

Lola Young

12/4/01, foster care home in La Grande, OR, tape 1, side 1
(3.5 hrs)

ES: So your full name is what?

LY: Lola Sara Banton.

GY: And now Young.

LY: Young. Uh huh.

ES: Banton was your maiden name?

LY: Yes.

ES: Yes. And you were born in 1910?

LY: Yes.

ES: Where?

LY: I was born in La Grande on Cherry Street, but I don't know the address, I know it was just across the track coming this way, but I can't, I don't know if Mother ever told us. In that first block.

ES: What were your parents's names?

LY: His name was William, but William, her name was Sarah, I was named after her.

ES: Were you the only child?

LY: There were seven of us.

ES: Where were you in that seven?

LY: The last one.

ES: The last one.

LY: That's what they all say. And Willie has half of the, owns half of the place says, I'm a pick in the bottom. [laughter]

GY: Were you born at your sister's house?

LY: Yes.

GY: Cause they lived on a ranch out in Ladd Canyon, so her mother came in to have

ES: Oh I see.

LY: Yes came into their house and then I went back out the ranch and we went out there and that is where I grew up is in Ladd Canyon.

ES: So about where in Ladd Canyon was that?

LY: Just as you go into the canyon.

GY: From La Grande?

LY: Yes, from La Grande and then there is a bridge you cross, there was a bridge, ____ (16), and it was just to the left of that, at that time there was a barb wire fence there and a gate, a pole gate, and we had to open that gate anytime we came back we came back from anyplace, we always kept that shut.

ES: What sort of a ranch was it?

LY: Oh it was more of a hay ranch. Dad had a few cattle and uh, it was more, he had his sister, Lavina, had a place she owned some land down below in uh where the wild life refuge is.

GY: Ladd Marsh.

LY: and uh, when she passed away she left her half of the place to Dad to so he had 80 acres all together the ____ (24) land.

ES: Now was that a homestead claim?

LY: Yes, that would be.

ES: Do you remember about when they claimed it?

LY: He was born '66, 1966

ES: 1866

LY: 1866, and I don't know what, when that became homestead.

ES: The first one was 1861, I think, and then there was another one about ten years later, but,

LY: It was probably the one, it was after her husband passed on.

ES: And they must have come from somewhere east?

LY: Her husband might have, yes. Mother came from New York to Kansas and from Kansas here. In a covered wagon and she had a ___(33), that she had a picture of Ezra Meeker.

GY: No, which we can't find now

LY: No, can't find it. One time my, the two youngest, the youngsters, the boys, they had this old little ___(35) show and tell, which is what is amounted to and so I gave them that picture and some of Mother's clothes

ES: and they never came back home

LY: and I didn't have the picture when they brought it back. I always kind of thought somebody got the hold of them so I could confirm that. But the clothes were there I got them back. Mother had a blue skirt I can see it yet

GY: She kind of thought the teacher might have kept it cause the teacher knew a lot of the history of the valley

LY: And I don't know if she took it or not

GY: this was grandchildren

ES: so your mother and father both came over the Oregon Trail? Did they

LY: No, Dad was born in La Grande.

ES: Oh, he was born in La Grande.

LY: He was born out in what they call Lone Creek. Do you know where that is?

ES: Yes, I do.

LY: and some high school boys went out and cut it down. Well he was born there and when he was about two years old. His folks, his dad and I think my grandmother was up there and was living up there, now I'm not sure about this, anyway we moved up there to that place and as so many kids came along that they had seven all together and kept adding on to the place. I guess a little cabin style and they kept adding onto it until they got a house. Well, the house was there until the late oh, how long has it been that Marvin has had it?

GY: Well he has borrowed from Johnny in the 40;s, but the house probably got torn down about 20 or 25 years ago. There's a manufactured house almost where it was.

LY: and I know that Mr. Baker painted a picture of the house and he offered it to me, but he wanted so much for it that was in hard times that I did not have -----(57), Where it went, I don't know. But he painted a picture of it. And uh

GY: Would this be Marvin's dad

LY: Marvin's dad, uh huh.

ES: for about how many years did you live in that house?

LY: I lived there until, well I started high school and I stayed some with one of my sisters.

ES: The high school was in La Grande

LY: Yes.

ES: Before that had you gone to a one room school?

LY: Yes.

ES: Do you still have memories of that?

LY: Oh yes, but I didn't go to the old one. I went to about the first year, I think, of the new one. And uh, the new one is still there, but not the old one.

ES: What was the name of the new one?

LY: Oh just Ladd Canyon school house. But it had great big wide steps in front that we went up and down to go into the school house.

ES: And of course you walked there from home?

LY: Well, we were supposed to, but sometime we rode our horse until some of the neighbors told my folks "that horse is going to kill that girl, that horse is going to kill that girl" They wouldn't let me ride much anymore.

ES: The next time I come I would like to hear a lot more of that school and what you remember of it.

LY: Well they had, for a stove they had one of those big round stoves, you know like that, and then they had a casing around it that was metal. Well, it was so big and the kids were all gathered around there in cold weather and put their backs up to that stove and that is the way we warmed up. And then after that was built a few years they built a bathroom in the back. They had a bathroom, back there for a while. It must have been, there must have been about 40 kids that attended there.

ES: 40 at one time?

LY: Yes, they started it with just a few.

GY: Was there two rooms?

LY: No, just one. Oh, there were two rooms in the back. One was a library and the other was a ___(78). And the restroom, that was the size of it I guess.

ES: Let's come back to that the next time I'm here.

LY: Okay

ES: At the time that you were living in Ladd Canyon I suppose that Hot Lake was in operation. There were patients there?

LY: Yes

ES: And did you go over there often?

LY: Well, I tell you what when we lived there and I went to school I Dr. Fie kind of took to the school and he'd come over there and get us, they had cars, and he'd get us and take us up Ladd Canyon farther up, twasn't called the park (86), and there was a big building up there, kind of a dance hall and things like that, a big hall. And he'd take up there and have us there for dinner. The first place I ever ate borsht soup.

ES: Borsht

LY: Borsht, it was made with beef, but it was sure cold. I didn't think much of it.

ES: Did you go over to Hot Lake too?

LY: Oh yes, many atime. One day, I have to think about it, anyway,

GY: We will see if you can get through the story.

LY: We have our washing bucket and one afternoon my two older sisters decided to go to Hot Lake and they's quite the place then. And I wanted to go with them. Well they didn't want me to go. Told me I couldn't go. So I waited till they got ready and left and then I went to their clothes closet and took all their clothes off and threw them on the floor.

ES: What was so appealing about Hot Lake to make you want to go there?

LY: Well, they had everything there. They had dances and they served somethings to eat, not a great deal, but I remember that they did. Oh, just to be amongst all the other people I guess. That we liked.

ES: Were there young people there as patients?

LY: I can't remember, it was too many, mostly older people I think. I can't remember too many younger people.

ES: Did you get a chance to see first hand what some of the treatments these people were getting?

LY: Not other than the mineral baths, I guess that is was they called them, they had mud baths. But they had, that is what people came a lot for was to take those hot baths.

GY: You had one or two sisters that had operations there.

LY: Yes, I had two sisters, Eva and Maud, no Eva didn't have any surgery, but Maud did and they were both there and I was trying to think if there's...

GY: Did Mamie have an operations there.

LY: Well, I was only four when she passed away. But I know that she passed away here in La Grande because I was there when she was in bed. It was when she had her baby. I suppose now adays they would have given her some ___(114) or something to take care of everything but it didn't that time. And then my next oldest sister, Maud, went there when her youngsters were just small and the rest of the family kind of had to raise them after she passed on. She had four, two boys, or one boy, Allen Dean, Doris and

GY: Wes and Norman, two boys and two girls.

LY: Oh I remember Hot Lake had a big place I suppose like a clerk is, you know hotels, that go there when they came in. I don't even remember what the discharge was like. But people liked to go there ...it was from the east to the west. In fact, they found out about it out East. Dr. Fie happened to come out here. If I am not mistaken, he bought what, do know what is called Fie's Point? Well that's named after him. And he bought that for his son Mark and Mark was operated on by his own dad and he did live. I think he had polio or something when he was young. And later, either from that or something else he had, but I remember he passed on. I think he just had the one son. But he did have that Fie's park and he let that I think to some people that they knew. I think it was the Robinson family, I believe, but I'm not sure.

ES: Do you remember seeing the train that went from Union Junction to Union?

LY: Yes they had a regular train that, you know, trains going other places and they would stop at Hot Lake to let the people off.

ES: Yes, the transcontinental train.

LY: Yes.

ES: Yes, but there was this other train that went to Union wasn't there?

LY: Yes, I believe it kind of went around the hill and came in that other way.

ES: Did you ever ride on those trains?

LY: I don't think so.

ES: Okay.

LY: I know he had a lot of dogs. Dr. Fie horseback and when he would come up by our place well we really lived in the mouth of the canyon there and gone on up to where the park was. He had four to six of those great danes and we would hear them barking you know. Well we knew Dr. Fie was coming on his horse. As long as he had them with him. He had lots of dogs.

ES: I would like to come back to that subject too, next time. Now when you were growing up I suppose you had work to do around the ranch?

LY: Oh, a little bit. I helped my dad milk and then I had brothers so I did not have to milk often, but sometimes I did. I helped mother quite a bit in the house. I liked to read. She said that if she ever missed me I was in the corner reading. I can't remember any special thing except she put linoleum around her kitchen. I went in one day when they were not there and I took a, a don't know whether it was one of those files or what it was, it had a point on it anyway and I took that and I hammered there was a hole where the oil cloth was put on and between the boards and I went in and took that old oil and made holes all around it until somebody came in and pounded me good. It didn't take them very long.

ES: How did you get the books that you liked to read?

LY: Well, I liked Girl of the Limber Lost.

ES: How did you get the books?

LY: At the library.

ES: Where was the library, in La Grande?

LY: Yes, where it is now.

ES: So you'd have to make a special trip in and get an armload of books?

LY: Yes, we'd usually take the horse and buggy and go to town on Saturday I think it was and a fella by they name of Mr. Thorne had that events along side of town, I don't know what they call them now, in the SAC

GY: SAC Annex

LY: in the corner, the SAC, they had a grocery store there. My folks would buy some stuff for sandwiches and things and he had a back room there and we'd go to town and then go in that back room to eat our din-- or lunch. I was thinking the other day, you know they used to have a circuses, they'd have a parade. We'd go in on whatever it was on and stand on the sidewalk and they'd have elephants and everything out there on the street. And they finally decided they were too heavy for the concrete and they stopped the parades.

ES: And did you buy most of your clothing or did your mother make it?

LY: Well, I always told her, them, she took a yard of good jean and cut a hole in the middle 16.9

ES: With a belt around the middle.

LY: Yea. She made most of my clothes until I started high school. Then I remember my first dress. I thought it was so pretty.

ES: When you were in high school did you come in by horse and buggy every day?

LY: No, my brother worked for the county shops and I would come to him.

ES: He had a car then?

LY: Yes, we had a car, but he come by a different one from the Vander(177) He told me when I graduate from high school he would pay my tuition if I'd go on to high school, but mother and dad talked me out of it.

GY: College.

LY: College, but mother and dad talked me out of it they thought I would go to the bad if I went to college so I didn't get there. But I was . . .

ES: That was before there was a college here, wasn't it, that came in 1929.

LY: No, I would have been one of the first graduates.

ES: I see.

LY: She knew Lee Johnson in (179) school

ES: So did you go on to college somewhere else?

LY: No, I didn't go to college,.

ES: Do you wish you had?

LY: Oh yes, many a time, and to have such a good chance that he would pay my way, but I didn't have sense enough to know then. And they kept, Mother especially, she didn't drive, and I think she had in her mind that I would drive to work. Well, I know she did, I could tell.

ES: And where did you meet the man you married?

LY: Well, I could tell you a story about that. Laugh here while I tell. I had, some of the people I knew the friends of had a surprise party for me. They baked me a nice cake and it had frosting on top. We had there that served it to us. I got up to get something and I came back and he had eaten the top off the cake with frosting.

ES: Who's he?

LY: My husband

ES: You left him out. Was he a young man you knew?

LY: No, that was the first I met him.

GY: How did you meet him?

LY: Well, that's when I met him, was at my birthday party.

ES: and he licked the frosting off her cake.

LY: And I learned after that I had to eat my frosting first.

GY: and where did Velma come into that?

LY: Oh she was my, she was a year older than me, and she was going with him, but he dropped her and took me.

GY: This would be her sister's daughter.

ES: Oh, that's a little complicated.

GY: They were just about the same age, her older sister

ES: So, your romance went quickly did it?

LY: Well, yes, I think it was about 1928 when I graduated from high school and I didn't marry until I was 21, in 1931. So we went together, he was the ice man. I told him when we had our 50th reunion that I've heard lots of stories about the ice man.

ES: Yea, there are lots of stories about ice men.

LY: He told about the little kids that would follow him up the street and eat the ice that fell off him.

ES: So you settle down in La Grande right away?

LY: Yes, we lived in La Grande at 1505 S Avenue, he had a house there, someone couldn't pay the bill that they owed him and so he took the house. And I think it was 1505 S wasn't it?

GY: Something like that, I know where it is.

LY: and we lived there for about four, Dale was-

GY: Four years I think.

LY: We lived there four years, that's what I was thinking.

GY: yea, '31 to '35.

LY: I know Dale was still just a baby. And we lived there and then we they had a mink ranch, Brent did, my husband

GY: Jerry and Dave

LY: They ran a mink ranch.

ES: A mink ranch?

LY: Yes.

GY: Fox.

LY: Fox, no, they had mink first.

ES: Oh did they?

LY: And then they went to foxes. The mink, they were looking for someplace to put it where, oh, it was kind of protected by the timber that was the end. There was several reasons they bought it out there at Mt. Glen. And then we lived there until, well we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and then I think we'd been married 63 years when he passed on.

GY: That's correct.

ES: And besides having children, what else did you do?

LY: Well, when you have children its all you have time to do.

ES: There's a little time left over I bet.

LY: I taught, I wanted to be a teacher, but I taught for what, about a week.

GY: Substitute taught.

LY: They had this one room school house in Mt. Glen. The teacher got sick and couldn't teach so they came down to me, the rector did, and asked me if I'd teach. So I did. I taught them. And then, oh I took Daily's other brother was the younger 'ne. Of course then he was and pretty near every night he would come and open that kitchen door and say "Hi Mom are you here?" Gary'd go out to play. Dale wasn't even there for one day. We had a tractor. Pretty soon Gary came in and said, Mom Jerry's out on the tractor sniffing that gas. So I went out there, to the barn yard where the tractor was and got him and he was about ready to pass out. I didn't know what to do with him and didn't have sense enough to, don't think they had nine-eleven.

ES: 911.

LY: I put him over my shoulder and went to the front porch and held him out there in the fresh air and it wasn't a little bit until he came around and was alright.

ES: tell me exactly where Mt.Glen is?

LY: Well, Mt. Glen is about how many miles? Well, anyway, you go out the freeway and then you come to an overhead that goes out toward Hot Lake and the sign on it I think says either Hot Lake or Ladd Canyon, I have forgotten now, there is kind of a concrete bridge and you turn to your right and there was (244) ... And we lived oh on up Ladd Canyon it was about. So we always said we always walked a mile and a half to

school so it was about a mile and a half the school was. One day I was on my way to school and that day my brother went with me, his name is Bill. There'd been just a skiff of snow the night before. And I was hopping along myself and I hit this skiff of snow but I didn't think anything about it and the minute I hit it I sprained my ankle. Well, I couldn't get anyone to hear me, I was up in the fields, nobody would hear me. Finally Mr. Austin went by and he heard me yelling and he came up and carried me on his back down to the house. I remember that.

ES: Do you know why the place was called Mt. Glen

LY: Was called what?

ES: Do you know why this place was called Mt. Glen?

LY: Let's see. I don't believe I ever heard. Someone by the name of Glen might have lived there.

ES: It is not nearly as prominent as Mt. Emily, or Mt. Fanny is it.

LY: No.

ES: It's not really a mountain is it.

LY: I don't think so. But right where Mt. Glen, after you go across the bridge and go to your left maybe Gary's told you this, but there was a place that was called The Grade and it went up the side of that hill and came out on top. And that's where the settlers came down in their covered wagons. There's a spring up there and there is also at least two springs on our place. I can't think of anything else.

GY: Rattlesnakes.

LY: Oh, you bet. I didn't ever see, well I saw one crawl around the beanstalk once but didn't ever see any others. I don't think they had as many as they talked about. Blue racers, we saw some of those, we had a mountain behind where we lived and I saw blue racers up there. There were garter snakes and (269)

ES: Do you remember strong memories of the Depression?

