

Anna Brown

8/4/04, T1, S1

BL: Please state your name, your age and your date of birth.

AB: I'm Anna Brown, age 79, and I was born April 2nd in 1933.

BL: Okay. And where were you born?

AB: I was born on the southwest...no...the southeast corner of the airport.

BL: So were you born at home?

AB: Yes, I was.

BL: Do you recall being told about your birth?

AB: Not really. The only thing I can recall is that a lady by the name of Maggie Fleshman was there to take care of my mother. She was so glad that I was a girl because there had been four boys before me and she just couldn't think that she could look my dad...look into my dad's face again if it had been another boy.
[laughs] And she ____.

BL: So were all of the children born in the home?

AB: Yes. They were all borned at home. Back in those days you didn't go to the hospital.

BL: And so who told you the stories about the midwife? Do you recall how you knew that?

AB: My mother.

BL: You're mother?

AB: Yes.

BL: What are your earliest memories?

AB: That's a little hard to think about. I don't recall climbing up the windmill after my folks had it in, but I guess I was about two years old when my mother said she caught me climbing up the windmill tower. Of course you didn't go to town everyday back then. You had to wait until the weekend or when it was very necessary.

BL: What did your parents do?

AB: My dad did farming. So he just farmed all of his life and Mom was the farmer's wife. Some of the things I remember with my dad was milkin' the cows and havin' the animals around. Of course you always hayed in the summertime and I always helped to drive derrick with the old work horse. That's when they brought a load of hay in, go get the horse and hitch 'er up and do the work that had to be done. And then when the load was off then they'd go get another load and then a little bit later then I'd have to go and get the horse again.

BL: So how old were you during that time?

AB: Oh, I was probably seven, eight, nine years old.

BL: And you were driving the horse at this point?

AB: Oh yeah. You learned the horses early. And of course we always had cattle and we had to go from one pasture to go get the cattle and bring 'em down and water them twice a day and that was kind of my job. So I'd just get the old work horse

and go out and get the cattle and bring 'em down and water and take 'em back.
[laugh] Oh, it was an interesting life, really.

BL: Do you know how many cattle your parents owned at that time?

AB: Probably between twenty and thirty and my dad had about eight or ten saddle horses. Of course in those days you did a lot of farming...did the farming with horses. And then later on, why, then Dad bought a tractor and started farming with a tractor. But earlier it was with horses.

BL: Do you know how old you were when he got the first tractor?

AB: Oh, I think I was probably about ten or so, somewhere in there, in that area.

BL: How did that change your daily routine?

AB: I don't know that it really changed the routine that much because with the...they did the farming with the tractor, but then when it come time for haying in the summertime I still used the horse for driving the derrick.

BL: What is a derrick?

AB: [laugh] Well, it's a piece of machinery...well, it was __ tripod __ that went up to a point and then had a beam on it and a hook one end and they had pulleys with a cable on the other end. You hooked onto the cable and the other end had hooks or nets or for the Jackson fork to pick up the hay. Then the derrick would swing...the beam would swing so that you could place it on a certain place on the stack. Then there was a trip that would trip the Jackson fork or the nets and let the hay come down onto the stack.

BL: And the Jackson fork then is?

AB: [laugh] It's like make of four tines and you would push it into the hay and then it would clamp and then it would help hold the hay to swing.

BL: What other things were farmed? [sound of a plane]

AB: Hay and grain. There was wheat. And earlier, in the earlier years, Dad had the thrasher come and thrash the grain.

BL: Did he own the thrasher?

AB: No. He had... There was a fellow that did this. That was his business was going around and thrashing grain for the farmers. So it was very...it was quite an interesting day when we'd see the thrasher comin' down the road to start thrashing the hay. And of course the hay...not the hay, but the grain. And sometimes it was put into bundles. Years ago they had a binder that would cut the grain and put it into bundles and then they would haul it into the thrasher and thrash the grain out of it. I remember after the grain was thrashed they would load it into sacks and put it on a wagon and pull the wagon with horses into town to unload the sacks.

BL: Into La Grande?

AB: Into La Grande into the flourmill or into the mill that was there at that time and then come back. They'd load up and maybe the next day take another load in.

BL: Where were the flouring mills?

AB: I think pretty much to where... There was one on Willow Street at one time and then there was the one on the corner in Island City on the main street. And then, of course, Grain Growers had a mill that burned here four or five years ago. I think that was most...

BL: So the products that were farmed on your parents' farm were they sold locally?

AB: Pretty much. Some of it, I think, was shipped out, but most of it was probably spent to flouring mills and like that to make...to use for flour.

BL: Do you know where it would have been sent out if it was going beyond La Grande?

AB: No. I think Pendleton had a flourmill at that time, but I'm not positive.

BL: What did a typical day look like? You must've had chores that you had to besides watering the cows.

AB: Watering the cows and sometimes if nobody else was...if the boys wasn't around I milked the cow. Sometimes I had to take care of the chickens. Carry in wood. If Mama asked, why, then I'd help hang up the washing and hoe in' the garden.

BL: How did she do the washing?

AB: As far back as I can remember she had a gas engine for the washer. Then, of course, she had to heat the water on the stove because at that time we didn't have electricity. We didn't have electricity until about 1947, '48 and so she had to use the gas washing machine and then heat water on the stove. That was quite a project. I remember Mom had this black iron kettle and the day that she washed she would put a pot of beans on the stove. Of course it was a wood stove and that was our meal for the day was a pot of brown beans.

BL: How often did she wash?

AB: Once a week.

BL: Once a week.

AB: Once a week. Monday's usually was wash day, Tuesday was ironing. ____ In the wintertime a lot, why, she would do sewing, made the boys shirts, and sometimes she quilted and mended and did whatever else she had to do.

BL: You mentioned ironing day. How did you iron with no electricity?

AB: Used the flat iron on the stove. Heated the flat iron on the stove and then when it kind of cooled off while you're going you clamp onto another iron and go and use it and let the other one heat up. And then pretty soon, later on, I think she had a gas iron that she used.

BL: Were you required to iron as well?

AB: Oh yes. Required to do a lot of those things. Mother got sick at one time and was sick and was in bed and so I had to do the cooking. And of course my dad always to have biscuits and gravy [laugh] and that kind of stuff for breakfast and so I had to cook breakfast.

BL: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

AB: I had four brothers.

BL: No sisters?

AB: No sisters. However, I did have two half-brothers and a half-sister, but they were all grown and gone by the time I come along.

