

Charles Patten, Narrator
Brenda Lawson, Interviewer

1/4/2005 Tape 1, side 1

BL: Can you please state your name?
CP: Charles Patten.
BL: And your date of birth?
CP: November 6, 1922.
BL: Okay. Where were you born and raised?
CP: In La Grande.
BL: Okay.
CP: I was born out here on Cove Avenue and Watson Street. The house is still there.
BL: Okay. And how did, were your parents from this area?
CP: My dad was born in Elgin I believe and my mother was born in Clarkston, Nebraska, but she came out West when she was eight years old and they settled here in La Grande.
BL: Do you know what brought them here?
CP: No I don't. My grandfather was a carpenter and I suppose that was his reason, but I really don't know much about that part of the family or knew that part of the family for that matter.
BL: So what [what] kind of work was your dad doing at the time of your birth? Were you, you weren't raised on a farm or a ranch?
CP: No, no. He was, well he worked for the Railroad in the Fleet Office, [uh] and then he went to work for the Post Office carrying mail and I don't know just when he switched.
BL: Okay. So tell me about what it was like to grow up on Cove and Watson?
CP: I didn't grow up there.
BL: Okay. How long were you there?
CP: I think my folks moved when I was two or around that age and we moved down on 11th Street, 11th and K.
BL: So what was it like to grow up on 11th and K. [laughing?]
CP: I wouldn't know if things were different than anyplace else, and I don't think so.
BL: Okay. Did you [uh] what kinds of activities did you like to do as a kid?
CP: You know the only thing I really remember about down on 11th and K, the Ice Cream wagon used to come around in the summer time and it was a horse drawn Ice Cream wagon. And that's the one thing I remember down on 11th and K. We played with the neighborhood kids and we played in the neighborhood.
BL: Can you tell me more about that Ice Cream wagon?
CP: Well, it was a horse drawn wagon and you had Ice Cream in five gallons cans like they used to have and you get hand dipped from out of the can, and people would come around every afternoon, I don't know whether it was the afternoon or not, but we watched for him and.
BL: How did you keep it cold?
CP: Well they packed it in ice, I don't know whether they had dry ice then or not, but they had it packed in ice of some kind with packers on them to keep them cold.
BL: Can you remember the different flavors?
CP: No [laughing]
BL: You didn't have a favorite that you looked forward to?
CP: No, no I don't remember [laughing]
BL: So were there a lot of kids who came to see you.

CP: Yeah, there was, there was one lady who had, what four kids and we had three in our family and there was a couple behind us that, there were a few kids that came around, but he went around and down 11th Street and I don't know where he went from there.

BL: Go ahead. [Pause] You were telling me about some of the neighbor kids in the area and the Ice Cream wagon. What other things were going on when you were a kid?

CP: Well they were building the college at that time. And uh, all that excavating was done with horses.

BL: Did you watch that?

CP: Uh, a little but not very much. And then after the college was built we used to go up on the lawn and sail our kites up towards the cemetery. There were no buildings out there at that time.

BL: Uh uh. What buildings were there, can you tell me more about developing?

CP: Just the administration building was all there was, [and uh] at the time they built that in their plans they were going to put a set of stairs completely down the front of the building, they were gonna put a set of stairs close to K Ave the same way, which never materialized, but that was in the original plans. And they had it was a rumor that was going around; they were going put steps down that side too.

BL: From the front lawn at Inlow was where you flew your kite?

CP: Uh I always considered it the backside [laughing]

BL: Oh yeah the backside.

CP: The front side went down the stairs.

BL: Right.

CP: We used to sit out there on the lawn, they had a big sized lawn back there and we would sit out there and fly our kites.

BL: What kinds of chores were you responsible for at home?

CP: Throwing in the wood [laughing]

BL: Throwing in the wood?

CP: That's about; of course I was hardly old enough to do too much stuff.

BL: Uh um. Where did you go to school?

CP: Well I started the first two years in Central School and then I, they [uh] got the third grade, they didn't have first and second grades for me when I went to, or first started. And then they added the third grade so that I could go to Ackerman, and my sister started fifth grade at Ackerman, and I started the third at Ackerman.

BL: Where did you attend first and second grade then?

CP: At Central.

BL: Oh at Central, and then you moved over the Ackerman? Okay.

CP: Uh um. You know that I was, I shouldn't say this, but I always thought of my second grade teacher, and she was really neat. [Laughing] a woman came a brought her picture of the class, our second grade class and wanted to know if I could remember the kids names. I didn't realize that poor woman seemed so homely, oh she was the homeliest woman, but she was just a nice as she could be. [laughing]

BL: Oh no. I won't ask you what her name was then. [Both laughing]

CP: She was killed in a car wreck.

BL: Oh my.

CP: That was after she retired though, long after she retired, but she was a nice teacher.

BL: Funny how we remember how some teachers just really stand out in our minds.

CP: Yeah. She [uh] little kids don't think about people or looks I don't think.

[Laughing]

BL: Uh um.

CP: I had a mean old first grade teacher [laughing]
BL: How did you get to school, did you walk?
CP: Oh yeah. We did walk to school faster than anything in those days. Today they won't let them walk across the street.
BL: Uh um.
CP: That's why they've got so many of these kids.
BL: So you walked to school and you, were there any activities going on at school at that age or did that come later?
CP: Oh well I don't remember anything, I, no there wasn't any after school activities. Just within school, recess.
BL: Do you remember hanging out in any particular businesses downtown with your family. Did you have a favorite restaurant or anything that you went to?
CP: We never ate in restaurants, I don't know, nothing against restaurants, but uh I didn't eat out. The first time in a restaurant was when I was carrying papers, and that would have been when I was probably 12 or 13 years old, scared me to death that we were going, the paper took all the carriers to dinner, and that made us scared [loud noise] I guess they felt the same way I did, you know you didn't eat out in those days.
BL: Where did they take you to eat?
CP: The Green Parrot Grill and that was in the Foley Hotel.
BL: What was that like?
CP: It scared us. We were all sitting there and one of our kids drops his spoon or fork or something and the waiter was standing and boy he picked, he handed him another fork right away. [Laughing]
BL: So this was a little more formal dinning room too, not just eating out, eating out fancy?
CP: Oh yeah. Yeah.
BL: Do you remember what that restaurant looked like?
CP: Yes.
BL: Do you remember what you thought about when you walked in there?
CP: No it wasn't a real fancy restaurant, it was, I don't know if it was event he best restaurant in town at the time, but it was in the Hotel there. I remember it.
BL: Can you tell me more about what it looked like?
CP: No [laughing] I was just a normal restaurant, [and uh] with table, chairs, it was a Hotel and Restaurant.
BL: There was no particular design or decorations that stuck out?
CP: Well it was, I do remember the color was kind of a, [uh] had a green tone, kind of a yellowish green and it was trimmed in green.
BL: Was that how it got its name, the Green Parrot?
CP: Well it was probably why it had its color, the green [uh].
BL: So you started [uh] delivering papers at age 11, was that your first job?
CP: Yes. First job I got paid for.
BL: Uh um.
CP: Got up at 6:00 every morning or either 5:30 to make the train at 6:00, the papers came in on the train from Portland. [And uh] I lost my train of thought. You weren't supposed to be able to get a paper route until you were 12, but I started when I was 11, my brother always kind of made sure that I had a job. [Laughing]
BL: So when you went down to get the papers at the train did you have to walk down there or did you do this on the bike?
CP: No we rode the bicycle. And we had a basket on the front of the bike to put our papers in.
BL: Did you have a large route?

