

Lota Kelley

8/19/04, T1, S1

AC: ...Lota Kelley. It's August 19th, 2004. We're speaking to her in Cove. The first thing I would like to ask you is could you say your full name.

LK: My full name?

AC: Yes.

LK: Lota Marion, m-a-r-i-o-n, Pierson. That was my full name.

AC: Okay. So Lota Marion Pierson Kelley.

LK: Yes. The Kelley didn't come along ____.

AC: When were you born?

LK: 1904 in Elgin, Idaho, in southern Idaho.

AC: Alright. And your husband's name was?

LK: Cecil D – and that stood for nothing except for D – Kelley.

AC: Alright. When did you first come to La Grande, Oregon?

LK: When did we come here? On the morning of June... If I hesitate a little it's because my memory isn't as good as it used to be. It's June...

AC: You don't have to remember the exact day.

O: If you were eight years old it would've been 1912?

LK: I was nine years old. No, wait a minute. When we first came into La Grande... Yes, I was nine. And the first view I had of La Grande was of a tremendous lake and we came from southern Idaho where it was very dry. I remember, "Mama, look! We're living where there's a lake! A big lake!" And she said, "No, dear, there is no lake here. It's all slud." And that was my first inspection to the Grande Ronde Valley. And we came here across town into La Grande and that was before Cove or Union or anything were that much of anything. But then we went straight La Grande where we had friends waiting for us.

AC: Who were your friends that were waiting for you in La Grande?

LK: The last name was Evans. You don't know about... There was a steel bridge that crossed the Grande Ronde River. __ beautiful big bridges are now, but this was before that. And the steel bridge crossed the Grande Ronde River and that was our first introduction to...[microphone knocked] And this Evans family lived at the point of the hill, well, it was out up there where there'd been one that you went down on the other side of the river to take through to walk west up to the mountain. And that was my first home there. The Evans and... Do you remember years ago there was an Evans here that was a barber?

AC: I don't think so.

LK: That was the boy of the family, there was a boy and a girl. They were older people and just treated us just royally and never forgot they did __ much. So it was just one of those things.

AC: Why did your family move to La Grande?

LK: My brother was... My oldest brother was twenty-five years old and he had a job with...a job with a company who were paving Adams Avenue. The paving started at what is...what's the post office originally up there down to probably Depot Street. That was the first paving that there was here. He was working for

that company and he fell in love with La Grande, just really did after coming from dry Idaho in a little town. He had a really good job. We did that then... See, my mother was a widow and there were four of us still in school. But we were used to doing everything that had to be done. So anyway, we stayed with the Evans family just a few days until we found a house.

AC: What was your first house in La Grande you stayed at? Where was it located?

LK: Yes, I could tell you. You know where O Avenue is? In the beautiful house on the corner. It's still beautiful. Right behind there was a small house and that was _____. And lived in that... Our front porch looked up on the hill. And I had two boyfriends and I was only ten years old around there. And one of them had a horse and he would ride it up on the hill and want me to go horseback riding with him. The other one had a bicycle and he'd ride it up to the porch and want me to go bicycle riding with him. I said, well, I couldn't do that either. They gave up after a while. [laughs] I was ten years old and I was kind of pudgy and had red hair and freckles _____.

AC: My I ask you a couple questions about brothers?

LK: We lived just a brief time there and then we moved down on Washington Avenue, probably pretty close to what is now Seventh Street _____. And then later, several years later, we lived on the corner of N and Cedar. It was a big two-story house. It had a big yard. You see, _____ has been a _____ something and there isn't...but Palmer, Gene Palmer, his mother and dad, built the house. It's just off from the corner. It had marvelous _____ trees in their yard. I laughed and laughed the first time I went there because those were the trees that were in our yard when I lived on the corner house. I remember seeing that and I was... Because to this day she still took samples of them and that was good that she did because she's moved away, of course. She was in and out there a lot. I used to laugh and he had a date with her brother. No, my brother had a date with Otis Palmer's sister. The only way he could get out was to climb out the back window through that apple tree. [laughs] Funny how you remember things like that.

AC: Do you remember when the paving was happening on Adams Avenue, the paving? What was your brother's job to do that paving?

LK: I'm not sure about that. I don't know. He was just a daily worker there. Laborer, I would think. He had no special training. The only thing that he had that was special was military service. He had gone through the Spanish-American War and World War I and then World War II. He loved soldiering.

AC: What was his name?

LK: Ovin Pierson.

AC: Ovin Pierson. Did he stay in La Grande or did he move off?

LK: Until there was another war and then he did. But I had other grown brothers. I had six brothers and four sisters. I had a wonderful family. Like we had nothing but our family, but we loved it. The first family we were here and then my brothers had a contract with the city of La Grande to bring their wood for their schoolrooms. They all burned wood and he had a contract to supply them with the wood. So my mother took us up to school...up to the mountains and we had a camp up there and spent a good visit the summer up there and we just really... We'd never been camping so it was all new for us. They had a summer school up

there because it was too cold in the winter for them to hold school so they had summer school. It went from, I would say, late spring into early autumn. But at that time the little wild strawberries that would bloom. So Mother would pack our lunch and insist we go to school and we ___ with our grades, but ___ be ready to get rid of us anyway they needed more pupils in the school.

AC: Where in the mountains was this school? Do you remember?

LK: Going up from Perry to Glass Hill then you went up to the top of that hill, it was in that area. I think I could find my way now, but it's been many, many years.

AC: What was the name of that school?

LK: I don't even know. It was just a country school. Anyway, my sister and brother and I would stop on the way to school and pick our lunch bags full of strawberries and we'd be late for school. That wasn't good in the teacher's record. So there was a little problem. [laughs]

AC: What did the inside of your school look like in that summer school? What did it look like?

LK: There were probably ten students and they just had books and... We didn't have any of the prepared books that have ___ and everything. I don't know too much about them now anyway. We just had rough paper and pencils and that was that. We learned quite a little bit, I guess. But when early fall came the school closed.

AC: Do you remember who taught up at that school?

LK: I don't remember.

AC: So it was a one-room school?

LK: Yes.

AC: And how many students about were going there?

LK: This is wild guess work, I would say about ten people who were visiting up around. Of course lumbering...not lumbering because they hadn't progressed that far yet. Oh, just for wood and I suppose just a place to live. I don't remember too much about it. I know it was when school started we moved back to town and got started in school. We never did go to that school again because we were always ___. But later I always had a job and..._____

AC: Which school did you go to down in the valley?

LK: Central.

AC: Central.

LK: Yes. My brother and...he was a smarty. He was two years younger than I am, but he was only one year behind me in school because he'd skip grades all... He just learned everything quickly. I got excellent grades, but I worked for them.

AC: What do you remember about going to school at Central? What comes to your mind about your experience at Central School? What do you remember?

LK: You mean right in Central School?

AC: Yes.

LK: About this, it was entirely different... Now the school I had attended as a child was the Idaho State Teacher's College in our little town. My sister's three years older and when she was ready for kindergarten she started to kindergarten and just as quickly as she started I ___ and my mother had to go after me. The next morning when Frances got started to go I followed her again. It happened three times and finally the teacher went home with me and she told my mother that she