BL: So was there a division in what the boys did for chores and what the girls...what you did for chores?

AB: No, there wasn't really. We all did the work whenever that time come. Of course by the time that I come along the two older boys was getting up there. They were getting about ready to leave by the time I could get up and really remember. They wasn't around all that much.

BL: Were they expected to do things in the kitchen?

AB: Not as much. Not as much because they were expected to work outside more than what I was. But then I did some of the outside work, too.

BL: When did you go to school?

AB: Let's see. Probably in about '39... '38, '39. I started in a one-room schoolhouse. The schoolhouse still stands and it's called Willowdale. I don't remember now how many students there was. There were quite a few students. But we had all eight grades and one teacher. My first grade teacher was Mary D. Kale, who had taught around and taught different ones, taught all four of the boys and I. Then the last year of school there was only five attending the school and then I went to Union school. But a one-room schoolhouse is interesting...

BL: I bet it is.

AB: ...to go to. Because when we got there we had to start a fire and get the fire going and it was cold. ____

BL: What would your typical school day be like then?

AB: Oh, first thing off in the morning we would line up in the hall and we would march into our seats. As I recall, there was five things, we had to salute the flag, pledge of alleg...well, that would be the same as pledge allegiance, say the states and capitals, and the presidents... It seemed like there was two other things we had to do, but I can't recall what they are right now. But there was from one to five things that we had to do before we could sit down for our lessons.

BL: And then when lessons begin what were the major subjects that you studied?

AB: English, math, arithmetic, spelling, history, the regular lessons that you have pretty much now. Of course there were some things we didn't have, bookkeeping and that sort of thing. That was in your arithmetic anyway.

BL: Did the same teacher teach all of the subjects?

AB: Yes. At that time. And there was usually all eight grades in that one-room schoolhouse. I don't recall when my brothers was going to school how many there was in that school, but there was from...I would say...between ten and twenty-five in the neighborhood. She had all those children and taught all the classes. So different from what it is now.

BL: What did you find most challenging to do your work with the different age groups in the class?

AB: The most challenging would be to keep your mind on your studies instead of listening to everybody else.

BL: You mentioned you went to Willowdale school. Where was that located?

AB: It's located a mile north of Hot Lake on Peach Road.

BL: And how far is that from the house you grew up in?

AB: Probably within two miles.

BL: So how did you get to school?

AB: Most of the time the teacher would come by and pick us up. But if the roads were bad then it was different, the folks would try to get us to school. Because a lot of times she would go the other way on the highway to Hot Lake and then down 'cause that was graveled...that road was graveled and a lot better than what our road was.

BL: Did she pick up all of the students?

AB: No. The way...where I was living was kind of the most direct route to the schoolhouse and so she would pick us up. Some of the children walked, had to walk if their parents didn't bring 'em. Most of the time it was walking.

BL: And what was the mode of transportation for the other kids? Would it be driving cars?

AB: She did, but the rest of 'em was either horseback or walking.

BL: So when they rode the horse to school where did the horse stay during the day?

AB: ___ a barn that they would put 'em in. My seventh grade school teacher rode a horse to school quite a bit. She had her horse tied up there more than some of the rest of them. Most of the time they would walk.

BL: How long was the school day?

AB: I think she would pick us up around 8:15, 8:30 and then at 4:00 would be the end of the day.

BL: And then you did chores after school?

AB: You bet! [laugh] That was always on the agenda. You had to make sure that the wood was in 'cause if you didn't, why, then you would be cold so you had to make sure there was plenty of wood in and whatever Mom had you do.

BL: Did you have homework?

AB: Oh yes. There was always homework. There was some, not always a lot, but there was some. If not, why, then I'd read or do some of those things. I loved spelling. That was my best subject.

BL: How did you see the education change over the years?

AB: I think education really began to change when they did away with the one-room schoolhouse.

BL: Do you recall when that was?

AB: My last year of one-room was '44 and '45, I believe it was. I spent my eighth grade year in Union and then I started high school the fall of '46.

BL: In Union?

AB: In Union. The bus would come by and pick me up 7:30 in the morning and I'd get home at 5:00 at night. [laugh]

BL: That sounds like a long day.

AB: It was a long day. Then, of course, if there was ballgames and you'd have to catch your bus you'd have to ride part of one of the other routes before we would get home and so it was always a little bit later. It was a fun time.

BL: Was that your first experience on a bus?

AB: Yes, when I had to switch schools.

BL: What did you play as a child?

AB: In the yard, in the barn, in the hay mow. There was a little gal right next door so we played together quite often. She was a mongoloid. So we had a good time playing together. It was either in their yard or my yard or around.

BL: What was your favorite activity to do?

AB: At that time? I know when we played together she always wanted to play house and so she'd be the mother and I'd be the child. I teased her so unmercifully, but she took it good-naturedly. [laughs]

BL: Did you have many toys?

AB: No. We didn't have that many toys. Sometimes... I remember the boys had made a top out of a spool of tread...spool from thread and it was wooden. They would made a top and we played the top or we had jacks or mumblepeg.

BL: What's mumblepeg?

AB: Mumblepeg was with a knife. [laugh]

BL: With a knife!

AB: And you had different ways of throwing it and holding it and making it stick into the ground.

BL: Were you ever injured playing that game?

AB: No. Because you had to be careful. Jacks was another game. Chinese checkers was another game. Dominos. Flinch.

BL: And what is Flinch?

AB: It's a card game. It's a lot like...oh, what's that... It's a game that you build from one to fifteen or fifteen back to one. You have a pile in front of you and you play off from that first before you play anything else. And if you don't play off from that and the other person catches you, why, then they can take a card from their pile and slip underneath yours. And the purpose is to get through that pile and you win it.

BL: Did you play that game with your parents?

AB: With my mom. That's how I learned to count was by playing Flinch.

BL: Do you recall playing it with your dad?

AB: Not too much. He didn't play the games as much as what Mom did. Of course he was always outside and when he come in, why, he [laugh] was ready to just set and read...read the paper or read whatever there was around.

BL: What about playing with your brothers?

AB: The one brother I remember playing with more. But when I was getting up there he had rheumatic fever and we played the Chinese checkers and games when he had to be in bed. Isn't that strange? Then...I don't remember now what point it was why Mom started me on piano lessons.

BL: How old were you then?

AB: I was probably seven, eight, nine, when I started.

BL: How long did you play?