LY: Yes.

ES: Were things different during the Depression than they had been before?

LY: Well, I don't know there was a great deal of difference at our place, our family, except we didn't have much.

ES: Didn't have much before or during the Depression?

LY: Didn't have much before.

ES: That was the way it was with me too.

LY: Dad finally became a watchman for the sawmill that was up the canyon. I remember the first time he came home and Mother'd sent some rice, I think it was, rice or beans, but I think it was rice, up with him and he put it in a kettle and he put in too much rice and he had it all over, he said it filled everything he had. I don't think, I don't think there's other, things that you don't pay any attention to I guess. There's a sassafras tree that he found up there then he found some juniper trees and another one let's see something else is found the bark, found the bark on it, we're after, but I don't know how many there were. There were some. I know the sassafras tree for sure that one. Other than that I can't remember just what it was.

ES: I suppose you remember when you saw your first movie?

LY: No, I don't.

ES: You don't?

LY: No, I don't remember the first one.

ES: It would have been in the 1920s wouldn't it?

LY: Yes, I was ten years old, I suppose, I know we went to quite a few movies. And then when they came along they went every Saturday because they could get in for five. They had comedies and things then. They went to, and our first car was a Studebaker. Dad bought it and we were all tickled to death when we had a car.

ES: and I suppose you came into La Grande frequently?

LY: Oh yes.

ES: So you remember most of the stores along Adams Avenue in the 1920s and 30s and after that I suppose.

LY: Yes, there were lots of stores and when they built the Sacagawea we thought La Grande was surely growing then. But they tore it down ... landmark. You could see it when you came into La Grande. Lights on it and everybody in the cars always see it, There's La Grande because I can see the Sacagawea.

ES: Yes, I'd like to have you talk later about as many of the stores as you can remember and the people who ran them. For instance, you probably knew Midge Wright, and Lynn ...

LY: Yes, we were talking about him yesterday how they had all those tables and things. I don't know what they did with them.

ES: Well, I think we have some of the chairs at home now.

LY: And Silverthorn's had them too. They were there, I think when Mitch was. And everyone hated to see Mitch go because we liked to go in there and have an old fashioned store.

ES: I knew her too when I was here. In fact both of them.

LY: 30.8 was his name.

ES: Yes. And did you go to plays in La Grande?

LY: in high school I did. I don't remember going to any when I was growing up at home, but I did after I got into high school.

ES: Did you go to vaudeville at the Liberty Theatre?

LY: Well, I will tell you what I did go to. They had road shows.

ES: Yes.

LY: Up there back of, well where the Ford's garage used to be, somewhere. Right behind them. Toby or something like that and we all thought that was great. Then we, they came quite often

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(0.5 hrs)

ES: And you said these were called Toby? T-O-B-Y?

LY: Yes

ES: Was that the name of the man who was producing them.

LY: Yes, but I'll think that over. It might not be Toby.

ES: Okay. Were you involved with a church in La Grande?

LY: Yes. After I started going I was. I was in, with it until I had to go to a foster home. And...

ES: Which church was that?

LY: The Christian Scientist Church.

ES: So you were with that church for more than 50 years?

LY: I don't know. Would I have been more than 50 years?

GY: Well, you actually joined it about 1950, but my dad was a Christian Scientist, cause his mother was. So, I suppose it was kind of a nominal membership until about 1950.

LY: My name will be on the membership book, I'll ask somebody sometime. The clerk, she keeps the book and I think that the book still might be that old. It's awfully old anyway.

ES: Well, I hope you'd like to talk more about that. What other activities were you involved with in La Grande?

LY: Well, in gym we played quite a bit of basketball.

ES: That was during high school?

LY: Yea, in high school.

ES: I mean when you were older.

LY: Well, lets see, it seems to be I stayed home quite a bit of the time, and the KD Club, I joined it.

ES: The KD Club?

LY: Yes, it started out as part of the Methodist church. And it stood for, lets see, something anyway. Then it was Wigway and they changed it over to now its Kind Deeds. There were quite...at one time they had sixteen members, but right now they are about to drop out because they haven't got (25)

GY: Then you had a club out at Ladd Canyon, what was that club?

LY: That was called the Happy Circle.

GY: Social club for the women.

LY: That was a big one. Sometimes grandmothers had a big pan, not grandmother, but mother, would have a big pan about that big around and she would make that full of chicken salad. They'd a meal, a regular meal when they had it. And she would serve chicken salad and a cake, there was always a cake. Of course they would have lots of plays at the schoolhouse. For the children down there and we would go to that.

ES: How much traveling around the county did you do, going to Elgin or Union or Cove?

LY: Well, Cove used to have a cherry festival and we'd go over to that. Picnics and it would take a whole day to get over there in a horse and buggy. But they'd have the boxes laid out full of cherries.

ES: I've seen pictures of those.

LY: I can't think if there is anything else. And the stock show in Union, we would go to that.

ES: Did you go to Elgin?

LY: Once in a while, but not a great many times that we'd go down there.

ES: Do you think most people who lived here in La Grande did not travel much?

LY: They didn't seem to. Just special occasions. As I remembered anyway they didn't. Of course we took our cherries to, they went, we took them to Imbler and then to Elgin, took them to (45) They had I think a (46) Association, cherry association. I don't think they...

GY: They were packed and shipped fresh out of Imber.

ES: There was also a place in Cove too except for a time in Union.

LY: Somebody told me while back they got two associations, cherry association, over there now.

ES: That's probably right. Now the weather is different in many ways now than the way it used to be, isn't it.

LY: Well, yes.

ES: Especially in the winter time.

LY: Yes, there's more, well not, we had big blizzards then. We'd have to, when we walked home from school, we'd wear those caps you know, and they would cut holes for our eyes and then turn around and walk backwards. And we rode a horse sometimes and I'd ride with my brother, but he had a saddle, the saddle had those leathers on the back, and I couldn't ride with him unless I held onto those leathers. He did not want my arms around him.

ES: Do you remember some days that you couldn't go traveling anywhere because of the snow?

LY: Oh, yes there were some days they were practically blizzards, boy they were bad blizzards. And we'd go up behind the brush walking home so we wouldn't get so much wind. You know where the Cousils lived?

ES: No

LY: Well they lived the first house off the highway this side of Mt. Glen. And they all laugh at me because there was a boy that was in my class, Ed was his name, Ed Council, and one night we went home. And Ed and I generally walked together because it was quite a long ways for me to walk alone. And we got to talking about horses. Well, his saddle horse was up in the field about two or three miles. And he went in the barn and got his saddle. He lugged that saddle clear up until we found his horse and then I rode home. Other than that I walked. They all made fun of me because I lugged that big saddle clear that length.

ES: Maybe that's enough for today?

GY: Ed's son, Dale, still lives on that family place. That's fine.

ES: This is a good start, I'll listen to the tape and come back with more questions.

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(1.5 hrs)

ES: You told me last time that your father was born in 1866 in Lone Tree. And that your mother come from New York to Kansas by covered wagon to Oregon. Do you remember that either, your mother especially, told you anything about that trip?

LY: She didn't tell much. She said they always had ... were told that the Indians would get them, but she said they never did. One time they got ready for them and went in the cellar and hid themselves, but she said they never came.

ES: You mean while they were on the trip, or when they got here?

LY: Well, both.

ES: Both? Did they see Indians?

LY: She didn't say anything about any on the trip. There were lots that came and saw them when they got here. I can remember them.

ES: You can?

LY: Yes.

ES: Well, tell me what you remember about those Indians.

LY: They came and one that they gave, my sister that is five years older than I, they gave her and I each a string of beads. And I never... I don't know what happened to mine, whether I gave them to somebody or what, but they disappeared. And I think she had hers, but of course the nephew took it I think, so he got the beads.

ES: Why do you think they gave you beads?

LY: Well, they were just that kind. They were real nice to us. And Dad gave them... I remember when the apples were ripe he would let them pick apples off the ground.

ES: So these were Indians who were traveling through, I suppose?

LY: Yes.

ES: They didn't live here all year round, did they?

LY: No, they were traveling through and ...one thing they did was, I might have told you the last time you were here, about the barbwire along the road, had a barbwire fence.

ES: Around your ranch in Ladd Canyon you mean?

LY: Yes. The sheep would pass through there. The sheep would run under the fence and when they did that they'd pull wool off and leave it on the fence and the Indians always gathered that.

ES: How do you think they used it?

LY: Oh, I think they must have made clothing out of it.

ES: Do you think they could weave? Well, they must have been able to weave.

LY: I think they did.

ES: Did you see both men and women?

LY: Yes.

ES: And why do you think they were so friendly?

LY: Well, they liked us, I guess.

ES: What did you do to make them like you?

LY: Well, I don't know. We were just good to them and because they were good to us.

ES: You couldn't speak to them, though. They didn't know English, did they?

LY: No, they just... I think they had the youngsters and we would play with the little youngsters and things like that, that they liked.

ES: Did you give them food?

LY: We gave them food. And it was that time that my dad was taken prisoner by the Indians up at Wallowa Lake. He and a man from Joseph. I don't know his name, I don't know if Dad ever told us his name. Dad decided to go up to Joseph and the fella went with him and they took two pack horses. They were packed. When they got up there the Indians took them prisoners. So they went in a tent to spend the night and before they went to bed they came out and got around the campfire and one thing they did was do... his brother was with him too, Fred. Fred was a great athlete. They got to kind of playing, you know, they didn't seem to be too afraid. And they got to playing and Fred was standing on his hands and jumped way up in the air, over like that. And they'd say "Ooh, aah, ooh, aah" and things like that to him, you know, that's the way they talked. Then, the next morning they got both of them and put them on the horses and headed them toward La Grande and told them to go back and never to come back again. Well, Dad never entered Wallowa County again after that. He said that was his promise and,

well, he never got out of the county. His promise to the Indians was never to go back up there and go back. But it wasn't because he didn't like them.

ES: They didn't like him.

LY: They didn't like him. His brother did tricks and he'd, oh he'd turn somersaults and different things like, what else did Fred do? Fred, well I know he had a bar (61), Dad had a steel bar on a tree and Dad would turn around on that bar and Fred got so he'd do lots of tricks there, pulling himself. And Dad catch a hold of him and he can't pull himself up this way, with just a hold of the bar. I imagine that (64)

ES: This is Fred Banton, right?

LY: Yes.

ES: Do you have any idea why the Indians were hostile toward white people?

LY: No, nothing. As I child I don't think I did. They ain't never (68) to us. And even worked with it.

ES: That wasn't the same group of Indians, was it?

LY: Well, that I don't know.

ES: Wasn't it the Nez Perce, along Wallowa. The Cayutes along the Grande Ronde?

LY: Yes. And Chief Joseph was the one who took them prisoners and kept them all night up there.

ES: That was the older Chief Joseph, was it?

LY: Yes, it was. And he was a good friend of Dad's. I think he came back down there once or twice and always came to see him.

ES: Oh, Chief Joseph was a good friend of your father?

LY: Yes, he would talk to him.

ES: But he didn't want him up there?

LY: He didn't want him up there. Dad said they left Wallowa Lake, or he and his brother did, and this man that was with them left the lake and came down a ways and camped on Prairie Creek. They stayed all there a few nights.

ES: Where is that?

LY: Its just below Wallowa Lake.

ES: In Joseph?

LY: In Joseph. Dad rode... he sat down at his home, he had a fireplace in it, and he'd lie down in the evening in front of the fireplace and (82). Going up there the boys found about half of it, was it?

GY: Yea, we have the letter describing the trip all they way from Summerville to the lake and partway back.

LY: And then they went to bed, but it wasn't even all that finished, they wish there had of been so they'd know the rest of the story. Evidently he didn't take time to write all of it, he just wrote about them being taken prisoners and jumped in the air and other things.

ES: Now that's in the diary?

LY: That's in the diary.

ES: That's different from what you have?

GY: That's what I have.

ES: Oh, it is.

GY: I have a copy of it, my brother has the original.

ES: And it was written about when?

GY: Well, we think it was written probably many years later. That happened in 1870 or '72 and he probably wrote this in the 1920s. But described it pretty completely. I could give you a copy of that.

ES: (95) a copy of it somewhere and I can't remember.

GY: Rick Stever has written it up in one of his books.

ES: Rick?

GY: Rick Stever. Have you read one of his? *Rondado*, or something like that. I can give you a copy of it.

LY: We had that book *Rondado* and he came out with one other book. What was the name of it?

GY: It was really not your dad, but Frank's dad, wasn't it, that made that trip up there?

LY: No, I think it was my dad himself.

GY: Anyway, I can give Eugene a copy of that diary, can't I?

LY: Yes.

GY: I'll do that.

LY: I'm sure it was Dad that went up there.

ES: Can you remember anything more about the Indians that you saw yourself?

LY: Well, it always pops up in mind about seeing them around the house picking apples. They loved to get apples in the fall.

ES: How would they dressed?

LY: They were dressed as much as they do now. They had on kind of flowing dresses as I remember, and shirts and buckskin, I think, pants.

ES: Hats?

LY: I don't remember anything else about the clothing. I think they wore bright clothing.

ES: Where do you think they bought it?

LY: That I don't know.

ES: Did it look as though-

LY: I think they made it.

ES: You think they made it?

LY: Yes.

ES: And they had long hair?

LY: Yes.

ES: Braided?

LY: Some of them did and some of them didn't.

ES: Did they smoke?

LY: Some did and some didn't.

ES: How did their teeth look?

LY: They looked like good teeth to me.

ES: Did they seem well nourished?

LY: Yes, they did.

ES: They weren't beggars?

LY: No, not a bit, except they'd stop at the doors, the back door of the kitchen, and they always wanted... they were kind of like the gypsies. They stopped there a lot too. They wanted money for the... they had to get medicine for the little papoose. The Indians were much the same that way. They never offered to hurt us or anything.

ES: Do you think they slept in teepees?

LY: That I don't know.

ES: Do you know where they slept? Where their shelters were?

LY: I think they just got there things out where they were and slept there, under a tree, or-

ES: But they didn't have tents?

LY: No, no tents that we saw.

ES: Did you ever see them on the move, when they were going from Grande Ronde to somewhere else? How they packed their things?

LY: Well, in later years we did, not then. In later years they moved when they brought the sheep over from the Pendleton valley and would pasture them there and that is when they gathered lots of their wool. And their camas, they went down and we had a field down below us that Dad and Mother, no, not his mother, his sister. He's the one that had any acres. There was lots of camas through there. And they would gather that camas and then grind it up and make flour.

ES: Would you describe the way camas looked when it grew?

LY: Well, it much like it grows now. Do you know how it grows now?

ES: Well, I've seen pictures, but I've never actually seen it growing.

LY: It grows, it makes a white-or a blue flower and the stem come up and the blue flower forms on top of it.

ES: And it is the root that we eat, is it?

LY: They got the root. They had the ground all dug up.

ES: Did they have to dry the root before they could grind it up for food?

LY: Yes, they did.

ES: Did they grind it with stone?

LY: Yes. We have one of the stones. One of those, what do you call those dish looking things.

GY: Portal and pestle.

ES: Where is that?

LY: That's at where Dale lives, my brother.

GY: Your son.

LY: My son, yes. [laughter]

GY: My brother. On the home place.

ES: Which is?

GY: At Mt. Glen. I have a pestle at home, not from there, but it was discovered out there.

LY: The pestle and bowl, they were digging one day in the orchard to plant a peach tree, I think it was, and they dug down a ways and found that rock. And something else that I have that maybe you know what it is or maybe you could find somebody that does. The lady that we took care of because she was getting older, and she told us that when she was gone we could take anything that she had. One of the things we got was a little piece of leather about that long and on one end was evidently a rock. Then the rock was all wound with leather so you couldn't see the rock. We never knew what that was for. One time I was up at a fair in Washington, I think, and asked them up there if they knew what that was. One lady told me she didn't know for sure, but she thought they used them, the maidens, to ward off the Indians when they were riding horses. I don't know if that's true or not. The only other one I saw was hanging down on the wall down at Cascade Locks. They had different things hanging on the wall down there. One thing was one of those straps.

ES: So maybe it was a kind of a weapon?

LY: Well, it kind of looked like it might have been. I'd hate to have somebody hit me with hit.

GY: I have it at my house.

LY: It could have been a weapon.

ES: About how old were you, do you think, when you saw an Indian for the last time around here?

LY: Well, it was when they came through to gather the wool off the fences and I was probably just starting school. Probably about five or six or so.

ES: Do you think they died after that? Or did they go on to the reservation?

LY: Well, I think their relatives probably went back to the Pendleton valley.

ES: To the Umatilla reservation.