- only had two students in the kindergarten and I was such a good little girl that she would welcome me as another of her students. So from the time I was five years old I was doing teaching for the teachers...I mean reading for the teachers. I could read any book. I just kept right on going with her. So that kind of a boost right then because I could just pick up anything and read it and I would remember what I read. I went through school and awfully good grades because I can remember I didn't have to study too hard.
- AC: What did Central School look like in those days? What did it look like? Was it a big building? Small building?
- LK: You mean the schoolhouse?
- AC: Yes.
- LK: It was a nice big two-story building, stone of some kind. I remember I had a blue skirt, kind of a narrow skirt __. I was just, oh, probably twelve years old. And it had the stone banisters that were so wide that come out of the door. We find out those were smooth so we'd go out and slide down those banisters and I wore a hole in my skirt. It was all in stone building. I suppose there was a lot of brick involved.
- AC: Was that just the elementary school?
- LK: That was just an elementary school. The high school had people not too much older than you are probably remember the old high school. When they tore it down, you know, they saved the bricks __. It did get transfer ____. I had one of the bricks that had a...had it finished and had plaque on top with a picture of the brick. So I graduated of the high school. Now it had burned twice, I think. One of the stories it had been burned...
- O: I think the third story burned away and so then they kept the bottom two stories. I believe that's right.
- LK: I couldn't remember just exactly what it was, but I knew it burned, but they still kept the same school. And when I was teaching school years after that I remember going back into the principal's office at the right of the stairway going upstairs, but it was down on the ground floor. I would go into the school superintendent's office and get my qualifications and remembered that part of it. But they still maintained a gymnasium in the basement of that old deal. And you'd go in on the, like the basement was here, you'd go in on a floor that came in on the top, pretty much. Do you remember that? And then you had to go downstairs to get into the gymnasium that was there. There was all sorts of things going on there.
- AC: What kinds of subjects were you... What kinds of subjects were you studying in elementary school? Was it reading and writing?
- LK: You studied everything. The one...we had a teacher by the name of Mrs. Jackson, a very large woman. And we got her in seventh grade as an English teacher. And I came out of that with a knowledge of English that very few people ever get. And when I was teaching one of the students who's father was a teacher in college I was teaching him English construction and his mother came in – now they live up on the hill and if I could just think of their name I could remember 'em – but she came in and asked my permission to come in while I was giving

him his lessons. She said that he had never been able to get those and she never had been able to before. I don't...

O: Anderson.

LK: I don Anderson and the boy was their oldest son. He had fallen and had a very severe back injury and for a whole year he had to sleep on a board. But of course his father teaching there the brilliant child. But that whole winter when I was teaching this English construction she was at every one of those. It was this thing in her life that she had never... So this Mrs. Jackson she would...she was just marvelous. I think ___ talk about her because she went into things that should have been there, but they weren't. And what she knew about 'em was ___. And then later she went to work in the post office. Do you remember that?

O: I don't remember that.

LK: Oh, we missed her teaching! She'd never have left teaching ___.

AC: What were your after school activities?

LK: After school? I have to think because I was busy. I played piano so I had to have regular instruction on that. Activities. I was busy. I went to work in an electric store, but I can't think of the name. Nash.

AC: Nash?

LK: And she taught me how to repair all small electric things. She taught me how to repair those.

AC: Where was her shop located?

LK: Downtown someplace. But she taught me so many things there. But I was busy, you see. And then, you know, with my mother working and four of us at home and we had to do everything. My sister just detested cooking and I loved to cook. I didn't care what I had to cook. So on our days off she would do the cleaning, everything just spotlessly clean, and then I would usually do the washing and then do the cooking.

AC: Did you shop at the... Were there grocery stores that you shopped at for your food?

LK: We could order our groceries. We almost always just ordered the groceries and they were delivered right to the house. I think, if I remember right, you had to order before you needed them and then the groceries were delivered.

AC: From a grocery store?

LK: Yes. The first time I went into Joel's Grocery he was there and I don't know how much you knew him, but he had a little part of his ___ really wanted to be somebody. His wife ___. She was... It was her mother who ran the store. But he really just couldn't have cared at all.

AC: So he didn't like being at the store? Joel didn't like being at the store?

LK: Yeah. But he wanted to make sure that everybody...well, for instance, he spent the first month I was there trying his best to get me to join the country club.

AC: Oh, the country club?

LK: Yeah. And when he found out that I didn't live, oh, up where...up on the corner where the beautiful home, he just forgot all about me.

AC: Oh, so he was a little snooty?

LK: And of course I just laughed about that. I didn't want to join the country club. I didn't have time. [laughs] I never did join.

AC: What kinds of groceries do you remember ordering from the grocery store?

LK: Oh, it would be everything, bread and butter and everything but milk. I think that...for so many years after I was married we lived on the corner of N and Cedar and there was a little grocery store in the corner just down from us. I could just call her and I could send Terry over there – he was only six – and get milk and those sort of things from this grocery store. That was Pingleberry's Grocery.

AC: Pendleberry?

LK: Pingleberry.

AC: Oh, that's a funny name.

LK: And then later we moved into the apartment, it was a duplex, __ the apartment ___. Our best friend had lost his job. He had a little boy the same age as our... And they didn't have any work or no money or anything and they had to move out of where they were living and they asked permission... We were living at this apartment temporarily and they asked permission to move into our house. So we let them until he got settled and got a job and then we just traded and we took our own house.

AC: Can we go back to high school for just a minute? Now you were doing the cooking for your family, right? 'Cause your mother... Where was your mother working when you were in school?

LK: We learned during those years we did all the painting and the paper and kept the house up in just first-class condition. My mother wouldn't have stood it otherwise. See, we learned to be very, very clean and very orderly.

AC: What was her job? What was your mother's job?

LK: My mother, she was a tailor.

AC: So where did she work as a tailor? Where did your mother work as a tailor?

LK: At home. That's why she chose that. She was a fine tailor, but she could do that and be at home with her family. She was a very religious woman. We all respected her for it. She was a ___. I had a picture of it from the very first one. She was in her seventies when she died.

AC: What kinds of things would she tailor? How would that work? Would people bring their clothing?

LK: ___

AC: People would bring clothing into the house for her to work on, or would she make, actually make clothes?

LK: They would come to the house for their measuring and try on and everything. She had a special room... After we moved to the big house on the corner she had a special room for her sewing and her measuring and everything. Oh, she had so much to do! She just really was busy.

AC: What kinds of things? Did she make men's suits?

LK: Oh, anything, anything. I grew up learning that and so after I grew up I started tailoring and knew a lot about it.

AC: Did she have a name for her business?

LK: No. She'd just give her name, Veda Pierson, and that would be it. But she was well known.

O: Lota, would you go to a store and buy clothes off the rack or were all the clothes made by somebody? Like if you wanted a dress could you go to Penny's, Montgomery Ward, buy a dress or were all those made at home?

LK: I can tell you one thing. I was over in Baker one day and Cox over there at the most beautiful kind of rust colored dress in their window. Oh, I just loved it! It was on Sunday so I couldn't buy anything. After I got home I called her 'cause I knew her pretty well and I told her that I had seen that dress there and I said, what size was it? And she said, I don't know, and she went and looked. I said, ___ but I...[end tape]

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LK: ...and went down and made a drawing of the dress and made it. It was just as perfect as it could be.

AC: Did you use a pattern or did you just make up a pattern?

LK: I just made a pattern 'cause I could do that. And so my sister and I we had our...still going on it and we'd go shopping together down in the ___ stores and, oh, any of the nice stores that had pretty things. We'd pick out something that we liked very well and then Frances would make a pattern for me and I'd make it.

AC: Where did you buy your fabric to make your clothes?

LK: That wasn't much, you know, wasn't too much. There was another girl in our class who's mother did a lot of sewing. You probably know them, too. I can't think... Anyway, when it came to graduation this girl had ___ she wanted and they simply couldn't afford it. So I had what I wanted ___ was okay and when it came graduation time this girl came with that suit on. Oh, she was beautiful! ____.

AC: Her mother made it?

LK: And where it would've been probably, oh, expensive then would've been probably seventy dollars in the store. Her mother had made this. Whatever I had was just equally nice, but my mother had paid for it.

AC: When you went to make a dress did you go to the store to buy the fabric for the dress? Was there a place for fabric?

LK: Oh yes. I bought most of my fabric at the store for most of the dresses. I had very few ready-made dresses because I could make them so easily and they're so pretty and I knew I could save a lot of money. Frances didn't want to do as much sewing as I did, so I would so for her. I would sew for my mother, too. It's a lot of fun. I still can do a lot of it, but I...my hands have been so stiff. They don't stay flexible enough to do too much of anything because they get numb.

AC: Were there dances at the high school that you would attend? Can you tell me some things about your memories about going to dances or shows?

LK: We always had the little books to write the part...reserve...

O: Dance programs.