CP: Not to begin with. Well it wasn't, I think I had something like 50 papers that I delivered. Later I got a bigger route, and as I got older.

BL: How were you paid for your route, was it like it is today? You were paid by the person you were delivering to?

CP: Yeah, you had to collect for the papers. You got the papers and then paid for the papers, it was just amazing what we do, bought the papers and sold them, [but uh] gee I made \$5.00 a month, that's a month! [Laughing]. These poor kids today they get \$5.00 a week they think their poor.

BL: Uh um. That's true. So when the papers came in on the train [um] I'm sure the train was just passing through right? They weren't just coming here to deliver papers, so.

CP: It was a passenger train.

BL: It was a passenger train?

CP: It had a baggage car on it.

BL: So just went right to that car and paid for your papers?

CP: No, we paid for our papers by the month; the paper company was the Oregon Journal was the carrier.

BL: The Oregon Journal?

CP: Uh um. They bought the News Televan (?) and then the Oregonian bought the Journal in through the years. [But uh] it was a business deal actually, if somebody didn't pay us why we were just out.

BL: Uh um. Did that happen frequently?

CP: It happened once in awhile, yeah.

BL: How long did you have a paper route?

CP: Six years.

BL: That is quite a long time.

CP: Yes. In that time I carried three different routes.

BL: How long do you think it would take you to run your papers?

CP: Oh I used to be home between 7:00 and 7:30.

BL: That was in the evening?

CP: No in the morning.

BL: Oh in the morning. So what time did you pick up the papers?

CP: Well the train was supposed to be in at 6:00. We would get up at 5:30 and get to the train. Rain or shine or snow, deep snow I carried the papers on my shoulder, couldn't ride a bike the snow would be so deep. Take the bag and drag the snow.

BL: This was everyday?

CP: Yes. No days off.

BL: What if you were sick?

CP: you got up and delivered the paper and then went home and went back to bed. [Laughing]

BL: Oh. That's pretty harsh. [Both laughing]

CP: Yeah these kids don't know how soft they have it today.

BL: I know. [Uh] what kind of activities did you do once you got into Junior High and High School?

CP: Well I was thinking that I did play basketball intramural sports, I played a lot of basketball that the only sport other than during gym or recess I liked to play baseball too.

BL: Um [tape pause] did you continue to work in high school?

CP: Well, I worked all through high school.

BL: you will still doing the paper route up until?

CP: Up until probably my senior year.

BL: Okay.

CP: I, [that's when I] I think that's when I went to work in the Ice Cream Shop.

BL: Can you tell me about that?

CP: Making Ice Cream?

BL: You made the Ice Cream?

CP: Oh sure. Only made one mistake all the time I worked there. [Laughing] I put some red coloring in the Maple Nut Ice Cream. [Laughing].

BL: How did you make the Ice Cream?

CP: Well there was an Ice Cream Machine that you put your mixtures into _____? _____, and then you put them into quart packages and package them up and put them out in the freezer.

BL: And then did you offer to single serve when people come in?

CP: Yeah and made milkshakes and ____? ____ it was mostly milkshakes and that was about all they ever sold in there. Then they had a [uh] wonder when they had that, they used to sell pastries out of there. Then we had a Bakery here in town at the time, they baked pastries and breads and all that good stuff. It was really a Bakery and just a pastry _____? _____.

BL: Where was the Ice Cream Shop located?

CP: Down there where the Credit Bureau is, in that triangle. There used to be a park there, then this Dutch Shop set on one end down the end, the pointed end; the Dutch Shop set in there.

BL: And can you describe this building for me, I think it was quite special and unique?

CP: Well it was. It had a big windmill on it, it was built like you would see in Holland, it had a big windmill on it. It didn't work when I was there but when that was first built that windmill turned on there, and it was a very typical Holland design.

BL: How long did you stay in that place?

CP: You know I really don't remember, I think it was, I don't remember whether I was there two summers, I don't think I was, it was about a year that I was there.

BL: Uh uh. Did you like that job?

CP: Well, it was long hours and little pay. I made \$.25 an hour.

BL: Oh. Was this an after school job or a summer job?

CP: Well I suppose it was an after school job and I would go down there in the afternoons at three o'clock and go work and work until nine o'clock at night. And then I work on all day, [on uh] during the summer.

BL: Did you have any hang out places that you liked to go to when you were in high school?

CP: I didn't have time to hang out.

BL: Sounds like it; it sounds like you were working all the time.

CP: I was I worked all the time.

BL: Where did you go from there? Any other after school jobs?

CP: Well I was out of school by then. And then I went to work in the feed and seed cleaning outfit out at Island City. I worked there for a few weeks. Then from there I went to Spokane into the magazine business.

BL: Can you tell me more about the feed and seed business?

CP: Well you clean seeds and grind feed. You would grind feed for cattle food. Sack up grain, I think that's what's wrong with my back today [laughing] throwing hundred pound sacks of feed around.

BL: Uh um. When did you graduate from High School?

CP: In 41.

BL: Did you have big plans of getting out of La Grande at that time or, was this going to always be your home?

CP: I never did want to leave La Grande. I always liked La Grande; I just didn't care to go other places. And uh, I really didn't want to go to Spokane, [laughing] but anyhow, [uh] well, you know, La Grande, the kids didn't have much opportunity to make money. I don't know about now, but then why two bits an hour was that common. And uh, when I went to Spokane I got \$.75 per hour, but you want to remember in those days [that uh] \$.75 went a lot farther than it does today.

BL: Uh um. Something else special happened I think after High School, did you meet someone?

CP: Well, yeah I guess [laughing]. Yeah. That's uh, when I ____? ____ before I went to Spokane. (?)

BL: And who was that that you met?

CP: My wife. Oh you don't want my hand over that. Shut that off. [Tape pause] Sorry about that.

BL: That's okay. We were talking about some special that you had met; you didn't tell me her name?

CP: Oh, it's Ethel.

BL: Ethel?

CP: Yes.

BL: And was she from this area?

CP: Yes. She was born and raised here. We were both born and raised here, didn't have sense enough to leave.

BL: Well were you married then before you left for Spokane?

CP: No, no. We come up, [well uh] How long did I work up there? I was up there several months and she came up there and [and uh]

Ethel: I think you went in February and I went in June.

BL: And when was it that you came back to La Grande?

CP: Well in Spokane, from Spokane we went to Baker for two years and worked through Idaho for the magazine, and then we moved back to La Grande.

BL: And then did you [uh] continue working for the magazine, or did you have a carrier change?

CP: No, no I went to work in the grocery store and then later why, we went to work in the hardware store. That's what I really liked the best.

BL: So then did you, what did you do at the grocery store when you started working there?

CP: Just clerking.

BL: Uh um. What was that like?

CP: Well, it was a job. It [uh] was like any store work, you figure out your busy times and your slower times.

BL: Was that a large grocery store?

CP: [laughing] When you say large grocery store you are thinking of today's stores, and yesterdays stores weren't large stores comparing them to today stores. It was one of the larger stores in town, but uh, it was probably, well it would stretch it if it was 5000 square feet, it was a small, well what's in there now, I think the Chinese Restaurant is in there now, where that was.

BL: What was the name of this store?

CP: It was McGuire's.

BL: McGuire's? Okay. And how long did you work there as a clerk?

CP: I don't remember.

BL: Do you recall how you were getting the groceries? Were they trucked in or did they come in on the train?

CP: Oh they had a grocery warehouse here in town.

BL: Oh, so all the supplies were just picked up locally?

CP: Uh um.

BL: Did you have meat or dairy, or any of those things?

