn't let... 'course I was...I was not quite seven-years old, and...So, he made me stay in the truck...while he went to see what he could do to help, and...so I sat there watching those flames leap up into the air. And, there was a north breeze, so the...the smoke was rolling over the new brick part of the building, and, and off to the south. I don't know what he did, whether he helped...get furniture out or whatever, but we were quite a long time, and...and,

[uh],...so all I could do was just set and watch that place burn. I tell you, it was quite an exciting fire.

BL: Were there a lot of people there watching?

SZ: There were,...yes. As time went on, the car...a lot of cars around. A lot of people came by, and...The fire truck from La Grande broke down away...and...they finally got it going again, and...So, there wasn't much,...much they could do, just...watch it burn. The...The part that was burning was made of wood, and then the new part, on the south, was the brick part. And, so...And, it had a metal roof, and...somehow—I don't know how they did it—but they...they did keep that new part from...from burning. And,...

BL: Was the rest of it a, a total loss then?

SZ: It was pretty-much a total loss.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: [Uh],...They, [uh], ...It was about as large as the brick part...there, that's there now. It was...It was a large portion of that building that burned. [faintly] And, [uh],...That was...That was the excitement for the day, there.

BL: Do you remember...for the...a...the, [uh],...the feeling that was in the air that day? Were people scared?... ____? ____ 040 [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: Well, ...

BL: As a seven-year-old you must have been pretty excited about all of the activity?

SZ: I didn't mingle with any of 'em, 'cause dad made me stay in the truck. But,...the people would point, and, [uh],...and talk, and then...go on. And, some more would come, and...[uh], ...There was quite a bit of activity there for awhile. When...Once they learned about it town, in La Grande, that it was on fire, then...then a lotta people, [uh], came from La Grande to, to see it. That was in June of 1937.

BL: 1937?

SZ: Nineteen thirty...1934, excuse me.

BL: 1934.

SZ: Excuse me. [laughs]

BL: [laughs] I thought you had said '34 before.

SZ: [microphone cord sounds] Before.

BL: [laughs] Can you think of any other, [uh], events like that, that really stick out in your mind?

SZ: [Uh]...N...[pause]...No. [Uh], [uh], ...Well, I can still remember the old house that we moved into here in Union. It was...It was a rickety old place. There was a...Out on the back porch, there was a pitcher-pump. That was our running water.

BL: A what?

SZ: A pitcher-pump.

BL: Pick-er-pump"

SZ: Pitcher...Pitcher-pump, they called...[uh],...hand-operated pump.

BL: O.k.

SZ: There was a well just outside the house, and then they had this pitcher-pump. That's where we got our water. The...restroom facilities were out in the

woodshed, out behind the house. And, the electricity...the...We used coil-oil [coal-oil] lights, lamps.

BL: What is a coil-oil lamp?

SZ: It's, [uh],...It's like an oil...Well, they call 'em oil lamps now. Their...with a wick in 'em, and you turn the wick up, and they've got a...a chimney, glass chimney, that runs up...I've got...I've got two of those lamps that...we had. [Uh]...You had ta fill 'em with oil every day or...maybe not every day, but frequently fill 'em with oil...and, [uh],...had to trim the wicks, and...and, [uh],...They'd get...The chimneys'd get smoked up; you'd have warsh and clean the chimneys often. But, we...We had those...that for light. Then, we had a kerosene...kerosene lanterns. They were a metal lantern with a big bail on the tom of 'em, to hang 'em on, the different hooks out in the barn. And,...and we used those, then, for light out in the barn. I've got one of those. [Uh]...Eventually,...And, the problem was, [uh],...The main power line from La Grande to Union ran right by the house. But, they wouldn't let us have electricity unless all the neighbors on that road signed up for electricity.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: There was, [uh],...I think, five of us families lived along that road, and one of the families would not sign up.

BL: Uh-huh.

SZ: They said, "No. We're..." There's...They were afraid of electricity. And, [uh], they wouldn't sign up. So, the power company says, "Well, there's no way can get power to any of you unless you all agree to sign." So, it was...it was a few years before we ever got that squared away. And, finally, it was resolved, and these people didn't get electricity, but the rest of us did. And then,...then I can remember the old 'frigerator with the big coils on top. We got one of those, and that took...that took the place of the...of the sawdust...[uh]...cellar that was right next to house, where we kept things cool. And then, we got...a motor for the cream separator, and...gradually got appliances. [cough in background]

BL: Do you remember that first day?...having electricity?

SZ: Yeah, yeah! That w...Boy, the light-bulbs! We, [uh],...We had to get wiring in the house, and [clock chimes]...and, [uh],...They told us when it was coming, so that we could...Dad did his own wiring, and so we had the house all wired, and the light-bulbs were all ready, and...Yeah, that was quite a day—when that power came. And, they turned it on, and...we had light-bulbs, and...[laughs] It was...It was quite an exciting day. [pause] We eventually, then, drilled a well and had...with a...and then got an electric pump for the well, and...then, [uh],...the, [uh],...then we had running water. Then, we...Then that—made that handy. We didn't have to take a bath in the old tub in old tub on the kitchen floor, and...

BL: How did that work?...with six kids in the house, and...?

SZ: [Uh]...At that particular point, there was just the three of us. [Uh]...Like I said, there's...there's three of us older ones, and then three kinda younger...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...and...the younger ones didn't get involved in that. That was...That was after...Things were kinda modern before...they got pretty-much involved in it, and, [uh],...but, [uh], [snapping sound] My two younger brothers and I, we...In

the summertime, we'd have to go out to the ditch in front of the house to take a bath. That was... That was where we ...[uh], ...they, [uh], ...took our baths. And then, in the wintertime when it was cold, why... that old number two tub on the floor with a... teakettle of hot water poured in it, and...

BL: How long did that take?...to heat enough water for a bath?

SZ: Oh, it...[uh],...It would take quite a little while with a...[uh],...because that tub held...probably 10-12-gallons o' water, or...And, this little two-gallon teakettle settin' on the stove, and...[uh],...the old fire, wood fire stove,...and, [uh],...

BL: And, of course, each person didn't get their own fresh water, did they?

SZ: The first one got the fresh water. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

SZ: That was, [uh],...That was one little battle we had to resolve. [Uh]...I think one week it was my turn first, then the next week it was...the other one's first, and...[microphone cord sounds] But, we solved that, probably, well. When we got running water, they had a...a water heater, [uh], tank behind the wood stove. When we'd come in from chores, we were cold, and back up against that hot-water tank, and...get warm; that was kind of a place to get warm.

BL: Sounds like you had a lotta changes just in...just in the...the different houses that you lived in?

SZ: Yeah. It was, [uh],...Each place was kinda separate. [Uh]...The houses, before we came to Union, I don't remember all that well. But, I do remember when we first came there. ____? ____ 127

BL: Did you have any grandparents in the area?...or other relatives?