LK: Dance programs, yeah. So that was never a problem as far as that was concerned. [laughs] My sister was a much better dancer. And my brother, an older brother, was just, oh, he could...the most perfect dancer. It was beautiful. And I was dancing with him one night and he said, "gosh, you can sure dance." "I hate to tell you, Frances is better." Because I knew she was. [laughs]

AC: Were these dances were they at the high school? Were the dances at the high school?

LK: Oh, I was in high school, he wasn't, but we were. But even after that she was a better dancer than any of us, I think. She was just born to dance.

AC: So after you graduated from high school what did you do when you finished high school?

LK: I wanted to go to college, naturally, just one of those things you wanted to, and there was no money. There just wasn't anything anyway. So that year there was a Methodist school that was opened in Gooding, Idaho. The man who was in charge of it was...last name was Terry and he was trying so hard to build that school up and get it going. It was very beautiful. The buildings and everything were just lovely. But anyway, I got a job. Now, at that time they had built a YMCA and I wish it were here. Remember that? It was across from the fire station right on that corner where you pay your electric bill now and so forth. But there was this YMCA and they had a swimming pool and a gymnasium and they had organized gymnasium classes and everything. So they hired me just like that to do books because I'd studied there, I did typing _____. So they hired me to do books. I was making a pretty fair salary when this Reverend Terry came to town and met me. He was talking to my mother and she told him that I really wanted to go to college. It was about a week after college had started. I really wanted to go, but there was no money. He said _____ and I'll see what I come up with. So he furnished transportation and took me right to Gooding. My sister lived in Twin Falls which wasn't too far away. She brought me some pretty clothes. He registered me there and got me a job in the president's office over there. So I had a job just right away and I went all through that year there and then... I liked it very much. It was a nice school. I liked the teachers and everything. It was good and I did well with it because I was trying so hard to make up for it. Then my sister came over and she was very wealthy and she had taught a lot and then had married a wealthy man. They got to talking about it and they decided that they didn't want me to go back there to school again, that they would pay all expenses at Oregon State at the teachers' college down there. They sent me down there because I would get a teacher's certificate in another year and I'd be able to work. So that's what I did and I went a whole year down there and then got my teacher's certificate and then I was all set and it worked fine. I kept on going to school. After a little while I went to the University of California – Berkeley and did some extra studying down there that I needed to brush up on. I did pretty well. I taught a number of years and then I finally got married.

AC: When did you come back to La Grande? When did you... Was it after you were married? When was that?

LK: When I was teaching I taught at Hermiston and Adams. And then one year I was sick, I had appendix that got pretty bad. _____ So I wasn't doing anything and the county school superintendent – they don't have anymore, but we did then...

AC: In La Grande?

LK: Yes. He was a very dear friend of mine. He came and asked me if I would go out to Palmer Junction. They had a school out there and the teacher they had hired for it hadn't even opened a book by Christmas.

AC: Oh no!

LK: And he found this out so he just brought her to town and came in and he said, "You're the only person I can think of to take that school over and get the kids through." It was from a poor, poor family and they were all lovely people. They were Quaker.

AC: These were the students going to the school? The students going to the school were Quakers?

LK: Yes. It was a Quaker school. They found me a place to board and room. It was an elderly man and wife, but they didn't have any children. I was so frail and so tiny that she just __ fatten me up a little bit and she did. [laughs]

AC: So this isn't fair, right?

LK: I think I weight 135 pounds, the most I'd ever weighed in my life.

AC: Was this by Elgin?

LK: You go up the hill above Elgin. At that time there was no road, but there is now. You can drive up there. Someone told me that that little schoolhouse is still there, I don't know.

AC: So was this a one-room schoolhouse that you taught?

LK: Just one room. And I had something like, oh, it seems to me like eighteen students. But as Quakers they were highly dedicated to their work and they had to just do everything they could to get through with their grades. They had two or three upper-grade students that had to pass the Oregon State Exam in order to get their credits. Oh, how they worked! But they earned every bit of it and I worked with 'em.

AC: So did you have elementary students and high school students in the same room?

LK: No. It was just the elementary school, the eight grades. But those kids really worked at it and many experiences. I'm not going to go into detail on it. I took this girl to town once __. She had never seen a bathtub and she had never had a pair of shoes fitted in a store. When I told her to put her foot up, "do you think I'm gonna let that guy fiddle with my foot?" I taught her a lot of things that way. Of course they just __. [laugh]

AC: What did your classroom look like inside?

LK: It was just a log cabin and inside it had a big what they used to call round...what is it?

AC: Stove?

LK: Yeah, like a...there's a name for these.

AC: A wood stove?

LK: Wood stove, yeah. And these older boys from the big family that were so poor they'd go over every morning and start the fire for me and make sure everything was clean. They just tried oh so hard to help me out and I was trying so hard to help them.

AC: Now did they sit in desk or did they sit in rows at desks?

LK: They had some, not anything fancy, but they were just rustic desks and seats.

AC: Did you have a blackboard?

LK: Oh yes. You had to have it. It was a regular school and they had the regular books and some of the...

AC: Did the state send books?

LK: Yes.

AC: Did they have tablets with pencils? How did they do their lessons?

LK: I think they probably remember the old tablets that were just not lined, lines on them, you know what I mean? And they mostly were a heavier paper. I would have to get them in town, pick them up.

AC: Did you have a car, Lota? Did you have a car?

LK: No. I would...but anyway, one of my brothers lived in Perry and the...well, the foreman on the railroad up there was an Indian, but his wife was a really nice white woman. Gerald, my brother, talked to him and told him that I was going to be up at Palmer's Junction and he said, "we're moving our boxcar – one they lived in up there – and you'd be welcome to come out and do your changing your clothes and everything up there." They... I started using that a little bit. So that's what I did. I'd go up on the train and then I'd get off there and go into there house and put in my warm coats and my boots and so forth and have to walk up the hill. And when the weather got to bad there was somebody up there who had a sleigh and the horses and would come down and pick me up and take me up there. That was a treat!

AC: Oh. So you'd ride to school in a sleigh.

LK: But I had about a mile-and-a-half to walk from where I lived over to this little school. So it was a good stroll and _____. _____ in fact, I'd been up there a while and it was _____.

AC: Did the students bring their lunches? Did they bring lunch in a brown bag or was lunch prepared at the school?

LK: I think mostly they lived close enough that they could go home for lunch. They were so...well, you'd describe them, they had so little and were so destitute for so many things. The mother of this big family, and there was a big family, and she was expecting another baby and she had absolutely nothing, just not a thing at all. But mother was a staunch ladies aide person in town so the next weekend I came to town I just told my mother about it and the next weekend I had a big, big suitcase full of everything you could think of for a baby. Mother had just talked about it. Of course, always Mother liked that, they all had everything. They bring that up and oh they were just undyingly grateful. It was just something you'd never had done for them before.

AC: What kind of food did they eat? What was their main food?

LK: I'm sure they all had gardens through the summertime. I don't remember of them ever going really hungry. They didn't have anything fancy. But I think they were, you know, had enough to eat _____ about that, then they had their _____ very – going back on the _____ - this family were all college graduates, the parents were, and twice they had been totally burned out of everything they had. And then something else had happened, I've forgotten what it was, but they were just left destitute and no way to build up and that's why they'd run up onto the...just a little place they could move into up...I guess it was the Quakers' deal there for them.

AC: Was there a Quaker settlement there, too, in Palmer Junction? So there was a group of Quakers that lived up on Palmer Junction?

LK: No. I think there isn't now, but I don't think there was any...I know when I had a movie that they were just thrilled because they didn't have that any other way. I never will forget this, they hadn't had much fun, you know, they had worked awfully hard. So this German couple that I lived with were the sweetest people. She said, "Why don't you do something to cheer them up. They've just worked so hard and everything." I said, "well, okay, if it'd be alright." So I gave a practice deal to them. I got them all together and we had the schoolroom full. There was quite of bunch of them together and I said, "Now, every group has to have something to holler or yell or something so show that they belong to that group. So I'm gonna show you a call that you can do there." So I started this out and tell them __ and say "orevou," next one "tago," next one "Siam", and they got so they could say it. They'd say "ourvua". [laugh] __ and then when we all got together that night and I said, "Alright, you all know this. When I say go tell me." And so when it started out it was "Oh what a goose I am!" [laughs] And then started the party. That was __ that the didn't realize they were saying "Oh what a goose I am!" Anyway, I had a lot of fun in my life anyway.