CP: Yeah, there was a meat market there and lots of groceries, [groceries] it was a whole grocery store, [and uh] your dairy products and all, produce, fresh produce, and all that good stuff. It was regular grocery store, complete, only it wasn't as large as these super markets are by any means.

BL: Now did you end up purchasing that store.

CP: Yeah I'm afraid so.

BL: Uh um. What made you want to do that?

CP: Well it was, you know, when you have an opportunity to do something well you do it. And I had the opportunity to do it. They wanted to get out of the store and retire, they were older.

BL: Did you keep the name "McGuire's"?

CP: No we changed the name to "Patten's Market".

BL: Okay. So you were a business owner for the first time?

CP: Yeah.

BL: So what was that like?

CP: Well, not much different than working there.

BL: How did your job change from what you found with clerking?

CP: Well I don't think it made much difference. It's just that you owned the business instead of, my brother and my mother-in-law were in business with us.

BL: Did they handle bookkeeping, or was that something you handled.

CP: My mother handled the bookkeeping. My brother was in the meat market and was in the groceries.

BL: A family owned business?

CP: Yeah.

BL: Can you think of anything [um] that really stands out in your mind about the grocery business at that time?

CP: No not really. It [uh] we delivered groceries at that time. We took orders and delivered groceries.

BL: Did you have a delivery truck?

CP: I had bought a panel (?) and I used that in the magazines and [uh] we delivered groceries in the panel.

BL: In a panel? Tell me what a panel is?

CP: Well lets see, what do they call them today, its kind of like a, it was kind of like a pick-up truck with metal sides on it and all in the back it had doors on the back end that shuffled stuff in and out of, it is a truck more or less.

BL: Did you do your own deliveries or did you hire someone to do them?

CP: No we did our own.

BL: So you were in the store working with relatives running out and making deliveries.

CP: Yeah, yeah.

BL: How far did you go?

CP: Just around La Grande.

BL: And did you charge extra fee for that?

CP: Nope.

BL: Nope?

CP: No. Things were different back then than they are today you know. That's in the days when they used to deliver milk house to house. Every morning the milk man would come around, and the paper boy.

BL: So did you carry milk in the store then.
CP: Sure. Sure it was [uh] there were lots of people that didn't have milk delivered, but you know they would buy it at the store, but we sold a lot of milk.
BL: Did you [um] have many accounts for people in the store.
CP: Yes.
BL: How did that work?
CP: Well. It worked reasonably well. Usually some accounts would run up a bill and then you docked it.
BL: Was it typical for a family to have an account, or was that a rare occasion?
CP: No it wasn't a rare; it was common for people to charge. We used have charge books on, charge books for each customer that we wrote their charges on it.
BL: So they each had their own books?
CP: Yeah.
BL: Okay. Has anything else changed in the grocery business that you can remember besides the size, are they still bagged, is it the same or [um] did you use different material then?
CP: No. It is a lot different. Just for once instance, Strawberries came in little helots, they were called little tubs, they came in a crate and they were all opened so when you sold strawberries why we would wrap them in paper.
BL: In like butcher paper?
CP: Well, it was a lot lighter paper than butcher paper, yeah it would come on a roll just the same as butcher paper does, and you would wrap them and then we would tie it with string. We didn't have scotch tape at that time; we would tie it with a string.
BL: Was that the same for other types of produce as well?
CP: Um, well no.
BL: But now you put in a bag when you go into the store.
CP: Well they didn't have anything like that. There wasn't plastic at that time. [And uh] I don't know. You'd have to think about all that stuff to, [but uh] I don't remember what we did with the produce. Well anything that was wet why we would wrap it with paper and put it in a bag.
BL: Uh um. Did you have a lot of deli products that was ____? ____
CP: No. No. There wasn't anything like that then.
BL: How were most things packaged? Since there was no plastic.
CP: Well pretty much like they are today. Packaged in wax paper, a lot of things were in boxes like it is today. A lot of margarine today comes in cups, but they were in boxes like butter.
BL: In cubes?
CP: Yeah. When they first came out with margarine they weren't aloud to color, so you would buy margarine that would be white and then there were little tubes of coloring in there with it and you had to color it yourself.
BL: Really?
CP: Either that or use it white. And then they finally got the laws changed to where they could color it.
BL: Interesting that they could provide the coloring but not mix them together.
CP: Not until now.
BL: What would be the benefit of having the color that would motivate people to mix it themselves?
CP: Because they didn't like the look of the white, they wanted it to look like butter.
BL: Okay. Can you think of any other things with packaging that [end of tape]

Side A Time: 2 hrs 70 min

BL: Packaging in the grocery store and [and uh] you just mentioned something about how you would bag the groceries; they will ask you if you want paper or plastic, it wasn't the same then.

CP: No we use our boxes that we got our merchandise in, and I would go down the aisle picking up boxes, so we would have boxes to put groceries in and then we would get a big order of groceries and fit it all in boxes, too big to pack, we had packs that we used, but for large orders we would use boxes.

BL: Tell me about the shopping habits of people during the time that you owned the store? [Um] do you find that people stocked up or did they come in less frequently?

CP: I don't think too many people stocked up. [Uh] one thing we used to sell a lot of would be flour and sugar in 1500 pound bags, which today that is unheard of. I bet you can't buy a hundred pound sack of sugar [laughing]. But uh, people used to bake their own bread and, [and uh] if you go into some of these houses why uh, it was all in the sugar bin there. And that is something that you don't see anymore, people don't stock up that much, they don't keep it on hand, if they got a little jar they are doing good.

BL: So then with some of the other items did you find that your regular customers came in daily or weekly, or?

CP: Well, I had some customers that would come in once a week and they would buy for each other, but the biggest majority that came there every day or several times during the week.

BL: Okay. How did you keep track of inventory and pricing and things like that?

CP: Well you priced stuff when it comes in. You put the price on depending on your top.

BL: With the stickers, or something like that.

CP: [laughing] well.

BL: They have scanners now, so [laughing]

CP: I don't remember. There must have been grease pencils.

BL: Oh, so you didn't even have stickers. You just write the price on each product?

CP: Yeah. I really don't remember. Later I slowly got out of the grocery business and did have stamps, stamping machine that just stamped the price on.

BL: Were there bar codes on the price at that time?

CP: What's a bar code? [Laughing] you've got to be kidding.

BL: Do you remember when those starting appearing or did you, were you out of the grocery business by the time the bar codes came?

CP: I think I got out of the store by the time the bar codes came.

BL: Okay.

CP: That was 16 years ago.

BL: Uh um.

CP: I don't, if there were any bar codes on there were very few of them at that time.

BL: Uh um. But you did everything manually? You did all of your pricing and inventory management, was all done manually?

CP: Uh um.

BL: Was that like time consuming?

CP: No. Take inventory once a year and the rest of the time you let it ride. [Laughing]

BL: How frequently did you have to purchase supplies from the warehouse?

CP: Oh a couple times a week.

BL: Okay. When you got out of the grocery business where did you go.

CP: That's when I started working in the hardware.

BL: Can you tell me more about that?

CP: Well I don't remember how long I worked there until we bought the store, then

we had the store I think 18 years.

BL: What were the daily; [uh] what would your daily routine be in the hardware store?

CP: Waiting on customers and ordering, you have to write all your times a week, [and uh] you just want to have all the customers come in you can handle, and we keep waiting on customers.

BL: With the inventory and the pricing and those things similar to what you were doing in the grocery store?

CP: Oh yeah. You just take your merchandise when it comes in and figure your cost on it and you mark it up and put that price on it, first put it in the stamp machine, but price the stuff. [?]

