

Lewis Ansell

3/02, T1, S1

(beginning about 26 minutes into the tape)

JT: I'm going to have to ask you again if you state your name and you're wife's name. I'm sorry, I forgot to turn on the microphone.

LA: I'm sorry.

JT: I'm at fault.

LA: I'm... My name is Lewis J. Ansell and my wife's name is Corine Brian Ansell. And I was born in 1918 in Hadoven, Idaho. My wife was born in...near Starbuck, Washington on the Toucan River on a homestead out on the Toucan River.

JT: And when did you come to La Grande?

LA: We came here in 1923 along in June, I think it was. And my grandfather went to work at the...we stopped here, we was headed for the coast. We stopped here and my grandfather went to work on the Presbyterian church doing the mason...mason work, the brick work and the plastering. And incidentally the plaster is still there that he put on the wall.

JT: Now you were telling me about an instance that you had that you remember from school.

LA: Oh. The worst day of my life was...I'd gotten in a fight goin' home at noon because a kid ripped off my cousin's hat...French toucat off his head and wouldn't give it back. And I swatted him real good and it made him go home cryin'. And so his mother come to school complaining and I was called up the front of the room and the other first grade room and the lady \_\_ teacher was a mean old teacher, induced me to tears in front of everybody. Anyway, I think that was the worst thing that ever happened to me.

JT: What grade were you in?

LA: I was a first-grader. And the second grade we moved out to the Fruitdale school and the teacher had...had...a disease you have when you drink bad water and lost...she had typhoid fever and lost all her hair so she was bald. And for the first few weeks until she got a wig and the older kids, Boyd and Wayne Stanley, got in trouble with her so the school board chairman came to school, sat in back of the room and caught the boys doing something, took 'em out and licked 'em, about five of 'em one after the other.

JT: Those things happened at school. And then you went on to La Grande High School.

LA: Yes. I... When I was twelve I moved into La Grande and we spent the next two years going to school in La Grande. And in high school I principally remember that I was a Boy Scout those two years. And the manager of the Steven's store downtown where the...right next to where Moon's Drugstore is now...was out Scout Master.

JT: Mr. Headen.

LA: Mr. Headen. And his boy was the...anyway, the next scout over the top of \_\_. And then the other thing that I remember about that period of time was...let's see, a Boy Scout and...well, it was kind of a dull...it was the middle of the Depression

and my father didn't have a job. But we got some money from our place that we'd sold out in Fruitdale and we were living on something like ten, twelve dollars a month because the bank...that's all the bank would let us have. And so it was kind of a bad time. At the end of that time we moved out in May Park district and we went...I started to school the year that the high school had burned down so we walked all over town. I had classes in the Mormon church, the Methodist church, the...let's see...I think the Christian...oh, First Christian church down there on someplace. You had to practically run from one to the other to be sure and get there on time. And of course I had a mechanical drawing class was up at the high school so we went up there.

JT: Mr. McGeckrin.

LA: Mr. McGeckrin was my teacher up there.

JT: Then you graduated in 1936?

LA: Yes. I graduated in 1936. And mechanical drawing was the one class, really, that I remember using because it...twice for the Oregon State Highway Commission I was put to work drafting in the office. It was...I could handle the tool. In other words, what would've been a time without work was able to spend in the drafting office drawing plans of highway cross-sections.

JT: During the time during the Depression do you remember how downtown looked?

LA: Yes.

JT: A lot of buildings closed with \_\_\_ on the windows?

LA: I don't remember that so much as I remember \_\_\_ had a shoe shine, hair blocking...hat blocking establishment there across from the theater and he used to let me come in and take cards with his...business cards around and stick 'em underneath the...all the people's windshield wipers for his advertising. And it was a very dreary job for something like two bits an hour.

JT: What were you doing when the war started?

LA: I was going to college. In 1938, after two years of doing hard labor on the...for the highway construction projects various places in Oregon. And I think I was a member of the crew that paved most of the streets in...main streets in Oregon...Eastern Oregon, Union, Elgin, Wallowa, Enterprise, the whole...and Joseph. I was\_\_\_ those seven years I worked for the Highway Department, before and after the war.

JT: And then when the war came along you went into what part of the Service?