LY: I never did hear where they did. I just kind of image they went back there.

ES: What's your opinion about what happened to the Indians in later years?

LY: Well, I really don't know. I think they went to different places and formed their camps.

ES: What is your opinion, about putting the Indians on reservations, for example?

LY: I think the Indians were here first and they had their own idea of where they want to live. I think God made all of us the same. There's no reason why He didn't make the Indians.

ES: So did you think that not being able to see the Indians or have them share in what was around here was unfair to them?

LY: It didn't seem too unfair.

ES: It didn't?

LY: I don't believe I ever heard of any that wanted to stay here...they all wanted...seemed to want to go back to the Umatilla valley.

ES: Maybe they wanted to be with more people who shared their customs?

LY: Yes, that might have been. And of course there were Indians over there then. They might have wanted to get back where they were.

ES: Well, lets switch over to your mother and the covered wagon experience. Do you remember her telling you stories about that?

LY: Yes, she came over in the covered wagon. She was born in County Corp, New York and then they came on to Kansas. But the little prairie dogs, I suppose they are big squirrels, they go to eating up the things they were growing and got dis(153) over that and left again. And that is when they came on and came out here. I had that picture of a covered wagon of him on the seat of the covered wagon and her there beside of him. Of course I don't have that anymore.

GY: We do have that, Mom.

LY: Oh we do.

GY: Yes.

LY: Did you find it?

GY: I found it. It was taken in Independence, Missouri when they left there for Oregon.

LY: Yes, you can see Independence in part of it.

ES: Did she tell you any stories about the trip?

LY: Not many about the trip. She told me about the time the cellar of the house and word got out the Indians were coming and that is when they ran under the house to the cellar.

ES: Let's switch over now to the early years of living in Ladd Canyon at the homestead claim. Could you describe what you can remember of how a typical day would go, what time you got up in the morning, what you ate for breakfast, what you did during the morning and so on? This goes back to when you were very young, of course.

LY: My dad would get up about four or five o'clock, but I didn't get up that early. I think I got up about five-thirty or six. We didn't have a herd of cows, but we had a few cows, and they would have to be milked. Sometimes he'd milk all of them and sometimes he'd have me go down and help him because my brothers would be gone or something and I had to milk.

ES: Did you have breakfast first?

LY: No, I think we went out and done some of our work before we had breakfast.

ES: Chores first thing?

LY: Yes.

ES: Did you wash up or anything in the morning?

LY: Oh yes, we'd wash.

ES: Cold water?

LY: I'll say. [laughter]

ES: Any soap?

LY: Yes, we had soap.

ES: I suppose the water was in a bowl of some kind?

LY: Well, we had a spring out back of the house. It ran down...Dad put some kind of a pipe or something up there so that it ran in that out down to the sink.

ES: An outdoor sink.

LY: Indoor.

ES: Indoor?

LY: Yes.

ES: What a luxury!

LY: We would turn it on and it would run day and night. People would come out from La Grande and have a fit because of it. Water all over, didn't turn it off.

ES: Where did the excess water go, through a hole in the floor?

LY: It must have, I guess, and out into a ditch and then we had to...we generally used it to water some time, the garden, or something like that.

ES: So you'd wash in this basin that the water flowed into, is that it?

LY: Yes, we'd bath in a bucket and then we'd gather out of the bucket into... Although I think Mother generally put it on the stove and warmed it up before we washed.

ES: After the milking did you have more chores to do, or could you play for the rest of the morning?

LY: We helped Dad, as far back as I remember he always had a separator.

ES: A cream separator.

LY: Yea, a cream separator, and we'd help him turn that. And he would have cup and put it under the spout where the milk came out and take some milk and then he'd put it under the cream and take some cream and he drank that every morning. Sometimes we'd get a cup and get up there and have it full with fresh cow's milk and drink that. And then they say it needs to be pasteurized.

ES: I guess it wasn't then.

LY: It didn't hurt us any.

ES: And then did you have homemade bread?

LY: Yes.

ES: Your mother made bread every week or so?

LY: Mother made bread and butter. She sold the butter and she sold eggs, in the hard times. And the butter... I remember she had a big dasher, you know, she dashed down (250) and I'd stuck in there and every once in a while I'd get my finger under the dasher. And when she came down I'd get butter.

ES: So you had a bruised finger?

LY: Yes, I had to quit that. [laughter]

ES: Did she add salt to the butter?

LY: I can't remember if she did, but I think she did.

ES: I think a lot of people do for a better flavor.

LY: Yes. I think she might have. She made biscuits. She had a pan, she called a bread pan, and it was about that big and about that high and she had some flour in that. She'd make biscuits, you know, get it all in the middle and put her milk in there and then she'd add the other things to that. And she made the best biscuits.

ES: And I'll bet she cooked them in a wood stove?

LY: Yes, it was a home comfort.

ES: Did you have to keep, get the wood in and keep the stove going?

LY: Oh yes, we had to get the wood in and then we'd put wood in to keep it going.

ES: I suppose you kept the stove going pretty much all day, especially in cold weather.

LY: Yes, because the house, it was big house, it had lots of holes in it.

ES: Not much insulation.

LY: I doubt if it had any.

ES: I can hear the wind whistling through their now. Did you wear pretty heavy clothes all day long through the winter?

LY: Well, Mother put those long-johns on us when we got up in the morning to wear to school. My sister would get outside and roll them up to have short-longs.

ES: She didn't like the way they looked?

LY: No, she thought it was old-fashioned, didn't like the way it looked.

ES: She wanted a little more style?

LY: Yes.

ES: And then lunch, what did you do for lunch usually? A biscuit with bread, I mean butter?

LY: She cooked lunch, but when we went to school we took sandwiches and things like that to school.

ES: And maybe an apple?

LY: Yes.

ES: And milk?

LY: We had milk to drink.

ES: And then when you came home from school were there more chores to do?

LY: We had to get the wood in for the night.

ES: Your father had cut the wood, I suppose?

LY: Yes. I remember once him telling the story of having a hole in the toe of his shoe and they couldn't afford a new pair of shoes for him. So in that hole they poked a rag. And

he went out to the chopping block one day to cut that rag off and he cut a big gash in his toe.

ES: That was an accident, I hope?

LY: Yes.

ES: And then in wintertime it was starting to get dark by four or four-thirty?

LY: Yes, by the time we got home from school it was time to start doing chores again.

ES: What kind of light did you have inside the house?

LY: Well, first we had a lamp and then a little later the Aladdin put out the gas lamp and we used that.

ES: That gave better light, I guess, didn't it?

LY: Yes, and it gave better light, too, to study by.

ES: Did you have several of those lamps?

LY: No, I think we just had one.

ES: You all had to gather around that?

LY: Yes, we all gathered around one lamp.

ES: Was there enough fire in the fireplace, maybe, to see by too?

LY: Yes, there was some. We didn't have a fireplace. We never did have a fireplace.

ES: Just the wood stove in the kitchen?

LY: Yes. He had the living room and the...I guess a bigger living room I guess it was, but I remember between those two it got so cold and he had big drapes that he would put up those to keep it warmer. Sometimes the wind was blowing those drapes way out. So you had to stand the cold.

ES: And what did you often have for dinner?

LY: Well, they always raised meat and generally it was pork, sometimes beef, but it seemed like pork more than beef. They'd cut a piece off of that and-

ES: Fry it?

LY: And it was fried and roasted sometimes, but generally fried. It was good.

ES: I bet it was.

LY: And we kids would go home from school and if there wasn't anybody home, they were gone at something else and were gone, the pork had just been butchered and they hung it up in a tree to cool off and we cut a piece out of that, a little piece, and put it on top of the stove.

ES: A little after school snack.

LY: Oh that tasted good.

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(1.75 hrs)

LY: ...getting out and sometimes he'd like (6) and sometimes Mother'd get...when we went to town why she'd...if she bought some meat or...it was called The Golden Rule store and the Boone's run it.

ES: In La Grande?

LY: Yes. And uh... they always gave me (9) if I was with her. And she would get the juice off of the sweet can...the true pickles that came in barrels, you know?

ES: Yes.

LY: And she'd get the sweet juice off of that and take it home and make sweet pickles. She never made pickles like we do now.

ES: And did the adults have coffee or tea?

LY: Oh yes. They had to have their coffee.

ES: Did the kids drink coffee, too?

LY: I think they mostly drank milk.

ES: Some kids like to drink...start drinking coffee when they're pretty young.

LY: Yes, they do. I don't think they drank coffee.

ES: It sounds to me as though nobody ever went hungry around your house?

LY: No, they didn't.

ES: Even if you were hungry when you came home from school. You weren't hungry for long.

LY: No, and I'll tell you a story about (18). I was in grade school. I don't know what grade I would have been in. But he'd start finding out that he could take a slice of bread and put...well, from the neighbors, I guess...and put butter on the bread and then that real thick cream, you'd take it and put it on the top of that and put it in the oven.

ES: What do you call that then when it came out of the oven? (22)? [laughter]

GY: We called it cream toast.

ES: Cream toast. The neighbors, I know, would all come in to play with him in order to get some of that. Bill Livingstone, [laughter] he ate so much anyway. He sure liked those sandwiches. And they ate quite a few that way.

GY: That would have been out at Mt. Glen.

LY: Yes.

ES: But would I be correct in thinking that for most of the time when you were living at the ranch in Ladd Canyon you were happy?

LY: Oh yes, very happy.

ES: Things didn't happen to make you sad?

LY: No. The only thing that made me sad was I had to ride my horse back to get where I wanted to go to play with the youngsters that were away from there.

ES: Why did you not like to ride horseback?

LY: I like to ride horseback, but I hated to do that every time I wanted to play with one of the kids.

ES: Oh, because it was so far away?

LY: Yes.

ES: Took too much time, was that it?

LY: Took too much time and Mother didn't let us be gone very long at a time.

ES: Well that's not a very big thing to be sad about.

LY: Well, no. [laughter]

ES: Were there any animals or people who died during that period?

LY: Well, I had a sister who died in childbirth.

ES: Do you remember...what were the customs then after someone had died? What did people do?

LY: Well, they grieved over them for a while and then they...

ES: What did they do with the body before it was buried?

LY: They would have a...as far back as I can remember they always had a funeral.

ES: Yes, but where would the funeral be?

LY: We have a cemetery plots up at Hillcrest and the other one.

ES: Was it ever the custom to have the body lie in the house for a day or two?

LY: Oh, yes. When my grandmother's time it was. 'Cause I remember her's lying in the house. But I never did know how old I was. I suppose about eight.

ES: Did people put up black crepe or cloth around the house?

LY: No, they didn't do that.

ES: I remember seeing that when I was about eight or nine years old in New York. You'd go by a house and it would be completely draped with black in the front. That wasn't the custom around here?

LY: I've read about that too, but I never saw that around here.

ES: Did you have any particular pets during that time?

LY: Dogs and cats.

ES: Did they stay outside?

LY: Yes.

ES: Like barn cats?

LY: Well, they went anyplace they want to. We always had two dogs. Dad always said he always had to have two dogs to make each other company. And we always had two dogs and all the cats we could rustle up, I guess.

ES: From watching those animals did you find out pretty early about reproduction?

LY: Well, I was quite a bit older before I knew that. Probably about... I was probably eight or nine or ten, somewhere along there before I found out and I think the kids at school told me.

ES: I'm just thinking that in conditions like that young kids learned about biology when they were fairly young.

LY: Yes, they did. I don't think I...

ES: There wasn't too much they didn't know.

LY: But I did until I was a bit older.

ES: Okay. Maybe because you were a girl they were sort of keeping those things from you.

LY: Yes, they'd shush up [laughter] when I'd get around the stove and tell them about our sister who was pregnant and they didn't want me to know it.

ES: Did you ask questions about how she got pregnant?

LY: Well, I guess I just took it as a matter of fact. [laughter]

ES: Like the weather, it just it.

LY: She swallowed a watermelon. [laughter] One sister says they just found her under a rock.

ES: Did you hear stories about a stork?

LY: Yes, but we didn't believe much in storks. [laughter]

ES: What happened on some of the holidays like Christmas? Was there anything special?

LY: Well, nothing special, I guess. I remember one Christmas I wanted a doll buggy. I didn't have a doll buggy. And I wanted one awfully bad. Pretty soon Christmas came. Dad, I guess, was Santa...the Christmas tree was in a separate room...and he went in there and started to call off the names and came out where we were and brought out a doll buggy with a canvas cover. It rolled over, like that, and made me mad.

ES: Why?

LY: I didn't think that...I'd wanted a really dolled up buggy.

ES: A really good one, you mean?

LY: Yes.

ES: And I suppose that if you got one gift that was okay?

LY: Yes, that was okay.

ES: Didn't have a lot of packages wrapped up?

LY: Of course with seven kids there were quite a few packages, but not many that were wrapped up. His brother...Frank's brother he used just sacks to put them in a brown paper bag and call it a Christmas dressing.

GY: Frank was your husband.

ES: Who's?

GY: Her husband, my dad.

LY: Well, your...Johnny...

GY: Yea, Johnny, you're talking about Johnny.

ES: We're switching times here. I'm not always sure which time we're talking about.

Well, let's switch over to the one-room school. I think you told me that there were at least two different school buildings in Ladd Canyon, didn't you?

LY: Well, there was the one...where the one is they have now. You've been there?

ES: No, I haven't.

LY: Oh, well, its quite a large building.

ES: Did you go to the first one, the original one?

LY: I didn't go to the original one, I don't think. I've been trying to think if I went there, but memory doesn't say that I did. I think I went to the first school in the new building.

ES: I see.

LY: And there were quite a...it was a one-room school.

ES: I think you said that it had wide steps and a round stove with a metal casing and a toilet that was built later and there were about forty kids there. Can you tell me anymore about how that building looked inside or outside and what kind of desks you had and maybe something about the lessons?

LY: Well, they had those regular desks that you sit on the seat that flops down and the top goes this way.

ES: Yes.

LY: And we had those. I think we finally sold some of those desks.

ES: Were they fastened together on runners at the bottom?

LY: On steel, yes. Steel runners. And when you moved one you moved them all. And they had an ink well in each one.

ES: And you used a steel-nibbed pen?

LY: Yes.

ES: Do you remember penmanship lessons?

LY: Oh, I had a certificate at home at the farm where Dale lives.

ES: And did you do those exercises where did you did round and round and round?

LY: Yes. That's what I was just talking about the other day...like a rake, looked like.

ES: Do you think that was the Spencer method of handwriting?

LY: I know it was.

ES: You remember the name Spencer?

LY: Yes. The teacher that taught us then...there was just two of us in the class that took that... and she...everybody thought, oh she'd be the one that'd get the certificate. Low and behold when it came back it was mine.

ES: Because you did them so well?

LY: I still have the one in... I framed it. I still have the penmanship in the frame.

ES: I imagine then you were proud of your handwriting?

LY: Well, yes, I was. And I write good yet. I think that I write better than a lot of the other people do.

GY: I agree.

ES: When you had lessons I suppose you had penmanship and arithmetic and reading. Did you have all those thing?

LY: Yes, we had all those and another thing we always did was...the first thing in the morning we would stand up and speak allegiance to the flag.

ES: And was there a flag in the room?

LY: Yes.

ES: How did the teacher look?

LY: Well, she was always...always looked nice to me. The first one we had was Mrs...her name was Mrs. Elmer. She later married a man out here in the valley. I remember she'd come to our place on Sunday afternoon and she'd ask if she'd had a school about a...that wasn't a (126) school, that was school at the...they had a mill up there...it was about three miles from our place. And she'd walk all the way up to that school.

ES: You mean her husband operated a saw mill.

LY: Well, he didn't operate it, no, someone else operated it.

ES: I thought teachers...women teachers weren't supposed to be married then.

LY: Well, she was. She must have been anyway.

ES: Mrs. Elmer?

LY: Yes. She's gone now.

ES: So she walked three miles to school every day and then back home.

LY: Yes, she has two sons here. They might be able to tell something about her school days. Erma and Elmer.

ES: Is she the teacher you remember best?

LY: Well, I liked her awfully well.

ES: But you had more than one teacher there?

LY: I think I liked all the teachers.

ES: Okay.

LY: Yes. We had her and then we had... the last one we had was Mrs. Kale. She was a...well, I guess her mother...maybe her husband might have been dead. She had two girls.

ES: If there were forty children in the class I suppose their ages were from maybe six years old to sixteen or seventeen, is that right?

LY: Yes, my brothers...brother looked like he was eight...why he was ready to go to college when he got out of the high school.

ES: How did the teacher organize things so that all different age kids were doing things they should be doing?

LY: Well, she walked around the school all the time.

ES: Yea.

