

Miskell Gale

1988, T1, S1

MG: ... oxen train. They arrived in 1862 in Cove. And it was Great-grandfather and Grandfather. Grandfather was a young man at that time and Grandmother carried one baby on her lap across the plains. Aunt Mary was thirteen and she walked all the way. I remember that after I was a little older that they...there was a buffalo overcoat and a buffalo robe that we had and that we used.

J: And who's your great-grandmother, or grandmother? You have the names?

MG: Oh, my father's mother was Martha Murphy before she married Grandpa Bloom.

J: And what was his first name?

MG: Sam.

J: Sam.

MG: Samuel.

J: Samuel.

MG: They just called him Sam always.

J: Then what was there...Aunt Marie was thirteen and then what...was there one or more child there?

MG: Oh, there was a lot of children! A lot of 'em! Grandfather... Great-grandfather had lost his first wife and he had seven children by her and he brought all of them. And he had married again and he had fifteen all together. So by the second wife...Grandma Charity I remember because she lived with Aunt Ninny when I was growing up for, oh, I don't know how old I was Grandma Charity died. She was not my real great-grandmother, you know. She was from the second...she was the second wife of Grandpa Lewis Bloom.

J: Okay, that would be your great-grandfather.

MG: That'd be my great-grandfather. Great-grandfather Lewis Bloom. And he brought his whole family which was fifteen children and there were eight by his second wife.

J: Had a whole wagon train of their own...or oxen...

MG: Yes, they really did. And I knew that they square danced sometimes when they stopped at night because Grandpa could call a square dance. And I think Great-Grandfather must have been the head of the wagon train because... I don't know how many more there were in this train, but I don't see how they need more that, do you? [laughs]

J: Where about...do you remember where they came from?

MG: Ohio.

J: Ohio.

MG: And the brought some Kentucky saddler horses and Morgans and a big heavy black team that I've heard 'em talk about. But they never put them in the yoke with the oxen. One of the oxen died someplace along the way and they put in one of the milk cows. They brought milk cows for the children. And so they put the milk cow in and she had to pull her share rather than a horse. They weren't going to let anything happen to the horses because they were gonna use them when they got here.

J: Did they drive...or ride horses to drive the others?
MG: Some of 'em did.
J: Okay.
MG: Uh-huh. Some of 'em rode horses. And of course they had scouts and everything like that, you know. They had to have all those things.
J: Then on your grandmother and grandfather, how many children did they have? Do you remember?
MG: Grandpa Sam had...
J: Yeah, Sam.
MG: Oh. There were three boys and two girls. There was five.
J: Then what was your father's name?
MG: Bill.
J:
MG: William. They called him Bill. And after he grew to be a young man he and my Uncle Pete, his younger brother, went to the Cornucopia mines and worked for money to attend school to become doctors and dentist. One was gonna be a doctor and the other a dentist. And they also worked at Sanger, or my father did. Because W. J. Cownley was running it then and he remembered my father.
J: That was the Car...the Sanger mine that's in Union County, right? What was your mother's name?
MG: Cora Zanschoonhoven.
J: Was that c-o-r-a and then what?
MG: Z-a-n-s-c-h-o-o-n-h-o-b-e-n. Her grandfather was from Holland.
J: Where did they meet?
MG: Someplace in the east. I know the family went from New York to Ohio, first, of course.
J: So they were married then when they came. She came out with your father then on...by the wagon train?
MG: My mother?
J: Yeah.
MG: No. My mother and father weren't married then. They hadn't met. She was just a girl when she came. But when she came the railroad had come through and went past down here at the Union Junction. And they chartered a car and the whole family and all the furniture and everything they wanted to bring with 'em was in this car. And they lived there on the way out here from South Dakota. My mother came from South Dakota.
J: Oh, South Dakota. Okay.
MG: She was born in Wisconsin. And there was...she had four sisters and one brother.
J: Remember what year she came out?
MG: They came to Union first then lived here a short while. And I can't tell you, but it must've been 18...oh, I can't tell you.
J: ___the railroad its probably about 1873, or something?
MG: Something like that. Something like that. And after...the came because of Grandfather's health. I think he had heart trouble or something and the doctor back there... He was a merchant. He had a store there. And that doctor told him that he thought his health would be better out here in the west. So they sold the

store and moved out here. And I remember Grandmother going back after he died to try to collect. So many owed that store, but they left. He didn't live too long after... The moved to Cove first and bought a place there. And that's where she met my father. The girls were just young girls then, you know, and...

J: Do you remember your mother and father, when they were born by chance?

MG: My father was born in 1864 in the first log house that was built in Cove. The hurried and built that in time for him to be born in this house. And it just... Just a short distance out of what you'd call town now.

J: ___ coming back towards Union is where that little ___.

MG: There's still some posts there where the spring was. So they won't drive into it now. [laugh] But they...they tore the barn down...no, the barn burned down. I think somebody tore the house down for the logs. But then there were houses back farther that some of the Connleys bought. And let's see, who it was...I can't remember the name of the Connley that lived there. Since Donna...when Donna was working in La Grande he came in there and I asked him where he lived and he said, "You ought to know. I live on one of the old Bloom places." And I didn't know where he's lived. But it was back in there where Aunt Mary lived. She married a man by the name of Wagoner later. And she lived back in there someplace. And there's...there may still be a log building back there. I saw it. I remember going back there and seeing it, but it's changed hands many times since then, you know...where Aunt Mary lived. She had an old horse she called Rattler. And she used to drive up to our place with a buggy and she'd say, "Willy, will you go out and take care of old Rattler. I'm gonna stay all day." And she'd stay all day and he'd cut her hair and she'd sit in the high chair with Mama's apron around her and tell us funny things that happened on the way across the plains coming to Oregon. And, you know, I paid very little attention. You know, it didn't mean anything to me. I was just playing around there, you know.

J: Too bad you didn't have recorders at that time.

MG: Oh, wouldn't that have been wonderful! She knew so many things. You know, when you're that age you remember all these things. My cousin came up here to visit from California and he told me...later years came here to this house to visit and he told me that one of the boys in that whole group, that family, disappeared. They thought the Indians had picked him up.

J: Oh, on the trail?

MG: On the Oregon Trail to Cove.

J: Do you know what the...they started out in 1862 and then...

MG: No. They started earlier than that. It took 'em quite a while.

J: But they got here in 1862.

MG: Yeah, they arrived in '62. Yes, they arrived there in '62.

J: Do you remember anything about where they located then 'cause ___ 1864 when they built the log cabin? Or no, that was when your father was born.

MG: Was born.

J: But they built the cabin right away, did they, when they got here? Pretty much, or...

MG: I think just as quick as they could.

J: Yeah, that's what I meant.

MG: It was...and I can remember my father saying that they used to climb up on the roof of it and watch the Indians go by. Eventually, he traded something to chief Indian Yellowfeather for an Indian pony he wanted. They had those good horses, you know. He wanted an Indian pony so he traded for that Indian pony something. I don't know what. Anyhow, when my grandmother became very ill he'd ride that Indian pony to La Grande to get that doctor that was living there then. And he would drive his buggy and bring his wife and come out and they'd stay all night and take care of Grandmother before they went back. And she was...her daughter...her daughter was Mrs. Birney, you know, there...

J: —

MG: Uh-huh.

J: Let's see, Miskell, when were you born then?

MG: In 1898.

J: Do you have a date? What day or month?

MG: Yes. September the 15th.

J: 1898.

MG: Mm-hmm.

J: And that was in Cove?

MG: Yes. In that...in the ascension grounds down there where they now have the church school?

J: Right.

MG: There was a big house back in the grove. A big white house. And my parents lived there when I was born. And my father didn't like doctors because... In those days you apprenticed under an old doctor and that old doctor did some kind of funny things. And he said, "Well, you know, I'm just not gonna do that because..." Now he had Latin, he was all...he was all set. He said, "I just don't...I'm not gonna do that way. I'll just go back to farming." And he did.

J: He went to school then to be a medical doctor?

MG: Yes.

J: Whereabouts did he go?

MG: I can't tell you that. I just don't know. And Uncle Pete became a dentist alright. And he was located...he was located in Nampa at first and then Boise. Years and years he was a dentist. Used to go up there and get our teeth fixed or cleaned or whatever. He used to come to our place in the summertime.

J: But after he got done he came...your dad came right back to Cove, then? Then he went to farmin'?

MG: Yes. Uh-huh. He went back on the Minam and established the horse ranch and lived back there. He built a little cabin back there and lived there one whole winter. And he had his dog, two dogs, and his books and lived there a whole winter just like that. — And he said there was places where the snow was thirty feet deep that winter.

J: Remember what year that was?

MG: Can't tell you. Just don't know. Nobody knew about the horse ranch till long after that.

J: Then he just spent the rest of his life there farming in Cove?

MG: Mm-hmm. Yes. We lived on a farm. We had everything on it that you could think of, you know. We had orchard and we had cows and we raised pigs and chickens and everything on earth in the garden. We had an ice house and a meat house and a root cellar and all those kind of things.

J: Were they milk cows ___?

MG: Both.

J: Or is it both?

MG: We had...

J: Dairy cattle and...

MG: He always raised some beef. We always...he always butchered pigs and he butchered...in fact, after my mother and father were married he owned...he and Joe Sepear...let's leave the Joe Sepear name out of it...he and other man owned the meat market there. And he had beef cattle. And when the beef cattle were all gone the partnership broke up. It wasn't a...

J: Not an even partnership. [laughs]

MG: That ended the... And anyway, that man's son was a great friend of my father's. He thought the world of my dad. And he became a veterinarian in Walla Walla. And he wrote the nicest letters to my father after all those years and such nice memories he'd say, you know, of things he'd write about in those letter. How wonderful he thought he was and everything, you know. But if...if we were sick or anything, us kids, my mother never had to think about that because my father always took care of us. He knew exactly what was wrong and...

J: It's kind of nice to have a doctor...

MG: Yes. And he just...if you had a sliver or whatever he was right there. Any accidents he knew exactly how to take care of 'em.

J: What about Cove? Do you remember what...just a description of Cove, what it was like as you were growing up?

MG: Yes.

J: Kind of what size was it?

MG: It was about like Union. It had...I remember there was a hotel, it had wooden sidewalks and it had a post office. And in that post office was the drugstore also. And there was a man by the name of Jasper Stevens who was the postmaster. And he made a lot of money somehow, I don't know. He said he's gonna be a millionaire and I guess he did eventually become one. 'Cause he never spent a penny. We had large strawberry patches and packing shed and we'd have women come over and pack, you know, they'd fill and face.

J: That...that went shipping out by railroad then?

MG: No. We didn't ship. We sold 'em...

J: Oh, just locally.

MG: ...locally La Grande and all over and people bought strawberries. And we had, of course, everything else, too. Since my father'd been in the meat market we had that wonderful meat house with deep planks on two sides and all the hams and bacons and everything hanging in there, you know. It was double walled and everything. And of course they butchered the beef in the wintertime, the pork was cured. And there was a smokehouse and just right next to it was a bin where all the grain was stored for using for the stock. And he raised horses.

J: Where did he get the ice for the ice house?

MG: Frozen river.

J: Cut it..

MG: Yes. He'd take the team and go down to the river with saws.

J: Was that the Grande Ronde?

MG: Uh-huh. And other...other men would go too and of course the water pure, you see, in those days. And they went down there and they would saw these big chunks of ice. The ice was built with boards on the outside and on the inside and all of that was filled with sawdust in between. I don't know whether it was eight or ten inches or what, but sawdust in there. Because there were small mills all over the mountains, you know, __ they were cutting timber and sawing boards and everything, you know. And there was a ladder that went up the outside and then a little door that you could go inside and down the ladder to the ice as summer went on, you know. And those men would go down there...it wasn't the only ice house in Cove. But anyway, I was going to say we really were self-sufficient. There was a mill there at Cove. And over the hill my father would go with a sack of corn and you have it ground for corn meal. And we had a barrel of flour and all this corn meal and all whole wheat flour and anything and everything all ready for winter every year, you know. And...