LA: I was up in... I was going to school in...in Oregon State by that time in 1941 and I remember the day that we come home from church to the cooperative house where I was living down in 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Corvallis. And on the way we heard that...the fact that America had gone to war \_\_\_ bombed...was being bombed in Pearl Harbor. So when I come home at Christmas my draft number was kind of a low one or a high one, whichever, anyway, I was due to go. So I went to ask 'em and they said the draft board here would probably send me in March, which they did. They sent me...when I come home for Spring Break they sent me to...down to Portland. And at Portland they found a...I'd been working in dust and I had a spot of black lung about the size of a dollar on my lung and so they tossed me out. I just got down to Portland and got sent home and sent to The Dalles. The Dalles said I was...the man there said...I think it took 'em a couple days to look at me

and they...that was where the TB sanatorium was...so they sent me back to La Grande and told me to sleep outside, which I did for the next year. And they...they didn't do anything except they said they couldn't just...bedrest was all they could do. And I wasn't that bad, they decided it wasn't really that bad, just sleep outside and see if the spot didn't get any bigger or I would have to...they'd send me back to the Army, which they did then in 19--...that'd been...that'd been in 1943. In the meantime I met this interesting girl who liked English of all things. She was an English major when she was \_\_\_. But anyway, so in the year that I was home we got engaged to Miss Crane Vines. And she was going to EOC at that time and...let's see...I didn't go to school, but I stayed home and plowed snow. Slept outside on my father's back porch. He kind of had a porch that went around the house and I slept out there with a multitude of covers on. Anyway, I think that was the year I got engaged and then when they took me in to the Army in March...the last part of March we went up to the...to Spokane to be...have our physicals and be mustered in and so on. And the spot on my lung hadn't grown so the Navy tried to get me to go into the Navy and I probably should've, but I didn't. I thought I could get into the Army engineers and in the engineers I might learn some things because I was...by that time I was trying to be an engineer. In Corvallis that's what I was...went...goin' down to Corvallis for is to go to engineering. And in Corvallis when I tried to...I couldn't get a full...a full curriculum of engineering so I'd taken a couple of education courses, Education 201 and Education 202 which I was real...anyway. It was interesting later on. And these engineering courses... Anyway, I was drafted into the Army and April the 1<sup>st</sup> I...it was very prophetic...April the 1<sup>st</sup> of 1943. And we was put in a ordinance outfit because I had taken an NYA course for...up here at the high school. The year that I was plowin' snow I took an NYA course in automotive mechanics just for...I don't know why I took it. I just went down and did it. But anyway, that put me in the ordinance they thought, so that's where I ended up in Ft. Lewis. And we...let's see...we had a Basic Training and by that time they also had a secondary training after basic. And in the secondary training I went sent over to the motor pool and sent to school to become a truck driver. [laugh] I...anybody knows anything he knows that a truck driver has to be pretty well...pretty good truck driver to plow snow otherwise, you know. So I was a good truck driver, but I was spent two weeks learning how the Army way to drive this truck. And then I got a real good grade at it so then they sent me into...I was off a week and they sent me then to a carburetion and ignition training for another two weeks where I learned to be a C and I man. Anyway, that was what I was supposed to do when I got to the Army. Then we went to the desert maneuvers that summer of '43...let's see, would that be '43 or...yeah. It was '42. I'm not sure because the invasion was '44, wasn't it?

JT: Yeah.

LA: Then this was the summer of '43 then. We were down on the Bend Maneuvers. And instead of going out on the desert we went to the city garbage dump outside of town. It had been a formerly garbage dump and it'd been covered over with about four feet of red cinders. And some of the cinders were quite large, if

anybody can imagine. Anyway, we pitched our tents kind of on a slope...[end tape]

3/02, T1, S2

JT: Okay.

LA: The most I remember I about these desert maneuvers was we were on the hillside so that our feet was kind of downhill and we'd slide out of our beds at night and wake up on the...if we went long enough we would wake out on the bed of cinders with just our blankets on, cinders underneath us. And so then we'd crawl back into our beds. What a miserable existence!

JT: But then your unit went on to be in the V-day invasion?