AC: When did you... Did you marry after you left that job at Palmer Junction?

LK: No, I was married before that. My husband was working and he couldn't be free to take me back and forth. Several times he took me as far as Elgin and I didn't have to take the train and then I would walk on up. One weekend when our landlady said she'd like to have him come up she had a __ for separate cream and rich things like that and homemade rolls. I told her that and so this weekend that he came up they met him with the sleigh and then brought him on up to the place. Of course they could share my room because we'd been married for seven years. Then she just fed him on that thick cream and homemade rolls and she was grand about it. He always wanted to come back. [laughs] He enjoyed it. Then one other time he came up the tree was...oh, what happened? __

AC: __

LK: And so he got down off the hill to the railroad station and the train wasn't running so he had to walk for a few miles into town in order to get to work.

AC: Where did he work?

LK: We had our own truck and at that time he worked for State Highway. But a little bit later he had ready-mix cement and hundreds of yards of different sizes of crushed stone and things like that. It was a big deal down there on the side of the river. And then he laid concrete pipe and, oh, just an awful lot. Gave the pipe up after that because it was too much for him, but he did have the concrete.

AC: How did you and your husband meet?

LK: How'd we meet?

AC: Yeah.

LK: Surely you wouldn't ever ask me that! [laughs] This girl and I who was teaching in the little country school there – this was before I mentioned the other school, but this is the first school I taught there.

AC: Is that the one that was on Glass Hill? Was that the Glass Hill School?

LK: No. It was... It was the first year I taught after I'd gotten my teacher's certificate. This girl and I were rooming together. The little country school, a really nice one, it was a two-room school.

AC: Where was that?

O: Was it Hermiston?

LK: Yeah. It was a two-room school. The man was principal of the two rooms and I had the first four grades and then this girl and he had the other grades. It was a nice school. It was really a nice building and everything, all the modern facilities. But anyway, there was a...this was three miles from town and so we had to room out there from a person and if we went anyplace we had to figure out our own transportation. So that had happened one night...or one afternoon. We'd started out to our living house and they had a dust storm and oh the dust was just thick! It was a bad place to...we could be after we got to the house. We were just trying to get there. So ___ there was a shiny pickup truck backing up and between ___ they were looking for. There were two boys trying to get this ___. So we met them and helped them a little bit, talked 'em out of it. One of those boys was one that I went with all the rest of the day. This went with the other one and he had a girlfriend. So we went together, they both loved to dance and so did we. So we just had a lot of fun. I went with this other boy all the rest of the year – nothing too serious, it was just dancing, a lot of fun – and she went with this other boy. Then when school was out I moved to Adams and was teaching over there. That year my mother and my brother, who had gotten mad at the principal of the high school in La Grande and had quit and didn't finish. So my mother and I persuaded him to come to Adams – and we found an awfully nice house to live – and come over and stay with us and finish his high school diploma. So he went along with that. I'd been teaching there at Adams and he loved ___. He didn't have to study, he never did have to. He had a photographic memory, just look at something and know about it. Anyway, he graduated from high school and getting along fine...___ I was in Pendleton one day shopping and I met this man walking down the street. He said, "Hey, Lota! Aren't you ___?" I said, "Sure." Then I realized who it was and it was Cecil and ___ and he asked me what I was doing and I said I was teaching out at Adams. He said, "Oh, I'm working just real close out there. Can I stop and see ya?" I said, "Yeah, why don't you on Monday night and bring your ___." [laughs] Just kidding! So he said, "that sounds great." He was a lot of fun. So Monday came and he didn't show up. My mother told me about it and she said, well, one day ___ better get up there. She was just laughing about it, we all were, you know. It was just one of those things. About three weeks later my mother was cleaning out some newspapers, had piles there, and she called me and she said, "Come here. I want to show you something." When I went in she showed me a newspaper and it said that Cecil's father had been in an accident up on Cabbage Hill that day, the day he was supposed to be over here, and had been killed with his tractor accident. Oh, I knew that was terrible because his mother was in Hot Lake with a heart condition. I knew that the first thing he'd do was go to Hot Lake so that he'd be over there and get a hold of his mother. So all I could do was write a note and address it to her and I knew he'd get it. And then, oh, quite some time after that he came back over to see me and told me all about it. So I started going with him and I kept on going a couple years and ___ and it just happened one of those things. He was really a very fine person.

AC: What was Hot Lake like during those years...[end tape]

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AC: ...Hot Lake. What do you remember about Hot Lake?

LK: I knew they'd been rebuilding it, but my mother had a cancer surgery there when I was fourteen and Dr. Phy was really no doctor.

AC: His name was Five?

LK: Phy, p-h-y. They lived in Union and he had four children and all of their names began with m-a-r. There was Mark and Marianne...oh yeah, __ but at the time they had the surgery I think people who did cancer surgery would have been horrified because he had just started __.

AC: So he just cut a big...

LK: Clear down __ arm and took every bit of muscle out of it and never ever had to go back for any kind of a treatment __ cancer __ her speech, use her hands, she was able to use her hands.

AC: So he just cut a big chunk out of her body?

LK: It was just like he just stripped everything and never any come back, no...they did radiation a little bit then, but not to her. He kept her all week after the surgery and then we took her home. Then a couple of times we had to go out ninety miles __ and she just said, this'll be alright. She was in her forties and she lived 'til she was __ with never any problem.

AC: What did the waiting room look like up at Hot Lake at that time when your mother had the surgery?

LK: It was rather a lovely place. They had one room with a beautiful fireplace in it and you could sit around that and just enjoy that. Or you could sit out in the sunroom and watch the wind blow the freight cars off of the track. [laughs] And it would. It would blow them right off the track. It isn't quite that bad now or it's a different kind of...

AC: What else was in the waiting room besides the fireplace? Were there tables?

LK: And then there were dining rooms that were very nice and there were private rooms for the patients and many of them were on the second floor. The last time I was up there Dr. and Mrs. Goode were up there playing bridge with a man and his wife who was the doctor in charge at that time. That was when the pools had opened and my youngest granddaughter and __ to swim... __ to bring her out there that night and she wasn't going to take no for an answer. That was the only pool that was open. You know, I just __ remember what a beautiful pool that was. They're hoping to open it again, they talk about it. But anyway, he said, "it's alright if she goes in except that we don't have a watchman." I said, "that's alright, there were three of us and we could just watch her." So she got in and, oh, she was so cute and just did a good job.

AC: Do you remember your mother's hospital room? What your mother's hospital room looked like when she had her surgery?

LK: No, I don't remember that.

AC: Did she have a private room?

LK: In fact, I'm not sure I was ever in it. You see, that wasn't as mobile as it is now. You don't just get up...we didn't have a car and it depended on somebody else. There was one person in the family that had an old Model T Ford, but it wasn't much of a car. It's the one I learned to drive.

AC: You learned to drive a Model T? Wow.

LK: But anyway, but I know she had a room of her own and was up there and they treated her for a week and then she came on home, was just fine. Within about another week she was back to her work. Just didn't ever stop her.

AC: Was there a hospital in town during those years?

LK: Yes. The Grande Ronde Hospital was there. I sort of think that that was being built about the time that the pavement was going farther up Adams. Jack Evans could tell you. It seems to me like the first time I rode a bicycle was came to the end of the pavement and then rode up that hill to the hospital there and then coasted down. I remember that 'cause ___ all had bicycles.

AC: Now after you married your husband did you move into La Grande at that time?

LK: We rented an apartment here when we were married, right while we were on our honeymoon. It was ready for us to move right into when we came back.

AC: Where was that apartment? Do you remember?

LK: Let's see, is it Ninth Street that goes up the steps to the college?

AC: Yes.

LK: That's where it was. It had a... It was an upstairs apartment, very nice. And when she found out that we were newlyweds she had it all repainted. It was in every way just like a brand new place and we had a lot of nice things to move into it. What was funny about it was my mother ___ between Sixth and Seventh on N so she was very close to it and she moved all our...bought all of our groceries and everything she could think of that we'd need was in there that she'd bought and put them away. Oh, it was just really just nice.