LY: And saw what they were doing and helped them with their work as she went if they needed work.

ES: Did you ever have discussions of subjects that everybody took part in?

LY: Oh yes. We had in geography and arithmetic. Basically we'd go arithmetic and geography on the board and see who could get the problem done first.

ES: Can you remember what a geography problem would be like?

LY: Well, it'd be like...oh, ten and twenty-one or something like that.

ES: Now that's arithmetic.

LY: That's arithmetic.

ES: Did you do state capitals, for example.

LY: Oh yes, that was one thing.

ES: What's the capital of Maine? What's the capital of Kansas?

LY: Yes.

ES: How would you do that at the board? Go up and...

LY: Well, we'd just write down...she'd call out "What's the capital of Oregon?" and we'd write it down on the board.

ES: I see. And then did you have to locate it on a map, too?

LY: I imagine we did. I don't remember that, but I suppose we did.

ES: How about spelling, how did she handle spelling?

LY: Spelling she would give us about ten to twelve words in the spelling book and we were to study those for two or three...over night or two or three days, I don't remember how long.

ES: She probably gave you the list on Monday?

LY: Yes.

ES: And you had to study them on Tuesday and Wednesday?

LY: And then have a test on Thursday?

LY: Then have a test on Thursday.

ES: And if you didn't do well on that test, what did you do?

LY: Well, she'd have another one the next week. [laughter]

ES: Until you got them right, or as many as possible. Did you have spelling bees, too?

LY: Yes, we had spelling bees. Generally between two of the grades.

ES: Were you a good speller?

LY: Well, I thought I was. [laughter]

ES: Did you win the spelling bees most of the time? Or did you stay standing till the end anyway?

LY: No, I won some of them and there was another girl who was my friend and she'd win some too because she was good.

ES: And what did the teacher do when the kids got a little bit too, um, um, unruly or a little bit too wiggly?

LY: She'd make them stay after school.

ES: And do what?

LY: Well, I remember one thing was I had to learn a poem. And I could learn fast. She'd give me a poem...

ES: Was that your punishment?

LY: Like Longfellow or something...we'd learn that, one of his poems. She'd have us...let her hear it and then the next day I forgot it. [laughter]

ES: But that wasn't the punishment, was it?

LY: That was the punishment she gave.

ES: To learn a poem?

LY: Yes.

ES: That's a way to grow up hating poetry.

LY: I don't remember anybody getting a spanking.

ES: I suppose some of the boys were too big for her to spank, weren't they?

LY: Yes.

ES: I should think so. Did she get upset sometimes?

LY: Yes, well, not very much so.

ES: Did she ever scream at you? Or cry?

LY: I think she did one time when one of the boys put a mouse in her drawer. [laughter]

ES: Yea. And then were there sometimes activities at the school? Plays or dances?

LY: Oh yes. We had plays...like Thanksgiving and Christmas and different holidays we always had a play. Thanksgiving we'd have the Puritans...the Pilgrims and the Indians.

ES: So as you think about the time you spent in that one-room school do you see anything you think was bad about it?

LY: No, I don't. I think it was good.

ES: You learned a lot?

LY: Learned a lot and the teacher helped a lot. We always had kind teachers. None of them was very cross, that I remember.

ES: Its quite a struggle to take care of, I mean teach forty kids all day long.

LY: Yes, she walk around as she was teaching.

ES: Yes, that's hard.

LY: I think sometimes she had trouble with the big boys.

ES: Yea, they didn't want to be there, did they?

LY: No.

ES: Or do what she wanted them to do.

LY: I don't think I took the picture, but I do have a picture that was taken of the boys that were standing and they were holding the American flag. There was four of them, one at each end. I think I told you the other time that they...Dad and one of the boys put the American flag up on the flagpole when the war ended.

ES: Now you started high school in La Grande?

LY: Yes. I went through grade school in seven years and a half. And went in high school at mid-year.

ES: And when you started high school classes did you think that you were pretty well prepared?

LY: I thought I was when I went in, but I got in there and found out I wasn't.

ES: Oh, you did? [laughter] What were some of your difficulties?

LY: Oh, I took Latin for one thing and I thought I never would get (206). That's the only thing in high school that I failed in...was Latin.

ES: Of course nobody's really prepared to study Latin for the first time because it is so different from English.

LY: And I didn't like geometry. I got it alright, but I didn't like it. I didn't have any trouble other than that with mathematics, but I didn't like geometry.

ES: I suppose going to high school where you had several teachers and you moved from class to class seemed a lot different from the Ladd Canyon school?

LY: It sure did.

ES: Was it exciting?

LY: Yes, I enjoyed high school. I enjoyed having several girls for girlfriends. We had a study hall and had a man teacher there. One time I was in study hall and somebody gave me some gum to chew. Well, I put it in my mouth and chewed it and he found out I was chewing it and told me to go up and spit it out the window. And I think that was one of the most embarrassing things that happened to me. I had to go up in front of everybody and throw the gum out the window.

ES: I hope it didn't land on somebody's head. [laughter]

LY: I do too.

ES: Now from Ladd Canyon, where you were, to La Grande is what, about five mile?

LY: I think about nine.

ES: Nine. And were you going back and forth each day?

LY: Yes.

ES: On a horse? Or did you have a car then or what?

LY: Well, we had a car then. My brother, my oldest brother, had a job with the county and worked...if fact the place he worked inside was right across here across the road. He drove a car and he let me go to school and he was the one that would have paid my way through college if I would have gone.

ES: I suppose you had to leave about seven or seven-thirty in the morning?

LY: About that, I think. Pretty early.

ES: And then did you have to wait around after school till he finished work?

LY: Yes, I'd have to wait until after he got through work to go home.

ES: What was there to do around school during that time?

LY: Wasn't much to do around school.

ES: Any sports?

LY: Well, they played ball, baseball and basketball and a few things like that. We had a teeter-totter and I think we played a lot of times on the teeter-totter.

ES: Not while you were in high school, I suppose, did you?

LY: It went through grade school, I think, and it was still there during high school.

ES: Oh, I see. I suppose this was the high school in La Grande at the corner of Fourth and 'M' Street?

LY: Yes.

ES: The building was torn down a few years ago?

LY: Yes.

ES: The building was fairly new, though, when you were there, I think?

LY: Yes, it was. We'd have gym classes and played basketball in gym class.

ES: Did you have typing classes and Home Ec classes?

LY: Oh yes. I can remember yet the first thing I made was what they called Floating Island in Home Ec.

ES: A dessert?

LY: A dessert. You beat up the whites and put them on top of a kind of a custard and that was the Floating Island.

ES: Did you eat it too?

LY: Oh yes. [laughter]

ES: Did you get a good grade for that?

LY: Yes. I did good in cooking class.

ES: I bet your mother was glad about that?

LY: Yes, I think so.

ES: Did she put to work at home then with cooking?

LY: Well, I helped her can and things like that.

ES: Did you make anymore Floating Islands at home?

LY: Yes I did.

ES: Your specialty. [pause] Did you take typing or shorthand?

LY: I took typing and I would have took shorthand, but they didn't teach it (252).

ES: Were there any boys in the typing class?

LY: Yes, I think there were a few.

ES: Mostly, though, was the idea that only girls were supposed to type, wasn't it?

LY: Yes. There were quite a few girls that could type.

ES: Hale Blake told me that when told the typing teacher at Cove High School that he wanted to take typing she said, "No, only girls can take typing. And anyway, if you take it you won't get an A." And he said, "I don't care, I'm going to take it anyway."

[laughter] And he said he was mighty glad he did, too.

LY: Yes, I was sure glad I took typing. Its helped me many times.

ES: Good.

LY: I still have the typewriter I used in high school.

ES: You do?

LY: Yes.

ES: What kind was that?

LY: An Underwood.

ES: Underwood, oh yes. Did it have the kind of keys that come up and hit this way.

LY: Yes. Sometimes they were right and sometimes they were wrong.

ES: Did you learn to change the ribbon?

LY: Yes.

ES: Did you do any typing for other people?

LY: Well, yes. I went to the court house one summer...my sister-in-law was a recorder up here...she had me come in and go to work that summer. I worked putting names in the ledger. I did put down names on cards that voted in the precinct. That was about all.

ES: I imagine you thought that was important work?

LY: Oh yes, I thought it was important work.

ES: Sure.

LY: But I got rheumatism while I was working there and I spent about six or eight weeks in bed with it.

ES: Rheumatism? Where did you think that came from?

LY: I don't know. It was probably an arthritis, I guess.

ES: Has that bothered you all your life?

LY: No, I've never been bothered very much. I have it right now in this left ankle it bothers me when walking. I'm supposed to walk a lot and it sure hurts it.

ES: And you started getting rheumatism when you were in teen age?

LY: Yes.

ES: Did many people have rheumatism at that time?

LY: I didn't know of very many when I had it. Mother went to...she was a great one not to go to the doctor. She would go to Moon's drugstore and they'd tell her what to give me. So they told me to get some kind of medicine that had something in it, I can't remember now. It was good medicine. She got some of it and gave it to me and I went to sleep and she thought I had died. I was sound asleep and they couldn't wake me up.

ES: And that was before you were a Christian Scientist?

LY: Yes. I didn't become a Christian Scientist until after we were married.

ES: Were there any other remedies for rheumatism that they tried like hot packs or an ointment?

LY: I can't remember that they did, but they might have.

ES: Do you remember being in pain often?

LY: Oh no, I was in with that rheumatism. It seemed like it started in my thumb and kept jumping from joint to joint. I stood up against the stove one time and it felt so good and made it feel good that I went to a party or something one night and I remember standing on that stove.

ES: I would like that somebody would have said, "We need to take you to Hot Lake."

LY: Well, that is where I finally ended when it was too late to do much good. Mother did go to Dr. Fie and he doctored me. But that medicine that she got from the Moons done me more good than anything he ever done.

ES: What did they try at Hot Lake? Put you in the hot water?

LY: I can't remember that they put me in the hot water. He just gave me more medicine to take, I think.

ES: Well, that surprises me because I thought most people who came to Hot Lake took the mineral baths?

LY: Well, they did, but I can't remember that I did. I don't think I did.

ES: Hmm. Do you remember wishing you could?

LY: Yes, it would help I sure did. And when I got over it it never bothered me since.

ES: Except for a little bit in your leg?

LY: Except that bit in my leg that old people get.

ES: We're just about at the end of the tape. Would this be a good time to stop, you think?

GY: It might be, are you kind of ready to quit for today, Mom?

LY: Yes, any time.

ES: I'm just coming to the end of the tape, so this is a good time to stop.

2/4/02, foster care home in La Grande, OR, tape 3, side 1
(2 hrs)

ES: These are all topics we talked about a little bit the first time I was here. So what I was hoping to do today was get a few more details on each one. Taking you back to the time when you lived in that house at the ranch in Ladd Canyon, probably before you went

to high school or maybe while you were in high school also, you told me something last time about preparing meals. Your mother cooked on a wood stove I think you said.

LY: Yes

ES: Did you have to get wood to keep the stove running.

LY: Well, they did and they piled the wood in the wood box. We had split wood in it.

(9) Didn't have to go very to get to go fire.

ES: And did that stove get very hot.

LY: Yes it would if you put too much wood in.

ES: How hot did your mother like it to be for cooking?

LY: Well, she seemed to think that's what she had to cook on it I guess and she liked it.

ES: Could you describe, say a dinner she would make, a fairly typical dinner?

LY: Well, she always had some kind of meat and potatoes and gravy and sometimes of vegetable.

ES: How did she cook the meat usually?

LY: Well, she would fry it and cook it until it was done. I don't remember very many roasts. I think most of them were cooked on top of the stove.

ES: Did she put some kind of grease in the pan?

LY: Yes, she'd put some bacon grease or something in the pan.

ES: How did that smell?

LY: It smelled good.

ES: What time would she start cooking?

LY: Well, in the evening, I think we had our big meal at noon.

ES: Oh you did? Even on school days?

LY: No, not on school days. We took our lunch to school. But I think when the men were home working we had our meal at noon. And usually she started, from a half to an hour ahead.

ES: I see. And then potatoes sometimes mashed and maybe sometimes mashed?

LY: Yes

ES: Fried?

LY: Yes.

ES: Did you help to cut up the potatoes?

LY: Yes. And the fried potatoes were often wet, somebody showed her how cook them ca (30) potatoes with onions in them and she cooked them often that way.

ES: That smelled good too I'll bet.

LY: I'll say it sure did.

ES: Yes it did. What kinds of vegetables?

LY: Well, several things out of the garden that they had put down in the cellar. Beets and turnips and carrots.

ES: And how were they cooked usually?

LY: Well, usually put on and boiled and then a little seasoning put on them. Sometimes she would cream them.

ES: What was the food served on? I know plates, but what kind of plates?

LY: Well, she had a set of plates, I can't-

ES: Were they crockery or melo-

LY: No, they were porcelain. But I can't remember that they had any-oh yes, we kids had our own plates, we had children's plates. Mine had a, I think it was a man or a monkey or something on a bicycle.

ES: Did these plates get chipped and cracked?

LY: Oh, I can't remember that mine did very much, it might have, some of them did. I didn't pay any attention to it.

ES: Well, I imagine you used the same plate for month after month.

LY: Yes.

ES: How did you wash them?

LY: Oh she just put them in the dish pan and put water part way up and got in there and washed with her hands.

ES: Now you didn't have hot water coming out of a pipe did you?

LY: No we just had the cold.

ES: You had to heat the water on the stove to wash the dishes?

LY: Yes.

ES: And then what kind of soap?

LY: Well, I think she made her own soap out of lye and grease and stuff.

ES: Do you remember watching her do that?

LY: Yes, I remember her.

ES: What was the process like?

LY: Well, we just thought it was something that she'd done-

ES: Yea, but what did she actually do? I'm not sure I know. How would you make soap?

LY: Well, she'd melt the grease and then she added the lye to it, ___(54) lye, and-

ES: Lye burns your hands doesn't it?

LY: What?

ES: Lye burns your hands, doesn't it?

LY: Well, it didn't seem to in the soap.

ES: Maybe she diluted it.

LY: And then she'd, oh I can't remember just what else she did put in the soap. But then she'd put it in a pan and when it got cold she took a knife and cut it in bars.

ES: Now there wasn't any such thing as detergent, was there?

LY: No, no.

ES: Neither powder or liquid.

LY: No.

ES: Just plain old-did you use the same soap for washing, taking a bath, as you did for washing the dishes?

LY: No, I think she had hand soap that she used for the bath.

ES: Did she make that too?

LY: Well, it seems like she bought it.

ES: Ah, could you buy Camay soap at that time?

LY: Well, I'm not sure about that. But I know that we had soap.

ES: That's good. Smell good?

LY: Yes. She might have made it because she always put a little perfume in it.

ES: Oh, I wondered about that. Did she put that in the dish washing soap too?

LY: No, she didn't put it in that. It smelled like old Nampa soap.

ES: You could tell hand soap from dish washing soap by the smell.

LY: Yes, and it was hand-the dish washing soap that was yellow in color. There was something put in it that turned yellow. Can't remember what it was that she'd put in.

ES: I bet she had two different pans for washing dishes, one for soap and the other to rinse. Is that right?

LY: Yes.

ES: Did you have towels to dry them with or just let them air dry?

LY: Yes, we had towels and we dried dishes with the towels and that was always my job was to dry dishes, not to wash them. Sometimes I had to wash them, but not very often.

GY: Were the dish towels made out of flour sacks?

LY: Yes.

ES: Flour sacks. Of course at that time you could buy things like that in La Grande, couldn't you? Dish towels?

LY: I don't know whether you could or not.

ES: You were going into La Grande, I think you said on weekends to shop?

LY: Yes, we went in there and we probably bought some, but we used flour sacks an awfully lot. Saved all of them.

ES: Well, I think you said you didn't have a lot of money, so you probably had to save money wherever you could.

LY: No, didn't have a lot of money because Dad didn't- Well, in the wintertime he didn't work any and in the summertime he was a thresher and he threshed the wheat for people.

They had a threshing machine and he used another fella's.

ES: Did he have enough to give you kids an allowance?

LY: I don't remember any allowance.

ES: So how did get money to buy things in La Grande?

LY: I don't think we kids bought very much. It was always the older ones that bought a little bit and they must have had a little money.

ES: Maybe they'd give you a couple pennies for a candy or something like that?

LY: Well, yes, they might have.

ES: That must have been a neat treat.

LY: It was a treat and we went to a little shop, there was a man and he owned it and he was blind. He could see-he knew where all the candy was in that case and anytime you'd want some kind he'd go to right where it was.

ES: What was your favorite kind?

LY: Mine was an all-day sucker.