LA: Yes. Then we went back to Ft. Lewis and were all given ten-day furloughs and I went home and during that ten days in 1943, October the 3<sup>rd</sup>, I got married. And so then when we went we had three days of married life and when we come back to Ft. Lewis I was put on seven-day KP for not telling the captain and getting his permission for me to get married. So...but in the middle of the seven-day KP I think the first sergeant realized that it wasn't fair. He come got me and sent me to...along with ten other guys out to the firing range at...what's the...Yakima. And in Yakima I was able to expend eighty rounds of ammunition into the sky at a sleeve being towed by an aircraft. And he stayed up high enough so that we wouldn't hit him. As a result, you couldn't get your \_\_ into the sleeve behind him because the sleeve didn't fall down like it should, come down in range. So they had ten big machine guns, thirty...fifty-cal...it was a fifty-caliber machine gun. They had ten of those and each man got eight rounds...some forty...and they did that about eight times. And when they get him down...this thing down he had twelve holes in the sleeve. [laughs] Which kind of indicative, I think, of how good our anti-aircraft...they didn't have to stay up very far and be out of our gun range. And when we got our...we stayed...we were five days from Ft. Lewis to New York City where we spent our time in a camp in New Jersey where they had a man who was later...the man in charge of it was embezzling foodstuff. He was selling food back to the civilians. And they sent him home...he got...he just barely got to Europe and they brought him right back to Camp Shanks to stand trial. In Camp Shanks you could be gone for six-hour leave. You had to be back at the end of six hours. If there was anybody that...you could take off again for another six-hour pass if there wasn't...half the company could be gone at a time. But if the other...if there's slots, why, you could right back. And so I went after three weeks of that I was on KP twice there, but the rest of the time I spent as much of it in New York City as I could where I went to stage shows, I went to...most of the stuff was pretty much free to servicemen. And I saw Carnegie Hall. Let's see. Also, another guy got me a seat at where they...Mary Widow. I didn't realize at that time that the Mary Widow is where they'd learned the Can-Can. And there we were down there six...six...in the sixth row in the orchestra pit, real good seats for the Can-Can. So anyway, when we finally got to boat...to the boat at the end of three weeks I got assigned to a...because I'd had this course of machine gunnery I got assigned to a pom-pom stomp gun up on the deck...top

deck. And I went up there and set down in the seat and went to sleep [laugh] in the harbor of New York City. The boat was just being loaded, there wasn't any...there wasn't any real danger or any reason really to be...have the gunners on, but the guns were manned and so there I was sitting in the uncomfortable iron seat I went to sleep. And after we had a kind of a memorable crossing, it took us five days to go across and the...the northern route that we went up towards Iceland was pretty cold. And one night we were out on deck with the gunnery crews, we were supposed to help the British gunnery crew. I think there was about ten Americans assigned to this duty. And one night we were out on the deck with our...all our clothes on that we could get and peering out at the certain...the \_\_\_ went off and said we should look in a certain direction out there because they was sure that there was a...oh...we were being attacked by...

JT: Submarine?

LA: Submarine. And the ship immediately begin to go south. You could see the wake...look back and see the wake changing it's direction and they put on an increased...this was a big cruise ship in the civil times. We had 3,000 soldiers and...on board. The next night we were down in the Gulf Stream it was so warm that we were...had very...as little small amount of clothes on as we could get and we were out on deck and everybody was fanning and...there was that much change in the atmosphere for just getting down in that Gulf Stream. Finally we got into...up the Marci River, we went through the Irish Channel...or Sea there between Ireland...and close enough that you could see Ireland off to the right with the greenery it was. We landed in...a day or two after Thanksgiving of 1943 on the...in... What a terrible thing the Merci River is! Then we ended up going through the...finally got off the boat onto a British train. Most of the guys has dysentery so every time the train would stop everybody'd dash out because we were in third-class carriages. There wasn't any facilities on it so you had to get off. And ever they stopped the train to change tracks or something ahead then you could see a whole line of soldiers \_\_\_ out there defecating along the side of the railroad. Finally we got into Aggington Station in the Midlands near Dorchester...no, near...oh, Robin Hood country, Darby...Darby, England where we spent three months because I think our equipment had been submarine...I think it got into the convoy that our equipment had come into because we didn't have much equipment for about three months. And then when we got our equipment at about a little while after Christmas then we went south of England and stayed near Gloucester.

JT: Until the invasion.