SZ: Yes. We had, [uh],...My father's parents lived...out on the...Mt. Glenn Road. There's a cemetery as you go out on Mt. Glenn Road—one the right—a little cemetery. And, off to the left, up against the hill, was where my grandparents lived. They built a big red barn, and...houses. They had eleven...They had thirteen...kids. Twel...One of 'em had died when it was young, so there was twelve kids. And, [uh],...They were there. They also lost out. They didn't...They lost their farms, but they hung on 'til...'til 1934, and then they moved. They moved from La Grande about, somewhere about the same time that we moved to Union. And, my mother's folks still lived in Imbler. They...They had a...Why, one of 'em had a grocery store out in Imbler. And, one ran the...one operated the bank, and....So, they had...some...income that...didn't bother them quite so bad during the depression. But, [uh], those that had farms...just...couldn't make the payment, and...they were gone.

BL: Do you recall what the attitude was, of the people, during the time of the depression?

SZ: I...I just can't recall that part of it; I was still too young. But, I remember there was...in La Grande...We'd go to La Grande...There'd be a lotta people...a lotta guys with old hats and old coats...standing or sitting along the sidewalks and along the buildings. And, a lot of 'em...A lot of the men had wooden legs; I can remember that. And, that was due to two reasons: [Uh], La Grande was the railroad center; had a big roundhouse, and...and did a lotta railroad work, and...people would get hurt and lose a leg there. And then, at that time the hay-bailers that, [uh], the farmers' had...you had to push the hay down in the bailer

with your foot. And, you had to get it out before the plunger came by,...or you didn't...or you lost your leg. And so, there were...a lotta people who had lost their legs in bailing hay. And, I can still remember, as a kid, these...quite a number of men around town in La Grande, [uh], ...hoppin' along a wooden leg.

BL: Hmm.

SZ: But, [uh],...as far as remembering what...the feelings of the people, why, ...why I don't. I was just a little bit too young for...to remember that.

BL: Did you notice any, [uh], changes at home?...[uh], during tough times?

SZ: No. We...During the tough times, I...[music in background, faintly]...[uh]...Dad got his rifle out one day, and his skis, and...started down through the field, and...I heard the shot, and...pretty soon he came back draggin'...draggin' this animal. And, they told me it was a coyote. And, [uh],...when I went to Sunday School that...Sunday, next Sunday, I told my Sunday School class, I said, "We were eating coyote for dinner today." [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

SZ: [microphone cord sounds] But, it was actually a deer. They didn't [laughs]...They didn't want to tell me that it was a...he'd poached a deer. But...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: That was...That was one of the things you did. [Uh]...If the deer came by, you got him. And, [uh],...I can remember dad telling stories, later, about how mother used to skimp on meals in order to feed us kids. And, [uh],...I do remember the first Christmas when we came to Union. Each of us kids got a twenty-five-cent truck, a little toy truck. That was our total Christmas for the...first year. But, [uh],...But, mother was quite a food-preserver, and...knew how to...skimp and make things come out.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: Did a lotta canning.

BL: Did she can things that were being produced right on your farm?

SZ: Yes. Lots of, [uh],...She would can lots of, [uh], meat and potatoes and carrots; that stew-type of stuff. She canned a lotta that stuff. [Uh]...We butchered our own...cow...or calf or whatever. Ever year, when we needed some meat, we'd do our own butchering, and...a pig. We'd take the pig down to Hot Lake, 'nd they had a place down there where the temperature of the water was just right, 'nd... you could slide the pig down a little chute and...scald him...

BL: Oh, [laughs]

SZ: ...and,...you needed to scald him to get the hair off. And, the temperature had to be just right. And so, that was just the right place...

BL: Then, how did you get him back out?

SZ: They had a rope on his leg, and...

BL: ____?____ 198

SZ: ...pull him back out and bring him home, and...hang him up in the barn, and butcher him. Dad did a lotta hunting. We did...We had...ate a lotta game, s...deer and elk, and...Mother would can...a lot of that meat. [Uh]...And, after it was canned, [uh], bottled, and boy, it...it tasted pretty good! But...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: [pause] [microphone cord sounds] Another product we raised on the farm, while we're here in Union, was turkeys. [Uh]...had turkeys all over the place. [Uh]...When we'd sell the turkeys, they'd have ta...sell 'em...to the store, they had to have their heads on, and, and hung from their feet in the store windows...with their heads on. So,...[uh],...it was...Us kids would be ready when dad would grab a turkey. He'd run a paring knife down its throat and cut its...Inside its throat and its mouth, he would cut the throat. He'd let it bleed. And, you'd have three minutes to get the feathers of the turkey. Otherwise, they...they lock up, and...and then the only way you can get 'em off is skin 'em. But, the first three [simultaneous speaking]...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...minutes, you can pull the feathers out.

BL: Really?

SZ: And so, my two brothers and I, that was our job. We had three minutes to get the feathers off of the turkeys. Boy, talk about feathers flying!

BL: [laughs]

SZ: And, [uh],...And then, we'd clean 'em up, and the folks'd take the turkeys to market.

BL: Were you competitive with your brother?

SZ: No, it was just a matter of [yawns] that three minutes went pretty fast...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...and,...if you didn't get those feathers out, they stuck; they stayed right there, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...But, we...I suppose we made a lotta fun of it, but, [uh],...I can still remember the feathers flyin.' [laughs]

BL: You mentioned too, [uh], before, when we were talking about the hogs and the taking them to Hot Lake...

SZ: Um-hmm.

BL: ...Did other people take their...

SZ: Oh, yes. Yeah. Ever...You'd...There'd be lots o' rigs down there, [uh],...Pert-near every ever time you'd go by Hot Lake, you'd see somebody down there scalding a hog. [Uh]...Yeah, it was....it was quite a prominent place.

BL: Did you do in...Did you spend any other time at Hot Lake?...at the hotel, or...in [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: No. [Uh]...Dr. Phy [?]...I've been in it a few times. He had a...He was a doctor, a medical doctor. He had a...He had a real nice operating room, and...and, [uh],...facilities to take care of people. People came from all over the world...to, [uh],...take their mineral baths there. You know, there was a...there was a railroad station right across the street, and...and, [uh],...The only time I was there was just visiting or...happened to be with somebody. But, that's....that was a pretty nice set-up. I...I sure hate to think...it deteriorated so bad before they...they really started to rebuild it. And then, in the last few years, there was a...[uh],...an old folk's home...for...for, [uh],...a care facility for older folks that...But...My wife's sister, her...her family, they...they had some kind of an office or something ____?____ 252 there. They did some did some kind of

business at Hot Lake, and I don't remember now what it was. But,...There was a lotta room, and...and they did quite a few things.

BL: Do you remember what it looked like inside?

SZ: Oh, I, yeah. The...I can remember the marble tile, the little one-inch square, white and blue marble tile...all over the floor and up the walls. And, [uh],...the big mirrors, and, [uh],...some of the furnishings...the big...the big ol'-type desks and furniture that was in there. [Uh]...It was quite elaborately furnished. [Uh]...It was qui, [uh], quite a place.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: They did a lotta business, of course, with the...mineral baths, and, and, [uh],...I can't remember, which floor with the...with the hotel rooms. I think it was the second floor were the main rooms for people to stay...to rent out, when they came to take their mineral baths. And,...But, there was always steam...coming off the Hot Lake, and...And, how the mineral area, that...carousel in the middle was called, is...is still there, where the...round-type building with the round...with...was where they took their baths.

BL: Did you ever have an opportunity...[simultaneous speaking]

SZ: No, I never had a...

