

Lyle & Elma Sanderson

9/16/02, T1, S1

ESm: I would like to start with getting names, place of birth and date of birth.

ES: I'm Elma Conrad Sherwood Sanderson and I was born at Summerville, my dad delivered me, on November the 8th in 1921. The doctor would come with his horse and buggy and he couldn't get there in time so there was nothing to do.

ESm: How much of the rest of your life have you lived in Union County?

ES: I have lived in Union County all except a couple of years in Umatilla County. I think about a year and a half in Umatilla County. And the rest of the time I have lived here in Union County. Not always out at Summerville. I've lived out on the Foothill Road south of La Grande for thirty-four years. Raised a family there. My husband had been born at that place and he died at that place. 1984. The rest of the time I live... and after ___ and me got together I was in Washington for three years. We moved back here.

ESm: Good. Same from you?

LS: ___ I'll be a little longer, perhaps, if that's alright with you?

ESm: No, go ahead. I brought plenty of tape.

LS: Okay. Again, I was born north of Summerville.

ESm: Give your whole name please.

LS: My name is Lyle Gail Sanderson.

ESm: Is that g-a-y-le?

LS: No, g-a-i-l. And like Elma, those were the days when you called for a doctor, but the chances of him getting there are quite slight. My dad had...his team he hooked up to go work in the field and Mom called out to him and says, "I think he's comin'...or its comin'." So he unhooked his horses...the horses and left the harness on and jumped on the saddle horse and headed off for Elgin, which is about seven miles from our home place which incidentally is known as the Sanderson Springs Farm. By the time he got to Elgin to look up for Dr. Kirby who at that time was out somewhere else with his buggy and horse. And by the time my dad found him and got him turned around and back home, which was late in the afternoon, I'd been there quite a while. My mother had gotten a hold of her mother which lived about a quarter of a mile away. So she made delivery as she'd done many times. By the time I got back I'd been squallin' for hours and Elma here says I'm still squallin'. [laugh]

ESm: And what year was that?

LS: It was in July 26th, 1915. And my grandmother, it might be interesting to know, was my grandmother and she, my mother, was born and raised a quarter of a mile east from our home and my grandmother was raised as a very small child a quarter of a mile east of their place. I'll back up a little. She married a John Dieterer, another Swiss gentleman. And Grandma that delivered me was a small child when she came to the valley with the Hug family in the early 1870s. So consequently she was born in the early 1870s a quarter of a mile from the home that became the John Dieterer home, which was a quarter of a mile from where I was born and raised. So I guess there's sort of a continuity period of time.

ESm: Thank you. Could you search your memories for every descriptive detail you can think of of what that part of the valley looked like in those days when you were young?

ES: Summerville, when I was young, had...my uncle owned a grocery store there. I don't know if he built this particular one, but those building that is a Rebeka hall...Rebeka and Odd Fellows hall now...he had a store in the bottom part of it and they lived in the back part. And I don't remember if...I think that the Rebekas met upstairs at that time __. But later he had a larger store__ and it was that store and at one time, why, that...a doctor's office which my dad's sister's husband built. Goin' back in and gettin' families all tangled up. And later belonged to my grandmother and my mother and we lived there. You could stand in the front room and look clear through and go out the back...clear out the back door. It was one of my dad's __ a doctor's office. And there was another big building that some people lived in next to that one. And on the other side of that was a harness shop which was Fred Hamilton's harness shop. The other side of the harness shop was a barber shop. And __ Elmer was the barber.

ESm: L-o-t? Lot. L-o-t-t?

ES: __l-o-t-t.

ESm: Uh-huh.

ES: The post office was in my uncle's store and later Mother had...after Uncle John died then Mother had it in her house which was next to the store there. The store, after Uncle John passed away, was sold to Duby Brothers. And I think it was during that time that it burned down. And I can't remember for sure __.

ESm: Was that a general merchandise store?

ES: No, just mostly groceries and gasoline and...

ESm: Didn't sell clothing or tools or anything like that?

ES: No, uh-huh. Not to my knowledge. What...

ESm: Were you in the store when it was operating?

ES: Oh, yes. Many, many time.

ESm: How would you describe the way things were laid out and how business was conducted?

ES: For just a big one-room store when you walked in on the left was kind of a...I wouldn't say soda fountain 'cause they didn't make sodas or anything there, but they did have ice cream and soft drinks.

ESm: With stools where you could sit and eat?

ES: I don't remember if it did or not. This is going back a ways, way back.

ESm: That's what I intend.