J: Did you have to go...as far as anything else that, you know, you want from outside whereabouts did you shop?

MG: Catalogs.

J: Catalogs. [laughs]

MG: Or La Grande. Once in a while we'd go to La Grande. When I was old enough...well, I was in high school...we'd go to La Grande and get my school clothes and my brother's.

J: How did you travel?

MG: Oh, in the wagon or hack or buggy, whatever.

J:

MG: Always the horses.

J: Was that all just dirt road at that time?

MG: Oh yes. Oh yes. Or snow.

J: Or snow in the wintertime.

MG: It didn't make any difference. We went anyway, you know. [laughs] And there was one time I remember my Uncle Pete saying he rode all the way to...rowed, in a row boat, all the way to La Grande. So, you see, they had a flood sometime. [laughs] And then, well, I was gonna tell you about the stores. First was a post office on the west side and the drugstore. And Doc...old Doc __ we called him, was the druggists when I was going to school. And then there was Dave Lane's department store. Now that store had one section with stools _ for the dry goods department. Then it had the grocery store on the inside in the same room. And then you went to a door and on the other side was shoes and dishes and all that kind of...hardware. And the side walk was raised quite a bit, you know. The wooden sidewalk was level all along and it was raised quite a bit in front of the Dave Lane store until it leveled down. And there was always a hitching rack there for the saddle horses and the horses they drove in were hitched to the railing.

So there was always horses along there. Then there was a bank, state bank. There was a jail. There was a blacksmith shop. There was a barber shop. And there was Shaquir's Hall above the meat market and things like that down... And then there was another little store. Now that was all on the south side. On the north side of the street was the ice cream parlor and...by the way that was home made ice cream, too.

J: How many flavors did they have or do you remember?

MG: No. You but chocolate over your vanilla and...

J: Pretty much vanilla with different flavors...

MG: In the summertime when there was fruit it was those flavors, you know, whatever.

J: Yeah. It's not like the eighty-seven flavors. [laugh]

MG: Not like the eighty-seven flavors at all. But we were satisfied. We were just as happy as though we had anything else.

J: Tastes a lot better. [laugh]

MG: And of course this boy said, "Would you like to go and have a dish of ice cream?" That was...that was really something because they didn't have much money to spend. I think I went to school probably all my school years that I went there without ever hav...taking a penny or a purse with me. You took your lunch and you all ate together in a group, you know, and laughed and talked and then you played baseball or whatever. The superintendent we had didn't think girls ought to play basketball. It was not a girls' game. And he was real...we could go down to...to Pierce Hall, which was down... They had a big hall down...down the street, not on the main street, but off of Main Street a block or two and that was the Mackaby Hall. And there is where is they danced and there's where they played basketball and all those things. All those kind of activities went on in that building.

J: What was Trabeers...Trapierce Hall used for?

MG: Dances and...

J: Dances.

MG: Uh-huh. Whatever.

J: ___ town with two dance halls. [laughs]

MG: That's right.

J: Remember about how big Cove was, how many people?

MG: Can't tell you a thing about that. Most of 'em just came in from out in the country, you know. They...they farmed. Everybody farmed in those days, you know, exceptin' the druggist and the banker and a few people that were running the business in town. The rest of 'em were all farmers. That's the way they made their living. As far as I know there was never any real estate men or never anybody like that, you know. It was just...you know, and everybody knew everybody. And you started to school with the same group you graduated from high school with.

J: Now do you remember how many students were in the school, roughly, or in your class?

MG: I forget whether there was seven or nine boys and I think four girls.

J: That was in your class, right? What was there all the grades together in the one school?

MG: Well, yes, but...in one schoolhouse. The lower grades, you know, downstairs and the upper grades upstairs.

J: When did they usually start school?

MG: In September, of course, always.

J: I mean at what age were the kids...

MG: We were six.

J:

MG: Now they did have that little kindergarten down in the house where I was born in the downstairs part of it when I was five. And I went to kindergarten with all the...[tape interruption]...[laughs] Major Morehouse took that picture.

J: ___ that's a great one. [laughs]

MG: And some of the prizes that I...that I won, you know, are in this old thing that falls apart so easily, you know. Here's the Cove basketball team, the boys' team. And now this is a picture of Hot Lake operating room in those early days.

J: Oh yeah. I've seen that before, yeah.

MG: You've seen that, haven't you?

J: Yeah, that was great.

MG: Medicine Hat, that's when I went to Canada with Grandmother. Now here's when the Liberty Bell came through La Grande. Here's the train and here's the picture of the Liberty Bell.

J: That's a dandy.

MG: And that's one of our parties, you know, just things like that. Let's see. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. There's seven boys here and three girls when this picture was taken in 1914.

J: That's...

MG: In my class.

J: That was then, what, about your sophomore year was it?

MG: That was my freshman class.

J: Your freshman class.

MG: Let's see. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. There was one more girl in our class. I wonder why she wasn't in there.

J: Now they pretty well all stayed together, did they, till they graduate?

MG: Oh yes! Oh yes! We all graduated together. We were just like brothers and sisters. We all went to Sunday School together. Here's some more of Morehouse pictures.

J: Those are great.

MG: Here's a ___ that's a hundred and fifteen. [laugh] And, yes, we all went to school together.

J: What was it like, say, on the early years at school there's ___ what did you do compared to, you know, how schools have changed of the lessons or how you kept busy or entertainment at school or whatever.

MG: We didn't have much entertainment in school. We had what we called a giant swing and at recess and the rest of the time at noon we'd swing in the giant swing and... It was a hub of a wagon up on a very high post and ropes that came down and the ropes with a loop in 'em. And we'd set in those and somebody'd swing

us and we'd go right out level with the post, you know. [laugh] If anything'd happen to that we'd all been dead. [laughs]

J: Anybody fall off?

MG: Never that I know of. And we used to have an awful lot of fun. You know, we'd go...when I was little we'd go and set in those things. First thing you know some of the big boys from high school'd come along and they each one grab a kid and away we'd go and they'd swing us and we'd go clear to the top, you know. We just thought that was great. That was one entertainment we had. We played baseball an awful lot.

J: Was that at the school, or...?

MG: Yes. At the school grounds, you know.

J: Is the school the same place it is now?

MG: Uh-huh.

J: Is it the same...

MG: Mm-hmm. It's not the same building, but it's the same place. And we played all kinds of games that kids play. We didn't think we were missing anything.

J: What kind of games did you play?

MG: Run, Sheep, Run. I can't remember. Oh, just...just whatever we made up, I guess, more than anything. But you know, Bill Zanders and the Brazils and the Burfords all came through our place going to school. So I'd drop over the hill...instead of going the other way, up over the hill and meet those kids. And we had a place... My father had built a place...a square hole in the fence and put boards around it. And we'd crawl through that and down the hill over the mill race. We'd see'd old John Parker, tall and thin with that white mustache just covered in flour, you know. I thought he was wonderful. And we'd go over that mill race... I don't know how our folks let us run over the...that, you know. And down the steps and past the mill and that way past the blacksmith shop and up to school.

J: How far was that about?

MG: It was much farther than going the other way, but it was a lot more fun. So that was the way we went.

J: How long did it take you about to get to school?

MG: Oh, we mostly ran. I suppose fifteen, twenty minutes.

J: How'd everybody else get to school from __?

MG: Everybody walked.

J: All from the outside farms __ like that?

MG: No. Now the kids that went to Shanghai from out in the valley and the other small schools would come in for high school. And they had their other schooling in the Red Pepper and Hard Scramble and Shanghai and so forth.

J: Those are all names of schools...names of schools?

MG: Yes. Uh-huh. And the kids would go to school there till they were ready for high school. Then they'd come into Cove to high school. When they were that old and came if they came from any distance they came by horse and buggy, put their horses in the livery stable. Took their music lessons of Mrs. Leigh and then came on up to school. That was the way they did it.

J: There's livery stable in town then?

MG: Yes, there was a livery stable there. Right next to that bridge where you go back in toward the old mill there. And of course there was a railroad track in there when I was going to school.

J: What was the name of the school?

MG: Just Cove School.

J: Didn't have a big name like the others? [laugh]

MG: No, no. I'll never forget when they...they superintendent said, "Now, if we have a baseball team...when we have a baseball team and a football team or anything we should have some name. All the other schools are being called Tigers and Lions and everything, so Cove should have a name." So we decided it would be the Leopards right then and there. That was voted on and decided.

J: That started it.

MG: That started it. And our baseball team just beat everybody. The Alexanders were just baseball minded family and they had enough in the family, with the exception of my brother who caught for 'em. And once in a while they'd use I think one of...the oldest Brazil boy. Now there were eleven children in the Burford family and there were...I'm sure there was that many Alexanders or more. And they all went to school through our place, you know. Winter, summer, snow, didn't make any difference and they all walked. They walked from High Valley down in [laugh] to Cove to school. Over the hill. And I can remember them picking paintbrushes and yellow bells and things like that as spring came along and these things bloomed. They brought them to school. One boy gave me some paintbrushes and put it on my desk and a big green worm crawled out of it. I just couldn't stand worms ever. [laughs] And I'll never forget that one. And we had ink wells. For years we had ink wells in the seats, you know. And our pen laid in a little slot across the top of the desk and then here was the ink well. And if a girl had long braids or long hair it was so tempting if a boy sat behind her to dip her braid or some of her hair in his ink well.

J: Use that as a brush. [laughs]

MG: Just dip in it there for devil.

J: What were the classrooms like?

MG: They'd usually have two grades in one room, quite frequently.

J: What kind of subjects did you take when you...?

MG: Reading and writing and arithmetic. Spenserian writing. Didn't do me much good. I write terribly. And our arithmetic and our geography and our... And of course as you go on into high school all these other things just like any school, you know, you finally went into geometry and all that kind of thing. We had Latin one year or two. I've always thought that was a loss. Once in a while you know what a name came from or what this means, but that's as much as good as it's ever done. And we had some very fine teachers. We had home economics, we had typing, we had all those kind of things after we got in high school, you know. But in the grade school they always had spelling bees and ciphering bees, they called it. And I'll never forget how shocked some of those kids were in math. The teacher would go to the board and she would right four digits ___ a long problem to be added. So Dick Alexander was in my class in school and he was always so quiet. Wouldn't have anything to say. If she asked him a question it

was yes, no, anyway, just like that. That's all there was to it. And so she had him come up and do this adding. He just took the chalk and put down the answer just as quick as that. And she was surprised, of course. Of course his math papers had been good, you see, but she had no idea that he was quick like that. So she sent two grades up and asked if they had a student that was...could cipher out a student she had. So they sent somebody in and he just went right ahead as easy as anything and the kid couldn't begin to keep up with him. Finally she sent to the high school. And she asked the superintendent...and I believe that was Mr. Conklin. I'm not sure he was still there at that time, but he was when I was in the first grade. And I used to read to him when he'd come down. He'd take me on his lap and have me read to him. He took an interest in every single child in school. And so...oh, I thought he was wonderful. Maude Reese taught over there too and Emma Wilson. We always called her Ms. Emma. And the Wilsons were early settlers, you know. So they sent somebody down from the high school and they couldn't begin to keep up with him. He was just a whiz in it. And you wouldn't ever have known it, you know, as far as she was concerned he never would say a word. He always set there just like a stone image, you know, in class. Never a word out of him unless he just had to. But he was a pretty good guy just the same. And of course... I think we had a real good growing up time. We didn't worry about war, we didn't worry about anything like that. We just went home and... We didn't take home a lot of bookwork. We didn't carry a load of books home. If there was something we wanted to do we just...and I don't ever remember of having any help. I just went home and did my work. But all kids were trained in those days to help Mother and Father. The boys helped Dad and the girls did things in the house. When we left the house in the morning for school the beds were made, the dishes were done, the floors were clean. Everything was in order when we left the house for school in the morning.