ES: It would last the longest?

LY: He had ice cream too. He would give me a great big dish of ice cream for a dime.

ES: A dime. Was that by any chance the Midge Wright drugstore in La Grande?

LY: No, that one was down by Goss's second-hand store.

ES: Moon Drugstore?

LY: His store was.

GY: I know, where Dolvin's is now.

LY: Yes, down a little farther than Dolvin's, about two places down farther.

ES: And was it just an ice cream store or was it a drugstore too?

LY: No, he just had ice cream and candy.

ES: I bet a lot of kids went there.

LY: Yes, they did.

ES: You're meals in the summertime, were they much different from what they were in the winter?

LY: I can't remember if they were much different, because sometimes we'd want to go on a picnic and Dad said what is the use of going on a picnic when we had a place right where we were?

ES: Everyday was the same thing.

LY: He wasn't much of picnics.

ES: But he lived out in the woods so it probably seemed like a picnic all the time. If there was food left over from a meal was any cool place to store it.

LY: No where but under the sink. That place was cool. She used that for a cooler. Then sometimes she'd put things out on the back porch.

ES: I guess you said there were some cracks in the wall so that the air could come through. That would really cool things in the winter. Is there anything else about preparing food or getting food that you remember that I haven't asked about?

LY: I don't think so. I remember we kids, I think I told you that last time, was that we used to go home while they'd go to town. We'd get home from school and get a piece, they'd kill a hog, and we'd cut a piece off it and fry it on the top of the stove.

ES: Yes, you did tell me that. You said you were awfully hungry when you came home from school. Well, let's go to clothing. I think you said some of your clothing your mother made. You got a piece of cloth and cut a hole in the top and then sew it together on the sides. That was your dress.

LY: Yes.

ES: But some of the clothes you bought in stores?

LY: Yes.

ES: So when you were quite young and going to the one-room school, what kind of clothing did you wear usually.

LY: Well, I generally wore those dresses she made. It seemed to me like they were just a hole for the neck and we'd stick our arms through the holes then she put a thing around the middle.

ES: Did you wear any kind of slip under it, or a shirt?

LY: Well, we must have.

ES: Maybe a tight fitting shirt?

LY: I can't remember that.

ES: Did all the girls wear pretty much the same thing?

LY: Yes, they wore pretty much the same thing.

ES: So I guess you weren't too disturbed that you didn't look right?

LY: No, we didn't pay any attention to what we wore.

ES: Style wasn't a concern?

GY: Everybody out there was poor I guess, weren't they?

LY: Yes.

ES: What did the boys wear?

LY: They wore overalls.

ES: Oh yea, overalls. They had overalls that came up with the straps over the shoulders?

LY: Yes.

ES: And anything underneath that?

LY: They'd have a shirt on.

ES: And what sorts of shoes did you kids have?

LY: Well, generally oxfords or something like that.

ES: That sounds expensive.

LY: I can't remember having any button shoes or anything like that.

ES: You talked that these were tied shoes?

LY: Yes.

ES: And do you think you bought those in La Grande?

LY: We must have I guess.

ES: I wonder if you remember ever using a Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward catalog.

LY: Yes, a lot of things were ordered out of the Montgomery Ward catalog.

ES: Usually clothing?

LY: Clothing and I remember my doll, my first doll, was ordered out of the catalog.

ES: And how would it be delivered?

LY: Well, it'd come in the mail and the doll still in the box it came in. I've got it at home.

ES: You do?

LY: It's a sleepy eyed doll.

ES: How was the mail delivered or did you have to go somewhere to pick it up?

LY: Yes, down by the-oh, about two or three miles down the road they had a place where they had all the mailboxes. One of them was ours.

ES: I see. Well if the doll box would fit in that mailbox it must have been fairly big?

LY: Oh, sometimes it would be large. We didn't have a big mailbox then, those small ones you know. Sometimes they just tied a string on the package and tied it to the mailbox. I can't remember, my Mother got the doll for Christmas. I don't remember.

ES: Was it exciting to get things in the mail?

LY: Yes, I'd been wanting one for a long time. I wanted one with the sleeping eyes and my brother took it apart to see what made the eyes blink.

ES: So that was the end of that doll.

LY: So it wasn't much good after that.

ES: What did you do to him?

LY: Well, he was bigger than me.

ES: You just complained. What kind of clothing did your parents wear?

LY: Well, I remember Mother wearing kind of a gathered skirt. I don't remember having any dresses on. She mostly wore this blue material, she sewed them herself and it had a band on the waist.

ES: Down to the ankles?

LY: Yes.

ES: Did she wear heavy stockings?

LY: Yes, she'd wear heavier stockings, cotton stockings.

ES: How did she fix her hair?

LY: She raised it, she put it in a, it was long, and she wore it in a bun up here until they started cutting their hair and she got awfully mad about people cutting their hair, but it wasn't very long until she decided to have her's cut. And then she had waves all over the top of her hair. Her hair was naturally wavy.

ES: Why do think she was angry about cutting her hair?

LY: She just thought we had gone to the dogs if we started doing that.

ES: You mean you weren't a good or nice women if you cut your hair.

LY: Yes.

ES: That would have been about the 1920s.

LY: Somewhere along there.

ES: That's when women-didn't women who cut their hair said they "bobbed" their hair?

LY: Hmm

ES: Was the idea of bobbing their hair associated with women who were, let's say, loose, morals.

LY: Yes.

ES: Did they smoke too.

LY: No, I don't think so because I remember my sister having her hair bobbed and I can't remember that she smoked.

ES: Okay, they didn't have to go together. Did your mother ever wear any lipstick or any rouge?

LY: I don't think so. I don't think they, any of them, used any makeup. I can't remember them using any.

ES: You said she had perfume, though.

LY: Yes, she did have perfume.

ES: But she used that in the soap and not on her?

LY: Uh, huh. She's put some on her once in a while.

ES: I see. Did she ever dress up and go to a party or dance?

LY: Well, no except for the Get-together Club was a club they had out there for the women in the neighborhood. They'd all get together and have an afternoon, a kind of party. They'd get together and sometimes during the war I think they made neck-scarves, and they made mittens, I think. Other than that, I guess they just caught up on the news.

ES: How did they dress maybe differently from the way they usually dressed?

LY: Well, they didn't dress much differently except that maybe the material was a little better material.

ES: Maybe cleaner?

LY: Yes. They'd all always have on a clean dress.

ES: Did your mother wash the family clothes pretty much the same way she washed the dishes, with that soap that she had made.

LY: Yes, so we had to washboard. Washed the clothes on it. I remember we washed, one time we washed, in the summertime we washed down in the back yard where it was cooler. 'Cause I had to wash that time.

ES: Now washboards as I recall are pretty hard on the knuckles.

LY: Yes, they were.

ES: They turned out red and bleeding, don't you?

LY: Yes, they are.

ES: But there was nothing else.

LY: No, I think that's all.

ES: And you need to be able to rub dirty clothes on something to get the dirt out, don't you.

LY: Well, we'd scrub them on the board.

ES: Yea right.

LY: We'd boiled them, we put them in the boiler.

ES: Oh, you'd boil them, too? What did that do to the colors?

LY: Well, we didn't notice any difference. I suppose there was, but we kids didn't pay any attention to the color.

ES: And how often would clothes get washed?

LY: Every week we'd have wash day on Monday and iron the clothes on Tuesday and had that as a ritual.

ES: I remember some kind of a nursery rhyme about that. Monday wash day, Tuesday-something else, Wednesday-for every day of the week. Do you remember that one?

LY: I remember it, but I can't say it.

ES: I guess that was sort of the rule about how people did things. There were certain days for each kind of activity.

LY: Yes, always had to wash the clothes on Monday.

ES: Why do you think that was?

LY: I don't know. I guess somebody must have started it and it just kept up.

ES: Yes, everybody agreed that's when you wash your clothes. Then I suppose you had to hang up the clothes to dry outside?

LY: Yes, we hung them outside on the clothesline.

ES: And did you just flop them over the clothesline or did you have pins?

LY: No, we had clothes pins.

ES: Wooden ones?

LY: Yes.

ES: And was this wash line so high that when you were a little girl you couldn't reach it?

LY: Yes, it was. I don't think I hung them up much when I was a little girl 'cause the line was too high. But I remember getting old enough to hang them up. I remember hanging up something for Dad one time and the underwear had sleeves in it.

ES: Is that because it was long one-piece underwear, top and bottom all together.

LY: Yes, and we'd hang it up and it'd just like somebody standing there.

ES: And I imagine it got pretty yellow.

LY: Yes, it did.

ES: You said your mother want to cut her hair, but I suppose the kids and the men cut their hair.

LY: Yes, my sister was the first one that cut her's and mother about had a fit.

ES: Well, who did the cutting?

LY: Well, she had it cut in town. I don't know whether the barber cut it or whether she went to some friend.

ES: Did the boys usually go to a barber in town?

LY: And they, well, I don't know whether they went to a barber or whether Mother cut it for them. I know that during the war my husband and his brother, they used to cut each other's hair. And his brother went to the service so I told him that I'd cut his hair. He

thought about it a while and decided it would be alright. And so I started cutting it and I was running out of hair. He never let me cut it again.

ES: You got down to the skin?

LY: Yes.

ES: Yes, I suppose you'd say I'm going to have someone else do this now.

LY: Yes. He never let me cut it anymore.

ES: What places in the house did you have to keep your clothes? I'm wondering if they hung in closets or if you folded them up in drawers, or what?

LY: Well, they were both, some of them were in drawers and some of them hung up on clothes hangers in closets.

ES: Did you have enough clothes to wear something different each day?

LY: Oh, I got my first when I started high school and I sure liked that dress and I think I wore it everyday, the week anyway.

ES: Then you washed it on Monday and started wearing it again?

LY: Oh, I imagine, but I can't remember for sure.

ES: Did you see women in La Grande who were wearing clothes that you thought were very, very nice, that you'd like to have?

LY: yes, we saw one lady and her name I think was Ludwig and she was always dressed up when she was up-town. There were two or three others dressed extra nice. Generally they had a muff to put their hands in. I had a muff.

ES: Fur?

LY: To put my hands in.

ES: Was it fur?

LY: It hung around my neck and down and then I put my hands in that to keep them warm. Somebody gave me one or I got one somehow.

ES: What about hats? Did most women wear hats?

LY: Well, yes we wore hats too. Different kinds of hats. After I got into high school I always went and bought a- enough to go and buy a hat. I generally wore little hats, kind of turbans, little hats that came around, as I remember.

ES: Were they mainly to keep you warm, your head warm?

LY: Well, I don't think they thought of that so much as they thought it was the style.

ES: Could you remember the dress you wore when you went to your first dance?

LY: Well, I don't think I, probably that one I wore the first day I went to school maybe. That was about the only good dress I had.

ES: I just wondered if you'd gone to a dance in high school and you just thought you had to have a new dress for that.

LY: Well, the only prom dress was a pink- it's still, I still got it in a cedar chest upstairs I think. It was a pink dress with the short sleeves.

ES: Did you have a necklace or a bracelet to go with that or maybe earrings?

LY: Well, I don't remember. Somewhere along the way I got a blue bracelet and a white one. But I don't know whether that was in high school or whether it was later. But I remember wearing it. It wasn't made out of silver or gold, it was plastic and it was kind of bones (263) stuff that they made and then they put the sets on top of it.

ES: I'm surprised to hear there was plastic.

LY: Well it might not have been plastic, but it wasn't gold or silver.

ES: A cheaper metal maybe?

LY: It wasn't metal, it was like a bone.

ES: A bone, oh really?

LY: It was solid.

ES: It could have looked a little like plastic I suppose.

LY: Yes.

ES: We were talking about preparing meals at home. During your first fifteen or twenty years of life did you go to any restaurant of any kind? Like maybe at Hot Lake?

LY: Well, I can't remember going to Hot Lake then. I know when we went to town that Mother would always take me into the restaurant and we'd have not so much a meal as we'd have some refreshments of some kind.

ES: Tea and cookies?

LY: Well, I don't think we had cookies. We must have had tea. I know that they- One restaurant was called White and all the table clothes were white and they had one on each table and then there was an Anthony's café that we often went to. They were the ones who had the bowls of crackers on the table.

ES: Do you think you did not have a full meal because it was too expensive?

LY: No, we were satisfied to have, I don't remember just what we had, we had pie or something and maybe the tea with it. Oh maybe we'd get something to eat. I don't remember just what we did have to eat.

ES: I suppose that was a treat?

LY: Yes, it was. We were tickled to death to go in there.

ES: I wonder if La Grande at that time had a Chinese restaurant?

LY: Well, she had one pretty early. I don't remember just what the year she was in there. But there was a little Chinese lady here and I asked her if she remembered anything about any, but she didn't. It was called Mary's and it was up there across from the city hall, the old post office. They served noodles a lot, Chinese noodles. When I'd go in to stay with my sister, she was married and living on Grandy Avenue, and she'd send her girls and me up with a gallon bucket. We'd go up there and they would fill that bucket up with noodles. We'd take that home to eat. They had gallon buckets all over the floor, some cats.

ES: And why do you think that-?

LY: I don't know.

ES: Why do you think that people wanted to take noodles home to eat? Were they better than the noodles that you could cook at home?

LY: Well, it tasted better and I suppose it cost less.

ES: Oh, I see.

LY: I don't remember just what we paid for them, but not very much.

ES: Just plain noodles or was there something else with them.

LY: No, they were Chinese noodles and then a broth.

ES: I see.

LY: They tasted awfully good.

ES: Now you mentioned you remembered seeing a Chinese woman, did you see very many other Chinese people, who were maybe other places than in restaurants?

LY: Well, there was a section of town that had the Chinese were in. They had- I don't know if they had any storage or not. They lived underground. They had a basement on the stores and they'd be under there. When Frank would deliver coal he said he looked

down and there were black people down there too. He looked down there and he said all he could see were their shining eyeballs. He delivered coal to them.

ES: Why did you think they lived underground?

LY: Maybe the price was better, I don't know. There were quite a few in Chinatown, we called it.

ES: Was it possible that they lived underground so that the white people would see less of them?

LY: Well, that might have been true. They didn't seem to go around town too much. We'd see a Chinese once in a while, but it don't seem like we saw them on the sidewalks too much when we were in there.

ES: Did it seem to you white people thought that the Blacks and Chinese were as good as white people?

LY: Well, yes. They had a tong war one time at the post office building, the city hall there, and one man got killed.

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(1.75 hrs)

LY: Oh, we talked English and they seemed to understand it, but whether they did or not I don't know.

ES: Would you remember anything like a conversation?

LY: We talked to Mary back then in the back when we got the noodles. She seemed to understand. We talked something about the food, I guess, and about the pretty day or something like that, what was going on. She always seemed to understand us. And then she moved down to another place.

ES: What kind of work did they black people seem to do?

LY: They didn't seem to do very much. They were down in those holes and I never saw them working very much.

ES: They didn't have jobs on the railroad?

LY: I don't, no, I don't think so. I don't know how they got along. Some of them may have worked on the railroad. The conductors on the railroad were usually black.

ES: I thought it was usually the porters who were black?

LY: Yes.

ES: In the Pullman cars.

LY: Yes.

ES: Did you see any black children in school?

LY: I don't believe we did. I can't remember seeing any blacks.

ES: Not even in high school?

LY: No, not even in high school.

ES: Of course, at that time, certainly when I was growing up, a lot of people quite school at eighth grade and didn't try to go on to high school.

LY: Yes, that's the way with my family. I was the only one in my family that went through high school. My sisters started, but they quit. Everybody said they just went in the front door and out the back.

ES: Did you ever figure out why they didn't stick with it?

LY: They didn't like school. They wanted to get a job. My older sister got a job in the candy store. The other one she'd, well when she was going to grade school she'd go to school and get a headache and our sister had to take her home. There wasn't nothing the matter with her, she just didn't want to go to school.

ES: You did want to go to school.

LY: Yes.

ES: Do you remember why you thought you wanted or needed to go to school?

LY: Well, I just thought I needed to learn more.

ES: What made you different?

LY: I don't know. I must have got a different gene.

ES: I guess so. Did you like to read from the time you were small?

LY: Oh boy did I like to read. Mother said if she ever needed me to help her she'd go look in the corner and find me with a book.

ES: Now that could have something to do with the idea of your going on to high school.

LY: It might have been.

ES: Cause if you could read you could probably do the schoolwork better.

LY: Yes. I could read and they- oh, I got my books out of the library. I got all of Emily Loring's books. I liked them.

ES: Emily Loring?

LY: Uh huh.

ES: Were they fiction?