AB: Until I was out of high school.

BL: Did you have a piano in your home?

AB: Yes. We were very fortunate to have a piano in the home. Mother played the piano and two of the boys, one learned to play the trombone and one learned to play the baritone. And of course we all... And I played the piano and we all practiced at the same time, each a different song. It's no wonder my mother got grey young. [laugh]

BL: What did you do in town? You said you did not go to town very often, but when you did what was the purpose?

AB: The purpose? Just for the shopping, the regular shopping. Mother had chickens and she'd take eggs to the store. Just the regular shopping that there was to do.

BL: Do you recall what she would have got for eggs?

AB: Thirty, forty, fifty cents a dozen probably, at that time. Pretty close to it.

BL: Can you describe the shopping during that time?

AB: It was pretty much the same. I think we had a few more stores than what we have now. There was a H. C. Stevens store and, of course, there was a Penny's and what used to be Payless. There was a _____. There was First National Bank. Radio and Music Supply Store. That's some of the older stores at that time that I can recall.

BL: Do you recall any differences in how you shopped at that time then how you would shop now?

AB: You could find more sizes back then that would fit than you can now. [laugh]
But other than that styles change, of course.

BL: What were the earliest styles that you can remember?

AB: The bellbottoms. Of course when the styles come in there's a lot of styles I couldn't wear. My dad always made me wear my clothes mid-knee. That's where I had to wear my clothes, I couldn't wear 'em any different. I wasn't allowed shorts. But when Dad wasn't around the house I had a pair of shorts I'd put on. Then when I saw him comin' I'd go change. [laughs]

BL: Were you allowed to wear any cosmetics?

AB: No. Of course there wasn't money enough to buy that kind of stuff back then. We never really wear too much perfume anyway. And of course Polk's was about all the perfume we had at that time. Like I said, there just wasn't that much money to go out and buy anything that a person does now.

BL: Did you raise most of your meat or did you purchase those in town?

AB: No, we raised our meat. Dad had the cattle or course _____ and butcher the animals. We had pigs and we had to butcher the pigs. Of course he didn't go hunting like some of the people that he knew. And of course Mom had chickens. She always had chickens. That was our eggs and our meat that way, too. When I was a kid in...oh, I don't know how old I was...but I know it happened even when I was two or three years old. Dad always had neighborhood day. Everybody would bring their pig and he'd build a fire again in the shop and he had this vat and he'd put the water in there and scald the pigs and clean and dress 'em out, you know. Like everybody would bring their pig and that was butchering day.

BL: Do you recall how many people participated?

AB: There was five or six, maybe seven in the area. I never really counted them, but then I'm sure that there was.

BL: Speaking of neighbors, do you recall how the neighbors were involved in your life?

AB: They were always... We were always back and forth and helping one another. Whatever there was, why, they'd come in and help us and we'd go help them. So we were involved with the neighbors around.

BL: How was your family involved in the community?

AB: There was not that much of community involvement at that time. We did have what was called the American Sunday School Union that met down at the schoolhouse every week. We would get at that. Of course the folks were members of the grange and that was twice a month. Between the grange and the American Sunday School Union was just about all the activity that I remember that happened.

BL: What was the purpose of the American Sunday School Union?
AB: It was a Christian... It wasn't actually a church, but it was a form of a church. At least we got some values that way.
BL: So did it involve a Bible study?
AB: Yeah. [end tape]

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AB: ...give a message and sometimes we would meet in the different homes and have a potluck dinner or whatever.
BL: Did they attend a regular Sunday church service? Or was this in place of?
AB: Yeah, this was in place of. That was in place of. And then after...I don't remember now when it was that they disbanded the American Sunday School Union and then some of the neighbors began to go into town for church and so I went with the neighbors for Sunday School and church.
BL: Where did you attend?
AB: I attended a couple different places and then I ended up going to the First Christian Church. I was baptized in the First Christian Church and have been a member of that pretty much all my life. My husband and I... My first husband and I were married...the first ones married in the educational unit of the church that is now in La Grande. That's been, what, fifty-four years ago. There's been a lot of changes through that fifty-four years.
BL: I bet there has. Let's back up just a little bit before we move into that...into those marriage years. Describe to me your high school years.
AB: I really didn't...I did get to do a few thing, but I didn't get to do too much 'cause I always had to get on the bus and come home. So I'd go to school in the morning and I'd come home in the evening so I really didn't get to do all that much until the last year. I was able to do a little bit more. I got on the volleyball team and got to play a couple games and then I had to have my appendix out. So I didn't get to finish up the year with that. I played the piano and I was always accompaniment for the glee club. I could play the trombone in the band. Of course there was always something going on all the time with music and playing and so.
BL: Did you find that there was a lot of community support for extra-curricular activities?
AB: Yes. There was a lot. Of course at the ballgames a lot of time when they were the home games then the band had to play and so I was able to go and play in the band at the ballgames, which was interesting. It was good years.
BL: Did you wear uniforms for the band?
AB: Yes. Not always for the ballgames, but we had uniforms. The one thing that the band had to do in order to get our letter was we had to go to the Livestock Show, we had to play two days out of the three, and we had to march in the parade. That was before we could even get our letter. That's a big switch than what it is now.
BL: Do you recall what the school colors were? Have they changed?
AB: Red and white.
BL: So they have not changed.

AB: No. Not changed and they're still the Bobcats. One of the interesting things about Union school is my mother graduated from Union school, all four of my brothers and myself and now I have a granddaughter that's gonna graduate next year from school from Union.

BL: So you have seen many changes in the school?

AB: Yes. A lot of changes. They certainly don't teach what they used to.

BL: Can you explain what you mean by that?

AB: What they need to do is to go back and learn the three R's, reading, writing, and 'rithmetic. Learn their sounds, how to sound out a word, is what they need to do. And make sure they can read. Because a lot of these kids cannot read.

BL: What are some of the other changes in the education process that seem most significant to you?

AB: That's a good one. It's been a while since my kids were in school. [laugh] Most significant? The kids don't really have to...well, they're supposed to go to school, but they don't have to stay at school as much as what we had to. Of course there was a lot of kids that skipped school back then, too, as much as what they do now. One of the things is that the teachers cannot correct the kids like they used to.

BL: How did they discipline the kids when you were school?

AB: Sometimes you could get a little whack on your hand or you might...or you would stand in the corner, or, you know, some of those things. And if you got reprimanded at school you was reprimanded at home when you got home. That is something that is not allowed today. You can hardly touch a child. That's sad. It really is sad.