AC: Did you do canning when you were a wife? Did you can vegetables and fruits and things like that every year? Did you have a garden and then can or dry foods?

LK: We all had a little garden, but you know, there were things here at that time, for instance, asparagus. There was a cannery around...you know where the Red Cross Drugstore is? A block to the right ___ cannery. It was facing the railroad tracks. It was a cannery. And they brought a special asparagus in there to cut it the length that you wanted and then just put it in the can and put something in it, I can't think of what it was, but they canned it for ten cents a can. I'd take dozens of them. I could go over to Irrigon and cut all the asparagus I wanted. So they did green beans and asparagus and all sorts of stuff. And they had can...and you could can fruit that way. Mostly I think I did it at home. And this sister of mine we used to do all our canning together.

AC: Was the canning that you did then was that any different than the way the canning is now?

LK: I don't think so. I don't think there's anything there anymore. I don't know what ___.

AC: Do you remember any other businesses that you went to downtown that you liked? Did you go to any other businesses on Adams street? Do you remember going to drugstores or...?

LK: What stores I shopped in?

AC: Yeah, what stores did you... What stores did you shop in as a young woman?

LK: I said Faulk's was one that I...

AC: Tell me about Faulk's.

LK: And then Connie's and as far as dresses and things like that were concerned I got so I would shop...at that time I could afford most anything I wanted, but I didn't want too much. I'd rather make it. But N. K. West and that was there for a long time and it finally broke up. And then the boys all went to the Top Shop.

O: Trotter's.

LK: Trotter's. For suits and things like that. They had some really nice things for ladies, too. Let's see, I ___ shoes... There was a shoe store on the corner. I can't remember the name. The finally moved to Pendleton. But it was a good shoe store. I'd always get a good fit there. But I think about mostly I'd buy dresses and things like that at the Top Shop. They had a lot of nice things. I have two suitcases downstairs in storage just long skirts and blouses to go with them. They are absolutely beautiful and _____. My son and his wife send me just gorgeous things. One I tried to get ___ velvet one that they sent me. You saw that. I said there are so many of them I could change twice everyday ___ over.

AC: May I ask you about World War II and how that affected La Grande. Was the Second World War...World War II...

O: Do you remember World War II? How did that change La Grande, the Second World War?

AC: Can you talk a little about that?

LK: Of course every war was different as far as I was concerned because my two oldest brothers were in the Spanish-American War and were in the Philippines all through that. And then they were in the First World War. The younger of the two boys lied when he went in to go to the Spanish-American War, but he never gave up. He stayed right in the service all his life until he was way up in his seventies. But the only thing that he regretted when it was time to retire the ___ stuck to it because _____.

AC: Oh.

LK: He did well, but the other brother...they were both in both World War and the older brother was...the younger of the two every year that he was in the service from the time he was seventeen he went to a different school or more...well...

AC: Training?

LK: Not a different school, but something different until he graduated with full honors and everything. During the last big conference there he had ___ all the ___ at the White House and that sort of thing he had done awfully well. Anyway, when the older brother they were done ___ brother and people _____. But the other brother I never did see... He left before I was old enough to recognize him. I never saw him until he had a twelve-year-old son. I saw him once in... Because my oldest brother...I'm thinking of what a difference it made because it seemed like it was closer to home.

AC: So when World War II came you were living in La Grande in the '40s?

O: In the Second World War you lived in La Grande?

AC: During the Second World War?

O: During the Second World War you lived in La Grande and what do you remember about that time?

LK: That's when we lived in the big house. I think that we had a lot of... I wish I could remember...[recording paused]

AC: Okay, we're going to start after you finished being a teacher at Palmer Junction. What did you decide to do after that?

LK: I went back home and at that time there were two schools in Perry, out four miles from La Grande. One of the schools had a male teacher and a woman teacher. He was the principal and I had the lower grades in a separate building and I had the first four grades. So I finished that year with them and then took a second year. The second year the man was gone, but I was the principal.

AC: You were the principal at Perry?

LK: Of the two schools.

AC: Can you describe the school in Perry at that time?

LK: They were nice. They were tree framework buildings. They were side by side kind of on the hillside. They both had outdoor toilets. We had drinking water and the inside of both of the buildings were much like the later days. They had wood desks. Many times they were two there in the desk and shared the seat. But much of the time they had their own desk when they had the school divided that way. So when ___ never went back again. After I taught up there two years I ___. I just couldn't go any longer. I wanted to, 'cause I just loved it. I loved the town and just the little town ___.

AC: How many students did you have in the Perry school?

LK: I think I had in my room I probably had twenty-five in the four grades.

AC: And those were the early grades, first through fourth?

LK: Yes. It was a well-run school. They had a good...place to refer to. I can't think what...usually you had a school board or something. It was a very good... It was a ___ school. I had... Later our registers and everything were kept up to date for the attendance and the illness and everything. If you wanted ___ around to something that was rather funny, we had a health nurse that came around to check on our children all the time. There was a family who were very, very, very poor. They had nothing. But they ___. They took nothing from anyone else. So when the counselors came up and informed them they all had to be vaccinated for small pox ___.

AC: You had to watch them be vaccinated for small pox?

LK: Oh, she wasn't going to have that stuff scraped into her arm with the children there. It was just terrific. So the health nurse was very calm and I was standing by and she said you can ask her ___. Of course you understand that you're total support kind of from the school board, it was money and your supplies and everything. So she said ___

AC: Small pox?

LK: Vaccination. We won't bother with you getting ___ it works both ways. She just walked out. She did not do anything. Goodness, you couldn't have followed the trail that she made ___. But that was just one of the funny things that they had. Anyway, it was an excellent school. We had a very nice playground outside, swings and slides and that sort of thing. The schools were well-run. I couldn't

describe them specially. I know that they were pieces of wood that were cut up in the right size and then usually the older boys would help with it. Of course, I'd have the older boys and one of the funniest things were the...I wasn't very big and everyone thought I was much too young to be teaching school. I wasn't, I was twenty-four or something like that. But there was a little small boy in the eighth grade thought I was just really cute, that was his word. So he would just do everything he could think of to annoy me. He came in one day after school and it was just before Thanksgiving, I was putting stencils on the blackboard of a turkey with colored chalk, kids like that of course. He got up behind me and he would run his hands up through the chalk powder and he rubbed his hands on my bare skin and that got chalk all over me. Finally, we had eraser about maybe that long and had wooden backs on them. Finally I couldn't take it anymore and I just turned around and took one of my hands around his neck and threw him over my lap and took one of those erasers and I just really paddled him!

AC: You paddled him? You gave him a paddling?

LK: Oh yes! And you couldn't do it now because not too long after that it was prohibited. But I really paddled him. He got up, of course he wasn't crying, he was a cute little boy, but he looked me in the eye and he said, "I didn't think you had the nerve".

AC: [laughs]

LK: He was the best friend I had the rest of that year.

AC: Oh, that's all they needed?

LK: He'd come in and clean the blackboard or...just do everything. There were many incidents that were fun. I enjoyed it very much. In later years I was invited to one of the class reunions, I'm not sure what it was, for some of those children that had graduated and I was especially invited. That meant a lot. And that also happened in when I was teaching in Adams, now that was a much bigger school. But that school it was...oh, I forget. ___ bigger school, a big brick building. But this...in the ___ club we had a new family. It was really interesting because they had a little girl who was born without a joint in her hip. She was almost like a baby. She was in a cast from her hip down to her feet. Just the happiest lovely little girl. And her parents were nice. Very poor, but oh she was just ___.

AC: At the Perry school were there a lot of people visiting Perry during this time?

LK: No. Just Perry... ___ There were quite a number of people living in Perry because that was in the days of the sawmills.

AC: Oh. Is that why the town was set up was because of the sawmill?

LK: Right. There were three Perrys, there was Upper Perry and Lower Perry and in between were beautiful homes. Oh, they were lovely homes! Where the officials of the mill were living. Very beautiful up there. They're no longer there. I think through the years that some of them were still intact, but it's a long time since I've seen these things. We generally take the mill part of it ___ oh, just a tremendous thing.