LY: Yes. Oh I hated history. I just couldn't get anywhere in history. And that old, old history did not mean anything to me then.

ES: Did you have to memorize a lot and take test on dates and people's names.

LY: Yes.

ES: That's enough to make almost anybody dislike history.

LY: Well, I didn't like Caesar and some of those people that were in the old books.

ES: Did you like the English class the best then maybe?

LY: Yes, I liked English pretty good. What they had, phrasing and things that they taught us.

ES: Good writing.

LY: Well, they'd call them clauses and-

ES: Oh yes, grammar.

LY: Yes.

ES: Clauses and phrases and subjects and predicates.

LY: Yes, I liked that.

ES: Do you remember why you liked it?

LY: No, I just did.

ES: It just appealed to you.

LY: Uh huh.

ES: Maybe you told me that you took some kind of a home economics class? Cooking, sewing.

LY: Yes, I took it and I liked it too. I took Latin, but I didn't like it. That was the only thing I failed at when I was at high school was Latin.

ES: How well do you remember what you did in the cooking class?

LY: Well, I remember making what they called "Floating Island."

ES: Yes, I think you mentioned that.

LY: That sure stays in my mind the best.

ES: And then you made those things at home later?

LY: Yes. I enjoyed the cooking classes. There was about eight or ten or a dozen girls in it.

ES: No boys were ever in the cooking class?

LY: I don't think so. They wouldn't take cooking, I don't think then.

ES: They do now.

LY: Yes.

ES: Did you take a typing class.

LY: Yes, I took typing and I liked it.

ES: Did you type fast enough when you finished that class that you could have gotten a job as a typist?

LY: Yes, I typed enough that I could type for a business job. And then I intended to take shorthand, but they weren't teaching it at half time, half class, in January and I didn't get to take it.

ES: Anything else you remember about school activities that was especially either good or bad?

LY: Well, they were good. We used to play Pop the Whip a lot. It seemed to me like they always put me on the end. I'd fall down and I'd go home and Mother have to darn my socks. The dee (67) went out.

ES: But you went ahead and played anyway?

LY: Yes.

ES: Tell me a little more about how teachers disciplined the kids in school. What 7.0 bound in exactly?

LY: Generally she'd make us learn a verse, a poem, and then recite it to her. And then the next morning, I'd learn it quick, but I forgot it by the next morning. And a lot of those are Longfellow's and they are ones-

ES: You didn't have to do that because you'd done something bad, did you?

LY: Well, yes.

ES: When I said discipline I mean when kids misbehave, they talk too much or they threw things and then they had to be punished.

LY: I think she just talked to them. I don't think she ever spanked, I can't remember the teaching spanking anybody.

ES: Did you ever have a man teacher?

LY: No, they were all women.

ES: All women, even in lower grades?

LY: Yes.

ES: So they probably weren't strong enough to spank the boys anyway.

LY: I don't know.

ES: They just talked to them. Would they just say "Now you shouldn't do that. Don't do that again", or anything worse than that?

LY: Yes, that's mostly what they done. I don't remember slapping anybody or anything like that.

ES: Could it be that the kids were pretty well behaved most of the time?

LY: Well, they were pretty well behaved. It seemed they had to be or they'd the teacher talking to them. They pretty well behaved.

ES: If kids wouldn't behave in school could they be kicked out?

LY: Let's see... Well, one time I think they got kicked out. They misbehaved with a girl, I think, and the chairman of the board and all of them came down to have a talk and they called in most of the kids to give a say what they thought about it. They didn't call me. And I was upset because I didn't get called.

ES: Why did you want to be called?

LY: Well, I just wanted to be one of them, I guess.

ES: Oh yea, I see. Do you ever remember ever seeing a student with a dunce cap on?

LY: No, I didn't see.

ES: Maybe that was no longer being used. You remember stories, or you've seen pictures haven't you, of kids standing in the corner with a dunce cap on?

LY: She'd make you stand in the corner, but you didn't have any dunce cap on.

ES: I see. I guess when you were in school most school teachers did not try to humiliate kids who were misbehaving?

LY: No, they evidently didn't.

ES: Let's talk a little about the kinds of vehicles that you would travel in. You said that when you were little you went in a wagon often.

LY: We had a wagon. We had a buggy. I remember the buggy we had.

GY: Do you want a drink of water?

LY: No thank you, it'll be alright.

ES: Was this a buggy for two people?

LY: I think it was for two, but there was always more than that that rode in it.

ES: And I suppose in the wintertime you had lots of blankets in there.

LY: Yes, we had lots of blankets and I'd put hot rocks or bricks or something at our feet. The buggy, I think, had fringe around it, if I remember right.

ES: Do you know that song about the buggy with the fringe on top?

LY: Yes.

ES: They called that a surry then.

LY: Sometimes my brothers would go on- One time my parents were gone and my brothers decided to drive through the creek. They drove it through alright and it a limb on a tree and took off the top. So we had a buggy without a top.

ES: I suppose they went through the creek because they were taking a shortcut?

LY: Yes, I imagine.

ES: Would that have been with one horse?

LY: Yes.

ES: And then when you went in the wagon I imagine you had more than one horse.

LY: Yes, we had two.

ES: And the wagon had hay in the bottom or straw?

LY: It can have straw.

ES: Did you have to sit on the floor or was there some sort of bench?

LY: No, I think we sat on the floor.

ES: I think we're getting a visitor here. Oh, she's bringing water. When you went in the wagon was that how you'd get, for instance, to Hot Lake?

LY: More often than not we went in the buggy when we went to Hot Lake.

ES: Tell me some more about what you did at Hot Lake.

LY: That was about the time I think we got our first car, was a Studebaker, and I think we got it about the time that Hot Lake got there. We'd go down to Hot Lake in the car. Dr. Fie, one day in the year during the school year he'd come and get all the school kids and take them up to this place and we called it the park. It was a place where they had different things, swings, different concessions. He'd take us up there for the noon meal. Then he'd have us play in the afternoon and he'd put us in the cars and take us back to Hot Lake again.

ES: Why did you think he did that?

LY: Well, just out of the goodness of his heart, I think.

ES: Oh really?

LY: He seemed to enjoy doing that.

ES: Every so often or once a year?

LY: Once about, once a year, I think.

ES: That must have been in the good weather?

LY: He'd have an awfully good meal I remember. I ate my first borsht soup there.

ES: Borsht soup?

LY: Yes.

ES: That was pretty exotic.

LY: I didn't think it was so good for cold soup.

ES: Well, it was made with beef, wasn't it?

LY: Yes, I found out afterwards it was made with beef.

ES: Then did you have to put some kind of sour cream on top?

LY: I don't remember we had anything.

ES: That's often put on top of borsht.

LY: Well, maybe they did.

ES: That helps the flavor a lot, I think. At Hot Lake itself, when you went over there, did (148)___ when you were a small child or when you were older.

LY: Well, we weren't very old when we used to go.

ES: Maybe ten.

LY: When he'd come to the school and get us to go. I don't think I was ten.

ES: The park, you said, wasn't at Hot Lake, was it?

LY: No, it was a place up the canyon. There was a place up there they always called the part. The Beinburgers had it. They had different things I think. I remember they had this big swing and that you'd swing in it and it'd swing out over the creek. My sisters got in it and I watched them and it scared me to death. I thought sure they would fall in that water. And I've been afraid of water ever since.

ES: Oh really? You don't like to swim?

LY: Well, I like to after I get in there, but it has a horror for me. If I can get in myself more, some other folks, and then I worry about them.

ES: I would like to get you to talk more about Hot Lake. What do you remember about what went on there?

LY: Nice place, they had a big desk, it was shaped oval.

ES: Yes, I've seen that picture.

LY: And they had that big desk where you registered, you know. And then the rooms were upstairs. To the right you'd go over the mineral baths or whatever it was they had.

As a kid, we didn't pay too much attention. We'd go where our folks went. We knew it was a nice place. It was awfully nice. And then upstairs would be where the people would stay that had come there for the doctor. And they had a nice shiny floor downstairs. Everything was kept up good. I remember to the right as you went out the door was a room and it was full of flowers. It seemed like they were mostly green flowers. As I remember they were some kind of green flowers.

ES: Do you think it was like a greenhouse where they raised plants?

LY: I think they didn't raise them, but I think they just had a room there for plants.

ES: It would be a pleasant place to go and sit.

LY: Yes.

ES: And I suppose they might like to take some plants up to the hospital rooms.

LY: Yes.

ES: Then do you remember what Hot Lake itself looked like at the time? Did it have a lot of lilies and other plants in it or was it clear water?

LY: No, it was clear water as I remember. I smelled like egg.

ES: Sulfur.

LY: And they had another, after you went by Hot Lake and over the viaduct, it wasn't a viaduct then, but after you went over and to your left there was a spring there that run all the time. And every time we went past there Dad would always have to stop and go over and drink some of that water. And it was the same water, the kind of water that was in the lake. It didn't smell good.

GY: That spring is still there, isn't it?

LY: Is it?

GY: I think so.

ES: And he wanted to drink it because he thought it would be good for him?

LY: I imagine. He didn't say, but I imagine.

ES: Did he invite you to take a drink, too?

LY: No, I never did take a drink because I didn't like that sulfur-

ES: Smelled so bad. If he'd force you to take a drink I suppose you would have fought him off.

LY: Probably so.

ES: Well, we're almost done, I don't want to keep you too long here, maybe just a few more minutes. Tell me about church activities that you remember from your youth.

LY: Well, we had a, travel and Sunday Schools, and they would come out from La Grande and hold Sunday School in our school. And I taught Sunday School several times. They'd have cards to give us. Sometimes we'd talk about things on those cards. So far as a regular church like they have now, I don't think they had any of those in the country yet, to go to town. My mother was a Presbyterian and I don't know whether she would go to a church or not. She never did say.

ES: You didn't notice what she was doing on Sunday mornings I guess?

LY: I guess we knew she went someplace, but we didn't pay any attention where it was, if she did.

ES: So as children I suppose one of the things you did was memorize verses from the Bible?

LY: Yes. And then we had a verse, I can't remember it now, but we'd put a string in the Bible and hold it up and say something that was out of the Bible. Pretty soon the Bible

would start going around and that was a sign that it was answering our question. And I don't remember what the piece was in the Bible now. There was a certain place where you had to put the string. Can't remember where it was.

ES: Now do you mean that the string was going around, or that the Bible was going around?

LY: No, the Bible was turning.

ES: Was the string attached to the Bible?

LY: Yes.

ES: And was this like-

LY: The string was run through the Bible up here and down and through the Bible down, we had two Bibles. We put the other Bible down below to hold it.

ES: I don't understand how that worked, do you?

LY: No, I think its kind of like an Ouiji board.

ES: I think it is. But that was supposed to be a sign that you were getting an answer to your question?

LY: Yes.

ES: Can you remember a question?

LY: No, I can't. Do you remember we did that?

GY: No, I don't remember that one at all, Mom?

LY: That must have been before you time.

GY: I think so. I remember the Ouiji board.

LY: Yes, I do too.

ES: Did a lot of people use the Ouiji board then?

LY: Yes, quite a few people had them.

ES: What would be a question that they might want the Ouiji board to answer? Am I going to get rich?

LY: All kinds of questions. Some of them would ask-

ES: When I am I going to get married?

LY: get married, if they were going to have children, how many they'd have. Stories like that. I always thought that who ever had their hand on the Ouiji board was running it themselves. Didn't have much faith in it.

ES: I think you are right there. Were you aware at the time of very many other people who went to church or had a strong religious belief?

LY: Well, I don't know. I know that we were Christian Scientist.

ES: That was after you were married, wasn't it?

LY: Well, I joined the church after I was married, but I remember them telling about putting some material in the mail boxes and they thought it was silly. They didn't think they were on the right track.

ES: I'm wondering how important religion seemed to be in most people's lives.

LY: Well, they used it all the time. They talked about God and things like that, but as far as having any get-together and talking about it, I can't remember that they did that.

ES: Was there much conversation about the devil and hellfire?

LY: Oh yes. You were going to hell for sure if you didn't do right.

ES: Do you think that a lot of people saw religion as a source of fear for not doing right?

LY: Yes, I think they did. I remember when I was serving in the ream (241), cause I was older then, a girl came in one day and she was feeling bad and having trouble with family

things and talked to me about the devil. She said he was on her shoulder, she saw him, she knew he was there. I told her it was in her mind there was a devil. No sir, she said, he's sitting on my shoulder, I can see him. I think some people are like that. They think the devil is going to get them for sure.

ES: Did you hear talk about heaven?

LY: Yes.

ES: What was that supposed to be like?

LY: That was supposed to be a beautiful place. With God up there.

ES: And did many people seem to think that that's where they were going when they died?

LY: Well, yes, most people did. If they were religious at all they thought they were.

ES: Do you think that helped them in some way?

LY: Oh, I think it helped them. I think any, regardless of where they went, I think a little of that helped them.

ES: I'm wondering whether it was so difficult to live then, everything you had to do, that going to heaven seemed like a relief from your every day's work.

LY: No, we never thought it was that way.

ES: You didn't.

LY: No, we always steered away.

ES: Okay. So, sin was in people's mind, I guess.

LY: Yes.

ES: Was it hard for many people to keep from sinning?

LY: Well, I imagine there were some people that were, but most of them lived a good life. Enjoyed themselves.

ES: Now do think that's the way it really was, or is that the way you'd like to think it was?

LY: Well, I guess it's that the way I think it was.

ES: Its hard to go back and reconstruct that, I know. "Life is a veil of tears," did you ever hear that expression?

LY: Yes.

ES: And that probably comes from people who are discouraged and having to work very hard and not having much money and not having good clothes and figuring there must be a better life after this one.

LY: Yes, that's right.

ES: And what did the preachers look like?

LY: Well, they had nice suits on, some of them wore robes, but not very many of them. And they'd get up in front there at the schoolhouse and preach to us for about an hour.

ES: Do you remember what they talked about?

LY: They talked about sin and heaven and-

ES: The things I was mentioning here.

LY: And God. They're like the man that- He went to church and there wasn't hardly anybody there so he sat in the back seat. He was from a farm and he was a hired man. And after the service a preacher went to him and said "Well did you enjoy my service?" And the man said "yes, but I live on a farm and I feed the cows and I don't feed them the whole load if there are only three there."

ES: In other words, you talk too long. That's a good one. So let's end it there. I'm just about out of tape anyway.

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(2 hrs)

ES: Now when you walked down Adams Avenue in La Grande and these stores, it was a very different feeling fifty years or more ago from what it is now, wasn't it?

LY: Well, yes, I suppose it was, but we didn't seem to pay any attention to things like that as children.

ES: But when you walked down the street would you go into several of the stores?

LY: No, not too many if we were headed to one. There was a restaurant there, White's Restaurant, they always had a white tablecloth on the table. Mother would take me in there lots of times and we'd go down to get a piece of pie or something for afternoon dessert. And I don't know if Penny's used to be where they are. Seems like they've been there a long time. I'm not sure about Penny's.

ES: Well, the original store I think was on Depot Street. You can still see the name Penny written up on the brick.

LY: Maybe so.

ES: Did you go to Montgomery Ward's store?

LY: We did when it came in, yes, we went there a lot.

ES: What sorts of things would you buy there?

LY: Well, shirts and clothes of different kinds. I remember one day I had bought some tweed perfume, or somebody had given to me, and I went in there and one women said, "Oh, you smell good!" She said, "You've got some of that tweed perfume on." And I said, "Yes, I do." She said, "Well, I sure like it." And I don't think they even manufacture it anymore.

ES: And you knew Midge Wright?

LY: Yes.

ES: What do you remember about her?

LY: Well, I knew her pretty well. I'd go in there lots of times to get a soda or to eat and they'd serve lunch in there. When I was going to high school I'd go in there.

ES: Do you think she cooked it?

LY: Yes. They cooked a real good lunch. And her husband, Lynn, he always helped her. When they left there, I didn't know at the time, but of course they moved the things out so somebody else could go in, then they found lots of ice cream chairs and tables down there, they said. And I remember when she had some upstairs, but those were in the basement. And they all had that wrought iron around the top and seats to sit on.

ES: I think I told you that we have four of those at our house.

LY: Oh, do you?

ES: Yes, we do. I know that they came from Midge Wright because Marsha's mother was a good friend of hers.

LY: Oh, you're lucky.

ES: Yes, I know we are. And furthermore I've painted them all up so they're a bright shiny gold now. But I knew Midge Wright a little bit too, so describe the kind of person she was.

LY: She was very friendly and she was a nice person to have in a store like that. She always welcomed you in and she was glad to serve you. I knew her for several years. She was just nice.

ES: Do you remember what she did with the glasses that you'd get a soda or a Coke in?