J: Let's see, Miskell, how many were in your family?

MG: I had two brothers and one sister.

J: And what were their names?

MG: My oldest brother was Haskell, he was next to me. And we weren't very far apart so we were pals for years. And then was my sister Vila five years younger. And then my brother Ed, Edward, who was five years younger than her. And that's all there was in our family. There were two little boys that were lots almost at birth between my sister and Haskell.

J: You're the oldest then? Oh, okay.

MG: I'm the oldest. I was supposed to keep Haskell out of the mud and keep his clothes...make sure he got home with his caps, his mittens, his boots, his shirt and everything because he always had to stop and grasple and do things and so I was supposed to keep track of all this and get him home in order.

J: Full-time job. [laughs]

MG: A job is right. And I can remember my mother saying, "Haskell, how 'come this girl can come home and she's not all mud and looking so terrible and you come home and your shirt is torn and you've lost your cap and you've rolled in the mud?" And she'd say, "What happened to his cap?" Mostly I'd take it home or

his coat or whatever, you know. He was always losing things because he couldn't be bothered with that kind of thing he was so busy doing these other things.

J: What did...or what were some typical like breakfast, lunch and dinner?

MG: Oh yes. We always had a good breakfast. My father usually made the biscuits. We had bacon or something like that and eggs, fruit. My mother canned lots of fruit. We took our lunch with us to school. And it was just like any lunch would be nowadays. Maybe there'd be gingerbread if there was gingerbread in the house and there would be...there would be sandwiches, fruit, apple or whatever. And we had little jars we'd take canned fruit sometimes. Then we'd have dinner in the evening. We usually had meat and potatoes and gravy and, you know, just things like that. We didn't live...my mother made cakes and pies. And on Sunday the house'd be full of kids. I'll never forget it! We'd all go to Sunday School, you know, we all went to same place. And...then here would be the whole gang up to our...[end tape]

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MG: ...my mother made cakes and pies and on Sunday the house would be full of kids. I'll never forget it! We'd all go to Sunday School, you know, we all went to same place. And...then here would be the whole gang up to our house, a whole bunch of 'em. The table had all the leaves in it and my mother never thought anything about it. She just got dinner for the whole bunch. We'd just play around. Maybe we'd play baseball or do...play something and then we'd all go in and eat and we just had a general good time. Then gradually the crowd had to go home.

J: What were some of the things that kept busy...you know, your entertainment at home? There wasn't any television. [laughs]

MG: Heavens no! We never...[laughs] We didn't have to be entertained. We never thought of such a thing! We could read or we could do our lessons or we could... We were busy, we had to work, you know. There was so much to be done and we all had our duties and we did them.

J: There wasn't too much time for...

MG: And we went to bed early because we got up early. My father always got up at four o'clock in the morning.

J: What time did normally everybody go to bed?

MG: I know my dad usually went to bed between seven and eight. And we would go to bed eight or nine or whatever. And then we had parties at this house and parties at that house now and then, but it wasn't a regular thing. It was an occasion. We would have hay rides. We'd have sleigh rides. We'd go to one house and have oyster soup some night. And we'd all go in a big sleigh together.

J: Is this all the ones that were around you, or they the ones in your class?

MG: Not necessarily.

J: Just whoever.

MG: Whoever, you know, whoever was a-goin' to Sunday School with or whoever we were...you know, it didn't matter. Usually they were...if there was more than on class it'd be two classes. You know, we were usually about like that. And we'd have just parties and we'd have taffy pulls and... I don't remember.

J: What are some of the greatest...biggest changes from say back when you were growing up compared to now __ around the house or heating and__

MG: Oh, we all heated with wood. You just fixed the fire in the stove and that did the whole thing.

J: How many stoves __?

MG: Usually there was a stove in the living area and one in the kitchen. And now in this house there's a chimney for stove...a stove in all the rooms upstairs. And I think there's one room that don't have a...there's only one room... There's three bedrooms and only one of 'em doesn't have a chimney. And of course there's still a stove in the bathroom up there. And I've kept it and it's just as nice as it ever was. Good little iron stove they brought with 'em from South Dakota. And no central heating and no laying in bed, I assure you. You went to bed early and you got up early and you did a lot of work before you went to school. And when you came home you had dinner. By the time the dishes were done and the separator dishes were done after the milking... The boys had to help milk and the girls had separator dishes and supper dishes and everything to do. And if there was a little time they could read or do their lessons or whatever they wanted to do and then it was time for bed. You didn't have a lot of entertainment. You never... And you never missed it. You talked on the telephone some.

J: What kind of telephone did you have? The old crank?

MG: The kind that hung on the wall and you rang with a crank and you called Central and you told Central what you wanted or who you wanted and she'll talk to you a little while and then she gets whoever you want and you can tell her everything. She knows everything [laughs] and everybody. And all you have to do if you needed a doctor was ring Central and say, "Call the doctor quick, somebody's needing a doctor."

J: Was there a doctor in Cove besides your father then?

MG: Yes. Yes. My dad didn't do any doctoring.

J: He was there to help you, but not __

MG: He was there to help us, but that was it. But I do remember that everybody did things for the other fellow. Now if a woman was left a widow the first thing my father did was find out if she had plenty of wood. And if it was deep snow in the winter and she didn't have enough wood he hitched up the horses to the sled and went to the mountains and brought her wood. And he'd go and see the wood saw people...there was people there with a wood saw that would saw up the logs. And her wood was sawed and she had wood.

J: A saw mill right in town there was it in Cove?

MG: A saw mill...well, quite a ways up...

J: Up Mill Creek?

MG: We used to... In the summertime we'd all hike up to the __ and the __ and we'd walk up to the top of Mt. Fanny. And we'd take one horse for our lunch and usually some...one grown up teacher or parent or somebody'd go with us. We'd go up there and have a snowball fight and have our lunch and then we'd turn around and walk back and walk home. Thought nothing of it. We'd walk all those miles.

J: How long did it take to get up there about? Do you remember?

- MG: My gosh, I don't remember. If anybody got tired they'd take hold of the horse's tail and the horse would help them up the hill a little bit. And it was just, you know, like that. That's where they nicknamed me, one of the kids, you know. My name was long and kind of involved, you know, and so they'd holler, "Comin' Mike?" So I was Mike after that. That's where I got my nickname. [laughs] Don never called me anything but Mike. And so that's...that's kind of the way it was. And they'd have Sunday School picnics up there on top __. Somehow or other people walked it.
- J: That would get a good view of the valley.
- MG: They could ride... Oh, beautiful view! It's not as far as the kids would say now. I don't think they could make it now. [laughs] But they really did, you know, did things like that. We'd have parties someplace way up the hill. We'd all walk together up to the party, you know. It was kind of a...they didn't pair off so much. They just went in...the whole bunch went. I remember one time one of the boys said he was going to take me to the party. That was alright because you all went, you know, together. And you'd just walk with him. And so this other kid was...he lived there with another family for two or three years. And so...so he came right away and asked me if I'd go to the party with him. I didn't think anything about it, I said yes. So here he came he had a horse and buggy. I was so disgusted! I was so disgusted! But I couldn't say anything. I went and got in the buggy and that was it. We went and here we were driving along and everybody else was walkin'. Boy, I never had anything to do with him after that. I was all through with that guy. [laughs]
- J: Too fancy.
- MG: I wasn't gonna be any different than the rest of 'em, you know. He was just...that was just too much. And we went way up on the hill to a party... I think he must have been raised in some town or something and he thought that was the way to take a girl, you know. But he moved away in a couple of years and I never saw him again. Never knew what happened to him. But he was a cousin of one of the kids, you know, and he came up there and lived with 'em a couple of years for some reason. And that's kind of the way we were. We all would get in this sled and go skate down on the river. Build a fire and just skate away down there, you know. And I had one weak ankle and you know the skates they had in those days they clamped onto you shoes and they were not as stable as they might've been. We...it's amazing how we lived. I don't know how we lived through that. But I...we'd take weenies and roast 'em and just have a good time and then all pile into the sled go back home. We never stayed real late. Just things like that was our entertainment.
- J: What about __ when you didn't have the ice skating or the ice what did you during the spring and fall and summer?
- MG: Oh, we just mostly stayed home, but we'd have a party here and there now and then. And go to somebody's house and have a taffy pull or...in the yard or something like that. And just generally...
- J: Do you remember any special holidays or celebrations or that?

MG: Not too much. Most of our holidays were spent going to Grandmother's or having the grandparents at our house or something like that. We didn't think we had to celebrate it any special way...[tape interruption]

J: What was the biggest thing good or bad different do you think between...

MG: I think that was a good time to grow up. I think we were very happy. The kids'd come over to your house. You'd sit on the lawn in the summertime and talk. And maybe you'd go and pick some apples or you'd go pick some cherries or something and just laugh and talk.

J: Just enjoy life.

MG: Just enjoying life, yeah! And you just think anything about it, you helped at home a lot. Your home and your family were more important to you than...than anything really.

J: Pretty busy where you didn't have time to worry about...

MG: We didn't have time to do a lot of these other things because he didn't have the conveniences that we have now. We just had two dish pans that we did dishes in. And I remember when I was small my mother was ironing and she was a...not very well. And I was to do the dishes. And we had two stools that we'd put the dishpans on. I was so short ___. And so we had a tea kettle on the old stove and that old stove was something. It had this top, of course, but it had a girth. It came out in front like this. And I went and got the tea kettle to scald the dishes. We always poured boiling water on the dishes we'd washed. After we washed 'em and they were stacked in the other dish pan the boiling water was poured all over 'em, you know. I started out with this tea kettle and the handle was hot. And I went back instead of puttin' it clear up on top, which was kind of high for me, I set it on this hearth and the hearth wasn't wide enough and it tipped over and scalded me from the knees down. And just...oh, it was... And my mother set down the iron. Those days you heated your iron on the stove, you know, you just set the iron... And she came over there and she saw how badly I was burned. And she went in the bedroom and tore a sheet in two and sprinkled flour in both sides and... First she took me out and set me in the big water tank that was out at the back where we got the water we used to wash and all that. There was a ditch that came down and filled that and went on down. And she stood me in there while she fixed the flour and sheets for me. And then she took me there and wrapped me, my legs and feet, in that flour. And of course that was terribly, terribly painful because that was boiling water! Then she went to the door and called my father. He came and he carried me in and put me on the bed and I was... I walked on crutches that summer, all summer. Then my grandmother would come over after they began to get well and these huge burns...they were just practically boil faces on the top of my feet...and they would sterilize needles and pick the flour out of those cracks in there. They'd set me in one chair, have my feet up in the other. Grandmother would be working on foot and my father on the other. My mother she couldn't do it. And they picked the flours out of...flour out of those cracks. They were pretty good sized cracks on the top of my feet. Then my father would wrap them again and I don't have one scar. Not a scar on my feet! They just took care of 'em.

J: Pretty miraculous medicine! [laughs]

MG: It really was, wasn't it! And I think about that so often, you know. How they took care of that situation.

J: How old were you when that happened?