BL: Did you hire employees at that store?

CP: Yeah. We had probably three besides my wife and I. Christmas time I would hire two or three more.

BL: What kinds of items did you sell in the hardware store?

CP: We were selling the hardware line, and nuts and bolts and plumbing supplies, electrical stuff, supplies.

BL: Would there be any items then that you, that wouldn't be common in a hardware store today?

CP: Oh I don't think so. Want to know how that I want something to sell and I go to find it and nobody knows what I am talking about.

BL: Like what? What would that be?

CP: Oh, I don't know right off hand. There are several times I have found this, if I look for it enough I can usually find it, I have to drive out of town to get it.

BL: Uh um. That's hasn't really changed all that much?

CP: No it really hasn't. Well like everything else stuff improves and they make it a little different, improve it and it doesn't work as good, but.

BL: Did you have a broader customer base when switched over to hardware? People coming from further away?

CP: I don't know, I really don't know. [Uh] I know after we got out of the store and I started driving around a little bit I was surprised to find out where some of these people lived that used to come in the store, like up at Lostine I found people I knew up there that would come in our store.

BL: Well the hardware stores probably weren't as, [as uh] _____? _____ like a grocery store.

CP: Well I don't know. There was a hardware store at Wallowa and a hardware at Elgin. I think in Lostine there, I never seen that store, but they might have sold a little bit of hardware there. It was kind of a farm implement and grocery store all in one.

BL: Where was this hardware store located of yours?

CP: Downtown where Radio Shack is now.

BL: And the name of the business?

CP: "C&E True Value" when we had it. When we bought it was Bohnenkamp's. Everybody knows where Bohnenkamp's was.

BL: Now can you tell me about the name, how you came up with the name?

CP: Well, that was the time when True Value Hardware was expanding into this area and they were doing a lot of radio advertising [uh] television advertising at the time and I thought just call it "True Value Hardware", well we registered it as that name and [uh] we found out later that we weren't suppose to do that, that we tied up the name they couldn't have no True Value Stores in Oregon without our permission.

BL: Oh!

CP: So, then the True Value people told us to change all of our stuff and that's when we added the C&E, which was Charles and Ethel.

BL: Well [when it] when it became a True Value then did you have to pay a franchise fee for that, was it a franchise?

CP: No. It was more or less a franchise, but we didn't have to pay for that. They were glad to get us as a customer.

BL: Uh um. How long did you run the hardware store?

CP: I think it was 15 years.

BL: Is there anything else [uh] that stands out in your mind about the hardware business that you would like to talk about?

CP: Um, not necessarily, [uh] that building we were in was an interesting building.

BL: Then tell me more about that?

CP: It is a four story building and it's got a balcony and a basement which made five levels, and it had two elevators in it, one was a big freight elevator that was run by water pressure, the city water pressure ran it up and down. The electric elevator was a passenger elevator.

BL: How much of the building did you use?

CP: All of it. Yeah we had house wares in the basement, which Ethel took care of, and we had hardware on the first floor the balcony and the second floor and the third floor was kind of a catch all, third and fourth floor. I had an old car at the time and I had a whole car body sitting up there on the fourth floor, [laughing]

BL: That is quite a big store.

CP: Yes it is. And I had [uh] Bohnenkamp's covered all of those windows in the building and I took the covers off and painted all of the windows and new plates and new glass. You ought to hang out one of those windows sometime before it closed up.

BL: Did you do that a lot?

CP: Yeah, on every one of the floors, every one of the window seals I made a kind of a stand deal that I would set up through the window and then I could walk outside and work on the outside of the building before it closed up.

BL: Did you have a safety harness? [Laughing] that sounds a little spooky.

CP: Well you get used to it after awhile; of course I had a rail around it so I wouldn't back up.

BL: So you did all of the windows yourself?

CP: Yes.

BL: Did you do any other changes to the inside of the building, or outside?

CP: No. I painted the fifth floor on the outside, but [uh] I think that's the only changes I made.

BL: Um, you were, I think involved in some of those things during the time that you were, that you had owned the Hardware Store, were you involved in any other businesses downtown?

CP: No. I was President of the Downtown Merchants for two years.

BL: What was that like?

CP: Well, time consuming. During that time I got rid of the parking meters with the cities permission and [uh].

BL: What prompted you to do that?

CP: Well that was just about to the mall, they put the new mall in out here [and uh] I figured that you know, people aren't going to park downtown and pay the meters if they could out to the mall for free, and so I worked on the city and come up with a plan to get rid of the parking meters, in fact I'm the one that designed the parking plan they've got now where they felt mixed, I designed that, of course it has been changed like everything gets changed through the years for what they need to pass, but I designed that along with getting rid of the meters.

BL: Did you have much opposition in getting rid of them, or were people glad to see

them go?

CP: Well, people I think, I didn't pay too much either way on it. [uh] the city was a little against it because they were going to lose the revenue from the meters if they took the meters out, so I come with design of selling parking permits to [uh] make up the difference in meters, and I think it has worked fairly well during the years, all of these people that work downtown that want to park their car in front of the store, but uh, we all adjusted to it, [but uh] that's something you have just got to ride the waves with.

BL: Can you tell me more about the meters before they were taken out, how many were there?

CP: Oh golly, they were all over town. They were from Greenwood to Fourth Street and down the side streets to Washington and Jefferson.

BL: Uh um, _____? _____

CP: Yes.

BL: What kind of a meter was it?

CP: Well it was one of those old time meters that you twist the handle on. You put your money in, twist the handle.

BL: And then you had [uh] a city

CP: And then the meter maid came around.

BL: The meter maid would come collect the coins?

CP: They would check on and make sure the meters weren't in violation, and then she would collect the money and [uh] early in the morning she would collect the money. I don't know how often they went around collecting money; I think they did it once a week.

BL: And was it coins or tokens?

CP: No it was coins.

BL: Oh it was coins.

CP: Yeah.

BL: So you got rid of the parking meter?

CP: Yes. I only put really a lot of parking permits when we got our Christmas decorations downtown, which was used for a lot of years, quite a few years, many years before they rebuilt the streets (?) all the merchants get together and changed all the lights in them and repair them, and the city would put them up for us.

BL: That was all covered by the Down Town Merchants?

CP: Yes.

BL: Can you think of other activities that you were involved in during that time?

CP: Oh no. We were going in and out, always tried to have something going down there.

BL: What was the [uh] home town relationship like at that time with all the down town merchants, were you a close community working together?

CP: Oh we were, down town merchants really had a good, [uh discussed] we had good tight nit group at that time.

BL: How were you [uh] when people would come in with a new business or something like that, what would be shared about that, were people really willing to bring in new ideas?

CP: Well, I don't remember, I don't think any new business came in while I was in there, [uh] the down town businesses were all filled up, but we were all against the mall, down town, but you couldn't help that progress.

BL: How did that change your business?

CP: Well, it affected it some, but really what hurt the down town businesses, state come through and tore up the street, main street and then rebuilt it one summer and it was torn up all summer long, and that killed our business down town and it never did

come back after that.

BL: What was their motivation in changing the highway, was it in bad shape, or?

CP: It needed to be changed. They torn it right up put in all new sidewalks down town, nice when it gets through, but I sure killed business. We [uh] fixed our backrooms so people could come in the back door of the store, and I got together with the merchants in our block and we painted the alley, but [but through] in the alley we painted it red and took flower pots out there and all, and it was kind of neat.

BL: You painted the whole pavement red?