LY: I don't have any idea.

ES: You don't? That's what I remember. She kept all those glasses with a little bulge at a top in the ice, the freezer and every time she, even if she was going to give you a glass of water, she'd reach in and get one of these glasses and of course it would get frosty on the outside right away. I was very delighted about it. I'd never been served a glass of water that way before, ever. It was really special.

LY: I remember some store that I went into that they did that, but it didn't seem like it was her store.

ES: She knew just about everything that was going on in town, I thought.

LY: Yes, I think she did.

ES: Maybe she talked too much, do you think?

LY: Well, she did talk a lot.

ES: She listened pretty well too.

LY: Yes, she did.

ES: And I thought that was just about the perfect example of the old-fashioned drug store.

LY: Yes, it was.

ES: Do you remember the sheet music in the window?

LY: Yes.

ES: With fly sacks on it?

LY: I think so.

ES: It didn't sell very fast.

LY: And then she had a daughter, didn't she?

ES: I don't know, probably, I never met her.

LY: I think they had a daughter, it seemed like her name was Marsha. I don't know where she would be now.

ES: Was the Silverthorn drug store from Midge Wright?

LY: Yes, it was different. It had a silver fountain in there. As you went in it was on your right and they had old books and miscellaneous things in the back part of it. Things for school. Quite a few things that way.

ES: There had also been a Moon drugstore, did you know about that one?

LY: Oh yes, we knew the Moon boys well.

ES: Was that a drugstore like the Wright's?

LY: Well, yes, inside it was similar. They had a fountain there too where they served soda and ice cream and things. I don't believe they served a lunch. They had different things in there and in the back they had books and composition books and things you actually needed for school.

ES: Why do you think La Grande had so many drugstores?

LY: I don't know. In fact, one of those Moons just passed away a short while ago, a woman. I think she was married to, I don't remember if it was Ed, it wasn't Ed's, I think

it was Eugene, Eugene was married too, but not to this one. But anyway, it came out in the paper that she had passed away. Her name was Laura. I've forgotten which one, Harry, I believe was the one she was married to. I know Mother used Moon's drugstore was her doctor lots of times something would be the matter with us kids and she'd go to them and talk to them to see what she should give them. One time I had arthritis in my knee and I couldn't get rid of it and was in bed for quite a while with it and so she went in there and they gave her some, some liniment that you took by mouth, a medicine. She started to give me that and I went to sleep and I never woke up. She thought I'd died, but I was asleep. It stopped, that bad knee started getting better. I still complain about it, it hurts some now, but it got better then.

ES: In the Sacagawea Hotel, I think you told me that you went in there a few times, did you do anything more than just walk around in the lobby? Did you see other parts of it?

LY: Well, I was upstairs, it had a balcony I remember. And then you went into a ballroom. And there was another one down this and came out there and went that way and there was another one down there.

ES: The little ballroom and the big ballroom is what they called it, wasn't it?

LY: Yes, uh huh.

ES: Did you see it soon after it was built?

LY: Yes.

ES: Or was it quite a bit later?

LY: No, we saw it when it was being built. Most people didn't want it, the old one tore down. They were mad about that.

ES: That's a bad idea.

LY: Because Mr. Rosh built that one and my husband said it could stand an earthquake.

ES: And a hurricane too.

LY: Yes. And the soldier boys stayed up there for quite a while when they had training here, I think. They'd hang out those windows and wave goodbye while they'd be hanging out.

ES: Whistling at the girls?

LY: Oh yes.

ES: Where were they training? Up at the college? Or at the Armory?

LY: That part I don't know.

ES: Probably at the Armory.

LY: See the Armory was at the end of Oak, or something.

ES: Pioneer Park, yea. We walked down there on Sunday. Were there high school functions or other types of social functions held often at the Sacagawea?

LY: No, I don't remember many social functions. Lots of times there'd be lectures of some sort and they'd have them there. I remember that. There was a friend of mine and I that used to go in there a lot and eat. They served good lunches.

ES: There was a coffee shop, wasn't there?

LY: Yes, I think that's where we went.

ES: So the ballroom wasn't used a lot for dancing?

LY: Just, I think, maybe on Saturday night they opened it up, I don't know.

ES: There's another place I know was used for dancing, right behind that Sacagawea Hotel, its called Zuber Hall. Do you remember Zuber Hall?

LY: I remember, but vaguely. I don't remember what they'd done except they roller-skated there. I don't remember very much about that.

ES: What did it look like? I don't think I've ever seen a picture.

LY: It was a great big hall. It was one room, just a big room and a floor on it that they could dance or roller-skate or whatever they wanted to do on it.

ES: Do you know who Zuber was?

LY: No, I didn't know him.

ES: Do you think it was someone who lived in La Grande?

LY: I think it was when it was originally built.

ES: Yea, that's what I mean.

LY: I think he lived in La Grande, but he passed away, I think, before I came into the picture.

ES: That must have been there before the Sacagawea Annex was built?

LY: Yes, I think it was.

ES: And Mr. Rosh was a prominent man in La Grande, I think?

LY: Very much so.

ES: How he made his money, was it through milling or flours, flour mills?

LY: No, where was he before he came?

ES: Oh was he a brewer?

LY: You know, I can't tell you for sure.

ES: Did you ever meet him?

LY: Didn't ever meet him. I passed him and things several times to know who he was. And heard too. I know, she, there was a group of us from high school going home in the evening and we passed under a chestnut tree. Well, there were those that had fallen off you know and they had fallen on the ground and there were several of them here and there. So we picked up one to look at them and boy she came to the door and she hauled us off in a hurry.

ES: Don't you put up my chestnuts, is that what she said?

LY: Didn't want anybody to pick them up. It was right across, where they lived was right across from the library. Where that vacant lot is.

ES: Oh yes. What kind of a house was that?

LY: It wasn't anything fancy. It was a white house trimmed with green. It was just a, one that came up like this and the windows in front and then you came this way (133)

ES: And did it face the library?

LY: Yes.

ES: And just the one house on that block?

LY: Yes, I believe it was.

ES: And now its an (136)

LY: You know I think they moved it. Or is it still there?

GY: No, he meant the vacant lot that's there now.

LY: They used to have a carwash there.

ES: Yes. You can still see the pumps remain. The Stangs. Was August Stang still living when you were in La Grande?

LY: Yes, I went to school with his two daughters. Jane.

ES: Now was it you who told me he built a little theatre in the basement of the house just for his daughters?

LY: Yes. And we went up one day to have a picnic with Marjorie and Beth McClure they took us through the house and that platform was still there.

ES: They just did their own little shows. They didn't have anybody from outside-

LY: Yes, it was built for the youngsters.

ES: What else did you hear about the Stangs?

LY: Well, that they had a lot of money.

ES: Yes, they surely did.

LY: Well, I went to school with both of them, but I think Anne graduated first. I think Jane was the youngest. They were both nice girls. I can't remember anything special about them.

ES: Besides the house that Mr. Stang built, why did you think we should remember him and his family?

LY: Well, I guess he had a lot of money, I guess. I don't.

ES: Did he do good things for the community?

LY: Well, not especially, that I knew of. He probably entered into some of them, but I don't think he gave any large amount.

ES: Do you think Mr. Rosh left more valuable things in La Grande or made more contributions?

LY: I didn't hear of them anyway.

ES: Other than the hotel?

LY: He had a son who has since passed away, but he had a son and he probably left everything to him.

ES: How do you think people in La Grande at that time felt about those in La Grande who had a lot of money?

LY: Well, I don't think they paid more attention to their own business more than they did somebody else's, I think. They didn't, you know he, he might have put some money in the sawmill, I can't, it seems like he came in runs with that, but I'm not sure about that. Mr. Stang that would have been. Mr. Stang built a mill. He built what was called the Golden Hicks. And it was down there were the fair is. He built the, that one wouldn't have been in La Grande if it hadn't been for him. Because he did build that and then he built that big high smokestack and they couldn't get anybody to go up and paint it, but his brother. And he told him he'd go up and paint it and he did. I doubt if many people would have gone that high.

ES: Do you have any idea how he got himself up the chimney?

LY: No, I don't. I don't know whether he had a rope on the board or how he got up there. He might have.

ES: I would be hard to know how you would get a rope up on the top.

LY: Yes. I'm not sure how he got up there because I heard about it afterwards.

ES: Now that reminds me of the sugar beet factory. Did you ever see that?

LY: Well, it was down there next door to that foster home where I live. I saw the front of it because my brother worked there.

ES: What was he doing there?

LY: He worked for the county, that was the county shops.

ES: Oh, after they stopped trying to do anything sugar beets.

LY: While it was a factory, my husband has told me lots of stories about that. They had a train that run up to the factory and he had a lot of fun going up there and I guess he got on

a train and rode that far. He used to tell about the good times they had up there. So I know it was there when he was little. And his home was about a half a mile from there, down by the river.

ES: Now would that be the time, do you think, when they were actually trying to process sugar beets? I know that wasn't for very long.

LY: I don't know whether they processed them or what they did with them. But they sure got in a lot of sugar beets, I guess. And come to find out that its right across the street and to the right a little bit from where I am now.

ES: Is that right?

GY: You go by it if you go back up Z Ave where that beer distributing factory is, that's part of the old sugar beet factory. There is a big building in the bag, it was the county shops and before it was that I guess it was the maintenance building or something for the sugar beet factory. And the lot behind it is where a lot of the other stuff was. A brick house on the right as you go, go beyond that and there's a brick house on the right, two stories kind of, and I think that's probably, I don't know for sure, it was probably the manager's house.

LY: On the right or the left?

GY: On the right, going up toward Y Avenue.

LY: I mean the house was this way

GY: You're east and a tiny bit north, you're pretty much due east of where the sugar beet factory was.

LY: Yes, I don't know who lived in those houses over there. I know some people lived in them on this side, across from where I am now. Bill Townsend, you know, lived over there. Abbotts, I think, and different people.

GY: I think Dad played on the sugar beet piles. He as probably six to twelve years old and the kids would go over there and scramble around on the sugar beet piles and then they'd get chased off and I guess rode the train and you know, whatever trouble kids can get in. But I think it was gone by like 1910.

LY: Yes, I just remember the stories that he told me.

ES: So the train that you speak about, was that a spur line from the main line?

LY: Yes, I think it was. I think it was loaded with sugar beets and then go-

ES: Would it cross Spruce Street, in that area?

GY: I think it probably, more likely, I'm just guessing, but more likely came out and kind of through the mill property over here and went along to the Island City Strip spur line, maybe. But there is a spur line on the other side of Second Street.

ES: No, I didn't know.

GY: Yea, there's a spur line that goes along the other side of Second Street. You can still see the road bed, I'm not sure how much the rails are there. But if you drive down Second, beyond Y Avenue, past Riveria School and go over a block or two you'll see the railroad.

ES: So do you think this spur line was built just for the sugar beet factory or maybe something else too?

LY: It might have, but I don't know. I didn't know anything about it until my brother started working there. The other brother worked there too. And the had a- what do you call those holes that you drill in the ground and get dirt out?

GY: You're not talking about a post hole?

LY: No, bigger than a post hole.

ES: What was the hole there for?

LY: Dirt. Oh heck, what is that? I know it. There's one pile and then there's-

GY: Are you talking about a rock pit?

LY: Right, a rock pit, that's it.

GY: Rock quarry sometimes they call them.

LY: They built one of those there.

ES: Let's talk a little bit to finish up, about weather. That's always a good subject. You told me that the blizzards you that you remember around here was worse than the snow we've had recently. And you had to have a cap with holes for the eyes and you walked backwards in a blizzard. When the heavy snows came, I don't suppose there was a lot of equipment to get rid of the snow, did everything slow down, or did people stay home more?

LY: Yes, I think they stayed home more. They couldn't get out because of the drifted snow.

ES: And after several days of that, what did you hear people saying to each other about the snow?

LY: Well, they were wishing it would go away, about like we did this winter, so they could get out. They wished spring would hurry up and come.

ES: And you heard that a lot?

LY: Yes.

ES: Was there anything else people did not like about the snow, because its pretty in lots of ways?

LY: No

ES: They just got tired of it?

LY: Just except going places I think. It seemed like the snow got pretty deep. We had a bobsled that somebody had made. And I remember going with the horse up to it and going down the road. Garry built a box, a big box, and he put us all in the big box. Three of us, he and me and his brother Johnny. Do you remember that Gary? He'd go along there, almost to the third corner of the box, fell over.

ES: Yea, I remember doing that. That was an old bobsled that didn't have any box on it and I built one for it. I tried to rebuild a buggy, too. That didn't work either.

LY: He built a bookcase in high school and it was the last day and we had to go up and get it. And we went up to get it and it was just a pile of lumber.

GY: Whole year in 8th grade, building a bookcase that didn't get put together. I wasn't much of a carpenter. I can do a little better than that now, but not much.

LY: At least you can get those nails in your head.

GY: I spent that year sanding, I think.

ES: And in the summertime were there many, many hot days?

LY: Well, where our house was there was willow trees all the way around it. It was a pretty cool house. In the late afternoon it got kind of warm because the sun went down in the west.

GY: Now this is in Ladd Canyon.

LY: It was cool where we were, or we could find plenty of shade.

ES: And in Mt. Glen was it like that too?

LY: Well, it was a two story house, too, and it stayed pretty cool. It'd get kind of hot in the summer, but not real bad.

ES: What kind of cool drinks did people have in the summertime?

LY: Well, mostly lemonade.

ES: With real lemons?

LY: Yes. I think sometimes, pretty soon, what's that other -ade they have now?

ES: Kool-Aid?

LY: Kool-Aid came in and some of them used some of that, but I don't like that.

GY: And iced tea.

LY: Yes, I guess they made some iced tea.

ES: And of course at that time I suppose you were using refrigerators to make the ice?

LY: I imagine so.

ES: And in earlier days, you didn't have a refrigerator so. . . Did you tell me that some people you knew would go out to frozen lakes and chop pieces of ice and bring it back and put it in an ice house?

LY: Well, in the winter my husband had his ice pond. And the pond would freeze over, you know. The year Jay was born it was 22 below zero and of course the ice pond was all frozen. And he could get ice out of there and he lived by the river and it'd freeze along the edge and he'd get ice out of there. We got it that way.

GY: They put up ice in an ice house, put saw dust in the walls and everything and that's how they kept their business going in the '20s and the early '30s, was store the ice in that ice house, and it was all natural ice and the water was out of the river.

ES: Were you ever aware or concerned about polluted water?

LY: No, that word wasn't in my dictionary.

ES: Were you worried about air pollution?

LY: I wasn't worried about anything, I don't think.

ES: How close to paradise was it to live in the Grande Ronde Valley?

LY: Well, it was paradise itself. Mother said when she came into the valley with the covered wagon, that this valley was all grass, green grass, but that the Indians would burn it off in the fall and that'd make the green grass come up again the next year. Of course there weren't any Indians, well, when I was small there were some Indians, but they were friendly.

ES: But it was clean air and clean water and maybe not until you had the cherries and had to put pesticides on them were there any

GY: Come in Lilly. This is Eugene Smith and this is my cousin Lilly Herman and (company came in)

2/20/02, foster care home in La Grande, OR, tape 4, side 2
(1.5 hrs)

ES: I'd like to have you tell me about what it was like to live on that ranch at Mt. Glen. I think you said you were there for sixty years, wasn't it?

LY: Well, I was there until I married and I was-

GY: He's talking about Mt. Glen.

ES: Yes, Mt. Glen, not Ladd Canyon.

LY: Oh, it was wonderful. It was a nice home. I had lots of good days there. We had dogs and cats.

ES: And I think you said this was a mink and fox ranch?

LY: When they bought the land they were going to buy the mink, I think, but they had silver foxes.

ES: Now who is they?

LY: He, my husband and his brother. Later they got the mink, they might have had the mink then, I'm not sure. But anyway, they raised lots of mink. Frank's brother stayed in a little cabin up there at the mink ranch and took care of the mink so he could be close to them and no one would bother them. And then they had a big dog they called Queen, she was German Shepard. But she wouldn't let anybody hardly come close to her except if somebody came in and bothered the mink why she was a barking. So they tied her up to, I think they put a clothes line up and put her on it. She never took to me until after they sold the mink and the foxes. His brother came to live with us and he had old Queenie and put her outside the backdoor because there was a clothes line out there and he put her on it. She seemed to be satisfied and she didn't take to me for a while and then all of a sudden she thought I was alright and she'd let me go up and pet her.

ES: Tell me more about what's involved in raising mink.