AC: What do you remember about the mill up in Perry? What do you remember about it?

LK: It was there and later was moved to La Grande. It was a big mill. It was ___ and it was on the railroad way to get the timber out and plenty of water because it was

right on the Grande Ronde River. Water was always a problem every place.
 There was __ water __

AC: Did you live in Perry at the time you were teaching there?

LK: Yes, I did. We had our house in town, it was rented just after __ up. __ little boy that they adopted. He lived in our house for seven years while we were out in different places. So when we were teaching in Perry there were ever so many houses for sale that people had built and – this is in Lower Perry where most of the men's houses were. So we bought one of the houses and then __ we liked it, but it didn't have a bathroom. We had to have __ and was living with part of the family. My husband __ kind of took care of things. ____ We lived there two years. But again, after __

AC: So was your husband working in Perry while you were teaching school?

LK: Yes.

AC: Did he work at the sawmill?

LK: No. We had our own equipment. We had a huge truck and there were two years when the weather was such that the mail couldn't be delivered from Portland to Perry because they couldn't go through or something. So we had...__ deal to haul the mail from Portland back to Perry.

AC: So your husband went to Portland to get the mail and bring it back?

LK: Oh yeah. It was mostly at night and bring the mail back. My husband hadn't been working and it didn't matter because he could find other things to do. But my nephew was living with us and he had worked for the railroad and did a boo-boo kind of and was just transferred out, laid-off...[end tape]

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AC: So your nephew and your husband brought the mail from Portland to Perry?

LK: Yes.

AC: Did they bring mail to La Grande also?

LK: No. They took it into La Grande. Perry didn't really have a post office. They took it into La Grande and the post office there. Then it was distributed there into La Grande. They didn't have anything to do with distributing. They it back to the La Grande post office.

AC: Then you got sick? What happened to you?

LK: I think when I was about eighteen I just started to have problems. I think I spent more time in the hospital than I did at home over and over again. I think my husband was about ready to leave me because there were hospitals in Portland and La Grande. The first time I remember __ was getting out of the __ and go back for more surgery. It went on for a long time and finally, oh, I had driven up to a lumber camp where my husband had a contract to haul logs. I had __ up there __. I'd been in Portland and there was nothing they could do, just a mess, every surgery and I had it six times. They had disrupted all my organs, I didn't feel great. So at that time they told me that I'd have to have a whole year __ couldn't do any housework, anything at all. It was just simply a____. So we traveled with my husband and my sister kept my little boy and finally at the end of the year – he told me that had to last a year – and I said, well, if anybody says don't I'm __ do

the darn right best _____. Everybody said don't do this, don't do that. I, at that time, was going to adopt a second child and help with the poor. I was _____ and it was taking a lot of money, too. Oh, we just decided we better not do that, but through that time _____ I was _____. Just gone a long time. I was terribly nervous that...

AC: Worried about if you were going to get sick again?

LK: No. I was pretty well. I remember I was the chairman of the PTA at the Ackerman School when my little boy was in school there. As the program chairman – that was the vice-president. As the program chairman it fell to the vice-president to arrange the programs. That particular day the program was not available so the president said _____ she said, well, you've been doing a lot of classes on the piano and I just bet that you are acquainted with some of these _____ probably play. I said, alright, I will. So I did two beautiful numbers and I knew they were well-appreciated, one and the second was an encore. I was just fine then I spent a week in bed.

AC: What was the function of the PTA at that time? This was in the '30s?

LK: It meant once a month and this would be Ackerman School that go there. My son went to the first two grades in Central School, which was over on Fourth, and then he had a little problem in school and so they recommended that we move him over to Ackerman. Now it wasn't a school that...you know..._____ children who needed _____ like that. But it just happened that a couple of teachers that _____. But anyway, we met once a month and as a rule we met in the upper _____, which a gym is in now, isn't it? I haven't been there for years. Oh, the children loved...just grand. Yeah, it's a long way to go to school, but lots of times I _____.

AC: What activities did the PTA do to help the children?

LK: I knew that they had some members who paid attention to children who needed a little extra love. They'd never let _____. And that sort of thing and then I think that there were some children who had problems that were not being met quite at school and they would come to school and work with the children. I did that quite a little bit.

AC: Did you do fundraiser activities with the PTA? Did they do fundraising activities? Like Halloween carnivals or anything like parties or anything like that?

LK: We had carnivals, but I can't remember that we ever had one on the PTA. I know we had a big PTA because there were a lot of people attending.

AC: Now did you son go to Ackerman School right after it was built? Was it a new school when he went there?

LK: No. He'd been in school, he'd gone to two grades in Central School before he went over there. At that time _____ of it. She was principal of it when it started. She's still a very dear friend of mine. We organized a teachers' group, there were twelve of us as retired from teaching and met once a month down at the _____ for lunch. So far as I know they still do. I haven't been able to be there, but I _____.

AC: Did you teach after your son was in elementary school? Did you start to teach again?

LK: No. It was quite a long time. But when he was... I think he was in possibly the first year of college _____. I think I did some substitute teaching, but mostly items

were home. Then just like my favorite sister died, no warning or anything. They were... Her husband worked for the railroad and they were living out at Hinckle ___ right now, but it was way out where there was no railroad, but there were _____. One day the dispatcher called me and he said, "Are you Mrs. Kelley?" And I said, "Yes." And he said, "Well, the dispatcher just called and told me to tell you that H ___'s wife just died." It was my sister. That was the way I got the word of it. ___ I didn't care whether I had another friend or not. We were just three years apart and she was older. We had stuck together like that always and our husbands ___ they got along fine. So after my sister died – and of course ___ I can't be real sure whether it would've been the upper grades or whether she was in a _____. But anyway, the doctor made me get _____. So an older brother and – they had a brand new ___ car – we had a nice car, too, but they wanted to take theirs – and go on this long trip and take me ___, down through Arizona, California. Oh, we were gone a long time. But by the time I came back I'd kind of gotten a hold of myself a little bit and there were a couple of vacancies in the school that were begging for teachers. So the one that was ___ grade school called me and she said, "Now that you're back do you want a school?" And I said, "Yes." So I took the fourth grade at Greenwood and I taught there and I really enjoyed it.

AC: Did you start at Greenwood in around the '30s or so? Was it around 1930 that you began teaching at Greenwood School?

LK: Oh, if I could remember I could tell you, but I don't know.

AC: It's not really important.

LK: No.

AC: What did you teach as a fourth grade teacher? What were some of your duties?

LK: ___ Yes, we did have _____. The only thing that I didn't have was music and they had a special music teacher that took the children once a week upstairs. She was wonderful _____. The children would go up the stairs and I would hear her say, "Alright, now I want you to turn around, go back down the stairs and I don't want a sound. Then you turn around and come back up and I don't want to hear a sound. I don't like this clump-clump-clump." So she took them back up and I swear they didn't make a sound. [laughs] Oh, she was good! Taught music in the high school and everything and, oh, the piano she could play! Oh, she was good! They really lost her when she... But she taught long enough. Anyway, I taught everything. I had four little Negro girls and one of them was just quite a nice little girl. Her mother dressed her well and she always looked nice. But the other three girls had connections with a much older Negro girl. She had slept with practically every boy in the upper grades. Oh, she was wild! I guess she had two children by her father.

AC: Oh no!

LK: Yeah. And we were up against that with these children. So I had quite a struggle with them. I did get them through, but you still have that background that you can't quite deal with. I had a very good friend who was a second grade teacher and she taught me a lot of how to treat these girls to make them a part of the class. They did pretty well.

AC: Were there several black students...several African-American students in the school at that time?

LK: I think there were four in my room and this older one that was in the upper grades – I think she was a sixth-grader - ____.

AC: Were they treated well by the other students? These girls, did the other students treat them well?