CP: Yeah the whole block there in the alley, we painted from one end to the other, painted it red.

BL: So this project went on for quite some time?

CP: It was all one summer.

BL: It was all one summer? [Uh um]

CP: Do people still talk about the red street?

CP: I don't think so. [laughing] it has been so long ago nobody remembers it.

BL: Had you had sidewalks out in front of the store before that time?

CP: Oh sure.

BL: But it was old?

CP: yeah they just come down and everything had sidewalks, they had sidewalks there from when I can remember, when they still had horses going up and down Adams; they had sidewalks.

BL: The structure of the road itself really didn't change then?

CP: Uh, no it didn't but it sure hurt the down town.

BL: When did the Freeway come through, was that quite some time before you had the business?

CP: Yeah, I think it was all the work they were doing at Bohnencamp's before the Freeway, but by the time we had the store our Freeway was there.

BL: Uh um. Did you feel like that had any impact on the business?

CP: Well, it got rid of the trucks going down the street. [It was getting,] traffic was getting quite a bit heavy, nothing like it is today but it was getting heavier.

BL: And that traffic was coming right down town La Grande?

CP: Yeah.

BL: Uh um. But there were no other changes as far as [uh] losing business down town.

CP: I [pause] well, I don't think so, I think that the biggest change would have been Safeway, now they moved up there before I was in the Hardware, but then they rebuilt the store. Then they pulled their storage into one store, I think I told you they had five, but I don't remember where they all were and I can't remember all the Safeway stores.

BL: They were all in operation at the same time, but just smaller locations spread out around town?

CP: They were just small stores, yeah. The biggest store was Safeway store at that time was Globe Furniture, and it was only half of that building instead of the whole building, so [there is no] that was one of the biggest stores. That gives you some kind of an idea what type of our store. There was one over on Fir and there was one at the Foley Hotel where I told you where the Green Parrot was.

BL: But during your time here in Union County, not only have you seen a lot of changes with the businesses, but you have owned a couple of your own businesses, but there are also some really significant events that happened, such as fires and if you could just tell me about some of your memories of the.

CP: Well we did have a flood once. The Grande Ronde River flooded and came down Jefferson and filled a lot of basements.

BL: How did the people handle that?

CP: They were all up most of the night pumping water out of their basements. But I did, I got my son to run the pump and kept the pump going, so they had to, I don't remember if there three pumps going to get the water out of there.

BL: Was there a lot of damage with that flood?

CP: I really don't think so, [uh] there might have been, people along the river might have had some problems. It seems like one, well I shouldn't say anything about it if I don't remember for sure, but it does seem like one house floated down the river; it was on the river. It washed out bridges; let see the Island City Bridge there, railroad ____? ____ of Island City washed out, and the bridge on the Spruce Street washed out.

BL: So were people equipped to get around or did people stay home, what was the reaction of the community?

CP: Well it didn't last all that long and I don't think it caused any great uproar. The pumps on the, the pumps on the underpass, that was the old underpass, it was only half as wide as it is today, and the pumps quick working and the underpass filled full of water and then of course the water coming down the street backed up, I stayed up one night watching the water, it kept [uh] coming up the block towards the store and it finally got up past the Granada Theater there and then it got high enough that it ran over the pump in the road down on Fir Street and then ran it on down so that it didn't bother us at the store, but It had a drain pipe that runs down the alley and that was leaking and so the water was coming into the store from that pipe. Later they took that pipe up and run one down Jefferson and a new one down the alley so that they could kind of could clear it up, but ____? _____. Do you want to talk about the fires now?

BL: Sure.

CP: The Grande Ronde Apartments used to be two stories, one night it caught fire, and it burned quite badly and they tore the top floor off and just fixed the two floors and rebuilt it. And that same year why, that's when the ____? _____ Grande Ronde Hospital [uh] Grande Ronde Apartment fire [do you want to look at some of these pictures?] was after the downtown fire, downtown there was a fire. That's the one that. [Pause]

BL: We were discussing some of the fires that happened in this area and you were telling me about the downtown fire.

CP: The downtown fire, and in one, two, three, three businesses got in the middle of, where the parking lot for the bank down there; it burned all that out of there. And [uh] then the Elks Lodge burned. And, I think they tore that down to just two buildings too; two different, two stories, I think they have apartments upstairs and old single people could live up there. And [uh] with that one the wall to wall when the fire was sitting up there all by itself holding it one day and wind blew it off, blew the top wall off from it and there was one of the merchants was walking along the building and part of the building when [uh] that happened and he stepped in the ____? ____ building and the wall came down and smashed three cars sitting in there.

BL: Quick thinking for him.

CP: [laughing] lucky thinking. And, see I think that's on another fire. Oh another interesting fire, it wasn't an accident and that was when they burned the old Grande Ronde hospital. They used it to do fire training for fireman, they burned that old hospital and you want to go back far enough, back to high school fire and it burned.

BL: You want to say more about that?

CP: No, no I just had it down here [uh]

BL: Did you have kids in the school at the time that the high school burned?

CP: Not hardly. I was about ten years old.

BL: Oh you were younger, [laughing] okay.

CP: I was about ten years old, and.
BL: Did anyone ever talk about the cause of that fire?
CP: It was set.
BL: It was set?
CP: Yes. [um] at the time the high school, it set the fire at the high school and told everybody at the building, [uh] fighting fire at the high school, we went over on the point of the hill, only there was where the college is sitting now and set a fire over there on a house over there that was empty, but they set that one on fire. And he went to prison for that.
BL: Was this a rebellious teenager?
CP: No. it was a volunteer fireman.
BL: Oh yeah. How did the town's people react to that?
CP: Well I was young enough I didn't, they didn't think it was too good you know. A little upset about it but not much you can do about it.
BL: Uh um. Was there another fire when you were a child? That was the one at the high school.
CP: Yeah. That's the one I got here.
BL: Well the other fires in the area, did people talk a lot about the cause of those fires as well?
CP: No, not necessarily. A fire is a fire and they didn't know what, [what] the court house burned. I think I told you about that, [that uh] I never did hear any talk of it, they didn't talk about that. No, news didn't travel quite like it does today. We didn't have television or, [and uh] or radio, yeah I guess radio was in [uh] a lot of people didn't even have radio.
BL: How did you get your information, were your parents interested in what was going on with fires or?
CP: Well, my dad was a mail carrier [and uh] of course he was around town and would get the news, but uh you know a kid that age, we don't care too much about the news.
BL: Uh um. Can you think of any other thing that happened [uh] that kind of stands out in your mind?
CP: Oh, [pause]
BL: Now tell me some of when the downtown fire was occurring you were actually down there watching that fire, and this was later.
CP: Yeah this was afterward we had come back to La Grande, that downtown fire was.
BL: So tell me about that day? How did you [how did you] happen to be at the fire?
CP: Well, I was hauling bricks from the brick yard, it was on a Sunday and I was hauling bricks from the brickyard to build a fireplace in the house, and I had gone over to this, gone over and got a load of bricks and when I come back fire truck was downtown, and the fire was just getting started. I unloaded the bricks and I went back downtown and there

Side B Time: 3 hrs 45 min

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BL: We were discussing the down town fires and you had gone to get a load of bricks, and the fire had just started, but when you came back?
CP: The fire was going good. I took my movie camera down and we have movies of that fire. The fire crawled through the basement of the store and they couldn't reach it,

couldn't get to it, and it did burn those two buildings out of there.

BL: Were there a lot of people down there watching?

CP: Oh of course. That was a good past time you know, in those days.

BL: What was their reaction to the people watching, do you remember?