BL: Was it common for everyone to graduate during that time?

AB: Yes. But there's always kids that didn't. But it was common for everybody to. I wanted to graduate and go through the exercises and stuff. I think that's kind of meaningful.

BL: Had your parents graduated from high school?

AB: My mother did. My dad didn't, but my mother did. My mother taught for a year before she married.

BL: So when you were growing up was it expected that you would complete school?

AB: Yes.

BL: And what was the expectation toward college?

AB: If you wanted to go to college where there's a will there's a way. I would have been able to, I think, but I didn't really want to go to college. It was a little difficult for me. So before I was out of high school I was engaged to be married so [laugh] I waited a year and was married.

BL: So when did you get engaged?

AB: When I was in high school and I was, what, probably seventeen.

BL: How did that happen?

AB: My mother and I went to church one day after my sixteenth birthday and this young fellow came up and asked me to go to church with him that night and that was the beginning. And so we continued on and was married and built our life around the church. [phone ringing, recording paused]

BL: Describe to me what dating was like?

AB: It wasn't like it is now. A lot of times we'd just go down and sit on the street and watch the people go by. Sometimes we'd go to a show or we'd go visit friends. But it was different than it is now.

BL: Did you have a curfew?

AB: Yes. [laugh] I was usually in by that curfew – I think it was eleven o'clock – until one night it was way after twelve and my mother wasn't very happy. I said, "Now listen." I said, "We were on our way home and we looked up and the neighbor's house was on fire so we went to help the neighbors with the fire." And so the next day she heard about it so reluctantly forgave me. [laughs]

BL: Did he drive?

AB: Yes. And we did our courting in a little Jeep for two or three years and then he got a car.

BL: Did you drive?

AB: Yes. I'd been driving when I was eleven years old with a Model A, one that my brothers had.

BL: And when did you get your license?

AB: When I was sixteen. And of course my brothers said, "Oh, she won't get it. She won't get it. She hasn't driven in town." I got it that day and they had to try two or three times before they got their license. [laughs]

BL: Do you recall anything being different then about driving than it is now?

AB: The only this is the standard drive car. The rest of it is pretty much the same as what it was then. Of course none of the same cars, but then that's progress.

BL: What was your first car?

AB: '47 Chevy was the one that he had. I never had a car, but he had the car.

BL: So you graduated from Union High School in what year?

AB: 1950.

BL: With how many students in your class?

AB: Thirty-six or thirty-seven students.

BL: And what happened after that?

AB: Then I went and worked for my brother down at Condon for the summer and then I took...during the wintertime I took care of a little girl here in town. The following June then I married and moved here in this house. That was '51.

BL: And you moved into a house located where?

AB: In this house located...well, it's on the southwest corner of Pierce and ___ across from the airport. This is where my husband lived. [helicopter sound]

BL: And there's a helicopter now. [laughs]

AB: He was born and raised in this house and lived here all of his life. So this is where I spent most of my life. I did move to Pendleton for about six years and then I was in Portland for two years. We traveled for almost a year and then come back in 1995 and this is where I've been since then.

BL: So he was born and raised in this home. When you moved into it with him were his parents here?

AB: No. His parents had moved on. His mother had passed away early and then his father had lived in town. He was in partnership with his brother...his sister and brother-in-law with this place.

BL: So he had inherited the home?

AB: He didn't really inherit it, he bought it from his folks. That's where he stayed.

BL: Can you tell me more about your wedding?

AB: I was supposed to married the 3rd of June and the night before my dad passed away so we were married two weeks later. Like I said, we were the first ones married in the educational part of the First Christian Church. It looks a lot different now than it did that day. My mother maid my wedding dress. I still have it. I don't know that I could get into it now. [laughs]

BL: Was it expected in this community that women would graduate and get married?

AB: A lot, I think. But there was...I don't know what percentage, but then there was a lot that went onto school, too, and were teachers and different fields.

BL: Was there a college here at that time?

AB: Yes. There's been a college here for...way back that I can remember. I think it was there probably when I was born. It's been there for quite a while.

BL: So after you got married did you have children right away?

AB: It was about two years when the first one came along. Then about sixteen months later another one and thirteen months later another one and two years and a month another one. [laugh]

BL: So you had four children?

AB: I had four children.

BL: What did you do before the children came? There were two years when you first married.

AB: Just worked here on this place and, of course, it was a farming place and different things going on. In the summertime particularly in the evenings, why, besides all the canning and gardening and everything I'd have the chores done, the cows milked, the chickens fed, the eggs gathered, by the time that they come in. Sometimes we wouldn't eat supper until ten o'clock at night because as long as they could they would work out in the field. During haying, why, even during harvest time, why, along about ten o'clock we'd fix them coffee and maybe some sandwiches or cookies or something and take out to the guys and let them have a break and then feed them dinner. In the afternoons the same thing.

BL: How big was the work crew?

AB: It was just him and his brother-in-law mainly was the work crew. Sometimes in the summertime or haying there might be two or three extras around to kind of help to get it done in a hurry. But most of the time, why, it was just the two.

BL: And did you have help cooking?

AB: Between my sister-in-law and I. But then we'd usually have our own meals. Once in a while we'd be up there or they'd be down here. Kind of shared it a lot of the time.

BL: What kinds of things did you can from your garden?

AB: Beans, peas, tomatoes. What else did we have? Of course corn. And of course they always had electricity or there was electricy here. We had a freezer and we'd fix the corn and stuff. And then we had raspberries and sometimes strawberries. We'd get those in the freezer. Then whatever else there was around that we would get.

BL: So did you do much shopping at the grocery store or did you raise most of your food?

AB: We raised most of our food. Of course we always had milk and I baked bread. So there really wasn't only just some kinds of little extras around that we would get. A lot of times there wasn't that many extras either. Of course we always had the milk with the cows and we had the chickens and eggs and the meat so there wasn't really much to buy at the grocery store unless you want to go into something a little bit different in your diet.

BL: Do you recall what you paying for utilities and your mortgage payment and things like that when you were first married?

AB: When I was first married we didn't have a very big mortgage payment because it was pretty well paid out. I think it was about two or three years that we got the place paid for so we didn't have a mortgage payment. I don't remember now what the electricity was. Between the two houses probably forty dollars, maybe forty-five dollars between the two houses.

BL: And what do you mean the two houses?