ES: They did have a big stove beyond that where in the wintertime all the men in Summerville would come and pass away the time and shoot the breeze. Then they had a place in the back where they cooked their...__ on the back...cooked their meals because their home was away from the store. And I know Aunt Pearl...one day I went back there and I said, "Oh, dear!" __ chocolate and she said, "Come on, have one." I took one bite and __ and that was the end of that. [laugh]

ESm: When I was a child when you went into a grocery store you just bought your list and then you told the attendant what...what you wanted and he would reach things off the shelf, he put them down there. That the way they used...

ES: That's the way ___.

ESm: They did?

ES: They did.

ESm: And were some things piled high so he had to use an extender device with a...?

ES: I don't...I don't remember that. They had shelves all along the wall.

ESm: And then in order to figure out how much you owed would he took a pencil and write them...write on the bag?

ES: Mm-hmm.

ESm: And then add it up in his head?

ES: ___ just add it up. I don't remember. I doubt that he had an adding machine.

ESm: No, probably not.

ES: Probably a ___ that they had.

ESm: It took quite a while to shop, didn't it?

ES: Mm-hmm. It sure did. And he had an awful good candy counter, penny candy. And you'd get...sometimes get two things for a penny. [laughs] ___ long gone.

ESm: Would people tend to come there and not only shop, but stand around and have conversation?

ES: Oh yes. Mm-hmm. That was...

ESm: And important social center then?

ES: Oh yeah.

ESm: Mm-hmm. You say you were into that as a child?

ES: Mm-hmm.

ESm: Why would you go in? Just to buy penny candy?

ES: Candy and then we lived right next door so I spent a lot of time in there.

ESm: Do you remember anything about what was discussed in conversation?

ES: No. No because I was probably...me, a kid, I didn't pay any attention to it. Other than one day a man came in and said he was lookin' for a derrick driver. My mother happened to be ___. And she said, "I have one right here." And it was Willy Stanley and he couldn't believe that a girl would drive derrick. But I had driven derrick every summer for... So, he said, "Okay, we'll try her." So I got the job a drivin' derrick.

ESm: Now you told me you drove a derrick. I need to know more about that. How do you do that? What's involved?

ES: This particular job and the one with Mr. ___ that I had was they were putting hay in the barn and they'd use a big gaps in the fork and fork in big load of the hay with the horse was on the other side of the barn and they had a big pulley on the track with this forklift. And then...then the horse would go out...we'd hook a cable onto the single tree the horse would go out and this would pull the hayfork in. So when it got where there's..._____ and the fellow that was doin' the forking off would pull a rope and it would trip it and there'd go the...you done with the derrick horse and go back and they'd pull up the...the ___ back in the ___ but the horse back and hook it up again and...

ESm: Why was it called a derrick?

ES: A derrick is, um...what am I trying to say...

LS: A derrick is built to make a haystack.

ES: Out in the open. And it's built of timbers. And the...this hay fork is attached to it too, but it goes back...you can't see my hands. [laughs]

LS: Kind of acts funny.

ES: Most of the time a team is on a derrick, team and cart.

LS: Can I make a point then? Every farmer would have a hay barn. And this hay barn would hold twenty, thirty, forty, fifty tons of hay. And this same process would be that you pull up under what's called the hay mow and the fork would pick the hay up from the load of hay, go up and from a cable coming...going...running out of the hay wagon into the mow on a cable and the derrick driver would be at the back of the barn...

ES: That's the barn, this is the derrick.

LS: No.

ES: The derrick has a big arm that would swing and so that they could get it where they wanted this big drop of hay. And usually they were pretty good sized loads on the fork and it usually took a team and a cart and you'd just drive it out and back up. All you had to do is sit there. The horses had done it so much of the time that they just automatically did and they'd wait for 'em to holler and then they'd start backin' up. It was interesting. I hired out for...over at Dillard Shoke's. That was...I helped Amanda Shoke with cooking. And about two hours after we started, why, Dillard came in and said, "I need a derrick driver, kid. Get out there!" So he was awful ___. [laugh]

ESm: What exactly did you have to do to drive?

ES: Just sit on the cart and tell the horses to go, or...

ESm: You'd get signals from the men who were doing the...?

ES: Oh yes. Uh-huh. You're right there with them.

ESm: Were you in effect then controlling the horse?

ES: More or less. Uh-huh. Like I say, the horses needed a little more than what a kid did because they had done it so much. Once in a while you'd have to hang on to 'em or get 'em to stop and come back.

ESm: Was there anything enjoyable about that job?