LA: Until the invasion. And the invasion...D-day I was lost. We started out the night before D-day and someplace down in around Bristol we saw the plane that going over with the guiders behind so we new it wasn't a dry run like we thought it was up to that point. And I had about seven ton on a two-and-a-half ton truck and trailer of stuff for the kitchen. I'd all the kitchen to run the cooks and so on and I got lost because I was on the end of a convoy made up of three-quarter ton trucks filled with camouflage nets and company records and stuff and they run off and left me in the middle of a hill and I couldn't find 'em. So we got down to Bristol we went to the MPs and asked 'em where we were to be and they just thought we

were CID, counterintelligence, so he wouldn't tell us. He just sent us on...nobody'd say anything to us even hardly. So after we go down the beach a ways and back and forth...anyway, we weren't supposed...the sign said "do no talk to civilians," but that was...every time we'd turn around, why, here'd come a bunch of civilians up to talk with us. It took a little while because I had to jack-knife my trailer up a cross street and then come back out again to turn around. And after the...I think it was about the fifth time I went up to the MP place again and the guy...sergeant was still on duty, he said, "Now look. Maybe you're... Maybe you're telling me the truth. Maybe you are lost so I'll tell you where you should be." "But," he said, "if you're CID and this isn't true," he said, "after the war when I get out of Leavenworth I'll hunt you up and kill ya." [laugh] Anyway...

JT: Then you got to work ship?

LA: He told us where we should be, we went down and got in our...our slave pen, barbwire entangle...surround the company area, got on board the MP...the LST, had made a...had been out on the invasion and they came back and when they came back we loaded up. And we were on there about two days and when we landed the next morning...the morning we landed, of course the tide, we had to go in with high tide so it was still dark \_\_ in the morning. And our LST parked in from of a shell hole, they didn't know it, but right smack dab in front of a shell hole. So when he dropped his bridge down to let us off the first guy off was the captain and he...he wanted to get us situated. He run off out there before the...while the water was still there and he got into this shell and all of...we was watching him and all that was...he was completely submerged. And he...he and his driver very carefully got out. Very...I mean real lucky they got out and soggily waddled up the beach. Left a \_\_ to get a Cat and a bulldozer to come pull 'em out. \_\_ when the bulldozer come down he wouldn't pull him out, he wouldn't do anything because...of course they see water's gone down in the motor to stop...and stopped it and everything. He says, "It isn't worth salvaging."

JT: No, it wouldn't.

LA: But by that time the water had gone out enough that they got their personal possessions out of the jeep, unloaded as much as they could and he just covered it up with sand. So...and that was...the captain then had to get a three-quarter ton or something else out of the LST. It took us all day because of that and other things. It took us all day to unload. So when I got off I was the next to the last truck off. And when I got off it was dark and I headed toward a blue light. The lieutenant that started me for the beach said, "Go towards that blue light and when you get within fifty yards of it turn left and go up the draw...the village there were they've got a road built," which is what I did. But part of the...by that time the water'd started coming in. I reached out about half-way to the shore and patted the sea water [laughs] the side my cab. And anyway, we made it and we were...we'd gone ashore with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division...the same time as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division and the 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division had gone ashore the same day that we did. So we spent the next... Anyway, I spent the next eight days retiming trucks because they'd...to put 'em in the water they had to be out of time. So I spent eight days

using my R and I training that I'd had back there in Ft. Lewis long...long ago. So that's what I did in the invasion was re-timin' trucks.

JT: Then you went on...

LA: The next... We spent... I was in all five...all five campaigns. Got a silver star for the five, the full five. And they...we were in the Bulge. The Bulge was probably the most...during that time we were...I had a buzz bomb, a thousand-pound bomb, go off right very near me. Once across in the next block. Went off in the corner of the building that I was in front of. The other time it went off we were in...we were in a railway yard...we were working in a railway yard and hauling ammunition out to the red one who could deliver a thousand...a thousand rounds on any target and that's what stopped the Germans from coming north. Every time they'd come...they were going west, but they'd try a north road coming towards because they wanted to get...or...cut us off at Adler. And every time that they did there was enough ammunition and stuff...we hauled ammunition to the first Red One, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, and they had everybody they could...every gun that come up out of the boats they turned it around, dug it in, and said, "here's your field of fire." And they could deliver a thousand rounds on every target. And every time the Germans turned north to go to Anwerp they got bombarded by the big \_\_\_\_\_. We got...picked up some POWs was always complaining because the American army was so unfair. [laugh] We were unfair... "Yankees are unfair, you're shootin' a shell when there's only two soldiers." And of course you...they had to...had to have at least three soldiers...three to five soldiers in their target or they wouldn't get a...you wouldn't get an incoming \_\_\_\_\_.