LK: I think that they were... The only thing we had to watch at recess and when school was out or anything tried to get them to go home on their own and not with this other girl. She was watching for them all the time, this older girl. She was a bad one. I don't ever know what happened to her, but I know her father was ____ and he didn't help her. But she went into those things...now I think that many of the colored girls and boys now are model students. They do very well and they really thrive. Of course it's been years since I've had anything to do with them.

AC: Was this a new school that you were teaching at? Was Greenwood a new school? Had they just built it or had it been there for a while?

LK: Greenwood? It was an old school. There were three schools, Greenwood, Riveria and Central and so...Ackerman was the other one. No, these were all good schools. Riveria had a better ____ because Greenwood didn't.

AC: Why was that?

LK: It was the part of town it was in, I think. You had more hardly, oh, people who didn't have anything. I don't know. I think that we thought many times that it was, you know, a lack of culture or things there for them. So you did...you had to _____. I had quite a number of Jehovah Witness students. I learned what Jehovah Witnesses where and _____. And I had one little boy – I didn't know at the time what the trouble was – but he had developed ____ in the fourth grade. He never, ever would be a normal child. Really a ____ of everything. But I found out afterwards – I had some faculty...and his grandfather ____ faculty and I found that they were just excellent people. Then this little boy ____ whole religion...

AC: Oh, I see.

LK: It was just a while where ____ him several times and just couldn't do anything with him. He turned out at the end just...he was one of my best friends. And his father and mother ____ beautiful ____.

AC: Describe a typical day if you were teaching fourth grade at Greenwood. Describe your typical day. What would you do once you got there in the morning?

LK: Most of the time the students were not ____ I would probably work on lessons, make sure that they were perfected for the morning ____ discrepancies _____. There was always a little bit of time at the hour to change my ____not quite up on. I don't think they do the same thing _____. I just wish I knew, but I have no way of finding out, though.

AC: So did you start the day with the pledge of allegiance and that sort of thing?

LK: Oh yes. That was always like that and the children knew it very well. They knew the pledge. I think that they were really proud _____. No, there were awfully nice children except there were those few that disrupted a little bit. I don't know, I suppose I could ____ children because I really want them...

AC: What did you do when you had to discipline children? Did you make them stay after school or did you sit them in a corner?

LK: No. We had a principal at Greenwood, his name was Lawrence Blanchard – he died just recently – he was blind, but he played the banjo. Oh, could he play! If I

had really troubles with the children I would call Lawrence and he would take them. I was never ever forced to give, you know, just really...well, I can't think of any... A little earlier I did have, but that was on the Perry School.

AC: What did you do at that school for discipline?

LK: Perry?

AC: Yeah.

LK: There was a little boy, his father and mother had separated. He lived with his father, but his father was never there. So he lived with his grandmother and ___ just proud of it. And he would get from school a little earlier than some of the other students – maybe the second grade or the first grade or something – and he'd get out and throw rocks at them from _____. I did everything I could think of, but it didn't stop him. I was afraid somebody was really going to get hurt. So I knew his grandmother and I wrote a note one day and I told her what he'd been doing and I said, "now, I know you're responsible for him, but when he comes back to school at noon I'm going to call him up at the front of the room, turn him over my knee and just paddle the flax out of him. I wanted you to know about it." So when ___ took this note down to her. He tried to read it and he couldn't quite. But he took the note to her and he came in after...[laugh] "My grandmother ___ laugh at you." Or something like that, I don't know what it was. So when I asked her what she thought about it and she said, "Just don't let me interrupt your ___."

AC: [Gasp] Oh!

LK: So I had him come up and I turned him over my knee and gave him a paddling that he never would forget. And to hurt him, I mean, it was just _____. His grandmother thanked me for it and was so thankful that I had done it. She said, "I've wanted to do that for a long time, but I couldn't do it." I never had anymore trouble with him. I just remembered that.

AC: Was... Did some teachers paddle kids at Greenwood in the classrooms?

LK: No. That was too late for that. I don't think I had any... I could discipline them, but if there was any ___ of really punishing I think I had to send them to Lawrence and he would take care of it. ___ kids. There was one little boy in the fourth grade, a very good student, but his parents weren't...they had never...

AC: Seventh-day Adventist?

LK: Yes. And we were doing _____. We maybe ___ pumpkins and, oh, just all sorts of things. And he got right into it and was just playing with them all the time. But ___ quiet and he said ___ I can't come." I said, "Yes, I know that, but you can have all the fun working on these things even if you can't come to the party." So the day of the party came, he was there. He came and I said, "You're here! What happened?" "My mother and dad went out of town. I'm staying with my grandmother. She said I could come." [laughs] You get so many cute stories when... But he was just the life of the party _____.

AC: So did you have Halloween and Christmas and Thanksgiving parties?

LK: Oh yes. We just had all sorts of things. I don't know. I invented things and...of course I had my music and that was a big help.

AC: Did you have a piano in your classroom?

LK: No, but they had a music room upstairs. But I could teach them all sorts of songs. When I was in kindergarten – I told you I started to kindergarten when my sister

- did – we sang many songs, little songs, that stuck with me through all those years. For instance, little yellow dandelion growing in the grass, lift your head the brightest gold __ and laugh. When your hair turns white pray __ will you raise a hundred more just like you. And then there was another one, sweet pea, sweet pea, something about their __ bonnets and...but not _____. __ teacher she left La Grande after our school someplace else. She had written down all those things. Of course I could sing them for her, but I can't now. I had __ taste of __ anyway, it affected my throat and I couldn't sing anymore.
- AC: But you can hear them in your head. You can hear the songs. What was your husband doing during the time that you were teaching at Greenwood? What was his job?
- LK: We had bought a big company. This man was an only son of the man who had owned all this stuff and the man was no good. His family... He finally gave into drinking and his family found him dead one day. Just about that time this man was called into the service. So that was just like we were...we owned a lot of the land right along that they were working on. So it just looked like change for us, so we bought all his stuff. He had laid concrete pipe...
- AC: Do you remember the name of that company? The company that you bought?
- LK: It was Concrete Pipe.
- AC: Concrete Pipe?
- LK: Yes. Then ours was the Kelley _____. We had the big truck that hauled the ready-mix cement, the big, oh...[end tape]

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- LK: ...and that working. He had about thirty-five employees.
- AC: So this was Kelly's Ready-Mix?
- LK: Yes.
- AC: You had thirty-five employees?
- LK: And __ and then times grew tight. I ____.
- AC: What kinds of projects did you do __? Did you do sidewalks, too, or just the pipe?
- LK: We did some of them. When we were... When they were paving the new street on Adams Avenue there was a new deal on pouring the curbs that __ still and __ my brother had studied it and knew how to do it. So he came up town when they started doing it and showed them how. It was so ever __ job that was good for our business.
- AC: Did your husband work all over? Did he go to Cove and Imbler and Elgin and everywhere with the pipe?
- LK: He didn't want to for __ because it was a long way to go and he had about all the business he could. But he did enough. ____ he liked it. We had two nephews, one of my sisters had two boys, and they were good truck drivers so they would drive the cement truck. One of them was a wit. He just couldn't be serious. ____ So one day my husband didn't have another guy for the cement truck so he decided __. He got about halfway to where he was going to deliver it and the truck something went wrong with it. So Warren, his nephew, was out on the __. So

that he had called me at home and I just ___ and got there as fast as I could because this cement ___ would have cemented...

AC: So they'd have to mechanize the barrels on the back of the truck to keep the cement going?

LK: Yeah. So I hurried there to take care of it. Just a few minutes after I got here this nephew came and he had dumped his load. Just as he drove up ___ and just opened his window a small crack and he said, "How ___." [laugh] Oh, I thought he was going to blow up. ___ Anyway, people did want to know I could drive.

AC: So you were teaching and went to work for your husband in the business?

LK: My school was out and I didn't take another year of it.

AC: So you taught at Greenwood for how many years?

LK: Three years.

AC: Three years.

LK: The teacher died ___ and I knew that she had ___ so I had to be there to take over when she died.

AC: So what did you do at your husband's business?

LK: What did I do? Kept books.

AC: You kept books?