BL: ____? ____ 276 [simultaneous speaking] to get in there? [laughs]

SZ: I never did get one. [simultaneous speaking]

BL: [laughs] All this time [microphone cord sounds?] you've lived right next to it, and you never got in. [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: Yeah, ____? ____ 277 [simultaneous speaking] and we'd go down there ____? ____ We'd go down there and ice skate, on the...on the cold days. But, [uh],...never did get to, get a hot bath. [laughs] No, [sigh]

BL: So, y...[uh],...Explain to me—you were ice-skating?...on Hot Lake?

SZ: [laughs] Well, it was a standing joke, that if you went ice-skating on Hot Lake, you didn't want to break through, or you'd burn [clock chimes] your foot.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: But, see, the...The one lake is cold, and one is hot, and so the cold lake'd freeze over, and we could ice skate on the cold lake.

BL: So, [microphone cord sounds] was that a favorite pastime then?...

SZ: Yeah.

BL: ...for the kids around here.

SZ: Yes. Yeah, we did a lotta ice-skating ____? ____ 289. My brother and I... would...come out of Union, just a little ways, on the creek, on Catherine Creek. And, we had an old GI blanket, and we'd put it between us, and the wind used to blow—a south wind blow ____? ____ 293, and we come down the...Catherine Creek mile an hour, and we'd...we'd stop at the highway. We'd have to duck under the bridge...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: ...to get under the highway. Then, we'd usually crash, 'cause we couldn't...we couldn't duck low enough and still...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: ...and still keep going...to get under the bridge. But,...we used to have a lotta fun doing that. But, ice-skating was quite a...It was a real sport, and a lotta people ice-skated.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: But, it doesn't seem to freeze up like that anymore. We'd build fires, you know, have a fire and go skating at night, and...had a lotta fun parties. [microphone cord sounds]

BL: We talked about some of the procedures involved in the hogs and turkeys and things like that, but...what about the actual farming techniques?

SZ: Dad had three, [uh], big work horses. Ol' Topsy was a, was a bay horse. She was the mother of the other two, which were named Diamond and Doll, and they were black, and...And, these three horses—we did all our farm work with 'em, and...[uh],...the plowing in the spring with a...a Sulky [?] plow. It's a one-bottom plow with a couple o' wheels, and it took three horses to pull it.

BL: That's called a "Sulky?"

SZ: A Sulky plow, [faintly] Sul-key. And, [uh],...we would plow with those three horses, plow the ground. And, [uh], ...When we mowed hay, it only two horses. So,...you'd Mow and rake hay—it only took two of 'em to do that. And then, when we cut grain with a binder, it took three;...the three horses had to pull that. And, this would cut the grain, and...and it would put it on a canvas belt, and the belt would...run the...run the grain up toward the guy that was driving it, and...and tie it into a bundle, and wrap a string around it and tie a not in it. So, if you'd have a bundle of grain,...and then it would kick it out the back, and...after the...after you got through with the field, the grain all bundled up, why...then we'd go out with pitchfork, and we'd stack those bundles on end, right next to each other, and...and, [uh],...make quite a, quite a pile of bundles. And then, we had a neighbor that had a thrashing machine, and he pulled it with an old steam engine, and the steam engine had steel tracks on its side, and the one great big wheel in the middle in the front to turn it. And, he'd bring that steam engine, and it'd come a huffin' and a puffin' down the road, and... And, it was my job, then, to... to, [uh],...ride on a wagon, and I would load the bundles on a wagon when someone pitched from either side. There were two...two men would pitch 'em up, bundles up, and, [uh], I would load them...on the wagon. When I'd get a load in, I'd take it in and pitch it off on the...onto the thrashing machine, then—pitch these bundles in the...You had to pitch 'em head-first into the bundle...into the thrashing machine. And, that ol' steam engine, it would huff and puff and [laughs] it was quite a sight. But, [uh],...We farmed for quite a number o' years with just those three horses. 'Til, one day, we bought an old Henry Ford tractor. [squeaking sound]

BL: That must have been an exciting day.

SZ: That was an exciting day.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: It was an old Fordson. [Uh],...Probably about a 1917 or 18, somewhere in there, tractor, steel-____?____ 359 tractor. It could pull two plows. That was the beauty of that one.

BL: Is that where you learned to drive?

SZ: That's where I learned to drive, that ol' tractor. Didn't have any brakes...and had three gears...and, [uh], steel wheels. And, we cut the tongues out of our mowing machine and our binder, and our rake. And, I would pull the machinery, and dad would ride on the back of 'em to run 'em—the mowing machine and the rake and the...and the binder—and I drove the tractor. That was quite an advancement, when that...came about.

BL: I bet it was! Did that, [uh],...change your workload a lot?

SZ: Yeah, we could do a lot more that way. And then, that's when old...[simultaneous speaking]

BL: So, you didn't get to do less work. [laughs] You told [laughs] [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: [microphone cord sounds] Yeah, we...

BL: "We just produced more."

SZ: Well, we could...we could do more things, [microphone cord sounds] and then we...we rented out ta...we did custom haying and custom, [uh], binding with our grain, and so we'd ...work for a few farmers around, and that way we...we did a little bit more and had a little bit more income.

BL: So, you thought it would make your life easier, but it just give you more work. [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: It just gave us more work.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: Longer hours, [uh],...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: 'Cause you hated to shut the ol' thing off; it was all so hard to start, that y...you just didn't want to shut it off. [laughs]

BL: Why was it so hard to start?

SZ: Oh, they were cranky ol' things. They were...built by Henry Ford, just like these Model-T's I have out here. [Uh]... You crank 'em to start 'em, and...Dad was crankin' on that ol' Fordson one day, and it started and ran for a little while, and then it quit. And, he was still crankin' when a traveling salesman came by and wanted to sell him something, and...the salesman said, "How long have you been cranking that car...or that tractor?" And, dad says, "Well, the radiator's hot." And, the ol' salesman set his hand on the radiator, and sure enough, it was hot, and he couldn't believe him. Dad didn't tell him any different, that he had just a' been cranin' on her, trying to get it to start.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: But, [uh],...They were tempermental, ...for some reason. [sigh] They would burn pert-near anything close, diesel or stove oil or, you know, and...

BL: Really?

SZ: Start 'em on gas, and then [microphone cord sounds] and then run 'em on stove oil.

BL: Was it cheaper to run them that way?

SZ: It was cheaper that way,

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...yeah. But, it made 'em harder to start.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: If you... 'specially if ya killed it. You'd have to drain the s...stove oil out and then start 'er on gasoline, and, [uh], then turn over onto stove oil. But, that was getting more modern.

BL: Were you excited about the changes that were happening?