CP: Well, if they got too close to the fireman they'd turn the hose over that direction.

[Laughing]

BL: Oh really? What time of year was this?

CP: It must have been in the spring, I don't remember. It must have been in the spring [uh].

BL: How were they fighting the fire? Do you recall how, was it all with trucks, and?

CP: Yeah it had gotten to the place where they had to drain that pipe and turn the water into it (?), and uh, they were on top of the building next to it and turning the hoses down and into the fire. That weren't doing too much good with it doing that.

BL: How long did this go on? How long did people stay and watch?

CP: Oh, of course you get tired of standing around watching something like that, but people were (?), that fire burned all day and into the night. The next morning it was a sad picture there, corners on the building were hanging down, the roof was gone.

BL: The three business were completely gone, and then was there damage to those surrounding buildings as well?

CP: No there were firewalls in there, they vacated the building next to the fire but the firewall had stopped it.

BL: What did you do when you retired?

CP: Well we took a trip; we were gone for 5 weeks. We had always been in those Western states and we traveled all the rest of the United States, and we were gone 5 weeks.

BL: you also? Go ahead.

CP: We traveled most of that time to see the country, but you don't see what's there.

BL: And you also had a [uh] quite a hobby here at home that kept you busy over the years. Do you want to talk about that?

CP: Well I found I had, I'd sold the store, I bought an old house and they were going to give it to the fireman to burn down, and I bought and restored it and I've got __? __, and I bought a lot in Union and I built a brand new house over there. Bought a backhoe and dug a crawl space and from there on up I did it all. I had my grandson helping me the first summer, I got it framed and then I worked alone it from then on, my [uh] son-in-law is an electrician wanted to wire it, so he wired it, and my, got all my kids together to put the trusses up on it, and I did most of it alone. From there I helped my brother-in-law with his house. And I have forgotten how many houses I've worked on since. When I still had the store I got started into old cars, so I do that and I'm still doing that.

BL: Tell me more about the old cars?

CP: Well, you bring them on the back of a pick-up and [uh]

BL: you go to __? __ you found them in junk yards all around the area?

CP: No I don't think a junk yard would have some of them. It's [uh] __? __ and Model T, I got it when I was in the store and I ____? _____. And the second one I found out here in a barnyard, it was all in pieces. And the third one, what was the third one? It was a Model A. I've got it down in Portland ____? _____. And [it uh] that Dodge that I have got out in the country, that should've gone to the garbage, I mean it looked that bad, but it doesn't look that way now.

BL: Uh um.

CP: And that's kind of, the last one I restored I brought home in pieces in the back of my pick-up, and it was ____? ____ that I had about a car and half on there.

BL: So then what did you do with all of these parts and pieces when you bring them

home?

CP: Well, I just started my, you went through my garage the other day and could tell what mess it was, well I've gotten a lot of it together since you were here and it is not quite so messy, there is two empty spaces out there on the table. The Model A, when I was working on it I thought man I don't know how to get through this, I'm gonna clean this place up. When I got through with it I had it all cleaned up I put most of that on the car. [Laughing]

BL: So you've been rebuilding these cars for years?

CP: Yeah, Yeah.

BL: Can you tell me a little bit about the process of what you go through?

CP: Well I take them all apart, the body off of them and everything off the thing and you get it done, and then you clean all that up and then paint it and put it back together.

BL: And do these come with [um] inside parts and engines and things like that, or did you have to start new from the _? _.

CP: No you've got all your metal parts and all your important parts are there or I wouldn't buy it. Trying to find all the little pieces, I can't afford, where they used to get parts for it, but today the cars a different story, they are hard to find parts. But you scrounge around and you find them.

BL: How did you get interested in this hobby?

CP: Well, the parade came down Adams Avenue one day and it had two Model T's in it and I thought man I would like to have one of those. [and uh] then I decided to see if could, I didn't want to buy a new one you know, I started thinking about restoring one, that's what got me started, it was that parade.

BL: So did you have some kind of, you must have been mechanically inclined?

CP: I had never done any of that kind of work before. You just start in and do it.

BL: Did you have a book or any kind of instruction? You just jumped in and put it together.

CP: No, no I just started in.

BL: That's amazing.

CP: Well, on the work you know, you just start, anything you do a lot of, you don't know what you are doing and you in and by the time you get all done you know how to do it and its too late then.

BL: So your love for rebuilding has really continued, how many do you have in your garage now?

CP: Seven.

BL: And what do you do with those?

CP: I build a bigger garage.

BL: Have you been in some of your own parades since that time?

CP: Well you can only drive one parade, in one car you know. I did take six cars to Joseph one time and Ethel drove one of them.

BL: Do you do that frequently now? Do you go into a live parade?

CP: We go into some parades. We belong to the Restorative Car Club (?) and we go on tours.

BL: Uh um.

CP: We take overnight clothes and sometimes two day cloths if were gone two nights.

BL: How do you think that people in town feel about your collection? Are they always excited to see you out in the parades and see what you've done?

CP: [uh] I think that people used to enjoy these old cars to see them, so if were out and about _____? _____ is my feeling on it, I don't know whether they get too excited about it or not.

BL: Well they are quite beautiful, I think so.

CP: That Model T broke my arm.

BL: When?

CP: Cranking it. But that's typical of a Model T. I put a starter on it after that.

BL: It hasn't all been fun putting all of them together?

CP: Oh yeah, it worked a lot of it, but uh, that's what you get them for is to have something to do.

BL: Uh um.

CP: It is kind of a case, that's what kind of what got me started too, I would sit and watch television and then my back to bothering to me and I told Ethel I've got to get out of this chair, I can't stay here, and that's when I got the Model T.

BL: Let's go back now and talking about some of the down town businesses and you were talking about Liberty Theater. Can you tell me something about that?

CP: Well it [uh] it did have a balcony, and then it was kind a, then you got up to the top seat and the balcony area, you were really up there, [but uh] there was a lot of Chandelier and it must have been _____? _____ maybe I'm exaggerating a little bit, this is just a memory, [and uh] I was talking to the man that used to own the building and he said that Chandelier was still in the building, so it could still be there, I don't know. And then it had an organ in it and there were merchants in town that used to play that organ once in a while, you could really play it. Then when they built the Granada why they closed up the first Theater.

BL: Did you have to go theater?

CP: No so we always got to go to the Saturday afternoon show, and it cost a whole nickel. I was talking to, later to one of the guys the run the theater and he ran it years, and [uh] he don't remember the nickel shows. But when I was a kid we got to go to the Granada on Saturday afternoon, pretty much all the kids in town would go to the show.

BL: Did they have refreshments?

CP: Well there was a, outside there was a [uh] Carmel Corn shop, and they sold candy and you could buy that and take it into the theater, but inside or course they didn't have stuff like that inside then. That's just this, on the same end of the Granada Theater on the west end of it.

BL: So do you remember what _____? _____ was like?

CP: No. I wasn't very old when they did that.

BL: You have come through some of the other buildings, the Zebra Hall and some other places and.

CP: Yeah we had, there were two dance halls that people held dances, they still dance I think at the hall, but that hall was most of it, and the Lodge, a big old hall there and it was wooden [and uh] then there was the Jaybird Dance Hall (?) and that was quite a going place.

BL: Were you a dancer?

CP: No. I don't dance. I've got two left feet. On that lot where the city hall, or the city parking lot is now there on Washington, used the set the Odd Ball, Fellow Hall, [and uh] there was ___?___ used to set in the basement of that. Then when they built the new Observer building and they made that crest across into the Observer building and put in the basement over there and it still made just as much noise. And uh, then behind the ___? ___ Hall, there in the parking lot there, the Hub Station for the Power Company. And then on the other corner there was Richfield's Gas Station. There was a house sit there with that, next to that gas station and it was all brick.