MG: I suppose I was... I might have been eight... Maybe eight years old or something like that. And I just set there and tough it out, you know. I never forget the pain of it. And all the needles came out of the boiling...out of boiling water, you know. Then they just picked that out carefully. And they just healed up just like... You couldn't find one scar on my foot.

J: You're lucky.

MG: Wasn't that something! Of course the bottom of 'em were tougher and they healed up. But I never could go barefooted, my feet were too tender. My brother went barefooted all the time. I remember him coming in the house crying one time, he said, "Old Sue stepped on my best toe." [laughs] You know, the horse had stepped on one of his toes and he'd already stubbed the other one and he was in bad shape. But he liked to go barefooted. And he did a lot of things. He was more fun than... He could always think of somethin' funny and I never knew him to complain about anything in all his life.

J: Which one was that?

MG: Haskell.

J: Oh, Haskell.

MG: Called him Hack later. That's Hack. He just accepted life the way it was and there was just nothing to it. That's all there was to it. If you don't like this, then do this, you know. That was his...

J: Philosophy.

MG: ...his philosophy was. And if you can help somebody, help 'em. If somebody had...had said to him, "I'm cold and I need a shirt" he'd of given his shirt. He wouldn't have cared.

J: Was that Hack that had the...when you're talking about before...when they're hunting coyotes on horses?

MG: Oh yes! Yeah, that was him. We saw lots of things like that. We, you know...somehow or other those kinds of event were big things and it wasn't just here today and gone tomorrow or something. It was...you know...it was made important to you. My father was a great hand to read. He was well read. And he was a whiz with math, which I didn't inherit. I never liked it. But my mother was very good in geography and history. I remember that because that was easy for me.

J: Those are your favorite subjects in school?

MG: I guess it was. [laugh] I still like history and all those kind of things.

J: Do you remember... I was wondering if you'd go over that again, that story of the...of Hack with the horses there? [laugh] Chasin' the coyotes.

MG: My father said, "Come on..." There's a porch off of our dining room out there. And he said, "Come out here and watch this." And so we all ran out there to watch what was going on and these two old men, to me they were old men, they probably weren't, I don't know...but old John Smith, we called him, had a pen of hunting hounds. And old John Allen had a pen of hunting hounds. I don't know how they fed 'em in the wintertime, but meat was cheap and I suppose they got

bones and things at the meat market. And if an animal died I suppose the hounds got it and all that kind of thing. Anyway, in the fall of the year when they coyotes got thick...we always called 'em coyotes...cyotes out on the hills, you know. And they were thick then. They would...they had made horns out of cows' horns. And they would get on their horses, turn the dogs loose and out they'd go after coyotes. And here they were, they were sounding the horns and the dogs were barking and here was the coyote running fast as it could run, the hounds right after it. And over the hills and over the rocks, everything, and there we watched the whole thing going all the way around the hill. And at the back of our place was a rail fence. And of course Hack was just entranced by that. And he raced to the back of the place and he got down in the corner of that rail fence and watchin' this whole thing, 'cause he figured it'd come around that way and it did. And it came right over to our hill pasture and when he saw it comin' right at him he just ducked down in the corner of that fence. And over went the coyote and the hounds and the horses and the men on the horses right over his head. He came back happy because he'd seen the whole thing.

J: ____ [laughs]

MG: But it was quite a sight to see those old guys with their...you know, just going...I don't know how the horses got over all those rocks. They just rode 'em like there's no tomorrow. Regular old English hunt. And they...they had guns of course. I don't know whether they... I can't remember if they ever shot one or anything, I don't remember hearing that, but they had the chase and they had the good time. And then they'd ride those horses home just as slowly, you know. The hounds did too. They'd all be worn out and they'd come home, pen up their hounds. Of course, you know horses don't generally like hounds. And I can remember my dad leading a horse, a young horse, down to drink. And it was one that he was keeping in the corral and so he had to lead it to drink two or three times a day, you know. And here came one of old John's hounds just right up there at the hill to that horse, that young horse. That horse just kicked once and the dog never moved again. That's all that it took to kill... And my dad came down, he said, "You know, I'm just sick about it, but old Model killed one of old John's hounds. He was loose and he just came up there and was gonna bite that horse on the heel and the horse just kicked him and he was dead." ____ So...I don't remember hearing anything more about that. Now that happened right down there by that High Valley bridge where you come down there, you know?

J: Oh yeah. Right there before you get to the highway.

MG: Uh-huh. And I remember they gypsies used to go in down there and camp down there on our place right down there at the...by the creek, you know. And how my mother was scared to death they'd get my little brother. He was...he had curly red hair and she just said, "You're just like ____ kids, you know." I remember when my father took him down there and put him on some of their horses and visited with them. He was always good to everybody.

J: How'd the gypsies travel? They just horseback or they had a wagon?

MG: They had wagons, covered wagons and lots of horses and they traded horses and they traded people out of things and traded things to people for things. I don't know where they got the money for what they ate unless they traded for garden

stuff and things like that travel in the summer. And so they would camp down there. Sometimes they'd stay a week, sometimes they'd only stay two or three days. And my mother was always relieved when they left. She didn't like that encampment down there. They'd play violins, just have a good time down there. They never failed to have a good time. But we were not allowed to go out of the yard when they were there. We stayed right in close. So I remember that and, of course, that was exciting. ____ [laughs] But we always had gardens and us kids had to work in the garden in the summertime, you know. That took quite a bit of your time. Helping with the canning, helping with making jam, helping with all of that kind of thing. And so we were putting down for the summer what we did in the winter so we were pretty busy people. And then when it came time for our school clothes we ordered a ____ and some other catalog. We would order. If we didn't...didn't find what we wanted in La Grande or we didn't get to La Grande, why that was the way we did that.

J: How long did it take you to go to La Grande about?

MG: Oh, I don't know. We usually had good teams that we just used for that, you know. Horses that could just travel right along. My grandfather had...had a pair of bays that he used to his covered buggy and he called 'em Dot and Lady. And when we got in the buggy to go to La Grande...I used to go with him quite a lot...he'd, say, slap 'em on the hip and boy they'd just take off and we went to La Grande in, you know, just about as good time as anybody could with a pair of horses. And they'd be put in the livery stable while he did whatever he wanted...and he always took me with him...and then we'd go back home. We were never late going and never late coming back.

J: What'd all you do while you were in La Grande usually? Remember?

MG: He had... In his cellar he had brick vaults. And in the vaults was a solution that he put his eggs in and he raised chickens. And of course he had milk cows. Anyway...and he always sold honey, too. And he would go down there with a net, take those eggs out carefully and then he'd candle 'em. Over a lamp he put a cardboard box and it had holes in it the size of eggs. And they were sized and you could see through the egg whether it was alright or not. And then it was put in the crate and taken...and the whole crates were taken into La Grande and he sold his eggs and he sold some chicken and he sold whatever, you know...whatever else. Your cream was usually picked up.

J: What'd you do when you went with him?

MG: I just went wherever he went.

J: Oh. [laughs]

MG: Tagged along. He just wanted me to go. And next door neighbor to him was Uncle Newton____, I called him, and he was a Pony Express rider, you know. And I thought Uncle Newton was just great because Uncle Newton would take me fishing. And we'd go down to river and catfish. He'd set there and talk, you know, and he told me about his rides on the Pony Express. And his wife was a short, fat, fat woman and of course she wasn't going anyplace. She just toddled around at home and did the cooking and things like that. She never thought of goin' fishin' with him. I don't know whether she couldn't get in the buggy or what, but I never remember her ever going anyplace. And they had a cat that had

one rocking chair and it would even rock sometimes. And nobody sat in that rocking chair, but just that cat! And when I went over to... her name was Emmaline. So I'd go over to Uncle Newton's and Aunt Emmaline. And then Grandpa'd say, "I can't go fishing tomorrow, but Uncle Newton's gonna go and why don't you go with him?" So I'd go fishing with Uncle Newton and we'd set there on the bank and catch catfish. And he'd talk to me, you know. He wasn't an awful talkative man, but he...he wanted company and I was a little kid there that could go, so I went.

J: How old were you then about?

MG: Oh gosh, I don't know. From the time I was six, I suppose, until I was ten or twelve I went fishin' with Uncle Newton.

J: What kind of pole...

MG: And Grandpa.

J: ...and bait did you use?

MG: We used worms and corks on the line and bamboo poles. And if we didn't have a bamboo pole we used a willow. And just plain hooks with a worm on it. Through it in there and here'd be the cork settin' on top of the water. All of a sudden the cork'd dive and you had a fish. [laughs] Out would come the... And then Grandpa knew just how to clean 'em, you know. So did Uncle Newton. They had boards and they had these sharp, real sharp, old-fashioned forks. That's the kind they used to have. They had both handles and tines fairly close together and long. I have one, yes. And they put that in the fish's head and they split him down the back and then reach in with another fork and get the back of the fish after they cut his head loose, just pull it right out of the skin. Just as slick as that and all clean. And they cut lots of them. They were awfully good eating. So we...we did things like that in the summer when I'd be there. We never thought that we had to be doing something for entertainment all the time. We just...

J: That was your entertainment.

MG: That was our entertainment, yeah.

J: What was the cat's came? Do you remember if it had a name?

MG: I think they just called it Pussy. If I remember right, I think that was just Pussy. My grandfather never had a dog, but they would have barn cats. And at home we had barn cats. We didn't have 'em in the house. But we always had a dog for the boys, you know. And there would be cats once in a while and I'd want to make a pet of one, but you can't bring 'em in the house.

J: Cats go in the barn ____.

MG: You could bring it to the porch and what was fed milk and all that kind of thing. But they were fed at the barn, too. But we never had a cat in the house. City people had cats in the house, not farm people. [laughs] And once in a while I'd go to Nampa and visit my...I had my uncle who was a dentist __ and I had two aunts that lived there with their family. And they put me on the train and I'd go to Nampa. And one of my uncles worked at the railroad station so he was right there to meet me. I was just a kid, you know.

J: What was it like to ride the train at that time?

MG: Oh, it was fun! They had red plush seats, you know, and plush on the arms. And the conductor wore a nice uniform, you know, and they were always polite and

nice to you and everything. Charlie Miller was conductor on this little one here. Oh, I thought Charlie was wonderful. We had a little yellow station there at Cove right across from where the Episcopal church is. And...you know...we could switch...switch tracks right there. When I had to come to the dentist...we didn't have a dentist in Cove...they put me on the train there and I'd come over here and have my teeth worked on. And if I needed 'em...otherwise I went to Nampa and Uncle Pete did. Just things like that. Uncle Pete came to our house and visited every summer. That was his vacation. And he always drove a Buick when... Cars were very few and far between. And he always brought his ___ and all the things to keep it polished and he kept it polished. All that metal on it and everything. ___ He was very particular, very clean. My father was too. We didn't have bathrooms in those days, you know. Inside plumbing was something you didn't have when I was growing, a little kid, you know. So I remember that in the mornings my father was up at four and he built a fire in the cook stove. And on the cook stove would be this great big tub and that was the way the bath water was heated.

J: It's a little different than modern days. [laugh]

MG: A little bit different than modern days, yeah. But there was always dishes of water where you got that kind of water and the water that you boiled for dishes and things like that. And then the drinking water was carried from the spring. And that was always in a bucket with a dipper in it and a washbasin there and towels and things. It was kept neat and clean.

J: Was that...like an artesian spring or did you have to pump it?

MG: Oh no, no pump. No, it was artesian.

J: Didn't have the hand pump then. [laugh]

MG: No. I had a hand pump when I was first married. Carried water and carried water and carried water. That was the way we lived and we didn't think we were... We didn't think what we was getting' along just as well as anybody in the world.

J: Not deprived.