SZ: Yeah. [Uh] ...It was kinda progress. We...basically upgraded, got a little better tractor. Then, we got of 'em. And, boy!—That was the big day. ____?____ 424 We could both...dad and I could both go out and...play in the fields. [microphone cord sounds] [Uh]...Times were tough in those days. I...[uh],...Lots o' people didn't have much, and, and you traded a lotta work. I, [uh],...Dad would go cut their hay, and...they'd kinda help us cut with a... ____?____ 431 help us with our grain, and...Farmers traded a lotta work because of, [uh], [uh],...If somebody needed a c...a cow for meat, why we'd trade meat for grain or...sumpin like that.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: Dad did a lotta trading, and...and, [uh],...Bit, you know, we were poor, but I don't think we really knew it. [Uh]...It's just the way it was.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: And...Now, as you look back on it, you just...kinda wonder how you ever got by. You didn't...really...but, [uh],...It was an experience. I don't regret it. I...I, [uh],...feel that I've been really blessed...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: Comin' up through this period of time. [microphone cord sounds] [faintly—car horn sounds?] [end tape 1, side 2]

Stuart Zaugg, narrator
 Brenda Lawson, interviewer
 February 24, 2005
 tape 2, side 1

BL: O.k. Today is February 24th, two-thousand and five. And, I'm here again with Stuart Zaugg, [clunking]...of Union. And, we had sort of finished off around the time of graduation, but why don't you go back and talk about a couple of things from your growing-up days. And, one of those was...the time that you were snowed in. Can you tell me more about that?

SZ: I should have mentioned that back in Mt. Glenn, when we were snowed-in that one winter, [uh], and we hauled the Model-T out on the bobsleigh to Hunters Road, the reason we had to haul it out was because, [uh], dad was milking quite a number o' cows, and he had to get the cream to market, so we had to haul it out. And, that, [uh], ...that storm or that snow lasted for seven weeks—that we were snowed in like that. And then, another—just to retract a little bit—when we...Soon after we came to Union, there was a...kind of a plague of magpies and crows and squirrels. And, [uh], ...the grocery store, up-town, would pay us—I wanta say two-cents, but it may have been just one-penny and egg—for all the magpies and crow eggs we could bring in. And so, us to two kids'd crawl around through the brush out by the creek, 'n'...There were a lot of nests, and...and we'd

get as many eggs as we could—without breakin' our dumb necks—and we'd take 'em to town and buy candy bars. That was our favorite treat with those, with that money. And, [uh], Mr. Goodbar was our favorite...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: ...candy bar. [laughs] And, [uh], dad would pay us a penny for each squirrel tail, and he gave us a bunch of traps, and we wou...we would trap squirrels. And so, we were just rakin' in lots of pennies...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...for, [uh], for those items.

BL: So, you had found a way, as a young boy, to...

SZ: [laughs] ____? ____ 026

BL: ...to, [uh], start your own business, almost, there. [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: Make money, yeah. [laughs]

BL: So then, once you graduated from high school—we'll kind of go forward again now—

SZ: ____? ____ 028

BL: —what happened from there?

SZ: [Uh]...I graduated in 1946. [Uh]...

BL: That's from Union High School?

SZ: From the Union High School. I think there were 26 in our class. And, [uh],...Soon after that, the next, the next year, I was deferred. I didn't have to go to the draft; I was deferred, and...and so, the next year I went to...to Holland and Belgium for two and a half years as a LDS missionary...and then came home, and just in time for the Korean War. And, I was, [uh],...I got in...in December...[uh], in the army. I got engaged to my future wife, [uh], just before I went.

BL: And, what's her name?

SZ: Her name was Josephine Allen [?]. And, [uh], ...I was gone two years. I...took...gunner's training in the tank in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and...and in...different places. And, when I got out two years later, [uh],...Josephine was down in Hood River [clock chimes] teaching school. So, we...decided to wait 'til the following June, when school was out, ta, to get married, and...And so, we were engaged...two and a half years, sumpin like that. [laughs] And then, we got married that June in 1953.

BL: Was Josephine from this area?

SZ: [Uh],...We rode the same school bus, [uh],...

BL: Mmm.

SZ: ...in fact. [Uh]...She lived a little bit further out, down along Catherine Creek...on a...on a dairy farm. And, we had a dairy farm then, also, with just about 35 cows, and...and, [uh],...So, we both know what farming life is...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...like.

BL: And then, did you settle in the area with your wife?

SZ: We...[coughs], excuse me, built a little house on the farm and...intended to settle down and...and, [uh],...go ahead farming, but...[uh],...and we did, for about three years. And, [uh],...My GI Bill was gonna' run out...in three years,

and...and my wife and my brother got together and...pushed me into...Harvard on the hill, over here in La Grande.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: And so, I started school in engineering, and...During the summers, while I... While I was school, during the summer, I worked for, [uh], the Massy, a Massy-Ferguson Dealership—tractor, combines, and...as a mechanic and a service...repairman, besides helping with the farm, milking cows at morning and night. And then, ...

BL: When did you find time to study?

SZ: [Uh]...That was a problem. I got up at 4:30 in the morning...to milk cows, and then came home from school and went to do chores...and did some studying afterwards. I averaged four and a half hours of sleep a night...

BL: Mmm.

SZ: [Uh]...for those two years,...and then it continued on. We transferred to, [uh], Corvallis, Oregon State, for the next two years. And, I worked in the heating plant down there for...from 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon 'til midnight...at a dollar twenty-one an hour...

BL: Mmm.

SZ: ...to ____? ____ 072 in order to pay the rent. And, there again, we got, [uh],... we'd get about between four and five hours of sleep at night, depending on how much studying I had to do. And so, we worked our way through there. The GI Bill wouldn't quite pay all of our expenses there. We had ta...had ta earn a little bit o' money to help pay the rent, and...and at a dollar twenty-one and hour, you didn't [laughs]...You had to work a lotta hours...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...to get any money.

BL: [Uh]...I wanted to ask you, real quick, about ...the time during the draft and then after that, when you did go into the Korean War.

SZ: Um-hmm.

BL: What was the attitude, or...in the community about that time?...with a lot of the young kids being shipped off [simultaneous speaking] ____? ____ 083 ?

SZ: [Uh]...Several of my classmates...[uh], quite school, and [clunk]...and, [uh],...went into, [uh], [uh], World War II there towards the end. And,...I don't know exactly all the attitude, but there was a lotta kids...my age and...and in, [uh],...in that neighborhood, there, that had ta go into the service then. Some volunteered, and some were drafted, and...and, [uh],...

BL: So, it was a pretty noticeable effect on the community?

SZ: It did have, yeah. There was a...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...a lotta, a lotta people were gone. [Uh]...and, ...'Course there was a lotta demand for...you ____? ____ 092...two or three logging, [uh], two or three sawmills in town, and a flour mill, and there was lots o' places to work. But, [uh],...kids were gone.

BL: So, who filled those jobs?

SZ: Oh, they...somehow they got by.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: [Uh]...Once the...the earlier kids went into the World War II, then they were getting back out about, you know, for the time the Korean started, and...so there was a kind of a rotation there that...they were able to get...get things done.

BL: Um-hmm. Did you and your wife have children?

SZ: We, [uh],...The time we got to Corvallis, [uh], we had one, and then we had one at... at, [uh], midterm finals...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: ...or midterm tests. That's, that's a poor time to have a kid; it's.... [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

SZ: [laughs]...not recommended. And then, we ended-up having six children, five girls and one boy.

BL: Wow! Nice family!

SZ: We, [uh],...We have eight grandchildren, or [clears throat] excuse me. We have seven; one was killed by a drunk driver. And then, we've just learned recently that our eldest daughter is...gonna give us a set of twins!

BL: Oh! O.k. That'll be fun.

SZ: I think so, yeah. So, we'll end up with about...ten grandchildren.

BL: Did you have any other twins in the family?