AB: There was another house built on part of the property in 1950 and that's where my husband's sister and brother-in-law lived. And, like I said earlier, that they were in partnership. So it was the two houses to maintain.

BL: So then the children started coming along.

AB: Yes.

BL: Had your parents...or your mother, specifically, prepared you for having children?

AB: Yes. I don't think they prepared 'em as much as what they do now. But then you knew... When you were borned and raised on a farm you know a lot of those things.

BL: So where did you have your children?

AB: I had 'em at the St. Joseph Hospital in La Grande.

BL: Is there anything significant about the hospital that you recall?

AB: No. It was a Catholic hospital. Of course it hasn't been there for a number of years. I don't remember now what year it was that it went out. But there really isn't...other than being Catholic. And that's where the doctor went so that's where I went.

BL: Tell me a little bit more about your children.

AB: My son... My oldest boy Bill lives in Adams and he is working for Terry Clark at Pioneer Concrete and Pipe Company in Pendleton. He had three children...four children, one adopted. Is married to Amy who is working for ESD over there. Then my daughter Gorma is living in High Valley and she's a phlebotomist at the La Grande hospital in the lab. She's worked there at the hospital for twenty-five years now. She has two children, two grandchildren. Bill has a couple grandchildren. So I have six grandchildren and four greats.

BL: What was it like raising the children on a farm?

AB: At least you kind of knew where they were at. You didn't have to worry about 'em runnin' off down the street. They were pretty much right around, you know. And there was always other couples that we knew that their children would come out and oftentimes there was seventeen children around here running around.

BL: Seventeen?

AB: Seven.

BL: Oh, seven.

AB: Seven to eight.

BL: Seven to eight.

AB: Children. So at least they weren't running around the streets.

BL: How do you think their growing up was different than yours since both of you grew up on a farm just across the field from one another?

AB: There was a few more advantages in their lifetime. Of course they had to get on the bus and go to school. But when Bill turned sixteen he could drive and then they could go to the ballgames and do a few things. Although we tried to...if they had things going on at school that they needed to go to school for we'd try to make sure that they were able to do that.

BL: And where did they go to school?

AB: In La Grande. Bill started at Willow and then Greenwood. Greenwood and the junior high and high school is where he went.

BL: Are those schools the same today as when your children attended?

AB: Greenwood is. Of course the middle school, which was a junior high school, that building is gone and it's new. But the high school is pretty much the same as what it was back then.

BL: Did the children take lunch from home or was there a program at school?

AB: There was a lunch program, but they would take some lunches at home and sometimes they would eat lunch at school.

BL: Did you work?

AB: Yes. I started working in 1966. I didn't want to go to work that summer, but the job was handed to me and I worked in a print shop for twenty years. It started out as the weekly newspaper *Eastern Oregon Review* and then he sold the newspaper and it was Job Shop. In '75 we had a fire that burned the shop and he bought Palmer Printing. That's what it's called now is Palmer Particular Printing.

BL: So how old were the children when you decided to work outside the home?

AB: Let's see...'66...Brian was, what, seven, eight. The others was eight and nine. I knew I was gonna have to go to work, but I didn't want to go to work until fall, but then when you have a job handed to you you take it. I worked five hours a day for a while. Then it turned into a fulltime job. Then it was six days a week. Of course when Livestock Show came around and Elgin Stampede, why, it was more days. We did the book for the Shriner...the Shrine game. We did that book for a number of years. So we had to put in a lot of extra time at that time.

BL: What was your job specifically?

AB: My job was more or less in the bindery department. But I was a gopher, I go for this and go for that. "I can't find this, I can't find that. Anna, will you find it?" I just did different things all through the shop. It's interesting work. I really enjoyed it. Even though you did a lot of the same things over and over it is different. Each day was a little different. Then I did a lot of delivering of the jobs every morning. Then at one time we had a little newspaper that we put out on Tuesdays and I would deliver it out La Grande and Union. It was very interesting. I kind of miss it.

BL: How long did you do that?

AB: I did this for twenty years. Then I quit and went to Pendleton. That's when I married my Charlie Brown. He was living over there and had a business over there so that's when I moved to Pendleton.

BL: So how long then were you away from Union County?

AB: From '86 until '95.

BL: And when you came back what happened?

AB: I came back into this house, the same house that I moved into when I was first married, and I'm still here.

BL: Was the family... Was the house still owned by family? How did you manage to get into the same home?

AB: It was owned... I still owned this house.

BL: Oh, you still owned it.

AB: I still owned the house.

BL: Okay.

AB: My daughter lived here for a while and then we had it rented for a couple of years. Then when I came back I moved back into the house.

BL: Had things changed at all in Union County in your absence?

AB: I suppose a few things. The Island City strip had added more places. But it's pretty much stayed the same.

BL: What is it about Union County that has led to your staying here all of these years with just only a short absence?

AB: Roots.

BL: Roots? Can you explain what you mean?

AB: I don't know if I can explain, but it just seems like this was the natural thing to do is just stay here. I've done some traveling and I haven't seen anything I liked any better so I just stayed here.

BL: Is it the people or the weather?

AB: Probably the people. Because of the many friends that are around.

BL: When you returned to La Grande to this home after your short stay in Pendleton what did your husband do for work in the area?

AB: He had retired by the time we'd come back. He was a mechanic for the railroad for thirty-three years and that's when he retired and we came back here and just kind of maintain the place when we come back.

BL: Did you still farm?

AB: No. I rented... Since 1978 the farm has been rented out.

BL: What prompted you to make the decision to rent out the farm?

AB: In 1978 is when my son was killed and he was the one that was going to take over the farm. That was the decision I had to make was to rent it out. It's been rented out ever since.

BL: You mentioned the tragic thing that happened in 1978. Would you like to discuss that?

AB: The most tragic thing was that my youngest son, at the age of 20, was killed in a pickup wreck. He was _____ since he was in the fourth grade. He had attention immediately, but it was not to be. The good Lord wanted to call him home. Then after that the high school wrestling team has this wrestling match held in

December. It's the Oregon Trail Muilenburg Tournament in his memory. It's been going on since '78, I'm pretty sure, '78 or '79.

BL: And how do you think this tragedy... How do you think living in Union County supported you during this tragedy?

AB: Because of all the people that knew him, the people at school...[end tape]

8/4/04, T2, S2

BL: Did you say a strong sense of community support in the tragic death of your son?