BL: You were also telling me about a house that was moved, uh not a house a business that was moved out to the middle of the street?

CP: Oh well, before my time Bohnencamp's Hardware had a little wooden building

on the corner there where the ___?___ building sits now, and they had a hardware store in it and they wanted to continue operating the store but they wanted to build a new building there and they moved this building right out in the middle of the street there on Elm, and when went on doing business in the building while they were building the new brick building, and when they built that brick building three stories high and later, if my recollection got me, but I think "they had a fire in that new building and they tore it down to the second story and built two more stories on it; so now it's a four story building.

BL: And that's the old Bohnencamp's building?

CP: That's the old Bohnencamp's building, yes. When you read about the news in the paper about the Bohnencamp building and this isn't where Century West building is going up. It's over there where Radio Shack is now, where the Stop Light was in there and C&E True Value Hardware was in there. But uh, it's a four story building now and it's got four stories and a basement and a balcony for the sixth level.

BL: You have a lot of memories [uh] in Union County, you've been here almost your whole life, uh I just wonder how it has impacted you growing up and living in the community such as this area.

CP: Well you see our home here, and there are a lot of people who want to get out of town and they leave town and when they retire they will come back. I've always said there's no place like home. The community, I like it here. You know its just home, I am familiar with all the things and when you go to a different town and you don't know what's going on, [and] or where things are. The only thing I can say about Portland, it's nice to get out of there.

BL: So is it the people, the sense of community, or a combination of traditions?

CP: Well, a lot of people I knew are gone and I go down town and I don't know anybody because they are all so young. Fifty years makes a lot of difference in who you know.

BL: Is there anything that you wished you would have accomplished here in Union County?

CP: No not necessarily. I just kind of go with the flow you know [and uh] it's, like it said its home.

BL: Do you feel like in our process of interviewing here today, do you feel like we have missed something that you just really want to say about Union County?

CP: Well, I had something written down here that [um] I didn't talk about moving houses either, but [um] on 3rd Street, right next to the river, ___?___ there is a nice pond out there. [Uh] and you run river water into, and then in the winter time when it would freeze they would cut out a thaw from it, [and uh] they would put in a, pack in sawdust and they had ice house and they would pack it in sawdust and then all summer they would sell ice. The interesting thing I found out about this [uh] I was talking to one of the young in the store one day, and he was telling me they cut this ice with horses. And the ice would be as much as 14, 15 inches deep. It didn't get that cold here in the north.

That's how cold it used to get here in this town.

BL: What do you mean they cut the ice with horses?

CP: Well you had an ice, I don't know what they call it, it might have been a knife that they cut through the ice with horses. The horses would put it through the ice and it would cut it, and cut it in blocks so they could handle it and then they would put it in the ice house and keep it all summer.

BL: It would last all summer in the houses?

CP: Yeah, yeah.

BL: And you say they kept it in sawdust.

CP: Yes. Put it in there and cover it with sawdust and insolate it and then it was in the form of ice and they would take it out, take the hose to it and wash the side of it

down and put it in the ice wagon and away you go. [But uh] he was telling me that when the ice wagon comes around why the kids would come around with a chunk of ice ___? ___ I think he told me they used to put out 100 pounds of ice a day for the kids.

BL: Really. They would just cut it off and.

CP: Cut off little chunks and give to the kids. [And uh]. There was another thing that was interesting, I think. My father used to move houses. They would go to move a house and it probably took at least two weeks to move it from one spot to another depending on how far they were going, because they didn't jack them up and put them on wheels like they do today. They jacked them up and used rollers, laid them on rollers and as you drove along they had to have guys, if a roller would roll out the back then they would take the roller and put it back in the front and start it over again.

BL: So what did the rollers consist of?

CP: Well, I think they were made of a hard wood of some kind. [And uh]

BL: _____? _____?

CP: Yeah we were probably eight to ten inches across, maybe, it's been a long time since I saw them, they might have been a little bit bigger than that, but they were round and they were probably 12 feet long, and had a handle on the end of them, you would grab a hold of them to move them. They didn't pull them with a truck because you didn't have a truck big enough to pull them in those days, and they used what you called a "Turn Style" with two horses. [The uh] You took the horses up to the Turn Style and they would go round and round and round all day long and it would wound the cable up on there which was pulling the house along.

BL: Oh I see.

CP: And uh, one of the interesting things with that on 8th Street Hill they brought a two story house down that hill with Turn Style and horses.

BL: Wow that must have been something to see. [Laughing]

CP: Yeah. I saw a Turn Style at the top of the hill and I saw all the things at the bottom of the hill, but I didn't see them bringing down the house, because I was school at the time. The house was set at the bottom of 8th Street Hill on the West Side; it was a two story house, a square house.

BL: Were people moving their homes a lot?

CP: Well, the whole thing was, you know there were a lot of houses and the town was growing and there was a lot of houses down Adams Avenue that they moved off from there and there was, that was one of them and then there was one at the end of 11th Street, go down 11th Street and there is a two story house down there that was sitting on Adams. [And] I don't know there were probably, this one house, they didn't know where to take it and they took it up 4th Street and set it on an empty lot up there and the house set there, I don't know for 50 years, and they decided to, somebody bought it and moved it down there at the bottom of the street hill. They used two Turn Styles on that and they had one at the bottom, moving the thing over the hill and one at the top to stop it from rolling, and it winds up the one and unwinds the other one.

BL: How many horses would it require on each Turn Style?

CP: Two on each.

BL: Two on each?

CP: Yeah that's what they used.

BL: Were these big work horses?

CP: Yeah. Oh yeah. ___? ___ quite a few of horses and those big horses around at that time, not all saddle horses, but they had big horses that they worked with.

BL: That's amazing.

CP: Yeah. McCormick built the, dug the basement up there at the college. It was, had what they call the ___?___ that they would pull the dirt and they would come up and

pull up kind up and over a ditch and so they could dump into the a wagon and they had a wagon sitting there are it was made of planks they would dump that dirt in. Then when they got it full why they would take it further on to dump it, and they would takes the boards off the wagon and the dirt would fall out [laughing].

BL: Interesting way to do it.

CP: Yes it worked, it really worked. And [you know] in those days it was just slower, but with horses why you couldn't do so much living in the past, but they got back, [back to their] back to the cemetery at the college. I'm going in circles now.

BL: That's fine. You were telling me about the cemetery.

CP: Well they moved that cemetery when they built the college, and I know there were a lot of Chinese, I don't there were quite a few Chinese in there and they dug them up all up and, the story I remember it they shipped them back to China. They used to have quite a China Town here in town, now that's something I didn't write down either.

But uh, they used to have quite a China Town here in town [and uh] there were quite a few Chinese buried up there and they shipped those back to China. Dug up and shipped them to China; well if I remember I should say.

BL: What were you told about China Town?

CP: Well I remember China Town. It was a bunch of Chinese got along Fourth Street down there were their building the new library and all that, that had Chinese in there and the next block down quite literally packed with Chinese. And uh, when I was delivering papers that block was still there, I had a customer in there, I think an American customer in there. She was a real nice gal.

BL: Was [uh] China Town enclosed at all with a fence, or was just kind of open and?

CP: No it was just open along there.

BL: Did they have any of their own businesses?