SZ: No. No, this, [uh], this...She had to take, [uh], some, what do ya call "em, [uh],...

BL: Fertility drugs?

SZ: Fertility ____? ____ 113 [?paramission?]. That's probably why.

BL: Yeah. So, and then, ...when did you decide to sort of settle in...back in Union County?...Seems that you had been gone ...

SZ: Oh.

BL: ...for some time.

SZ: [Uh]...After we graduated from c...Corvallis...We graduated in the s...in the winter. I had to go an extra term, because when I traded or changed schools, their curriculums were tied together, so I had to go an extra term at Corvallis. I graduated there in the winter of 1959 and took a, took employment with the U. S. Forest Service in Enterprise...on the first of January of 1960. And, [uh],...We worked in Enterprise for about six years. We worked in Baker for about a year. And then, we went to...Omak, Washington. We were there eleven years. And then, we came back to La Grande ____? ____ 126 1977, and, and settled here in our present home.

BL: What...What did that entail?...that...the work with the Forest Service?

SZ: I was a civil engineer. We...I, [uh],...did a lotta surveying, a lot of designing of roads, and...we built a lotta bridges, and...lookout towers, and...campgrounds, and...mostly in the constructions they use it, [uh],...timber sale roads, lots of timber sale roads, and...[uh],...That was my primary...my duty station.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: [Uh]...Retired from that job in 1985...with...26 years, I think, of employment, and...

BL: Um-hmm. At the time you were in that, [uh], line of work, ...was it sort of a booming business?...[simultaneous speaking] ____? ____ 138

SZ: It was a booming business. We had a lotta work to do. We... We were really busy, and there was lots of logging. And,...I fought a lotta fires. I...had...some exciting experiences on the fire line a few times, and...

BL: Can you tell me about any of those?

SZ: Well,...The one that was really inte...most intresting, I guess, was we went...They sent us to, [uh], the coast one day,...and, [uh], right after supper, about 5:00 o'clock, they sent us hitchhiking up into the mountains, and we hiked 'til midnight. Then, the fire chief gave me a flashlight and radio, and he says, "Go find that fire and see where it is, and, and keep us posted." Well,...it wasn't long. I...I could hear it, and I walked toward the sound, and all of sudden there was a, a real horrible roar, and that fire went past me so fast I couldn't hardly see it.

BL: Mmm.

SZ: Just a terrible rate of speed. And, it was...it was headed directly toward the camp where these other guys were, so I, 'course, radioed...and warned 'em, and they got outta the way, but, [uh],...It was a, a little bit spooky. [clunk]

BL: I bet it was.

SZ: [Uh] ...The last fire I was on, I was over in Hell's Canyon, way up on the point of a rock, and I could see the boaters down on the river, playing around in the river and the boats, and, [uh],...The borate planes would come right down low over the hills to drop the borate, and it was hot as the dickens! I didn't have any shade. I was standing on a rock with a radio, and...watching these people play in the water down on the lake. [laughs] Terrible.

BL: [laughs] [pause] [Uh] ...Did you, did your job require a lot of, [uh], office time?...or were you out on the...out in the field more?...than in the office?

SZ: The winter...Winter was, [uh], mostly office time. That was design time—designing the roads, designing the projects, campgrounds, and...and then, [uh], as soon as construction could get started in the spring, then we were in the field all the time, and, [uh], ...worked out in the field, and, [uh],...with the construction, with the surveying and different-type things.

BL: Who were your primary partners in this? Would it be local contractors?...or was it all, [uh], government workers?

SZ: [Uh]...The timber sale people, of course, were contractors. They contracted the timber sales. And then, in the...I was on the...one of the first that paved the Grande Ronde River Road, up to Tony Vey Meadows. That was a contract where, [uh], some people out of Portland had the contract, and, and we worked with them, and watched to make to make they did it right, and....And so, it was kind of a variety of...We did some...quite a bit of maintenance work on our campgrounds, and...lookit, lookout towers, and, and, [uh], our buildings. We did our...quite a bit of our own maintenance on those, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: And, some...some road maintenance we did.

BL: Did you find the process to be any different, here in Union County, than it was in larger areas?...[simultaneous speaking] ____? ____ 185

SZ: No. No, it was...it was similar, quite...Everything kinda ran about the same....

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: [Uh]...Today, I understand, it's not quite that way, but...but at that time it was [faintly] like that.

BL: Now, once you returned, [uh], you went back to farming?

SZ: I, [uh],...When we came backed to, [uh], La Grande, transferred back to La Grande, I was in the...There was a...an engineering unit in La Grande that I worked out of. So, I went back to farming at night, and...I, [uh],...

BL: Back on the family farm?

SZ: Back on the family farm. I ran the farm at night, and, and worked for the Forest Service in the day. And, kept busy. [laughs]

BL: Sounds like you've never had a problem keeping busy. [laughs]

SZ: [Uh]...Not really. [laughs] ____? ____ 198

BL: So, were you...in the...[uh], dairy business again?...or?

SZ: We qu..., [uh],...My folks sold the dairy wh, [uh], when we moved to Washington. They, [uh],...There were some big changes coming, and...inspections and equipment that you had to have when we were...had a graded dairy and sold milk. It...And, those...those upgrades were gonna be so expensive, that we...dad just planned to bunch it, and sold the cows, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...so, we didn't milk the cows anymore, just...just farmed, [uh], mostly wheat and hay. [coughing in background]

BL: Um-hmm. Can you tell me more about that process? At the time when you can back, how was that working?

SZ: On the farm?

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: [Uh]...I...When I started running it then., when we came back, I...we kind of...got out of the haying business. And, I would seed half of the h...farm in wheat and summer fallow half of it, and then the next year trade...

BL: And "Summer?"

SZ: Summer fallow.

BL: O.k.

SZ: That's...You don't plant anything; you leave it bare and...and you worked it every so often to keep the weeds down.

BL: O.k. What's the purpose of doin' that.

SZ: It lets it rest, and then it let's the ground rest, and...build up...the...with their...with the...with the natural elements...

BL: [faintly] O.k.

SZ: ...and, and, [uh],...and then you'd get...And, when you seed it that fall, to fall wheat, ...then the next year you get a lot better crop than if you...if you farmed it every year, [uh],....

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: That rest makes quite a difference in...And so,...It wasn't all that difficult; it was just farming, and...mostly on tractors.

BL: What sort of tractors were you running?

SZ: Oh, cheap old...wrecks. [laughs] No, we had a...[uh],...At that time I had a...two gas tractors and a, and a diesel,...and, [uh],...they weren't real big rigs, but...they got the job done.

BL: Um-hmm. Did you do this work by yourself? [coughing in background]...or was the family?...

SZ: [Uh]...It's mostly by myself. I...I had a cutoff time at night, when I would quit, and...and, [uh],...so I could get enough rest to go to work during the day, and...[uh],...The dirt finally got to me, the dust and the dirt, and...and I finally had to quit the farming then,...later.

BL: Um-hmm. So then, you retired from...the Forest Service?