LY: Well, they're just born kind of like kittens, they call them kits I think. And then they get a little bigger all the time, they never get very big. They buy horses that's gonna be killed or horsed that are no good anymore and they use lots of fox meat or lots of cow meat if somebody wanted to get rid of a cow. We had many a horse and a cow that was still good when we got it and kept it several years. Gerry remembers that. We had that one cow named Daisy that we had several years. She was sold to us as fox cattle. And then the mink, as they grew older, I think they had to be about a year old, they'd pelt them. I never did see them kill them. They'd be adazed, and hit them in the head or shot them or something, anyway, they killed them. And they'd take the pelt and put them on the floor and when they were dried they put them all together. And men would come from someplace and offer them so much for the pelt and they'd go on to get the largest price, but they never did get too much. There was one man that came from Minnesota and he wanted to buy the pelts. And I told Frank at the time, I don't like his eyes, I don't think you should sell them to him. Well, they didn't pay any attention to me and they went ahead and sold them to him and they didn't get a penny out of it. He took them home and that was the last we ever heard of him. I remember his name yet. Puliot.

ES: How much do you think they were trying to get per pelt?

LY: Around thirty-five dollars or a little more. One time when they pelted the foxes they said I could have a fur for my neck or I could have the money. Well, that was in hard times and I took the money. And I bought a clock with it. And the clock is still up on a bookcase in the library, except it doesn't run very much.

ES: Which library?

LY: I mean in ours.

ES: Did you also have an orchard there?

LY: Yes, we had 105 acres in cherries.

ES: That's a lot.

LY: Yes, it was a lot when we went to pick them. They mostly got- When it started out there were mostly white people and then the Mexicans started coming in and they turned

to hiring the Mexicans. The white and the Mexicans just didn't mix. It seemed like when the whites were picking and the Mexicans started coming in, why they quite, they didn't come in anymore.

ES: But before they could be picked, the cherry trees had to have a lot of attention, I suppose?

LY: Yes, they had a lot of attention.

ES: What sorts of things needed to be done?

LY: They were cultivated and we didn't have water, so they couldn't have water, but they some years it was hard on it because we didn't have enough water. They cultivated every so often and then they got that cherry worm, they called it, and it just took over. They tried to eradicate it, but just couldn't. It seemed like it always gotten some of the cherry and they crawl into the cherry and lay their eggs. Then the pupa would come out in the spring and fall on the ground. And then they would develop into the fly. There isn't much difference in the looks of them of the fly and the normal fly. Normal fly couldn't do that much damage.

ES: Was your husband using a pesticide?

LY: Oh yes.

ES: That didn't affect the worm?

LY: You couldn't use, they finally decided that they couldn't use the one very strong because they cherry association, they belonged to one down at Salem first, and Paul's brothers, and they decided if they put it on too strong, anyway, people got to feeling they were getting cherries that had it on.

ES: Poison, yes.

LY: And so they changed to something else, something you could use, and I think the next day you could use the fruit. The other you couldn't, you had to wait quite a while. The turned it to, oh Rotinon (88) or something that you could put on and then just a few days you could pick them or eat them or anything and they wouldn't hurt you as long as they were washed off good. We always told people, we had U-pick, and oh just, I'd say, at least hundreds of people would come out and pick the cherries. Frank would always tell them to wash them before they ate them. I know some of them would have children with them and those children would go up with them up in the orchards to pick and they'd come out with juice from head to foot. They'd been eating them.

ES: Couldn't wait.

LY: He told some of them he should have weighed them before they went up.

ES: How much did they sell them for?

LY: The average was about six cents a pound.

ES: And this would have been about when, in the 1950s and 60s?

LY: Well, Gerry and Dale I think were both in college part of the time. When was it, 50s?

GY: Well, you had bearing cherries from about 1942 until about 19-until you moved to town.

LY: You see, they bought that place thinking they would have a place for the animals, but when they bought it they put out the first cherry orchard they planted a small one out north of the house, and of course that one came into bearing first. Then they planted here and they planted there until they finally got, Frank was called the King Cherry Grower of Union county.

ES: This is your father?

LY: Yes.

ES: Was that because he had to many cherries, or because he was so good at it, or both?

LY: 'Cause he had so many acres of cherries.

GY: And talked a lot.

LY: Yes, he'd rather talk than eat.

ES: Could you make a living at that time out of cherries, or was this just a sideline?

LY: Well, we saved a enough that Frank thought he had enough to keep us in our old age, but if he'd be here now he'd be booed (113).

ES: So he had other work besides than the cherry orchards then I suppose?

LY: Well, no, we didn't work anyplace else.

GY: You might talk about the variety fruit a little bit.

LY: Well, we had the Royland, and the Beans and the Lamberts and Vans and seemed to me like there was one other one.

ES: Those are all cherries, right?

LY: Yes. The Van is one that they pollinate with.

ES: Is that v-a-n?

LY: It looks like a bean. Then Royland looks like-the Van looks like a bean, yes.

GY: The Rainier is the one you're thinking about that looks like a Royal Anne.

LY: What one did say?

GY: I think you said both.

LY: Yes, Royal Anne's the one, it's a good cherry. And then there was Rainier that came later and at first it was an awfully good cherry but when he first wanted to try it he bought a lot of these starts up at Wenatchee. They talked him into trying that kind and he got a few trees, one or two, but. We liked them, liked them better than the Royal Annes, but they were so soft when you canned them. And I said, oh, they'll never go over as a canned cherry and he finally took out what he had 'cause he thought they wouldn't be any good. I think he might have left one tree for us to eat on. About four or five years later they decided to ban them as a cherry. I mean the Rainier. And now they'd do anything to get Rainier cherries. They like them. But they are a softer cherry to be canned.

ES: He must have shipped many of the cherries by train.

LY: Yes. He hauled them to, and Gerry and Dale would help to haul them to Imbler. And there they started them and they had a woman by the name of Mrs. Gale that was the head of that when he first started. They'd sort them out and pack them in boxes and then you'd take the top off and there'd be those pretty cherries. And they shipped most of them east. Frank always would say he'd live for the day he could take some by airplane, but he didn't get that.

ES: Were these packed in wooden boxes?

LY: Yes.

ES: And where were they made?

LY: Well, I imagine they were made probably down in Salem or somewhere down there and then he'd buy them.

GY: The packing boxes were made right there at the packing plant, Mom.

LY: Oh yes.

GY: Remember when Fie Wilson would make those boxes.

LY: The pieces of wood had come from. Like a kit and you put it together and it had a box.

GY: I think they kits may have come from Salem, but wood parts.

ES: Were these boxes maybe four or five inches high on the sides?

LY: Yes, about that. And about yea long. On the end of it they'd have a big pattern, a tag on there that said Pumpkin Ridge Growers Cherries.

ES: Pumpkin Ridge Growers Cherries.

LY: Pumpkin Ridge Cherry Association is what he belonged to.

ES: So there were several orchardists who contributed to that?

LY: Yes, there were probably twelve or fifteen that had cherries that took to that. Now the have, they'd gone back to start again and its almost like it started over again. They're having a cherry fair over at Cove now. They have two cherry associations. Mr. Nims was the one that Frank belonged to. He moved away. Les Miller and Louie Lance, Lance is gone now. Somebody told me, I guess it was Delta that a, Miller still lives over there. He came from Michigan and settled over there.

ES: Now tell me a little more about Pumpkin Ridge. I've heard that name, but I don't know where it is.

LY: It's north of La Grande, out here where that little knoll goes over this way and you go toward Imbler. Just before you get into Imbler, a mile or two, two miles or something like that, there's a road that takes to the right. That land on your right is what they call Pumpkin Ridge.

ES: And Mt. Glen would be on about the same level or same line with that?

LY: Just about.

ES: And Imbler was the place where all of these cherries were brought together and packed?

LY: Yes. He also farmed a farm over east of Imbler a little ways that his dad of wheat. He didn't do that during that during cherry season I suppose, yes, he'd done that some after we married. But not very much. He finally sold it. Mr. and Mrs. Rule lived out there and Mr. and Mrs. Kennel.

GY: It is part of the Sharon and Bob Beck ranch now.

LY: Yes. And Stackland, where did he come in at?

GY: I'm not sure. I know the name, but not more than that.

ES: I've heard of Stacklands in Cove. I wonder, were all the people who raise cherries in that area friendly with one another?

LY: Oh yes, very friendly.

ES: Was it in the best interest of all of them to be friendly, to cooperate, rather than to compete?

LY: I think so. All that I knew in the valley were friendly.

ES: Were they all getting about the same prices for their cherries?

LY: Yes, the one's in the association all got the same price.

ES: I suppose some of them thought they had better cherries than others.

LY: Well, I imagine they did.

GY: They's sort them. Remember that, how they'd sort them and they'd weighed the culls and deduct that from what you brought in and they'd sort your cherries separate from somebody else's. While they were all mixed together when they were packed, you actually got paid for the quality you brought in.

ES: That's good. Almost scientific.

GY: Yea.

ES: Was all the sorting done by hand or were there machines that could do it?

LY: No, it was all by hand.

ES: Were the sorters women mostly?

LY: No, there was that one woman and then maybe one or two or three others, but the rest were men.

ES: Was it difficult work?

LY: Well, they just stood there at those boxes the whole time and there was a belt that went along and these boxes were on the belt and they dumped them out and sorted them as they went by. Kind of like Lucille Ball eating that candy.

ES: It must not have been very difficult to see which ones were culls?

LY: No, I don't think they had any problem.

ES: Why do you think it was mostly men who did it?

LY: Well, I don't think it was mostly men.

ES: Oh, I thought you said just one or two women.

GY: I think the men dumped the boxes, they dumped the cherries on the belt and then the women would do the sorting.

LY: Yes, I believe they did.

GY: The men would do the lidding.

LY: I can't remember how many men they had, do you?

GY: No, but they had quite a few. I suppose there were probably about ten men and maybe forty women working when they were busy packing.

LY: Something like that.

ES: Now I am going to take a guess. The main time the cherries would be picked and packed would be sometime in July. Is that right?

LY: Yes. About the middle of July.

ES: For about how many weeks?

LY: Oh, about three or four weeks. Often we were through by the first of August. Then we'd take a camping trip up the Lostine River.

ES: And when would the money start coming in from the sale of those cherries?

LY: Oh, sometimes in December and sometimes not until the next year.

ES: How did you get by?

LY: I don't know. That wasn't my worry so I had something to eat.

ES: Were you getting most of your food from the farm with chickens and vegetables?

LY: I imagine lots of it and then Mother kind of, what she cooked and what she made-

ES: Now we've gone back to your mother, I mean when you were married and your husband was operating the orchard.

LY: Oh, we just ate what we had I guess.

ES: If there wasn't any money coming in, how did you food?

LY: We seemed to always have enough to buy a loaf of bread and have something to eat, I guess.

ES: Maybe he was a good saver?

LY: Oh, he was.

ES: Ah, that's that answer.

LY: That's the reason we had the money to keep us when we got old.

ES: Did Christian Science have anything to do with this?

LY: Well, it had a lot to do with him, I know, because he, my husband, because he found it one time when his mother was alive, and she was about seventy years old then, and his dad was alive and his dad had heart trouble. And a lady came down there in a buggy one day and talked to her and then said, If he's going to die, die Christian Science. And his mother said, well I don't know what it is, but is it anything that will hurt him? And she said, no, it won't hurt him a bit and maybe it would help him. She said, well, anything that would help it she would try it. So, it wasn't long until she came down again and she brought her book. And he began to get better and got up and worked around and lived until he was, I think he was 92.

GY: He was in his mid-80s, I think. 84, 86, something like that.

LY: He lived quite a bit longer than they thought he would. From that day on, up that date, Frank, my husband, was pretty skeptical, but he said after his dad was healed he wasn't skeptical anymore.

ES: And do you think that helped him in his farm work?

LY: Yes, it was bound to. He never saw anything wrong with anybody. He talked to anybody whether he knew them or not.

ES: He was the positive kind of a man.

LY: Yes. And was always laughing and joking.

ES: He was pleasant to be around, I'll bet.

LY: Yes, and he enjoyed life.

ES: Now you told me that you saw quite a few rattlesnakes and blue racers out by Mt. Glen.

LY: Not too many rattlers. There were some out in the garden, one out in the garden, around a bean. And then there was some my brother and his wife had a little house over, we had a prune orchard across the road from the house, and they saw some in that orchard.

ES: I suppose in Ladd Canyon there would have been more snakes than there were in Mt. Glen.

LY: Yes, as you went up the road, when they built that highway, they said they found lots of snake skins.

ES: I suppose when you were in your early married years at Mt. Glen there were a lot of other living creatures, birds and other animals out, that aren't as many now.

LY: We never saw some of the animals they spoke of that were there before we were was the bobcat and I don't think we saw any of those.

GY: You had bear.

LY: Yes, there were bear up there.

GY: Elk, cougar.

LY: Dad tracked some along the creek and picked up money that way. He got mink and-

GY: Your dad did.

LY: He caught skunks and-

ES: And you told me a little about the one-room school at Mt. Glen. And you taught there for a week, you said.

LY: Where I taught was out at Mt. Glen.

ES: What do you remember about the school itself?

LY: Ladd Canyon?

ES: No, Mt. Glen.

LY: Oh, I can remember it well because it is still there now. It's a one room and it, I had many happy days there playing as a kid and going to school there.

ES: Can you tell me how it looked like exactly inside?

LY: Well, there were these desks, regular school desks made out of wood, and the came this way and went this way and then this way. And you put the back up when you got up. You study and read and write and arithmetic, I guess that's all we had.

ES: What kinds of things did you see on the walls?

LY: Well, the blackboards were on one wall. I think she had a map, or something-Do you remember Gerry, what the teacher would have up there?

ES: Probably a map of the United States?

LY: It seemed to me like it was a map of the world.

ES: And bookcases for textbooks?

LY: They went in another room. It was a one-room school, but it had two, one little room on the southeast corner and one over here on the northwest corner and the one over here on the right had books in it that you could go in and look at.

GY: I think you are out at Ladd Canyon now, aren't you?

LY: Oh, I'm still at Mt. Glen?

GY: Yea, Eugene is talking about the Mt.Glen school.

LY: Oh, we didn't have any library there.

GY: I think he wants you to describe that schoolhouse.

LY: I think we just had a one-room school house and that was it.

ES: I was thinking about it because you said you taught there for a week, so I thought maybe you would have some memories from those five days when you taught there.

LY: I remember I was sure surprised when they came over and wanted to know if I'd teach. The woman was sick or something and couldn't teach. I can't remember just what I'd done. I just got the books I guess and helped them read and things.

ES: Sure, have a reading lesson and a spelling lesson and an arithmetic lesson and that's the day.

LY: Well, it might have been. And I read those to them. Gerry said I did alright. I thought I was a poor teacher.

ES: Well, lets move to what you remember about some of the stores in La Grande. You saw them both when you were quite young and of course you saw them many times the rest of your life. You mentioned last time the Ford garage, for instance, and you said something about road shows, I think. Would you call them Toby shows?

LY: They were tent shows, great big tents they would be in.

ES: What kind of shows were they? Not like a circus I suppose?

LY: Oh, about like a circus. They'd be funny and sometimes they'd put on a play and we'd get to see it. But ordinarily they'd just dance and talk and-

ES: Variety shows, then?

LY: Yes.

ES: And were these in the summertime?

LY: Yes.

ES: How much did they cost you to get in?

LY: I think about twenty-five cents. It wasn't very much.

ES: Did lots of people come?

LY: Yes, they were mostly, there were quite a few people there.

ES: This is right down in La Grande, across from the old post office?

LY: By the cross in the post office, behind where the Ford garage was.

ES: That was just a vacant lot, then, was it?

LY: Yes.

ES: Hadn't the Chinese lived around there earlier?

LY: Well, yes, they were right in that block, only on the southwest corner, were there places that they had the noodle parlor. We have a Chinese lady here, but I asked her if she ever remembered Mary's noodle parlor in La Grande, but she didn't.

ES: Did you ever talk with any of the Chinese people?

LY: Well, not unless we went in their store.

ES: I suppose they spoke English very well?

LY: No.

ES: What were your impressions of how the lived?

LY: Well, as kids we didn't think much of it. We just knew they lived there. And my husband delivered coal there awhile. He said he'd take the coal and there'd always be a black man down there, and he was ready to take the coal someplace down there. And he said he looked down there and there'd be those black eyes looking up at him.

ES: What were other stores in town? What were Silverthorn's?

LY: Silverthorn's was a drugstore. And it was right in there, well, McGlasson's used to be there. Do they still have a store?

ES: Yes, they do.

LY: Then in the block below there (310). There was a Piggly-Wiggly and there was, I think a Safeway in there at one time.

ES: Yes there was.

LY: One called the Golden Rule Store.