JT: It sounds like you saw quite a little bit of action.

LA: Yeah.

JT: Then when...

LA: I was down in the...

JT: What happened when the war ceased in the European theater?

LA: Then we didn't quite...I didn't have quite enough money to...

JT: Or points.

LA: Or points to go home. You had to have eighty-five and I had eight-two and most of the company was in the same fix, about half of us. So they took two companies, ordinance companies, and divided it up and the one part was...stayed in Germany, the other part, that I got into, was shipped down to Marseille, France...or when down by truck...I shouldn't say ship...to get onboard a ship. And here we are back in the...with all our numbers and everything on our sleeves and everything...we're back in the same condition that we were when we made the invasion of Europe so it was very obvious we were going to Japan. We got down to...into this slave pen's what we called 'em, barbwire entanglement, seven-foot...six, seven-foot wire...wire around you. And we knew where we were going and the bomb went off. And boy was I happy. Everybody was happy. Then the second bomb went off and we were taken out of the slave pen and taken down and put...spent the rest of our time in Europe near a chateau. The chateau had a nice swimming pool and a whole bunch of stuff and we lived... And they'd built a bunkhouse, in fact two bunkhouses...

JT: And you weren't wounded when bombs went off?

LA: No. All I did was just stop it.

JT: Then you got to come home.

LA: Yeah. I had... I'd picked up...in one of these buzz bombs I'd picked up a sliver in my cheek. I hadn't gone in to report it because it was just a little wound. The other guys...we had a couple of wounds there, a guy had a broken leg and another thing so they went in and they said...the guy...I was helpin' this kid with a broken leg and he said, "Hey, you got serious blood on you, Ansell." And I reached up and scratched this piece of shrapnel off my face just about the size of a toothpick. I should've sent it in, you know, I should've gone in and if I'd...I'd of got a Purple Heart and I'd a been five points more and I'd a gone home instead of going to Japan. But anyway, I had that \_\_ I went to...got my hat...name drawn out of a hat to go to seven days in Switzerland which was really nice. I could only take seventy-five dollars in to spend, but it was seven day...oh boy. And I just barely got back from that and I was put working on the docks as a crane operator loading stuff that they were gonna send back to Japan. On the trains...a train would come in and we'd work from four o'clock till midnight unloaded the train onto trucks and the trucks would take 'em down and put 'em on aboard a boat. And that's when I realized where the stuff could be stolen because the truck driver didn't have any paper. We had stuff...anyway, we had a man writing up what we was putting out and all this stuff, but somehow or other the paper doesn't get to the boat maybe... And if the paper doesn't get to the boat with the truck driver a whole load can be shipped off down...down Marseille, France without ever getting to the boat. Anyway, we came home. But after...before I went...went home my face enflamed so they sent me to the hospital. The hospital wouldn't do anything with me in France, they sent me to England so that I was in the hospital about ten days with a cheek that made me look like Quasimodo. And at the end of that time, why then I got R and R at a \_\_ American technical school. I went up there to...and got in an engineering surveying crew...school and so that every...if you put in for...on a Wednesday you put in for a travel warrant to any place in the UK and on reverse \_\_ they'd send you any place that you wanted to be on Friday. So for the seven month...seven weeks that I was there I spent the seven weeks in London. And if you can believe it it takes really a seven...about that long of time, a full week or so, seven days, to really see London the way you should see it. And anyway, then finally I got home on December the 12<sup>th</sup>, 1945 in time to go back to work plowin' snow.

JT: When did you start back to school?