SZ: I retired in nineteen eighty...[uh],...December 31st, 1985. [Uh]...with 26-some years of...of, [uh], time. And, that winter that I retired, a train wrecked up in Pyle's Canyon. 'S' coming down the canyon with a load of corn, ...a big, quite a large train. And so, as railroad custom is, you gotta get those [clock chimes] cars outta the way, and I...They poked, [uh],...They poked holes in a lotta those cars and let the corn run out,...so they could get the...get the railroad cars outta the way and clear the railroad up. And, [uh],...A man from Elgin came in and...got the contract to clean up the corn, and he wanted some truck drivers ____? ____ 252. So, it was middle of the winter and nothing to do, so I went up and drove truck, hauled corn, but...'til they got the project cleaned up.

BL: How long did that take?...to clean up a mess like that?

SZ: It took up, [uh],...three or four months.

BL: Really?

SZ: [Uh]...We hauled the corn down to Hot Lake...and, [uh], ...when we'd dump the corn, the wind would blow the dust away,...and it would clean it a little bit. But, [uh],...The man couldn't get the little rocks out, and so when he sold the corn to the dairy farmers,...those little rocks got in the cows' teeth, and...

BL: Hmm.

SZ: And,...So, he...he had to take the corn back, and...and, [uh],...it was just used for fertilizer then, just scattered, and...And, he ended up losing money. In fact, [uh], he was even taken to court. I had to go help testify in court what...

BL: Oh, no. [laughs]

SZ: ...what went on! [laughs] That wasn't very pleasant, but...but it was an experience.

BL: Did you return to work after that?

SZ: Well, after that the, [uh],...that next...spring, another neighbor was...starting up a ...Ready Mix plant, just out of Union about two miles, or three. And,...A little, [uh], small Ready Mix plant, and he had dump-trucks, and...and various pieces of equipment, [uh],...backhoes and loaders and things, and...and he had a little rock crusher and crushed his...own gravel for...for his...for the, [uh], road work. And, [uh],...he found out I was drivin' truck for that corn j...job, and so he came and wondered if I'd work...go to work for him...drivin' truck. And,...and it was a kind of a part-time job. I still had my farming to do, but...but this was as call, as needed, and so I worked for him for about three years—hauling concrete all over the county, and gravel, and...and, [uh],...working bulldozer jobs, and different things.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: And, did that for about three years...as a part-time. He wanted a...He la...later then, wanted a full-time worker, and I didn't want to go full time, so, [uh], so then I quit and he got a full-time then.

BL: Do you think it's common for people, especially in this area, to work after retirement?

SZ: Yeah. Yeah, there was, [uh],...I didn't have any trouble with...getting a job.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: It seemed like...there were just...things were available. I don't know...I don't know no whether it was because of some experience I had or whether...what it was, but...I didn't have any trouble. [Uh]...After I quit him, the...another neighbor had a fleet of fourteen semi-trucks, and...he wanted me to come and work part-time for him, so...so I went to work long-hauling with eighteen and twenty-six wheelers, and, and, [uh], got away, as far away as California and Wyoming, and...and, [uh],...This was a part-time job, also, and then in, [uh], two years I'd logged, [uh], a half a million miles, [uh], long-hauling, and that doesn't count the short...hauling runs...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...where you didn't have to fill out a log.

BL: Do you attribute that motivation to return to work to, to economic reasons?... or was it kind of your work ethic along the years?

SZ: [Uh]...It was kinda both. We had a...couple o' kids in college, and...and that...that's...the money kinda came in helpful for them, and...And then, I...I just had to keep doin' something, I couldn't...just set, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...do the farm in the summertime and nothing in wintertime, and so...it was a combination of...just needing sumpin to do, and...making a little extra income.

BL: Can you tell me more about your experience your children in this area?

SZ: [Uh]...The school, o' course, was small here, and,...and,...they rode the bus to school. Except, one of 'em didn't wanta ride the bus, so she rode a bicycle. But,...[uh],...As far as education goes, I, [uh],...they all seemed to get a good education. They all attended at least one year o' college, and, ...and a...couple of 'em went on to finish, and...and...Most of 'em have pretty good jobs right now.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: But, [uh], ...We were pretty satisfied with the schooling that we got here, and...and, [uh],...the neighbors and things.

BL: Did you stay in this area because of family?...or were there other factors that kept you here?

SZ: Well, my wife's family lived here. My family lived here, and....and, [uh],...we liked the area, and...we grew up here, and it just seemed like the place ta kinda settle down.

BL: What do you like most about it?

SZ: Oh, it's...[sigh]...There's not a lotta traffic, [uh],...not a lotta people, [uh],...____? ____ 348 There's a lotta places to go and do things in the mountains and...and, [uh],...____? ____ a lotta fishing in the streams, and...We don't have a, [uh], the high-fallutin', [uh],...zens [?] and zoos and all other kinda stuff around, but...we enjoy the good outdoors.

BL: Um-hmm. Did you do a lot of hunting and camping in this area?

SZ: We've done a lotta hunting and a lotta camping, and...a lotta fishing, and...My dad was a very ardent hunter, and so he took us kids, as we got old enough to go. About...twelve-years old, I think it was, we started...hunting.

BL: Did you carry on those same traditions with your children?

SZ: Yeah. I did. Well, I only had one boy, so [laughs]...

BL: The girls weren't into hunting and fishing?

SZ: We, [uh],...They didn't do so much hunting and fishing, but we did do some camping. We'd go...We'd backpack into some of the high lakes, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...[uh],...the girls. [Uh] ...We had good times doing that, and, [uh],...had a lotta fun, just, just kinda bein' out, and...We had a little camper trailer, and...we'd spend a weekend out in the woods, and...havin' fun.

BL: Were you involved in any other social activities in the community? ... clubs?...organizations?

SZ: [Uh]...

BL: ...church?

SZ: We, 'course, are active in our church. I...I spent a four-year term on the city council, the Union City Council. Ummmm, let's see,...Other than that, we haven't...Oh, if there's a...a need for somebody to help move or things like that, we helped people do that, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: But, [uh],...I think, probably, the term on the city council was the most active I was in the...in the community.

BL: Can you tell me more about that experience.

SZ: Well, it was, [uh],...it was a good experience. I...I was on the city council, and then I was also on the planning...____?____ 392 My position on the council had involved my...[uh], in working with the planning commission.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: And so, I'd have to go to their meetings, too. Planning...somebody wants to build a house here, or something there, and...oh...we ____?____ ____?____ 398 familiar with what a planning commission does. So, it was a...it was an interesting four years. I...

BL: Was this something you were recruited for?...or what...just had an interest because of your life's

SZ: [Uh] ...

BL: ...work?

SZ: [Uh]...Right after, [uh], the elections one fall, ...a person was, [uh], elected to the council, and he refused to register to vote. And so, they asked for volunteers, and like a dummy I went up and volunteered, and...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: ...and got the job. But,...But, I didn't run after that. I...My wife's health wasn't all that great, and so we...I decided not...to do more than one term.

BL: Was this a very, [uh], politically motivated...position?...or, [uh],...or did a lot of that happen in those meetings? [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: Well, there was...There was a lot went on. We...We built the main s...[uh],...highway through Union, the sidewalks and things, the ____? ____ 421 activity. We, [uh],...[simultaneous speaking]

BL: Did you have any [simultaneous speaking] opposition to that program?

SZ: ... [simultaneous speaking] ____? ____ 422 No,...