MG: We weren't deprived of a thing. We had all we wanted to eat and what we needed to wear and we weren't worried about anything. My dad used to sometimes go out and help the trashing crews for money for taxes and things like that. And he would sell a beef or something like that, you know. Otherwise you didn't have a lot of money, what would you do with it, you know? [laughs] And I'll never forget when Jack Stevens come driving into town with the first automobile. Here he had a hatch...a cap and a duster and the cap was tied on, too, and he had on goggles and gloves. And he'd shift, he'd take that lever and push it forward. And the horses all panicked and they had runaways and he just sch-sch-sch right down the street and turned the corner to go to his house. [laugh] And he just looked like it was a real effort to turn that corner to go... He really made a show of the whole thing. [laughs]

J: Remember what kind of car it was, or automobile it was?

MG: [laugh] As far as I know it was a Ford. I think that's what it was.

J: Or what year that was about?

MG: Can't give you the year. I was a little kid, that's all know. But I do know that...that Tommy Thompson's father had a Model-T. And that was where we

went to Shitaqua when Shitaqua came to La Grande. Us kids would climb into Tommy's car. Tommy would get permission from his dad and we were all dressed up and we'd go to Shitaqua. Oh, that was a big thing! I'll tell you. Here we were scott-free going to Shitaqua. [laughs] I don't think we missed a thing. We had ice cream cones and cotton candy and just a general good time and enjoyed the program and got in the car and came home.

J: How would you spell Shitaqua? Remember?

MG: No. I can't give it to you. ____ [laughs] I know it was c-h.

J: That get me started anyway.

MG: Yeah. Now you can go from there. And they had programs, printed programs.

J: Who put that on?

MG: Chitaqua Company. It came to La Grande and put it on. And they put on, oh, all kinds of 'em, you know. Plays and...well, anything and everything. They were all educational.

J: Once a year, like?

MG: Yes, in the summertime.

J: Oh.

MG: Uh-huh.

J: I never experienced that one.

MG: Oh, you didn't! [laughs] That was a big thing because that was the one that Tommy's father would let him take the Ford. And, gosh, I don't know how many of us went in that Ford. I know I always sat in the front seat with Tommy.

J: Was that while you were in high school then?

MG: Yes. We were in high school. And when I first started going with Dot oh my gosh that was awful. and the boys __ somebody from a foreign...[tape interruption]...they brought the whole family. So I went back with 'em to the ranch. And Don was out there taking care of the show cows getting ready for the fall show that year. And that was his job, was to show cattle. And no one else touched those show cattle but Don. And he had charge of the feeding and I remember they had __ and __ like you can't believe and everything. So he was the same age as I was __. And so he came in to the house...they said he always came in and I asked and said, "Don always comes in." And he came in and they introduced me. And he just stood there and looked at me. Finally, I went around behind the stove and I thought "I'm no animal he's judging. I'm not gonna set here." [laughs] So I went around behind the stove. Stood there... He stood there a while and then he went back in the dining and living room there and picked up a magazine and read. So I usually did the dishes and so he'd come out and help me with the dishes. We started going together from then on. So, of course, then I went home in September. He took me home. He wanted to meet my folks so he took me home. And, of course, they called to make sure when I started and when I'd get home and everything, you know. And my Aunt Libby said, "This young fella out here that's bringing her home" and told her who it was. They didn't know whether they liked that or not. She said, "They've already left."

J:

MG: It's too late. And she was all for it, you see. [laughs] So he took me home and we'd been spending evenings together all that summer, you see, while I was out there. And so then he went back to the ranch and took the show cattle on, you know, all over the west and ended up at that Pacific International with 'em. He'd been doing that ever since he was fourteen.

J:

MG: And so...of course he didn't get back until, well, whenever the Pacific International was over in late September. And then he'd go to school and they kept the show cattle up here in the big barn. And his mother would take Grandmother to ___ to California for the winter and he'd stay with ___ and go to school. He didn't when he was small. He had to go to California with them. And he had a ball down there. He went out with the fishermen, he went with the biological survey man, he went with... He was just turned loose down there. And they lived in Palo Alto. And his uncle was doctor of mathematics and astronomy at Stanford University and they'd visit them. And they had girls, one girl his age and two others. And they would winter down there. And then after he got older, why, he'd stay with the Towlys because they were double cousins, you see, and it was just like home to him. W. J. never had a son and being an Englishman you had to have an elder son so he just took Don over. He didn't want the oldest boy, Don's brother was older six years, he didn't want him he just wanted Don. And so Don spent his summers mostly out there and then he'd come home the weekends and work for his mother. And she worked him to death! He was so glad to get back the ranch. [laugh] So then when he came to see me after that he either came horseback... Sometimes he'd bring an extra horse and we'd go horseback riding. He got a motorcycle and he'd come on that in the summer. And then there was a cart and there was one rig or another and then there was a Model-T here. And his uncle had a Maxwell and he was owning the Maxwell once in a while. So he would come either Saturday night or Sunday to see me. So I was missing some of the Saturday night or Sunday things that the gang was having, you know. That didn't ___ I'll tell you that...that was not right. I remember one time he came and we were having a party way up at Barker's. Of course I went to the party with the kids and he was comin' over and I told him where I'd be. So he came out that way and he managed comin' back. In those days the bridges are the...whatever that went across the little ditches and streams, you know, were just narrow. And he met somebody comin' along and he went to one side and he went head first right down in that ditch and that...that ___ he stood with a back right straight in the air and the windshield resting on the edge of the ditch here and then engine down in the ditch. And the kids all came along and lifted that car out of the ditch.

J: I wonder how they got it out?

MG: Just by hand. They all just got out and out of the ditch it came. I got in the car with him and away we went for home. And so that was...oh, they thought that was funny as a ___. Oh, that was a blast that they'd had to... [laughs]

J: Help him out.

MG: ...help him out of the ditch when they didn't even want him there. [laughs] So, anyway, that's kind of the way it was and of course we were pretty young so we had to go on our school and...[end tape]

1988, T2, S1

MG: Anyway, that's kind of the way it was and, of course, we were pretty young so we had to go on our school and his mother was a widow and he had to help her a lot. So we went together three years before we got married.

J: When did you get married?

MG: On June the 24th 1919.

J: And that when you moved to Union, was it?

MG: I came here as a bride.

J: What was this Don's folks' home originally?

MG: No. We went... We moved first into a little house down on the corner here 'cause his mother wanted him right near to work here, you see. And he quit the ranch because he told W. J. that he wasn't bring me out the ranch. My mother didn't want me to and she...so he said alright. And so he worked for Hutchison ___ their show cattle. And Jim Hutchison was our banker at that time. And the...people that owned the bank was George and Dick and Sam Benson. The Bensons owned the bank at that time. And Jim was involved in it too and he was the banker. And they had a herd...his father-in-law and him had a herd of show cattle. Don took care of them and he was able to have his in there with 'em, see. And then we gave up that because we had some very fine heifers that he had, although he sold those when he went to the army. That was of course 1918. And his mother wouldn't sign the papers so he just volunteered and go. So he and Tommy and a whole bunch of 'em went down to Corvallis and went to the student army training corps where they didn't give 'em any time to study they just trained 'em like crazy to go overseas. And the day they were mustered out onto the field they were told they would go overseas the next day and the Armistice was signed.

J: Pretty close.

MG: I'll tell you, that was really close! Then the boys came home and after that, in the spring, we were married. Don went... Don had some college, you see, and then we got married in 1919. I worked at the piano store in La Grande. I had a scholarship... Oh, my father died, you know, when I was in high school. So I...my mother was left with the ranch and us kids so I didn't...I took one more year of school. I had one year of teacher's training and then I went to the piano store and I worked at the piano store in La Grande for Mr. Richie for that year. And then Don and I were married in June.

J: What do you think about the greatest change from back, you know, growing up to...to now? What...

MG: Oh my! There is such a change! I've seen it all the way from the horse and buggy to the moon. [laughs] It's just been gradual and you accept as it goes along, you know. But it is... Now you can get in the car and away you go, you know, and the distance! You wouldn't...oh, I tell you it was a tremendous thing

to go to Pendleton. That was almost unheard of, Cove to Pendleton, you know. It was done, but not very often. Then... Now here you get in the car and away you go. You go to Portland, you go to Hood River, you go wherever and think...

J: It's a short hop. [laugh]

MG: It's a short hop. Or you figure so many hours.

J: Yeah.

MG: And of course no TV, no radio. We had a radio when Bill was little and it just fascinated him. And he was a kid that had read. Oh, he read all the time! And he read before he went to school and he...he just got more out of that radio. He was reading the... When he was in the third grade he was reading the National Geographic and the newspaper and he wouldn't go to school till he got his newspaper and read it. And he had to have his National Geographic. And he went to school to Dorothy __. And she said... I said, "What do you remember about my kids when we were...when they were in school?" She said, "I especially remember Bill because here come that little bitty tow-headed kid with the Reader's Digest under his arm...with the National Geographic under his arm." And she said, "he would...when it was time to do the reading I thought, well, if he can read that, just let him read it. That's just as good a reading lesson as what the other kinds are reading, you know." So he'd read that. And then she said to him, "Billy, would you come up in front of the room and tell us what you've read?" He'd go up and explain everything to 'em you know and never thought a thing about it. [laughs] And she said... One day she said to the superintendent, "You come down to my room reading class, will you?" So he came down and he said, "What's that kid doin' there? He's not doing his reading." She said, "Yes he is." And she said, "Billy, would you come up in front of the room tell 'em what you've just read?" So she said he went up and just told 'em. It didn't bother him a bit. And the superintendent says, "Well, I guess that's alright." [laughs] So I saw Mr. Conklin after that and I said, "You know, I'm not too happy with Bill's spelling. I don't think he... I don't think he's getting a good enough grade in spelling." He said, "Oh, don't worry about him. He'll have a secretary some day." [laughs] It was real funny. And Donna went along having a good time with all the kids and she didn't have any problems.

J: When were they born?

MG: Donna was born in...on September the 13th 1920, about a year and three months after we were married. And Bill was born three years later on the 4th of October.

J: 1923 then.

MG: They grew up about like we did. They walked to school.

J: Yeah. It's a lot of change nowadays. I can't believe, you know, they come around with a bus __ pick you up.

MG: I know! The kids can't walk a step.

J: I know it.

MG: They have to have a big gymnasium so they can get their exercises. [laughs] And honestly, it's something.

J: I can't believe...

MG: You know, those kids walked home for lunch, just a mile, and they had twenty minutes to walk home, twenty minutes to eat their lunch, and twenty minutes to

get back. And that's the way they spent their noon hour. They'd rather come home and eat a hot lunch than they would to take their lunch. Some of the kids took their lunch. But they nearly always walked home unless the weather was real bad and then they took their lunch.

J: I remember I used __ there __ quite a ways and never thought anything of it. Now I can't believe __ the bus __. [laughs]

MG: You know, they... I seems strange. And if there was anything going on in the evening, why, it was walk or don't go.

J: Yeah. I think the __ is they can't afford the busses. [laughs]

MG: I can see why some of 'em can't, but how did the others manage? They brought their kids to school or the kids they managed.

J: Yeah. It's a little different from way out, but...

MG: If it's up to... If it's up to the parents to see the kids got an education it wasn't the school's fault that they lived out here. That was up to the parents. Now it's up to everybody.

J: Parents don't have any responsibility. [laughs]

MG: No. Now they can send 'em and they can even take 'em when they're tiny, have 'em taken care of. So I can see the difference in cost. You have to have money now. You didn't used to have hardly any money and who missed it? You know, you didn't buy anything hardly at all. The boys'd have a little 'cause they worked a little in the summer. The girls didn't get a chance unless they packed fruit, and I did a little of that. Our kids did, of course, a lot of work.