LA: Almost immediately. I went... We went down in Corvallis the first of January and we found out that we couldn't get in because they couldn't find my papers. They had no record that I had ever been there. But I had...you know, you had a certificate of entitlement that entitled this money and so on, so forth. She said...the lady said to come back and told me after we'd stood in line three days and we were there at the...she was gone and looked for one of the records for about three hours. She come back and she said, "You go and take the courses that you know you can do." So that raised my eyebrows for me to think that I could just go in and take anything I wanted to in the engineering department 'cause the



dean was so...the dean of the engineering was really hard man and he didn't allow you to take stuff you just thought you could do. He had... He had to approve it. So she said, "But you give the certificate of entitlement and let me have it and you just go...go on to school." I said, "Lady, you just lost three terms of work here and you tell me that you're gonna get my certificate of entitlement?" I said, "No way!" So we just come back here. When we got back into EOC then the thing turned out that in order to get a house, an apartment, I had to go to school. And of course the only thing I was plowing snow at night, I went to school in the day time. And in March sometime the snow plowing quit so I just...Johnson...Dr. Johnson the registrar...anyway, he got me a house to live in, but I had start to become a teacher. The first thing I knew then was a school...bona-fide schoolteacher in 1947 and graduated. I went to work.

JT: Then you went over to Union?

LA: Yes. I went first to Helix and I quit. After a year in Helix I quit forever. I wasn't going to be a schoolteacher ever again. But I went to Union kind of afloat and I was there for nine years.

JT: \_\_\_ A lot better experience.

LA: Oh yeah. It was much better. Of course it was a...most of the things like schoolteacher...havin' a schoolteacher, but I enjoyed it.

JT: Where did you teach after you left Union?

LA: I got a National Science Foundation grant to go to Corvallis to pick up my master's degree. And actually I was getting forty-two hundred in Union and the grant paid forty-six...forty-six hundred a year. So from there I went to California for the year because I...the salary was double what I'd gotten in Union. And I stayed there two years and then I came back to... But they had me teaching seven different subjects and I couldn't do it. It got...

JT: We'd better let you're wife do a little talking here. Now what did you do while Lou was off in the Army?

CA: Oh.

LA: She may have a little bit of trouble, I imagine. I can talk... She spent the time on a Forest Service lookout.

JT: Oh. And where was that?

LA: Up here in the Wallowa Mountains. Is this close enough? The \_\_\_ Butte out on...you go out on Whiskey Creek Road from Wallowa and turn south...or turn north and go out there on the breaks of the canyon.

JT: So you stayed here during the time Lou was out?

LA: Yeah. She taught... She worked... She taught in Milton-Freewater and then she taught in, oh, Washington school...Lake Chilan School for two...two winters. And then the year that I was...I came home she quit there to be here when I...because she just knew I was comin' right straight home. I didn't get home till December the 12<sup>th</sup>...anyway, she quit then in January so we could go down... She was teaching in Wallowa School. So then when we got to Union she taught as a substitute for the people that were...because we had children by then.

JT: Uh-huh. How many children did you have?

LA: We had two boys and a girl. And the two boys were one year apart...thirteen months apart the boys were and so of course that's worse than having twins, or almost. Then we...

JT: Where do they live now?

LA: The oldest boy is dead and up in the cemetery in Grandview. The second boy is in Portland and he raises race horses and trains. Race horses for the track. Also has a Christmas tree farm that makes the money for sure. The girl is working as...what's it called...a councilor for the school district in Medford, Oregon. She... She has the most education. She has I think a master's degree in psychology or counseling, whatever that'd take for this kind of work.

JT: Then your brother became a highway engineer?

LA: Yeah.

JT: Work in this area.

LA: I worked here twice for the...all together I worked for the highway department seven years...seven summers. And part of that time I worked...the last two summers I worked as a construction engineer and Clayton...about the time I quit Clayton started it. And he was then \_\_.

JT: Engineering ran in your family?

LA: Yes. Mother was very proud of the fact...I guess Dad was too...the fact that all of us children had a college education. And they...they themselves had never been able to get through high school.

JT: Good accomplishment.

LA: And after the...after I went to California the...I became a kind of a professional...I became a professional student.

JT: Oh.