LK: I learned to figure cement by the yard, of course. I could figure the time it would take for a job and all that. I was good at figures. In fact, I laugh about it once in a while that if I had ___ carpenter for the union, was a good carpenter, but he couldn't get to your things. He'd call and he'd say, "I want ten yards of cement." He'd tell me what he wanted. I said, "What are you going to do with that?" He said, "I didn't tell you that. I just want ten yards of it." I said, "If you're smart you'll tell me." I ___ take it because I'll fix it for you and he needed three yards. [laughs] I finally convinced him that I could tell him how many yards you want and how big a space it would cover and then I could figure it for you. I couldn't do it now. ___ all my ___. I could talk about sand and gravel and cement. And of course we had...there for a while we had to go clear to the cement plant over by Huntington and haul our cement home.

AC: Oh, you would haul it over.

LK: The powdered cement.

AC: Where did you get the gravel from?

LK: We had... A lot of our land was right on the river and right...one of the best places for it was the best gravel to be crushed was one of the beds that was in the river and the other side of the river didn't have it. So one year we had a man come in who crushed some rock for a concrete for the city...

AC: So someone would bring a crushing machine out to your property?

LK: Yeah. He'd bring the rock crusher out to the...and put it in our property – we had plenty of room for it – and had that crusher. There was a... He changed his job then another man out there that wanted to get crushed rock and sand and gravel, just so many different sizes of rock. He told this man that was doing the crushing that he wanted 25,000 yards of that ___ and so we were the only ___ so he crushed it there for us and he ___ going to pay for it in nothing flat. Then we sold ___ all different sizes of rock and sand and gravel that they wanted.

AC: What did the rock crushing machine look like? Was it a big machine or a small machine to crush all that?

LK: No. A conveyor belt and it would bring the rock into the crusher depending on the size that would be crushed at that time. But the conveyor belt would pick it up and bring it into the...and crush it. And then that would...as it would be piled up there and they transferred and hauled it away, piles of it.

AC: So that was on your property for a long time?

LK: Yeah, for a long time. In fact, when it was... When this boy finally came back from the service he wanted to take over there and of course ___ we were ___ because we hadn't wanted at all ___. He started using sand and gravel off from our pile over there. ___ He took off with the Concrete Pipe, but that had been his father's and we were glad, too, because we didn't want it all.

AC: So did your husband and he work together than after he came back?

LK: Not too much because he...let me think of his name... This other wanted that division and we helped supply the material for it. Then when ___ nice man. He was rather handsome, rather attractive. He went back ___ and came back with the cutest girl, she was just darling. Found out that the brother got to marry her. She was Catholic and he wasn't and had ___ Catholic ceremony. ___ for them because he had a home. But we liked his wife and we liked him ___ and he did much better than his father ___.

AC: So what was your connection with the college? How did you get involved up at the college?

LK: I can't even think... Now, when I was teaching – and I don't know whether it was at Greenwood or Riveria or some of the substitute teaching someplace – there were a lot of teachers that were friends of mine and every time they'd get a bulletin out from the college of a new court that was being opened at night and we'd all get together and sign up for it and do ___. The one I remember the most was that this man had sociology class. And my son...

AC: Sociology?

LK: Sociology. And my son was in that...was in his class when the ___.

AC: So you were both taking that sociology class at the same time?

LK: I was taking a night course and he was taking day course. ___ [laughs]

AC: So teachers that were teaching at the elementary schools were coming to take college courses at night at the college?

LK: Oh yes. We did a lot of that. It was really good because we could have our ___. The one that we looked up the most was ___ and we would ___ like that, but we ___.

AC: Do you remember other classes that you took besides the sociology class?

LK: I ___ but I ___. I ___ about it, but ___ about it because he got a better grade than I did. He wasn't too ___ a student. The first year, the first six months, I think, when he was college one of the men who was in charge of the students there, I think is what it was, called him in and he said, “___y, I've known you all your life and you're just working your heart out on missing grades here and you didn't do it. Your grades are not good. Right now I think that you would be wise to drop this whole deal and go into something else.” I've forgotten just how it was all worked in. But ___y was ___ and ___. ___ you listen to me. I came over here to attend college and I'm gonna do it.”

AC: Good for him.

LK: ___ you can do anything. I'm going to. He did two years down here and then for his third year he ___ and made top grades, four-point grades, almost all through then and he was given special work all the way through because of his ___ so many of the people that ___...oh, I can't think of if...to put business into the courses that they were taking. He ___ more things into the courses.

AC: What about you taking courses? Did you take a course every year or once a term would you take a class at the college?

LK: No, I didn't. I just mostly did the night classes.

AC: And I heard you got involved in the college and did things for the college.

LK: Oh yeah, I did.

AC: What kinds of things did you do? Oh, you did dancing? How were you involved with music at the college?

LK: Oh ___ always asked for a big...

AC: A concert?

LK: Yeah ___. But I can remember going up the stairs with several people and being involved in the course that we were waiting for up there. ___

AC: At Inlow Hall? Did you walk up the stairs at Inlow Hall?

LK: And after I finished that there I went to the University of California. [vacuum or something running] ___ all those years. I took a bet with a friend before we went down. I said I'd never ___ and she said, you are not ___. [laugh]

AC: A very determined family.

LK: But I had a good grade up there.

AC: You played piano for some of the music events at the college? Did you ever play up there?

LK: No, except solo work.

AC: Oh, you did solos up at the college?

LK: A little bit. There wasn't anything spectacular about 'em. When I did my practice teaching it was with a third grade teacher and she was...I mean she was in the third grade...she was a third grade teacher there and ___ the people for...that was for the... Anyway, they were having a program and she asked for anyone to volunteer to do something with the program. I said this is the first time that I really ___ and knew about it. She said, ___. She said, "we can talk to your music teacher and see if there is something that she has that you could sing for the children." I said yes, so I talked to her and we found one number that was quite nice about ___. The kids just loved it. But the next one...I can't think of the... ___ another one ___. Do you know it?

AC: No.

LK: ___

AC: I'm gonna move this a little closer so that... Okay, I'm gonna hold it right here.

LK: "I saw a little elf man out where the lilies grow. I asked him why he was so small and why he didn't grow. He looked me up and down and finally he said, "I'm quite as big for me as you're big for you." So I met a little elf man once down where the lilies grow." ___ it was and I think we sung it three times, they wouldn't let me quit. It was a cute little thing. But then they were...the girls' choruses and things like that and I've always sang in them, not too much solo work.

AC: So did you work at your husband's business until you retired as a bookkeeper or did you go back to teaching?

LK: No, I never did go back to teaching. I worked with his business until he sold it. He wanted to get out of it. He just wasn't very well. He didn't live too long after that. He was bad and I think _____. It was one of those things. I was kind of glad to get out of it and I loved bookkeeping. I really liked it better than I did...but I loved the teaching, too. I don't know, you get to a certain age and maybe you don't enjoy the children as much as you used to. [laughs] I think I was pretty close to sixty when I...

AC: When you retired?

LK: And he had things he wanted to do. We did a lot of traveling. After he died I kept up the traveling.

AC: Where did you go?

LK: I think the first place was over Hong Kong.

AC: Hong Kong?

LK: Yes. And China and...

AC: Did you go to Europe?

LK: _____ Hong Kong and China and...

AC: Did you go to Thailand or Japan?

LK: Not too much. It was... We went down the coast of Singapore...I'm trying to...

AC: Singapore?

LK: Yeah. And then the other towns were... Darn it... Well, there was a summer resort _____

AC: Vietnam?

LK: And _____. And we had a long vacation up there. Oh, we just loved... And then we were in...what are some of those countries out there? I don't know. But we were in Singapore and...

AC: It must've been beautiful.

LK: It was. It was just lovely. But some of the other places were, too. If I could just think of the names of them! Well, anyway, we had sixteen over there, China, Japan... We didn't do much with Japan. That was kind of a stop. But we were in Singapore and China and then we came back and...we went to Spain and Portugal and were in Spain for the running of the bulls that _____ then all over Spain. The...well, Gibraltar...

AC: You were quite world travelers, weren't you?

LK: Then my husband and I spent a whole summer in Alaska and we lived there _____. There's so many more places that I can't remember.

AC: I'm gonna stop for just a second here.