J: What was special, like, for Christmas? Did you get...oh, you know, just celebration and presents or whatever?

MG: Yes. Just one...one present was enough. The grandparents'd come and here'd be a big milk pan of peanuts and there'd be oranges. We didn't buy oranges all the time, we had apples, see. And we had just treat things that seemed like a treat to us. And the gifts that we had. I remember one Christmas my mother was ill and we had Christmas...Haskell and I had Christmas up at Grandma's and we had it in the parlor. There was a tiny little lamp lit that was mine and there was a white muff and fur for me and I can't remember what they gave Haskell. And they were on these little chairs. And she had little black parlor chairs besides the other pretty chairs, you know. And that was all in there and we weren't expected to go in there so they just could fix it all up the day before, you know. And so then here'd be candy and just things like that, usually hard candy. And that was treat enough. We didn't expect much, you know. Just...just a gift. We celebrated the night before at the church and everybody got an orange and some candy. And we had a program which took up our minds, pretty much, 'cause we had to help with the program. That would be on Christmas Eve and then Christmas Day was at home with a Christmas dinner and all the pies and all the cakes and everything that you have for Christmas. And that was the size of it.

J: And what'd you usually have for...turkey or bird or ham?

MG: Sometimes a goose, sometimes a duck, sometimes a turkey, sometimes a big chicken.

J: Just varies by whatever was available.

MG: Whatever was available is what you had. And it was always just beautifully done. And there was always dressing and there was always mashed potatoes and gravy and lots of vegetables and fruit and cake and pies, always mincemeat pie and apple pie and sometimes we made ice cream. You always made your own ice cream, you know. Always somebody turned the crank. We'd get the ice out of the...out of the ice house, mash it up, and there was cream and eggs all of that, everything in the ice cream. It was delicious. So whatever. We had ice cream in the summer. And after my father pruned the fruit trees they were put into a big pile and burned, of course. And just when the coals got just right and the ashes were ___ out would come the bring frying pan. First the potatoes got stuffed in there, great big potatoes were put in there. Then out came the big iron frying pan and the ham was cut and we'd have ham and eggs and baked potatoes, everything, outdoors when he was pruning. And that was a big thing. And of course we broke all the colts by going out there in the corral when they were small and layin' down. We'd try 'em on the colts and when they got up they had us. And if they didn't one of us would lead the colt over to the fence so the other one could get on by the fence till they got too wise, you know, switched around then we'd land on the ground. I wasn't allowed to ride down the hill ___ and Haskell wasn't supposed to. But he'd get me to lead, you know, a two or three year old up the hill and then he'd say, "Now turn it loose." So I'd turn it loose. Down the hill they would come just [slap] he just... [laughs] I remember one time everybody came to our place. We used to always have lots of company, aunts and uncles and cousins and everybody would come, you know. And we had... My father had a whole pen of pigs up on the east side of the barn. And the pig houses were there and everything. And Hack and been goin' out there and ridin' those pigs and he wasn't supposed to, of course. But my dad caught him so all of 'em went out there. And Hack went out there and rode the pigs for 'em. [laughs] Oh, they always had lots of things to amuse 'em. And it was just things that they thought up, you know.

J: Improvise.

MG: Improvise. You made up your own games or you did this or that that you were used to doing and it was fun. There was nothing so great about... In the wintertime take the sled and then go up the hill, you know, down you'd come. Land in the snow bank, probably. Just things like that. I wasn't allowed to go up McNeil Hill to toboggan down because they's afraid I'd get hurt. I was very resentful that I wasn't a boy 'cause I couldn't do that and he could. So he'd go up and they would...oh, they just had crowds of kids up there comin' down those hills. And Andel's Lane was another place. Yeah. Of course you came straight to the fence at the bottom. You had to be prepared. [laughs] You might just go into the fence or over it.

J: Whereabouts was McNeil Hill? Is that...

MG: Do you know where Clifford Toll lives?

J: Was it right up from the ___ school there?

MG: It's Mill Creek. You go clear up Mill Creek, way up.

J: Oh.

MG: Like you're going to the power plant or Forebay or whatever. And instead of going left you go right up there.

J: Oh.

MG: And that's one steep long hill. And so they'd come down and then they had to make the curve. [laughs] Not many of 'em made the curve. So all the McNeil kids always got to do that 'cause they lived up there. And that's the McNeil place that Clifford and Ardath, my niece, has. And they built a lovely home up there. So there was plenty to entertain you. You thought of a lot of things. We put the sleigh bells on the horse and hitch up to the cutter and go for a sleigh ride on moonlight winter night. Put the buffalo robe over our laps and pick up everybody that we could get in there. And then we had hot rocks in the bottom that had been in the oven, you know. Cold and crisp air and you could hear the horses feet in the snow and the... You'd stop along and visit with somebody and then go on and on, you know, and then get back home at a certain time, but never too late. You had to be home early.

J: Before the rocks cooled off.

MG: Yes, before the rocks cooled off. [laughs] When we went to parties, you know, the limit you had to be home at eleven o'clock and that was late. Mostly ten when you were younger, you know. And everybody knew where you were. Your parents knew where you were, your...all their friends knew where their kids were. Everybody knew where everybody was all the time.

J: You couldn't get quite so far out as you can nowadays. [laughs]

MG: No, you're not so far away.

J: With the cars and the highways.

MG: That's right. That's right. And there wasn't... Wasn't any wrecks that I can remember. Nobody had any problems that way. So...everybody well taken care of. And we never knew the difference, so... I think that it was kind of nice.

J: ___ probably a lot happier, you know, ...

MG: We were totally happy.

J: Yeah.

MG: With what we were doing, with what was going on or with our friends. There wasn't any problem. It was a pretty good time to live. Now you don't know whether you're gonna get blasted off the earth! [laughs] You knew then you weren't gonna be.

J: Blasted or bugged or...

MG: Nobody'd ever thought about it.

J: Yeah.

MG: Nobody ever thought about it. We were just well taken care of, I guess. There wasn't too many crazies around. We had one in our town that everybody watched. He had a rug on his floor at his mother's house and it was a cow hide that had been tanned and put on the floor. And somebody went there...of course she said he bought it and brought it to her. Somebody went there and recognized their own cow. [laughs] Another time she went to church and when she came out it was raining like everything. She had taken her rubbers and put 'em in the ___. When she got home she had wet feet and she said, "Do you know, Dwight, my

feet are soaking wet. Somebody stole my rubbers from the church __ while I was in there and I had to walk home with...[tape interruption]...[tape stopped]

9/02, T1, S1

VC: So your grandparents came over from where?

MG: I think that __ first come to Ohio and then on. And I know that my mother told me that one of the members of the family helped to build the Erie Canal.

VC: Oh really?

MG: Yes.

VC: Wow.

MG: So they...

VC: So that would be Ohio?

MG: Yes.

VC: Yeah.

MG: And I don't know... I remember my great-grandmother. My father took me to Grandma when I was just a little thing. And she sat in her rocking chair and she held her shawl and she rocked.

VC: Uh-huh. Did she talk?

MG: Oh yes. And my father would...always took her something.

VC: Oh yeah.

MG: And other people didn't bother with her. She sat on Aunt Minnie's back porch in her rocking chair. And Aunt Minnie and I... Aunt Minnie was one of these people she'd set on the floor with her back against the wall to sew or do whatever.

VC: Yeah.

MG: Oh yeah. And she wore her hat straight on her head. She put a Bible under her arm and she marched to church.

VC: This was in Cove?

MG: Yes. [laughs]

VC: What church?

MG: Methodist, I think.

VC: Uh-huh. So when you went to see your grandma...your great-grandma... That was your great-grandmother that was rocking?

MG: Yeah. My father would take me.

VC: And so that was his grandmother?

MG: Well, no. The first one that was his grandmother died, but this one just adored him. He was the one that was good to her. He was the kindest person that you could imagine. He thought about other people all the time.

VC: And what was his name?

MG: William, Will. They called him Will, Will Bloom.

VC: Oh, Will Bloom?

MG: Uh-huh.

VC: Oh.

MG: And of course, you know, he was... They had fifteen kids...

VC: Whoa!

MG: ...all together, Great-grandpa and Grandpa. And they had... And this was Grandpa's second wife. And he brought all his first kids and then all... They didn't know what caused it in those days. They had lots of kids.

VC: They didn't know what caused kids?

MG: No. [laughs]

VC: I bet they did.

MG: And he used to call... They'd circle the wagons and Grandpa'd call square dancing and they'd dance.

VC: Where?

MG: On the way out to Oregon.

VC: Oh really?

MG: Yes.

VC: Oh, actually circle the wagons.

MG: Yes. Oh yes. They had to have a little bit of relaxation and something like that to go with the hardships of coming. They lots of things coming because the burden...they got too loaded sometimes.

VC: Uh-huh. They'd have to __

MG: And they would lose __. They came by oxen train. But Grandfather...Great-grandfather they got some very fine horses to bring. That was gonna be their stock. And you didn't...you were __.

VC: I bet. Yeah. That was like __

MG: And of course the barn was just as important, or more, than the house.

VC: And so they...those were the people who came to Cove and the first people that...

MG: They were going to... They were __ up the train and then going on __ to the Willamette. But when they saw this valley Grandpa said, "This is our valley."

VC: Uh-huh. Wow.

MG: "And this is as far as we go."

VC: And what year was that, do you think, about?

MG: Lower '50s, I guess.

VC: 1850s.

MG: I don't have the exact date.

VC: So then they settled and how many...

MG: You see, they had so many kids and one place where they went when they got up in the morning one boy was gone. The stopped the train and all men got out on the horses that they had and rode and rode and rode. But as time went on they were gonna be out of supplies and they never found him. And Grandmother was just __ she lost a boy.

VC: How old was he?

MG: About sometime along about eleven, between eight and eleven.

VC: Uh-huh. That must've been...

MG: Oh, it was a horrible thing! Of course they had lots of 'em, but it didn't make any difference.

VC: Sure. They're all precious.

MG: They're all precious. And they had big families and they cared about 'em. Now my grandmother Martha, her name was Martha Murphy before she married Grandpa.

VC: Okay, now I'm confused. These people that came out were your great-grandparents?

MG: And my... Yes. And my grandparents...

VC: And their child...

MG: And my grandparents.

VC: Your grandparents.

MG: Grandpa Bloom was a short heavy-set man and he came to farm. He did not want anything to do with politics. That wasn't his interest, he was going to farm. And they brought their oxen and all that kind of thing.

VC: And so he was a child of the great-grandparents you're talking about?

MG: Yes.

VC: Okay. Was he grown then when they...

MG: Oh yes. He drove one team of oxen and Grandma set beside him with the first babies.

VC: Oh, they were married already?

MG: Oh yes. Oh, they married in those days early.

VC: Yeah, but I didn't understand that your grandparents were older.

MG: Great-grandpa had his family, Grandpa had his family. I think there was thirteen all together. And so when they got up one morning one red-headed boy...there was lots of red hair in our family...

VC: 'Cause they're Irish.

MG: ...he was missing. They could not find him. They got on the horses they had, they rode, they did everything. Finally they were gonna get out of supplies so they had to go on.

VC: Wow.

MG: Grandma never got over it. And, why, that would have been my father's...

VC: Grandparents.

MG: Yes. And each... My father was born in Cove. He was the first boy born there.

VC: Okay. He was born...

MG: After they got there.

VC: Okay.

MG: Grandpa...

VC: And his name was?

MG: William.

VC: Oh, your father's name was William?

MG: We called him Bill.

VC: Bill Bloom.

MG: Yeah. He... He wasn't born yet, see.