LA: I found out how easy it was to get a scholarship or a government grant to go to school so I think this wouldn't be finished unless \_\_ my bachelor of science degree in education was in 1947. Incidentally, Corine's was in 1957. She went back... She was teaching on a three-year certificate, but she went back and got it. And then I, of course, taught in Union nine years and worked in the summers in for the Forest Service. And the last two years for the Forest Service I worked as an engineer running and logging roads. But not much of an engineering...we didn't have a transit, we used a compass. And then I came back in...first year in Klamath Falls I worked in the Klamath Indian Reservation changing the lines back to the Forest Service because the reservation had been bought by the United States government and we had to verify that the lines are on the Forest Service were right. And they weren't so that was...anyway, that was trouble. I found out how easy it was to get a scholarship or grant to go to college to I went to the College of the Pacific for chemistry class. I went to Reed College to become a physics...a real good physics teacher. And from then... And then I had subvention, they called 'em, at Redmond University for nine weeks in the one summer. The next summer I went to Trinity University in Texas which turned out was a real good teachers' college. It was a Presbyterian related...Texas teaching.

JT: Did you ever try for a doctorate?

LA: I wasn't smart enough to start in early enough. I could've with all these... If I'd of known I was...

JT: With all your education you...

LA: With all these courses if I'd realized what I was gonna get I would've signed up and tried to get a doctorate out of it. I could've...but not probably in physics. Anyway, then I got into writing...writing various little writing projects. And I had one on the gifted child. I had another one on ecology from the...oh, sawmills. Geology course from the University of Nevada, geology and mining. Interesting in Nevada. Then I had a physical science subvention where I was supposed to write a book on geology. And I had written a lab manual for the Ford Foundation grant one summer and they decided that they wouldn't publish it because there was too much stuff had been done for science projects and they didn't think it'd sell. They just... Anyway, I wrote it and there it was and there it sits. So I was asked by the...oh, one of the publishing company to do a book for geology to teach geology at the high school classroom. And it turns out that my...my geology book, the first two chapters, when I went and submitted them and got to talkin' to the editor, I was...my vocabulary was too high. I should've been down at about the seventh grade level of vocabulary and I should've been using a vocabulary like that. And he said I was using a vocabulary just the same as the college books were so that Lipincot decided...we parted away, but they gave me nine weeks in college in Colorado. Anyway, I got some education out of it, but I didn't get any money for teaching...for writing a book because I couldn't get my...I just couldn't get the...it just wouldn't come out right for the...

JT: For the grade level.

LA: Yeah. And I got a...an award from the Westinghouse Educational Foundation for teaching a student got a free ride to Cornell in geology. So she got there four years of college. And I...after I went into retirement I taught physics at Oregon Institute of Technology for two years. And finished...kind of finished then came to live here.

JT: Come back home.

LA: Yeah. Corine in the meantime had...her folks was living at...Western Oregon College of Education, where's that...Monmouth. Yeah, that's Monmouth. Her folks was right next door outside of Monmouth. And so she went there and she started to...in her master's degree in English. But her folks moved...that fall after she'd been there that one summer. And then that fall her sister come and moved her family to Lewiston. She didn't have any place to stay and so she...we didn't go any further, but we really should've. We should've made something special, but she didn't want to go to school anyway.

JT: You can see education has been your life.

LA: Yeah. But she could've been a... She's the one that got me the first education, really, that grant because she wrote my stuff up and my application \_\_\_. And she could take a paper that I would a probably got a B or a C on and by the time she got through writing it over, correcting the English and whatnot, it'd get an A.

JT: You're wife is very helpful that way.

LA: Yeah. So she should have her name on my master's degree \_\_\_.

CA: \_\_\_ master's degree.

LA: Master's degree, but I didn't get the doctorate because I didn't start it, all this stupid stuff. I just thought I could've, you know, I would've had it, but didn't think.

JT: In all you'd say it was a very good life?

LA: Yeah. I'd say it was pretty...pretty rewarding life.

JT: Good. That's a good thing.

LA: Our kids still like us.

JT: That's saying a lot. [laugh]

LA: Especially when they were...you know, typical '60s kids. \_\_\_\_ our oldest boy came here to...he was seeing...had a...whatever kind of a band you call it...

JT: Oh, was he part of the college music program?

LA: He came here, I think he took some music alright, but he was...he had his own band and that's the way he was trying to finance his way through college, running of a band. Anyway, his promotions didn't turn out so he had to go to work for the stud mill in Elgin. Three of those guys...you can know how that goes...three of those guys took on two jobs so that two of 'em was on work every...every day two of 'em went to work. Whichever ones had their classes so they could.

CA: \_\_\_\_

LA: Jim and John and...whatever. I don't know... I can't remember the name of the third guy that was doing it with 'em. One of their drummers or somethin'.  
[recording stopped]