BL: To developing the highways and the sidewalks?...or were people ready for that when it [simultaneous speaking] ____? ____

SZ: They were pretty-much ready. [Uh]...There were things that...were taking place that some people quite like the way we were going, and...and so...[uh]...we had to, you know, work with that. They started this one...the first...involvement ca...came in the, [uh],...the golf course. We...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: We started that program, and...and, [uh],...drilling...let's see, we didn't drill a well, but we...[uh],...did some, [uh],...a lotta sewer work. And, [uh],...was pretty busy involved in a...some sewer projectecs.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: The pipes were so old in this town, that they needed quite a bit of repair, ____? ____ 442. So, it was, [uh], an intresting time.

BL: Um-hmm. Sounds like a time of a lot of change and a lot of growth in the area?

SZ: Well, it seemed like a lotta growth, but, [uh],...there was...We approved a number of housing permits and, [uh], mobile home permits and...and some businesses, [uh], some home business-type things. But then, during the same time, we lost the sawmills, and we lost the...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...we lost the...grain elevator, and...and, [uh],...while I was trucking for Hatch [?], I hauled most of the...one sawmill to Boise...

BL: Mmm.

SZ: ...that was rebuilt down there. So, it came and went.

BL: Um-hmm. [end tape 2, side 1]

Stuart Zaugg, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
February 24, 2005
tape 2, side 2

BL: You were involved in some, [uh], other activities for...fun—I w...I would think it was fun. Can you tell me something about that?

SZ: [Uh]...When I went to school...Well, in my senior year of high school, dad bought us an old Model-T coupe. And so, my two brothers and I...that last year, we, we took it to school. And, in the wintertime, it was so cold...and those old cars wouldn't hold liquid in the radiator very long, so we'd ...we'd go out, and one of us'd lift up a back wheel and put a block under the axle. Another'n would pour a bucket of hot water in the radiator, and then one would get on the starter and one on the crank, and we'd get...get it started.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: Then, we'd dash in the house and eat our breakfast. The three of us'd come dashing back out, and two'd jump in, and one'd push it off the block, and away we'd go! [laughs] And, when we'd get to school, we'd have to drain the ro...drain the radiator in a bucket, so it wouldn't freeze. And [sigh], I guess that was kind of where I got interested in the old Model-T. After we got married, I had an old Model-T pickup for awhile. And then, when we were up in Washington, I had the opportunity ta...to buy a couple of old...junkers. They were...They were pretty rickety. And,...I didn't have a garage, and...so I worked on 'em out in the open. I'd come from work and go out and tinker, and I had two of 'em running up, [uh], up in Washington. We'd go to the parades, and...and, [uh],...we won quite a few prizes, [uh] And then, when we got back down here, why...every now and then, ____? ____ 026 I'd have an opportunity to pick up an old car and rebuild it...until somehow we had seven of 'em. I mean, just...

BL: Have you done all that work yourself?...on the seven?

SZ: [Uh]...Two three of 'em. I haven't done a great lot. They were s...They were... The people wanted to get rid of 'em, and so I got 'em for a pretty good price, and, [uh],...[uh],...bought three of 'em. [clock or door chimes] But, but still took a lotta time in the work that I did do—putting tops on 'em, and the seats, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...and...repairing the engines, and...front ends...

BL: How...

SZ: ...and things.

BL: How much time do you spend on that now?

SZ: I spent, [uh],...All last winter I spent out in the garage,...[uh],...rebuilding one, putting...putting a new top on it, and...quite a bit o'...of mechanical work on it.

BL: Mmm.

SZ: But, this winter I didn't...I didn't do much. I was kinda caught up, but...I have quite a bit to do now. I've got two motors to overhaul, and...[laughs] and so there's some work to do. I just like to drive in the parades, Stock Show parades, and...so we have a pretty good time. I go to Enterprise for Chief Joseph Days, and the Cove charity parade, and...and over to Imbler and then...Island City, [uh]

BL: Are there still prizes involved?

SZ: They give ribbons, anymore... [click]...great big handful of ribbons hangin' on the wall out there. [Uh]...[uh],...I haven't joined that car club in La Grande. They...They want me to join with 'em, but...I just haven't done that yet. I just...kinda solo, on my own.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: And, [uh],...We've had 'em...We had five of...We had five of 'em in the Stock Show parade one year. Kids drivin' 'em. Kids like to drive 'em. Even girls.

BL: Do they?

SZ: Yes.

BL: How many do you have in your collection now?...at present.

SZ: [Uh]...The oldest one is a 1915 sports model. It's...has a brass radiator and brass lights, and...and, [uh],...that's the favorite one of the grandkids. [Uh]...They'll probably fight over that one when I'm gone. And then, there's a nineteen twenty...1920 one-ton truck, and a 1917 little road...they call it a roadster, and a

1923 roadster, a 19..26 touring car, a 1926 coupe, and a 1927 pickup. That'n's the same age as me. [laughs]

BL: [laughs] Now, did you acquire most of those locally?

SZ: [Uh]...No. I got two of 'em outa Portland and one outa Washington, and...ohhh...vari... Yeah, I think those were the furthest ones, that I went to get them.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: Got one outa Elgin, and, [uh],...And then, a couple of 'em were just parts that I put together, of many cars, and...had enough parts to make 'em.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: So, [uh],...But, I'd get 'em reasonably, fairly reasonably priced, and... 'Course you have to buy new tires and new tops...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...and all that kinda stuff.

BL: Is that hard to get?...parts for those cars? [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: No. No, its...There...There are a number of places that have catalogs, and...they're...A lot of things are accessible. They're expensive, but there're...

BL: Um-hmm. [simultaneous speaking]

SZ: ...accessible.

BL: Do you plan to grow your collection then?

SZ: I've gotta quit. I...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: ...I don't have any more room. [laughs] So, I'm gonna, knock on wood, cross my fingers, and say I'm quittin.' But, I'm gonna keep 'em. I...I've got one for each kid, and...that's...They'll end up getting them some...I don't know what they'll do with 'em, but...

BL: Um-hmm. Do they have to be stored inside?...in a garage?

SZ: Only if...we have the certain insurance on 'em. I don't have that type insurance yet, so they...but I have 'em inside, but they're not...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...it's not required. They're all licensed, and they all run.

BL: Um-hmm. Is it any different?...the licensing requirements for an older car like that?

SZ: An older car like that, you buy a lifetime license. It...If you just want to run and drive to parades and shows, if you don't take it out on a highway every day, you can buy a...a onetime license. And, [uh],...I think is license is \$25.00, or sumpin like that, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: 'Course you gotta get the title and all that, but...and, [uh],...And, you don't have to have insurance to drive 'em at the parades. But, if you wanta...drive 'em to the post office every day, then you gotta ...then you must, [uh], get a regular license and insurance.

BL: Um-hmm. How difficult is it to find titles for some of those old cars?

SZ: The, [uh],...If they don't come with a title, if you get a bill of sale, ...is generally accepted. The...I had a problem or two with DMV, but we've worked around it and finally got it solved, but...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...they're a little bit fussy.

BL: How does the community react to your collection.

SZ: Oh, I get calls. Ever now and then somebody wants a ride or wants to come and look at 'em, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...and, [uh],... We drive one downtown, and people wave, and...it, [uh],... They seem ta...seem to enjoy seeing them around. We have our local grassroots thing, and...so I take some of 'em down there for the...for that show, and....and...