AB: Yes. If everybody around, your friends, your family, the students. He had been attending college in Corvallis. He was going to be the president of the _____. The fraternity brothers supported...every one of 'em was here. It was their _____ weekend and they canceled that weekend and were here for that day. So everybody was very supportive.

BL: Did you find after this tragedy that there was support...there were resources available in this community as far as counseling or help for your other children?

AB: Yes, I knew that there was, but I didn't know _____. _____ me more than anything to get through it. I'm sure that _____ to get to it. But just the people, yes, the people were very supportive.

BL: Did you continue to work?

AB: Yes. I continued to work. It was a little harder afterwards. I'd been _____ at home after _____ and so on Friday night I had my bag packed and I'd be gone for the weekend _____. But _____

BL: _____?

AB: Yes. _____

BL: So the others had already moved out of the house?

AB: Yeah. Dorma was living in Alaska at the time. She lived in Alaska for two years at that time and she came back on Sunday night. And she was here... But then... She was here just long enough until she found a house and then she moved into a house. But I lived here off and on..._____ in town at that time. But I had a young fellow that was a friend of Brian's he was here a summer living here working for a farmer and he came back here in the summertime and worked a little bit. And then they...one of the other young fellows _____ fraternity house that was doing his student teaching and he was here. We had...so there's five of us here. I think my _____ cousin was here at that time, too, part of the time, the other two. So it was an interesting time.

BL: So you've had a lot of house guests.

AB: Yes. To say the least.

BL: Do you remember... Going back to work a little bit, do you remember the wage that you earned?

AB: I started out at a dollar an hour.

BL: A dollar an hour.

AB: And that was five dollars a day. I was very fortunate, every three months I got a... It wasn't much, but it was _____. And so I did have that. It was always there.

BL: Was there any retirement fund available?

AB: No. Not at that time. Later on he did pay for our medical insurance _____. I had to have a couple surgeries during that time so that did help at that time. But there was no retirement plan at all.

BL: When did you retire from that job?

AB: I retired in February of 1986.

BL: And have you been... Have you went back to work since that time?

AB: No. I was very fortunate that my husband – at that time married Charlie Brown – was very fortunate that he didn't want me to work 'cause if he had some time, why, he wanted to take off so that's what we did. So I didn't have to go back to work then.

BL: How long were you married to Charlie Brown?

AB: It would've been almost... If he'd have lasted until the end of the month it would have been sixteen years. We did a lot of traveling during that time. We went to Alaska a few times. The one trip we went fishing _____ and I caught an eighteen pound king salmon which was a big thrill. We went back to Tennessee. And after he retired in '94 we traveled around the country. We back to like the middle and then just kind of made a circle and come back through the southern states and California and back home and got there in April of '95.

BL: So what activities have you been involved in in this area throughout the years? Besides work and family.

AB: Just different things, the church, Christian Church, and since I've been back, why, I've been involved at the church, and at the Eagles, – been a member of the Eagles for a number of years – camping, taking the motorhome and camping.

BL: That would be...you said the Eagles, what sorts of things did you accomplish?

AB: When you think of the word Eagles a lot of people don't think of _____ association, but they do a lot of good...what's the word I want...raising money for the _____. And some of the monies that they raise _____ goes for some of the local places. They've given money to the libraries at the different towns. They had a cancer committee and _____ like the other organizations in giving.

BL: Can you tell more about your involvement at the First Christian Church? You said you did a lot of things there.

AB: For a long time I helped with weddings _____ I helped with weddings. Other than that I didn't...well, I did play the organ during the summertime two or three summers. I haven't done that for quite a while either. I don't do much playing.

BL: Can you tell me anything about the architecture of the First Christian Church?

AB: Yes. The sanctuary now the beams..._____ want to call 'em...anyway, they were the logs sawed and brought in by my uncle Harvey Enner and brought down to his shop where they were cut and put together...put together and sanded and varnished and the whole bit and then hauled in to the church for construction of the building.

BL: This was the arches in the building?

AB: The arches, yes. That was the arches. Thank you.

BL: And where did the lumber come from?

AB: Someplace up on Mt. Harris.

BL: Mt. Harris.

AB: Yes. He had a place up there and that's where the trees were...trees came from that the arches are built out of.

BL: Have you seen many changes in the church?

AB: Yeah, there's been some changes. It used to be that the men did the serving and the communion and that type of thing. It got to the point that the women starting doing a lot of the same things. They young people had become involved quite a bit. It's just like anything else, there's changes in everything you do.

BL: And how do you think that this church has served the people of Union County over the years? In what ways?

AB: I think they've been open to a lot of the different things that's been going on around the community because there's been different things that's held their meetings and that kind of thing. Four or five years the Grande Ronde Academy was held there at the church. That's where they met.

BL: The Grande Ronde Academy is the Christian school?

AB: Yes.

BL: [recording paused] Anna, tell me again, how long have you lived in this area?

AB: I have lived here for seventy-one years.

BL: Can you sum up for me what it's been like growing up in this county?

AB: It's been a great county to grow up in. I've done quite a bit of traveling. I haven't seen anything that I like any better than Grande Ronde Valley. It's a beautiful area. The people are friendly, very supportive. Of course there's been a lot of changes, but that happens other places, too.

BL: And have you viewed those as positive changes, for the most part?

AB: Yes, in a lot of ways it's positive. Some of 'em might not be quite as positive, but then most _____. It's been for the better because people are able to live a little bit better than what they used to. Of course farming isn't the greatest thing anymore _____ with it. Like I said, I haven't found anyplace I like any better.

BL: Would you say that those changes in farming would be one of the negative changes over time or is that positive?

AB: No, that would be a negative. Because it seems like the government has too many hands in it now than what it used to.

BL: Can you explain what you mean by that?

AB: The government tells you how many acres of wheat to grow and sometimes...the price of grain right now is not the best. The price of a bushel of grain that you have buy to put that grain into the ground is a lot more than what you get out of it. So there's...

BL: How does this compare to farming when you were a child or when your parents began in this industry?

AB: I don't think we had the...what do I want to say...regulations back then like you do now. There's a lot of regulations for farming.

BL: And what about watering? The water rights? Has that changed also?

AB: In some ways it has. The irrigation...there's more irrigation to the country...through the valley than what there used to be. That's supposed to help. But then the weather makes a big difference, too, on how your crops grow.

BL: And has the weather changed over time?