VC: Yeah.

MG: They got there and they select the place where they build a cabin. It was a big log cabin because they had a family. And so the way they got to the upstairs was a ladder.

VC: Sure.

MG: You know, that's the way they get...

VC: Like a loft.

MG: Yeah. And I... It was quite a house because in the years...the long years after they tried to tear it down. It took two men and a boy to get a nail out and they didn't use many nails. It was so well built, so put together, that...

VC: Where was it?

MG: You know where Five Point is?

VC: Not really.

MG: When you go to Cove...

VC: I don't know Cove really well. I live in the other end of the valley.

MG: Oh. Then I can't tell you.

VC: You can't explain it.

MG: As you go from Union to Cove...

VC: Oh yeah.

MG: ...you go over Five Point and it was all that land out there, that farm land, that they took up.

VC: So they just...

MG: They just stopped right there.

VC: And that was their... They just...

MG: Grandpa was going to...he came to farm and whatever else somebody wanted to do ____, but he was going to farm.

VC: And so...

MG: They had oxen and they had horses which they treasured and cared for.

VC: So were there other people there that had homesteaded, or were they the only...

MG: Oh yeah. There was... There was people that he knew in his early days, you know. And he grew up the hard way __.

VC: I bet, yeah.

MG: But Grandmother was known as the Good Woman by the Indians. She would give them things and she was always polite to them. And they were saved when the other families were killed.

VC: Oh really?

MG: Yes.

VC: What...what...

MG: And they called her the Good Woman.

VC: Uh-huh. So what is... How did the... What happened about that? Was there...

MG: You know, the Indians would raid...

VC: Oh, they would?

MG: Oh yes! Right in the valley.

VC: Right here.

MG: Yes.

VC: And were they Wallowa Indians or who were they?

MG: Oh, I don't know. They were all the types that lived here in those days.

VC: Oh.

MG: I think that... I don't think they were Sioux.

VC: No.

MG: No, but...

VC: The tribes around here were like the Cayuse...

MG: Yeah, that's what they were.

VC: Cayuse?

MG: And there is no Cayuse tribe now. It's wiped out.

VC: They were... They Cayuse were over in the Whitman Mission.

MG: Now when they had their powwows they had in the valley there where my grandfather took the land.

VC: Oh.

MG: That was their peaceful place.

VC: Oh. So what'd they think about that?

MG: It__ alright. Grandpa and Grandma built the house there.

VC: And they didn't...

MG: Logs. And then my father was born. But they selected a place that the soil was good, where they could have lots of acreage, where there was water, most important water. And, boy, they could go and get the logs and build the house.

VC: Right. Did they have a natural spring there or running water?

MG: Oh yes. Oh yes. They wouldn't think of settled or building where there wasn't a natural spring.

VC: Right. Did... Is that... You said that that property's still in your family now?

No.

MG: Not any more. It was for all my young years.

VC: Oh yeah.

MG: Grandpa used to come take me up on his knee. I remember him. And he...and then Grandma lived later. And she had... They had a big family. And I'll never forget Aunt Minnie. She sat on the floor with her back to the wall and never let it come down when she sewed.

VC: Sat on the floor?

MG: Yes.

VC: Why'd she sit on the floor?

MG: It was...__.

VC: You mean this is why she was...

MG: People... that was the early days. You didn't have a lot. You couldn't go and buy a chair, you know.

VC: Yeah. But I mean this was when she was a young girl that she sat on the floor?

MG: Yes.

VC: Okay.

MG: And she would set there and sew and she was a prissy, prissy __. I'll never forget her. She put her hat on straight. She never had any children. She'd put her hat on straight and it set right up there. She put her Bible under her arm and she marched to church.

VC: So she must have been a lot younger than your father.

MG: Oh yeah. Oh yes.

VC: Yeah, 'cause you remember her...

MG: My father...oh, that's only thing difference... My father knew everybody. He was... He grew up that way.

VC: Yeah. He was friendly.

MG: My goodness yes! They...that land they took up is now Connley land.

VC: Oh, I don't know that. See, I don't really know about Cove 'cause I...

MG: Oh, it's...

VC: I'm from the other part of the valley. I know about that out there, but I don't...

MG: Elgin?

VC: Actually, I live on Ruckle Road which is going up the mountain, you know.

MG: What?

VC: Ruckle. Like where Ruckle Junction is up on the mountain.

MG: I don't know where that is.

VC: You go...it's not to Summerville, __ west of Summerville. Summerville's here and you go that way and you go this way to Elgin. So it's... And then you...

MG: Well... Now Union was the county seat.

VC: Oh! When you were growing up?

MG: And then La Grande took it away. Oh, there was a bitterness. No, before my time.

VC: Oh, before then.

MG: When my father was... And... I'm way back...farther back than you __

VC: Right. It's before your time.

MG: Oh yes! But I still remember Aunt Minnie because she went to Sunday School like that.

VC: Did you talk to her and stuff?

MG: She had no children. If you did she'd bite your head off.

VC: Oh really?

MG: Yeah. She was that kind of person. She was a straw hat, she wore it straight. She never tipped it, she never... It just set there. I can still see it. When she sewed she sewed sittin' on the floor with her back against the wall. She never bent over a bit. She did everything straight, straight, straight.

VC: She must've been... She should've been in the army or something.

MG: __ what she was. But anyway, that was Aunt Minnie. She had no children so she took care of Grandma. And Grandma sat on the side porch in a rocking chair with her shawl around her and she didn't have a very happy life, I don't think.

VC: 'Cause it was hard?

MG: Nah, I think Aunt Minnie was cranky and Uncle George and they had no children.

VC: Oh, Aunt Minnie was married then?

MG: Oh yes. Aunt Minnie and Uncle George. So Grandma set there in the rocking chair with a shawl over her shoulders and my father would take me by the hand...I was only little like that...we'd go up and see Grandma. And she just adored him because he never forgot her. And she smoked a corncob pipe.

VC: She did? Huh.

MG: Uh-huh. She was __. And he would take her things that she would like. And Aunt Minnie never thought of doing anything like that. And she lived with Aunt Minnie and Uncle George and they had no children.

VC: So there was no fun.

MG: No fun. They wouldn't... When I think about Aunt Minnie I can't even think of the word fun. That was the way she was. Took all kinds to make a __ she was one of 'em. [laugh]

VC: Okay, so Aunt Minnie was your brother's...I mean, your dad's sister?

MG: No. No.

VC: Uncle George was your dad's brother?

MG: Aunt...the Grandmother of my father died. Now this was the next wife's kids.

VC: Oh, I see.

MG: And they went ahead and had kids.

VC: Yeah.

MG: And that was the ones that crossed the plains.

VC: Oh.

MG: They got up this morning, one morning, and one of 'em had red curly hair and he was gone. They got on the horses and they rode and they rode. They never found him.

VC: That's sad.

MG: So the mother lost a boy. She never got over it, of course.

VC: So then you came along... How did...

MG: Oh, that was long after that.

VC: Except you went to see Aunt Minnie. ____

MG: You know, they...they were pretty rough.

VC: I have to make sure this thing's still going.

MG: Aunt Minnie and Uncle George lived in the house at Catharine Creek _____. And Grandma lived with them because others in the family had families. So Aunt Minnie and Uncle George had no children, and it's a good thing 'cause Aunt Minnie wouldn't have tolerated anything.

VC: Maybe that's why she was grumpy 'cause she didn't have any kids.

MG: I don't know. But she was like that. She'd go to Sunday School like that. I can still see her. She had that grim look on her face...

VC: She was scary.

MG: And, of course, we never said anything to her.

VC: Right, well, you wouldn't.

MG: What would say to anybody like that?

VC: Yeah.

MG: I was a little kid then so I could... We lived of course on a farm, everybody did.

VC: Everybody lived on the same farm?

MG: No.

VC: No. On a farm.

MG: There was all farms.

VC: Wasn't when your... When the original people came did they have a lot...homesteaders they had a piece of paper that said they could homestead?

MG: And build the cabins, the houses are log houses. Grandpa built a good strong log house and they could not get it apart. They worked and worked and worked when they took that house down. It was in the middle of a big field. There was a spring here. Everything was the way they wanted it. And then they raised the family there.

VC: Right. Did they have livestock and stuff?

MG: Huh?

VC: Did they have livestock?

MG: Oh yes. They had brought some.

VC: Horses and other cows.

MG: I... Don't ask me how many or anything, but they brought things. And they had the oxen is what they used...

VC: For plowing.

MG: For everything. Hitch 'em to a wagon and go over the mountain and down over the __ to go toward Portland to that junction where they could pick up food.

VC: Oh. They went all the way to Portland?

MG: Yeah. They went to that port.

VC: On the river.

MG: Yes. And from the ships. When they knew... What I've learned from ____... When the ship would dock there because it came from the port by Portland, not...

VC: Like The Dalles?

MG: Yes. And there they were. And everybody with their oxen went to get their supplies.

VC: How long did it take 'em to get there?

MG: I don't know. I wasn't there, but they were.

VC: It must've taken forever to get over there!

MG: There was one place where they put the...unhooked the oxen and __ ropes on 'em and turned down over the cliff till they found the road.

VC: Oh really?

MG: Yeah. And the wagons the same way.

VC: Whoa! Comin' over...

MG: Put the wagon back together again and go on.

VC: It was the Blues?

MG: What?

VC: At the Blue Mountains they did that?

MG: Yes.

VC: Wow!

MG: Oh __ food.

VC: So what'd they buy there, like flour and...?

MG: Oh yes.

VC: Flour and...

MG: All those kinds of things.

VC: Uh-huh. Once a year?

MG: Huh?

VC: Once a year?

MG: Oh no. They went as soon as they knew a supply ship was there. If it's a supply ship they wanted to meet and then they bought flour for this one, flour for that one. This for this and this for this. These big wagons with oxen and they'd go back home. It took 'em several days.

VC: I'm sure it must've taken...

MG: Oh yes, a long time. And they had the Indians to put up with.

VC: So did you ever hear any stories about raids or anything by the Indians?

MG: __, yes.

VC: That...that people would get actually killed?

MG: Oh yeah. They'd go and get in...in one place and...to defend themselves.

VC: Uh-huh. When... Like when they went on these trips to get supplies they had to worry about raids?

MG: No, not so much.

VC: It was more when they came over on the...

MG: I...I don't know. They just had to look out for themselves.

VC: Uh-huh.

MG: They had to know how to put a wagon over the cliff wheel by wheel. They'd have to know how to put it...an oxen over the cliff and how to hook him...hook him up with the other oxen to pull the load.

VC: So is it two oxen for a wagon then?

MG: Oh no! Four maybe. Whatever it took. Some had more, some had less.

VC: Would they go in caravan with their neighbors?

MG: Usually two or three.

VC: Uh-huh. So they had more...

MG: Grandpa would go out and hitch up the oxen.

VC: Just the men would go, not the women?

MG: No. The women... They had already built a cabin for them. And Grandma Martha would...if the Indians came she met 'em at the door and she was polite to them and she gave them something. And they called her the Good Woman. They had no trouble with her. When everybody ran because the Indians was gonna raid... You see, they used to...they used to meet in this valley. It was their peaceful valley. They had known this...

VC: They didn't live here, though.

MG: Oh yes. Some of 'em did and some of 'em didn't. Indians don't... They are a little like we do.

VC: I know, but I've always heard that they didn't live in the Grande Ronde Valley. They...

MG: Oh, there was some, but...

VC: Not very many.

MG: I think whatever they want to do they did. It was their land.

VC: Right. They just kind of...