BL: Do you think it gives people a sense of...the good ol' days?

SZ: I...Probably. The old I gave a ride here awhile last summer, she...She...That was the first car she ever drove, and...and she was so excited. She wanted to just look at 'em, but I gave her a ride anyway.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: She was pretty thrilled. She was ninety, 90-years old.

BL: Oh, that's great!

SZ: So,...and....And, an attorney came over one Sunday, and we...from La Grande...and gave him a ride, and...He was interested and wantin' to find an old car. [laughs] But, [uh],...It's been a lotta fun. It's been a lotta work, but it's...it's been something that's...that's been enjoyable, and it's been fun, and the kids have had a good time, and...and, [uh],...so, for whatever it's worth, [uh],...it's been fun.

BL: As you kind of, have reflected back on your time in Union County, are there...are there memories or moments that have kind of...been brought back to your attention that you'd like to talk about?

SZ: Well, I...Just the other day, I made a walk around the loop here, and...and where we live here now, along this area was a...was a ____? ____ 119. And,...on the other side of Miller Lane, my folks, in the fall, would rent, [uh], the...a couple of the neighbors fields that they had grain in, and dad would turn the hogs out. And, I'd go over here along Miller Lane, and I had a board that I set up on a fencepost, nailed to a fencepost, and I'd set on that fencepost watchin' those hogs so they wouldn't try to get through the fence onto Miller Lane, and then...at the end of the day, I'd drive 'em back down home, and....The next day, [uh], as they worked their way up this way eating, [uh], I'd have to get up there about noon and sit on that fence, [uh], ____? ____ 130 part of the day, just kind of daydreaming.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...____? ____ 130. [Uh]...Quite often sumpin will happen that'cha...that'cha see or...calls your attention back and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...back when. And, [uh],...

BL: Sounds like you have a lot of really great memories from the area.

SZ: Oh...Working with...After I...Well, working with the Forest Service, I...I had to maintain the lookout towers that're here, and...and, [uh],...did a lotta road maintenance. I've been all over the whole forest, and...pert-near everywhere. And...then, when I worked for...this contractor, the Ready Mix man, we hauled

concrete and gravel all over this county, and...and, [uh],...just lotsa places.
 [Uh]...Things kinda come back to ya.

BL: Um-hmm. So, you're very comfortable here...in...in the whole area really.

SZ: Yeah. You bet. We like it. The wind gets to us once in awhile, but...

BL: [laughs]

SZ: [laughs]

BL: I'm surprised the wind hasn't blown you away, out here. [laughs]

SZ: [laughs] Yeah.

BL: Do you feel that there are things, since we've been interviewing, that we've missed that you want to share?

SZ: Oh, golly. [Uh]...A guy could talk forever, I s'pose. [laughs] All the different things, [uh],...that happened, and...We've seen several trains that have been blown over by the wind down at Hot Lake, and...and, [uh],...various things. This...This county used to be full of smoke every summer. The forest fires were bad, [uh], in those early years, and it was...smoky pert-near all summer long with...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...those fires. [Uh]...Where the freeway goes up Ladd Canyon, none of that was...That was one of our popular hunting areas. Deer and elk—used ta be plenty of them up there. Then, they built the freeway, and that kind of changed things.

BL: Were you disappointed when the freeway came through?

SZ: Yeah. That was kinda...but it had to be, I guess. [laughs] Yeah. Yep. [sigh]

BL: Were you disappointed because it meant change?...or disappointed that...it would bring more people?...

SZ: Oh, it...Actually, it was kind of a blessing, 'cause it got the...it got the traffic out of Union here, you know, the...The main road to Baker was through Union,...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...and so it helped there, but it...it did ruin, kinda,...nice hunting country. [laughs] [Uh]...It...It had to be. You know, we had to have that. We couldn't handle the traffic now goin'...goin' this old route. It's progress, but...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: I'm ____? ____ 172 this is the litter on the highway and not here. [laughs]

BL: [laughs] Do you suppose that would have changed things for you?...if it had...If it had come through Union, would that have changed things?

SZ: Hard t' tell. It's really hard t' tell. And, [uh],...The freeway was proposed to kinda follow the railroad...through Island City. It would have been closer, but...that was, [uh],...that was discarded, and then they...they decided to go through Ladd Canyon, and...

BL: Um-hmm. You know, one thing I...I don't think I asked you at all about the historic Union Hotel. [Uh]...Can you tell me anything about that?

SZ: The, [uh],...As a kid, we'd...That was kind of a place to...to go visit. It was kind of an intresting old building. [Uh]...One night there was a prank, a high school prank, when ____? ____ 185 in our senior year. Some of us got in the...hotel, and...got up on the roof, and walked all the way around the ledge of the roof, ...and, [uh],...had a big time. Got outa there before we got caught.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: But, right next to the hotel, used to be the...the Roxy Theater, ____?____ 191 movie theater. And, it was quite a popular place. Lots of....It had lots of good movies, and....and, [uh],...that was good place to go to...to see a movie. Since I failed my piano lessons, when I was a kid, and my guitar lessons, my mother made me take tap-dancing lessons. And, I used to tap-dance on the stage of the ol' Roxy Theater in Union. [laughs]

BL: [laughs]

SZ: How embarrassing.

BL: [laughs]

SZ: But, [uh],...And the old school, [uh],... 'Course the school was, high school, was a jail, a courthouse and a jail, and that's quite a...historic old building.

BL: Was it a very large jail?...or did [simultaneous speaking] ____?____ 202

SZ: ____?____ It was back where the heating plant is. It was...oh, it wasn't that big, but...but the bars are still on the windows, in...in the heating area there, where the jail was. When I first started school in Union, it was in an old...rock-type building, a...a double-story building, had a big...ding-dong bell on the top of it, and...I went there two years before the new schoolhouse was built. That was a pretty historic old building.

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: And then, [uh], where the school bus barns are, the...Levi Brothers' Mercantile [?], and...where the Union Grocery now is, why the...[uh],...they kept the Union hearse there. And, [uh],...it was a kind of a variety store...different things. My dad bought the old Union hearse, and we made a wagon out of it—of all the dumb things to do.

BL: Oh, really?

SZ: ____?____ 218. I still have the horn in my ____?____ out here, a 1917 Dodge. [laughs]

BL: [laughs] What did you do with it once you made a wagon out of it?

SZ: We made a wagon out of it, ta haul hay with...junked the rest of it, and...

BL: Um-hmm.

SZ: ...for scrap. We were dumb. [laughs]

BL: Do you feel like you still have a lot of connections here in Union?...a lot of old friends, and...Do you still recognize most people when you're walking down the street.

SZ: [Uh]...There's a lotta people I don't know, but there are still a few classmates, half a dozen or so of us that graduated together are still here.

BL: Do you still get together for a reunion?

SZ: [Uh]...We do. We, [uh],...our 50th, I think was the last one we went to...that we had here, and we had a pretty good crowd. And then, there's the old timers, you know, all the neighbors around; you know most of them, and [clock chimes] especially the farmers. You know pert-near all the farmers around, or did at one time. And... 'Course that's changed through the years, but...but, [uh],...We do have quite a few friends, and...it's, [uh],...it's pretty nice.