AB: This year it has. I get to thinkin' ____ 'cause we've had a lot more storms and rain and stuff like that this year than what we've had in the past four or five years. When you have storms you have hail that comes through and that isn't very good for your plants because it can ruin the crop ____ can shatter the crops. Mother Nature has a big hand in it.

BL: Do you recall, looking back at growing up in this area, any major changes in weather? Major storms?

AB: The one two weeks ago was one of the worst storms I think that we've had for a good long time. Because I don't remember having a tornado type wind like we did then.

BL: And what about the snow, the amount of snow or anything? Has that changed?

AB: That has changed a lot through the years. Last winter was one of the worst winters that we've had, although I wasn't here. They had a lot more snow last winter. But what we had when I was a kid growing up there'd be snow drifts here and one out there by the gate and it'd be hard to get up and down the road because the snowdrifts and stuff. Yeah, it's changed in some ways, too.

BL: Did that have anything to do with... How did that affect farming for you, specifically?

AB: I don't know that it really affected the farming. Well, it could in a lot of ways, too, because if it was really cold and stayed on for a long time it could kill the fall crop and then you'd have to replant in.

BL: That must've had a huge impact on you financially.

AB: You bet it did. The weather has an impact financially 'cause if you don't get your crops you don't get the money. So you're kind of financially strapped. But someway, somehow we have survived.

BL: Did you find that you had support in the community in financial areas? For instance, if there was a bad season then was there options available for financing?

AB: Yeah, I think there was. We never pursued because a lot of times if you pursue then you get that loan...financial loan and then you have to pay it back. ____ 'cause if you don't have the money you can't pay it back. And lots of times the farmers will lose their places because they don't have the money to pay it.

BL: Are you aware of several farmers in this area who did?

AB: There have been some. I don't recall of anybody right now, but there has been some that have come awful close to losin' their place because of that. So far I've been very fortunate and I've been able to pay the taxes and stuff like that.

BL: Would you recommend farming to any other family?

AB: [laugh] Not now. Not now. I think that's why there isn't as many farms in the valley.

BL: When you began in the industry, or as you grew up in the industry, how did you perceive that lifestyle, the farming lifestyle?

AB: It was just a way of life. It was just that was your life and so that's what you did.

BL: So would you have recommended it then?

AB: Probably not.

BL: Why?

AB: [laugh] I don't know. Like I say, that was my...the guy I married that's what he did so we just went on with it. That's what most of my family has done was

farming all through the years. But I wouldn't recommend it for anybody to go into it now because the price of the machinery is so much higher than what you get. You just can't make it.

BL: Do you think it impacted your work ethic?

AB: It probably did. [recording stopped]

8/17/04, T1, S1

BL: Can you tell me about the Muilenburg name?

AB: The Muilenburg name has been around for quite a while. My husband's folks came...bought this place in August of 1911 and they kind of homesteaded out here, is my understanding, and built the barn and built the house, moved into this house in 1918. He had some family, a few brothers and sisters, around. He came from Iowa. Andrew came from Iowa. He married Maude Holt. They had seven children that was borned here. I married Brian Muilenburg on June 16th of 1951. That union created four children, two of which are still living.

BL: Okay. Can you tell me what they did? What the family did when they moved here?

AB: Most of 'em farmed. At that time that was the biggest thing here at the time was the farming.

BL: Now we'll talk about a difficult subject, death and dieing. I'll have you start with telling me about your first husband's death.

AB: My first husband died in May of 1977. He had been a diabetic since he was thirteen years old ___ and blindness. The blindness started in 1961. Then he had to have both eyes removed because it went into glaucoma. The medications counteracted the diabetes part so they removed the eyes. He was blind for fourteen years.

BL: Was that procedure done in La Grande?

AB: No. It was done in Portland. At that time La Grande didn't have anything like that. So we had gone to Portland and that's where he had his eyes removed. He had a strong character and he bounced back in good time afterwards. The one remark that I will say is when he realized he couldn't see again he said, "I'm going to go home and ___ my horses, milk my cows, build my fence, feed my steers." And I said, "Whatever you do, don't ask my to milk your cows again." It was twice in fourteen years that I milked because either he was sick, gone or the kids weren't here so I had to milk. [laugh]

BL: So otherwise he did all those things on his own?

AB: He did all those things on his own. And a lot of people that would come by and see him really had to admire him for what he did. He didn't let anything stop him. He went ahead and did what he could. He said, "blindness was not a handicap, it was a nuisance."

BL: Was there any support in this area for the blind?

AB: Yes, there was to a certain extent, but we did a lot of it on our own.

BL: What kinds of things could have been available then?

AB: Counseling.

BL: Counseling.

AB: I think more counseling. And there could've been some counseling and we just didn't realize it. The trust in the good Lord up above and our fellowship with the church and our family friends, stuff like this, more than anything.

BL: Did he do any shopping or going to town, running errands?

AB: No. Not really. He did a lot of things around home. He'd make stew, make coffee. He'd hang my clothes ____ my clothes, mop my kitchen floor. One of the family members called me one day and wanted to know what he was doin'. I said, "When I talked to him he was moppin' my kitchen floor." "How does he know when it's clean?" I said, "How does your husband know when he sanded something to know that it's sanded right?" I said, "You use your hands. And you use your hands more than you realize than your sight."

BL: So he was blind for fourteen years?

AB: Yes.

BL: And how did his illness end?

AB: It was heart. I had known for quite a while that he had a place in his heart that could go at any time. I would say that was about five years that I knew that. Our son was married that evening about eight o'clock and at midnight I had to go and knock on his door and tell him his dad just died.

BL: So he died of a heart attack?

AB: You could say that.

BL: Or heart failure?

AB: Heart failure of some kind.

BL: So what is the procedure... What year was that?

AB: 1977. May of 1977.

BL: So how did you handle that?

AB: We called an ambulance and they come and got him and took him to the hospital and they called the mortuary and they took him. So then the process of telling the family it had happened. Of course I was working at the time. It's just something that everybody has to go through.

BL: Was there support available to you from the hospital?

AB: Not that I can recall. There could have been.

BL: And what about the community?

AB: That's where your family and friends and your Christian friends, your church friends, really support you.

BL: So then you had funeral services at Daniels'?

AB: Yes.

BL: Was that the same Daniels' that is...?

AB: That it is today.

BL: That it is today. Located in the same building?