MG: Yeah. And they...they___, you know ___. And you had to be careful. My father was born in that first cabin that they built out by that spring where they had water and he would...they had upstairs and they way they got upstairs was with a ladder. And then he would crawl around out the window and get up on the house to see what was goin' on in the valley.

VC: Oh, he did?

MG: That was his lookout.

VC: A little guy.

MG: He had___ and that's the way he did it. And he knew the Indians. He went out one time as they were going along and stopped Chief Yellowfeather.

VC: Oh really?

MG: Now Chief Yellowfeather was the head of that tribe, Umatilla.

VC: Oh, Umatilla. Okay.

MG: Uh-huh. And his...his son ___ being the chief with next. They went by where you came in your ___

VC: Oh. You mean they... He would talk to them as kind of like a hierarchy. First you talk to the...

MG: Yes. Oh yes. It was.

VC: ...chief and then you could talk to the next one.

MG: So if you want to do any business with him you had to go to the chief.

VC: The top guy.

MG: Yes.

VC: Uh-huh.

MG: So my father was up on the house watching 'em come in. That was the best way to find out what was going on in the valley.

VC: Oh yeah. He had a good lookout.

MG: Yes. So, he saw them coming and they never road two by two. They road one by one by one. The chief first then the one would inherit, that would be a chief, and the next and the next and next. Then here would be the women, the squaws, and then here the squaws with papooses on their back, and then the young ones, and so on down.

VC: Really?

MG: You... You rode where you belonged in the type.

VC: Your range.

MG: Yes.

VC: Uh-huh. Wow, that's neat.

MG: So my father would get out, get out and off the house and he'd go out and he stopped Chief Yellowfeather because he wanted an Indian pony. They were very careful with the horses they brought. But he wanted one of those tough Indian ponies. And they were tough. So I don't remember what he traded, but he stopped Chief Yellowfeather and talked to him about it.

VC: How did they talk?

MG: I don't know. I wasn't there.

VC: Did the Indians know...

MG: Oh, sign language and...

VC: Did they know English some?

MG: I don't know whether they did or not. But they got...they understood each other.

VC: Okay.

MG: So my father wanted an Indian pony. They were so tough. So I don't know what he traded. Now, I can't remember, but he traded Chief Yellowfeather something he wanted for an Indian pony.

VC: And he got one.

MG: And he got one.

VC: Wow.

MG: And he would get on that pony and ride to La Grande from Cove at a dead run. They were so tough that you could...they took a long breath you could come home.

VC: Really?

MG: Yeah.

VC: So then did he breed that pony, or did he...

MG: He kept the pony. Yeah, it was his horse. And the grass was as high the saddle stirrups...

VC: Really?

MG: ...in those days.

VC: Yeah.

MG: And he knew the Indians, they knew him.

VC: Uh-huh. That's neat.

MG: And Grandma did and they called her the Good Woman.

VC: So when he went to La Grande it was just like a path or was it a road or what was it?

MG: We didn't have roads then.

VC: They didn't have any roads?

MG: No, you just went.

VC: I mean the river and stuff was out there.

MG: You know... You knew where they were. You knew where you could get across.

VC: Oh, I see. So you just crossed the river at a crossing?

MG: It was never so bad you couldn't do it. And they knew what they were doing, these kids growing up.

VC: Oh yeah. They __

MG: They grew up in that.

VC: Yeah.

MG: And so he'd ride... His mother was ill. He rode all the way to La Grande and got the doctor, after they got a doctor there, and he brought her back. And they came in a horse and buggy. They had to put the horse in the barn and stay all night and they took care of Grandma.

VC: What was the matter with her?

MG: I don't know.

VC: Oh.

MG: But anyway, my father was a young fella he rode to La Grande 'cause Mama was awful sick. And she finally died.

VC: Oh, she did.

MG: And she left those... Frank was the oldest one. He was a spoiled brat. Grandpa had an awful time with him. He did everything for him. He bought him a saw mill. He did everything. But Uncle Frank would go out, take the best horse out of the barn, take the best saddle and bridle and ride off into the sunset when it was time to work in the fields. He wasn't about to do that.

VC: So he was the one that was there before...

MG: He's the one that she carried on her lap across the plains. Then she had my father after they got to Cove. He was the first boy born there.

VC: And then how many more kids did she have?

MG: Oh, two girls and Uncle Pete was next of my father. __ Aunt Emma and... yeah, because Uncle... Uncle Frank he rode away into sunset.

VC: He actually did leave then?

MG: So the other boys stayed and worked on the farm. But he wasn't about to work on the farm.

VC: So what happened to him?

MG: He finally got himself a saloon. He married a good woman. He knew what he was doin' that way. And he had a family. I remember one of the girls was red-headed, just as red-headed as fire. And my mother thought she might help to raise her, but they couldn't do anything with her. She went back home and that was Aunt Bessie, cousin Bessie.

VC: Where did they live?

MG: In Cove.

VC: Oh, they did live in Cove?

MG: Oh yeah. Cove had... Cove was a big...was a real good place to live then. They had a hotel, they had everything that people had in those days.

VC: Right. A regular town that had everything you needed.

MG: Yeah. They had a drugstore, they had a post office, they had Dave Lane's Department Store, and believe me, that was...that was a whole thing. Dave Lane had __ department for __. You went across here you could by __ and __. Then you went in the back side and here was shoes and there was dishes. And so he had a department store. And it was only... It was a big store and the only one in that vicinity. Better than anything you had anyplace else.

VC: __ in La Grande.

MG: No, that was in Cove.

VC: I know, but it was better than La Grande.

MG: Oh yes. Yeah.

VC: Did they have like... Was there a dress making shop?

MG: No, they didn't have those. A woman would have a dress making shop.

VC: That's what I mean. Was there a dress making shop?

MG: There must've been. I know there was one in Union.

VC: There was?

MG: Yes.

VC: Huh.

MG: 'Cause my mother had the wedding gown and her second day dress made there.

VC: Oh really? Wow.

MG: And Grandpa and Grandma __ came from South Dakota. They had...

VC: This was on your mother's side?

MG: Yeah, my mother's side.

VC: Okay.

MG: And they came by chartered car. By that time they had a railroad such as it was. You rented the whole car...

VC: Really?

MG: ...and you moved your family, your furniture, __ everything right in there...

VC: That was a lot easier than...

MG: They hooked it onto the train and brought you west.

VC: And that was a lot easier than a covered wagon.

MG: Oh yes. That's the way my mother got here.

VC: Oh. Okay, now just stop. So your mother came with her parents, though?

MG: Oh yes.

VC: Uh-huh. And how...

MG: All of 'em did.

VC: How old was she when she came?
MG: Oh, I don't know.
VC: Little, big, medium?
MG: She was a growing girl.
VC: A growing girl. Like a teenager?
MG: Mm-hmm. And she had sisters and one brother.
VC: Okay. What was her name?
MG: Cora.
VC: Cora what?
MG: Cora Zanschoonderlin.
VC: Oh.
MG: Now there was... In Ireland they had a castle, the family did, and that girl was Ida Mae. She combed her hair, she did everything, that girl didn't do anything. And because she was the queen of the castle. And so she fell in love with the workman...man that __ the king to take the family places.
VC: Oh. Not a good idea.
MG: And he was a Dutchman and his name was Zanschooderlin. And so when she wanted to go someplace she could go out there he'd take her. And they fell in love.
VC: I bet he would take her, yeah.
MG: And he was from Holland and she was from Ireland.
VC: And this was in Ireland?
MG: This was in Ireland. And in that big castle that the family owned. And when she ran off and married him they disowned her.
VC: I bet they did.
MG: Oh yes. She didn't like 'em. She had a maid to comb her hair, she had everything, you know. And she just turned her back on everything and married the coachman.
VC: So then where'd they go?
MG: The United States.
VC: Oh, then they immigrated to the United States.
MG: Yeah.
VC: And now like what...like early 1800s maybe?
MG: Oh yeah. I know one of the boys... A lot of the family came. One of the boys helped build the Erie Canal.
VC: Oh. One of her boys?
MG: No. I don't know. One of the family boys.
VC: Oh, okay.
MG: I don't know which one that was. You can't keep track of all 'em.
VC: Yeah. But your...your grandmother Cora was like a...
MG: My mother Cora.
VC: Oh, your mother Cora.
MG: My mother's name was Cora.
VC: Oh, she's the one that...

MG: ___ name was Luella and Elizabeth...Olivia they called her...and Aunt Marie and then they had one boy. And Aunt Marie became a nurse. She was a head at the surgical department in Walla Walla. The first one they had like that.

VC: So now just a minute, I'm confused.

MG: That's my mother's family.

VC: Okay. Your mother's family... but Cora is your mother. And Cora is the one that was in the castle?

MG: Cora what?

VC: Cora is the one that was in the castle who left her...

MG: No, no. That was her grandmother.

VC: Her grandmother?

MG: Yes.

VC: Okay.

MG: This is down my line.

VC: What was her name?

MG: I don't know.

VC: Okay. So your mother's grandmother was in the castle and she...

MG: And they came to the United States and the family disowned 'em and he worked...sure he worked on the Erie Canal.

VC: Okay. And ___ they all immigrated after?

MG: Yes.

VC: Okay. And they landed in Cove.

MG: They went to...my mother was born in Wisconsin and Grandpa's health wasn't what they thought it should be. Come find out it was a bad heart. And he rode to South Dakota. And that's where my mother was raised mostly because he had a big family and his name was Vanschoonelin. And the man from Holland, who's name was Vanschoondelin, came over to visit because he owned a great part of Holland. And he was a... So he came to visit my mother's father John. So John had a store in South Dakota and he would... He stayed at their house. He wore his cane over his shoulder...his arm and high silk hat on his head and he marched down the street with Grandpa John.

VC: That was his son.

MG: No. That was ahead of him couple of generations.

VC: Okay.

MG: And so he came to United States to find an heir for the town of Van___ in Holland because he was a big wig there.

VC: Okay.

MG: So he came to Grandpa John Vanschooderin in South Dakota. And my mother was helping at the store as a young woman. And...just really a kid. And the two Indians shopped there all the time. She could speak Sioux.

VC: Oh!

MG: Yeah. She learned it. And I know she used to say to me, "Washi noqui ahmanitope."

VC: What was that... What did that mean?

MG: ___ One, two, three, four.

VC: Oh.

MG: And she knew the language. She'd wait on the Indians.
VC: She had to give 'em change and count it out.
MG: Yeah. And that was the way they had that store in South Dakota. They had one in Wisconsin first and then Grandpa moved to South Dakota. And that was the way my mother grew up. And then they decided... The doctor told Grandpa that...and he was one of these gentleman looking people with this kind of beard and...you know. He was quite a fellow.
VC: Man about town?
MG: He was proud.
VC: Oh, proud. Okay.
MG: And he felt that he...
VC: ___ him self up and...
MG: Yeah. And he had this store and he dealt with everybody with the help of my mother and whatever. And it was a kind of store that they had in those days. A great big stove. People came in, gathered around the stove, ___ when they wanted it. So that kind of store.
VC: Like in the movies.
MG: And my mother worked there a lot when she was growing up. And then they... The doctor 'em that Grandpa wasn't...they had...he should come west for his health. So they chartered a car. Have you heard of that? The railroad had just come in. And you rented this big car. Then you moved all your furniture, all your family, everything you wanted, in there and they hooked on to the engine and brought it west.
VC: And so they came through Cove.
MG: That's the way they came.
VC: Did they...
MG: They came to Union first.
VC: Union.
MG: There was this...there were little...little track came from ___ Junction up into Union at that time. So when they came in to Union people said the Dutch had landed because their name was Vanschoonderin. And the girls were all just growing up.
VC: Okay. Now I'm gonna change this, so just wait a second here. [tape stopped]