CP: I don't think so, I don't think there were any businesses there it was all where they were living. And of course as the Chinese left well the colored people would take over. And uh, I don't know when they tore down that last loft, but the first loft they tore it down and built the La Grande Hotel in there. [And uh] really it was three story, was it three or four, I don't remember now how many stories it had, but it had stories [and uh]

BL: What was it like going into a China Town?

CP: Like walking down Fourth Street. You had to be ___?___ and I they felt this it was kind of like going through [uh] well I shouldn't have said that, family sons from type building, no my memory to is 80 years old.

BL: What was the relationship like between the people?

CP: I really don't know. The only thing I remember about the Chinese was they were gardeners and they had a lot of produce. Now where they ate them I don't know, but the Chinese did raise a lot of produce and it used to be you know, the stores would buy all the produce from around here, [uh] they didn't ship all this stuff from California you know, it was raised locally a lot of it.

BL: Uh um. And then [uh] a second set of buildings was tore down before the Hotel went up?

CP: No they just tore that one block down and that's when they built the Hotel. They built that and then they tore it down and built a Safeway Store and then they tore that one down and built a bigger Safeway Store and then they tore it, there was a church there on that back corner, they built a church there and in the meantime well Safeway bought that church and tore it down and enlarged the store they had and they had _____? _____ they tore all that down. There have been a lot of buildings on that lot in my lifetime.

BL: Tell me why the businesses have changed?

CP: Well the businesses all change. The only thing that used to be, whenever a

store would a new store would move in [pause so tape can be turned over]

Side A Time: 2 hours 15 min

1/4/2005 Tape 2. Side 2

CP: Used to be when a store would move into a new location well they would always tear out the old front and put on a new front, and they don't do that anymore. That kind of stuff reminds me there used to be two shoe shine parlors down town and they would have this store fronts that say that in the summer time instead of opening the door they would lift the whole the store front. The whole parlor opened to the street.

BL: Uh um. [Pause] [Chimes]

CP: Today the mailmen have it all easier only they don't realize it.

BL: Why is that?

CP: They are all riding around in cars and I when I first saw them doing this I thought gee that's ridiculous to buy cars for the mailmen. My dad used to carry mail and then all the mail carriers carried on foot. And they would have drop boxes for them. There would be one drop box on each route so that they would take mail out and put in these drop boxes for them so they only had to carry half it. And I got to thinking about how much garbage that the mailmen deliver today and they couldn't begin to carry it on foot.

BL: Do you remember your dad telling you anything else about how the mail business was then?

CP: No. [Uh] he died young and he wasn't feeling too good and we had gotten a car by that time and my mother would take him around the route and us kids would ride the running board, how many people know what a running board is? We would ride the running board and my mother would go to the house for him. We had done that several times, [but uh] we would rather go down the route of course like mailmen used to know.

I used to carry the down town route and when they did have an outside route too. [But] we she would once in a while take me around, on the mail route with him. He would get his mail bag empty and why he would put me in the mail bag and carry me back to his office. And they carried big old heavy mail bags, they were leather bags and heavy, and to me that's enough to carry back the mail.

BL: Uh um. He must have been in pretty good shape to be able to do that?

CP: Yeah. So things have changed a lot and everything.

BL: Uh um. So it sounds like you've enjoyed your time in Union County?

CP: Oh I, I like Union County.

BL: You've worked hard and.

CP: Yeah I've worked.

BL: Had a couple of successful businesses.

CP: Yeah. [Tape pause]

BL: We are going to go back just a little bit again and talk about the Morgan Lake Power Plant, could you tell me your experience with that Power Plant?

CP: Well my uncle ran the Morgan Lake Power Plant and I spent quite a bit of time up there. [Uh] they lived in the house at the plant, [uh] I would go up there and play with my cousin and we would be in the plant, of course when it was running it was real noisy.

But uh, [uh] if we was, what they call "floating", they were running the plant with water but they weren't charging electricity so it didn't take as much water. My cousin and I would put on our swimming suits and play in the floom (?), where the water comes out of the plant, it was run by water. And there was a big wooden pipe, and I think part of that pipe is still there I don't know, from Morgan Lake. Morgan Lake was built for the purpose of running this plant. [and uh] he was on call up there 24 hours per day all year

long and he did get two weeks vacation and the rest of the time he had to stay there.

BL: Wow.

CP: Which you don't see happen today. They really won't let that go on. But he spent all his time up there at that plant.

BL: So [how], how safe was that to swim in the water right next to the Power Plant?

CP: Well, it was the water coming out of the Floom, see that was the [the um] there's a water wheel in there that the water run this between the generator and [uh] lets see, when it was running it was generating why it was running out a lot of water out of there. You wouldn't want to be in it, [but uh] when he was what they call "floating" running just enough water to keep the wheel turning, they didn't have to start it up again, when they wanted to start charging electricity again.

BL: Uh um.

CP: Well we would go in there a play in and swim.

BL: So that was actually inside the Power Plant?

CP: No the floom was outside the building and it had a chute that came out of the side of the building then the water wheel and then on into the creek. The creek still runs down through there.

BL: Was this clean water?

CP: Well it was clean as Morgan Lake always was. Yeah it was direct from; it was direct from Morgan Lake. And Morgan Lake, my uncle had, well, I don't whether he helped build both dams, but he helped build one or two and then the men built one of those dams on Morgan Lake to raise the lake. That lake has no water coming in to it after the spring run off. They catch all the spring, or no water that melts up there above the lake and it runs into the lake and that's about all that runs in there all summer long. So when they are running the lake why, or the Power Plant why the water would get low on Morgan Lake. It doesn't do that anymore because it's just evaporation and all the water goes out over there.

BL: Uh um. How long did your uncle do that?

CP: Oh golly I don't know. Most of his life.

BL: What was his name?

CP: England, Howard England. But uh, that's quite a prison to put a man into, to keep him there all except two weeks. They would let him go down to the doctor or then they had water problems some at the house so they would let him go down and get water to haul back up for drinking water at the house. That's he got to leave up there. He was on call 24 hours a day. If something happened on the power line somewhere why he would have to go down the line and [run elec], run the plant.

BL: Did he enjoy that work do you think?

CP: Well I don't know. He enjoyed life, he enjoyed life. [Laughing]

BL: So he was doing that when you were just a small little boy?

CP: Oh he started that before I was born. And he, actually I don't know, I was probably, it was after I got married before he left there.

BL: And then did he retire from there or did they change the operation?

CP: Well they, they uh made the plant automatic. And that's when he got out of there. And uh, they uh, well you know they started building these big plants, Bonneville, they built Bonneville after he was doing that and they built these bigger plants to make more electricity and so its just kind of like everything else, their getting a little bit smaller, and so he, they closed that plant up eventually and tore it down. But there was that plant and the one at Rock Creek and one at, oh over at Granite there's a plant there.

And there's one at Cove, I think that's the one they rebuilt when we over there at Cove. Cove's got one that generates electricity and helps pay its expenses.

BL: I am going ask you a question about that. [Um] Was he only responsible for the

physical part of the plant or was there billing involved for the electricity that was being generated, how did that work?

CP: No he just worked for the Power Company. It was Eastern Oregon Light and Power. Was the name at that time? No he was just an employee of the company. He just runs the plant. Repaired it if it needed repairing, that kind of stuff.

BL: So they had a local office in town for billing and services?

CP: Yeah. That [uh] substation down town I was telling you about, that was Eastern Oregon Light and Power substation.

BL: Uh um. Is there anything else about the power plant you can think of that stands out in your mind?

CP: No. No I can't think of anything more.

BL: Okay [laughing]

Side B Tape 2: 1 hour