AB: Same building and everything except ____ who owned the place is not there, he has retired. He's selling it to a close friend. I've used him for two husbands and my son. In fact, my little girl when she passed away, why, we used the same building, the same mortuary, but it was a different name. I guess it was the same name, but it was under ____ Daniels' then and then Bill ____ bought it after that.

BL: Can you tell me about that? The death of your daughter?

AB: She was what was called emitoria congenital. Congenital is from birth and emitoria is the nerve in the spine never developed or its just not there. She grew in length and she lived to be fourteen months old then I had to tube feed her her last four months.

BL: So did you discover this at her birth?

AB: No. It was two to three months afterwards and the doctor kept asking me if she could turn over...if she could turn over and I said no. Then he said there was something wrong and we took her to two or three, four doctors. We took her down to Shriners and they all said the same thing. He had told us right in the very beginning what she had and that he had known of five other cases at that time, the pediatrician.

BL: For this particular illness was there support available to you locally?

AB: Not really. Because back then there wasn't that support like they have now. That was back in... She was born in '55 and she passed away in January of '57. The support groups that they have now just wasn't there as much as what it is now.

BL: Did she die at home or in a hospital?

AB: She was in the hospital. She'd had a choking spell the night before and so we took her up to the hospital and she died the next day. There again, why, you go through the process again. You put your chin up and you put one foot in front of the other and go on.

BL: At that time she would have had siblings at home. Were they old enough to understand what was going on?

AB: I think they did because they were three and four at the time. They kind of knew that she wasn't able to get up and walk around.

BL: So they weren't in school or around any other system that would have helped them through that?

AB: No.

BL: They were at home.

AB: They were at home. This happened before they were school age.

BL: Okay. Tell me about your next dealings with death.

AB: The next dealings with death was fifteen months after Brian passed away and that's when I lost my youngest son in a pickup wreck. He was twenty years old. He was a wrestler. He'd been a wrestler since fourth grade. He graduated in '76 from La Grande. He was attending Oregon State and was a member of the fraternity Alpha Gamma fraternity house. He would've been the president of the house that fall.

BL: With his death being an accident how was that different in the community as far as their support and then rallying around you?

AB: It was a shock, the first thing. Of course here again your family, your friends, the students and your church family are again...

BL: How do you think it affected the students?

AB: I'm sure it affected them deeply because he was quite popular. I could tell everybody looked up to him. He still gets talked about today.

BL: Can you tell me why he gets talked about today? Not just because of good memories, but there's something special that happened in his honor.

AB: The one honor that is remembered is the Oregon Train – Muilenburg Wrestling Tournament that's held in December. That's gone on the twenty-six years that he's been gone.

BL: How was that organized?

AB: At first it was just the group, the wrestling group at the high school. Then later on the Lions Club has sponsored it every year. I don't know how long they'll sponsor it, but then hopefully for a long time yet.

BL: Did someone approach you to start this or was it your idea?

AB: No. They did it. They did it because everybody knew him so well. That's how they put this in his honor. I've missed one year in the twenty-six years of attending this tournament and helping to pass out the programs.

BL: It's a special honor?

AB: Yes. Very special.

BL: So you then had another experience after your son.

AB: Then I remarried and was married for two years and four months and I lost him with cancer. He ___ fisherman and we would go down to the river to Richland and fish just about every weekend.

BL: What was his name?

AB: Lee Morgan.

BL: Lee Morgan.

AB: Yes. He ___. Here again when he passed away I used Daniels' Valley Funeral Home. Here again family and friends supported me. Later, after that, why, then I married Charles Brown from Pendleton. I had known Charlie for...he figured out twenty-five, twenty-six years. Helped him raise his kids when he first moved...came here. Then I lost him in 2000 of cancer.

BL: So both of them had cancer, but of different sorts?

AB: Yes. Lee had lung cancer and... Charlie died of Hodgkin's lymphoma. Usually it's curable, but it had such a hold on him that the chemo did not help him at all. Then I lost him in May of 2000.

BL: So given the fact that they both had cancer the treatment was not available in La Grande I'm assuming?

AB: No. We went to Walla Walla. Lee did not take the chemo because they said that the chemo would not do anything for him. It would resist it. It wouldn't work. He had a lot of cancer in his family and he said I've seen them go through the treatment and he just didn't want to do that.

BL: Did he have a local doctor? Did both of them have a local doctor?

AB: Lee was a veteran so he used the Walla Walla Hospital. Charlie had one of those local doctors here, but we went to Walla Walla for treatment.

BL: Did you find that they were supportive?

AB: Yes. Oh yes. Very much so. Very much so. And if you want to make yourself feel good just go over there to the cancer center and you'll walk out of there feeling mighty thankful for your health.

BL: I bet. You had his memorial also at Daniels'?

AB: Yes.

BL: Has Daniels' chapel changed at all?

AB: Not really. I think it's changed a little bit with Bill not being there. But then they still are doing okay.

BL: And as far as the interior and the exterior of the building?

AB: It's pretty much... I think it's pretty much the same.

BL: And the way they have done the services throughout the years has that changed at all?

AB: Yeah, in some ways. I don't know that it's changed all that much. The change is more or less at the request of the family. Of course I didn't have an open casket for my son because it was a request that he had that he didn't want anybody looking at him so I kept the casket closed.

BL: Were all of the family members that you described were they buried in La Grande?

AB: Yes.

BL: Are they all in the same cemetery?

AB: No. My little girl is buried in Island City, and my first husband and son is buried up at Grandview. Lee is buried in Union and Charlie is buried in Portland at the Sunset ____ Cemetery by his grandfather.

BL: Were the burials practically the same across the board?

AB: Yes. Pretty much the same. I think they pretty much ran everything about the same. There's a few things, I suppose, that they do differently. We didn't really use Finley's except for just the burial down there. 'Cause we had the service here in La Grande with Charlie and took him down there.

BL: Has it always been...as far as purchasing the plot and different things like that...has that always been handled through Daniels'?

AB: We can. I was very fortunate that my dad had bought plots up in Grandview years ago and I was able to use those plots. Our little girl is buried at the foot of her Grandma Muilenburg because she had passed away and they said we could use her...her lot. So that's the reason why she's over there.

BL: Is there anything else that you can think of of funeral and death and dieing?

AB: No, not really. The only thing after I lost my son it was hard to accept the fact and then I began to think about my Christian background and I thought, you know, maybe the good Lord needed him worse than I did. Maybe his dad needed him worse than I did. So that way I was able to handle that.

BL: Thank you for sharing. [recording stopped]