ES: Oh, yeah. It was just fun being there and then, of course, that I liked horses. And it was just...just fun.

ESm: What did you say that the fork was called?

ES: A Jackson fork.

ESm: And what...do you know why it was called that?

ES: No, I don't. Like that was our neighbor or something.

ESm: I think I've read that that was a pretty dangerous piece of equipment.

ES: It is. I have one out in the... It has tines on it, oh, about thirty inches and they were...there's probably about five or six of these big tines on it.

ESm: Sharp?

ES: And they're sharp.

ESm: And it swings around and you better watch out.

ES: You bet.

ESm: Can I get a picture of the one you have?

ES: At some time. I can't give to you...

ESm: No, no. I would like to go out and take a picture of it if we could arrange that. I've seen pictures, but I've never seen one in actual...

ES: Oh really!

ESm: ...piece of equipment. I don't suppose there are many left now.

ES: I doubt very much.

ESm: Right.

ES: I know one...at one time when I was workin' for Willy and his family I...the horse and I was going out...I was leading the horse at that time...and she jerked and the Jackson fork before it went into the ___ and into the barn it had turned and twisted the cable. So when it got up there it stopped and it just jerked both of us off the tree almost. It was back...that was when...back straightened around and everything was alright.

ESm: Were these...were these would have been easy to be killed like that, I suppose, if it weren't operated correctly?

ES: Probably.

ESm: Mm-hmm.

ES: Mm-hmm. I think people...I don't remember hearing of anybody being injured or killed that way, but then they probably watched it pretty close.

ESm: Lyle, when I asked her to try to search her memory to describe the area, well, Summerville, she started describing the buildings, which was good. Do you remember other aspects of Summerville in those days when you were quite young?

LS: Two important things come to my mind when I was quite small, but neither of them have to do with Summerville itself, but I think historically they would be interesting.

ESm: Okay.

LS: I'll separate. The first one has to do when I was about four years old which would put me to about 1917, wouldn't it?

ESm: I thought you said '15?

ES: You were born in '15, yeah.

LS: '15, '15.

ES: It would be '19.

ESm: 1919?

LS: How 'bout four years old?

ES: 1919.

ESm: Time of the First World War.

LS: Yeah, before that. My dad and mom bought a new Model-T Ford from Eugene Hug who has a lot of historical significance. So in 1919 my mom and dad rented out the farm and we got in that Model-T Ford to try to better our lives by going to a dairy farm up in...north of Victoria, British Columbia in this Model-T. Now, when we left home everything that we had of much value to transport was packed into this Model-T Ford. We started out from our home, went to La Grande, and then started across what we have always known as the Blue Mountains headed for Pendleton. We started probably early in the morning. But when we got to out of La Grande, of course by then we started traveling as I still remembers to this day

a-watching for trees that were painted with a red circle and a white circle and a blue circle. Those trees would tell us that we were on the right road because frequently there'd be other paths for wagons or whatever and so my brother and I'd run ahead and look for these trees that would have these markings so that we were going in the right direction.

ESm: And this was a dirt road, of course?

LS: And not much of a road.

ESm: Rutted?

LS: Rutted, exactly.

ESm: Was it a rainy time? Was it muddy, too?

LS: At this particular time, no. No, as I remember... And we went as far as just somewhere in the area of the town of Meacham, which was a long day that day. And the weather must've been good because we did alright on that part. But the thing that I remember mostly is with a Model-T Ford you wouldn't always go up a hill forward. You'd have to back up because you're gasoline would only gravity flow. So we had periods where we had to do that.

ESm: Were you carrying extra gasoline?

LS: No.

ESm: There aren't any gas stations...weren't any gas stations.

LS: [laugh] No, there were no gasoline... No, then there wasn't... I don't remember that we had room for gasoline. How we got it I don't remember. And there was at one place where we had a block and tackle that we...my dad would use or my brother who was six years older than I was. That would give him quite a little bit of physical help for my dad. But they used the block and tackle to pull up what was... One hill was called Dead Man's Pass.

ESm: They'd done that with the covered wagons, hadn't they?

LS: Yes.

ESm: They did the block and tackle or some extra means for propelling these vehicles.

LS: I won't go any further than that at this time because that's another story that might be helpful later.

ESm: And you still remember that quite vividly?

LS: I remember that very, very well because we would run ahead. "Here it is!" Or my brother would usually... he's ___ the first one to see it. So a lot of that was walking for us kids.

ESm: And when you said to improve your life was the idea to find a better place to live?

LS: Yes, and that's another long story because it proved quite fruitless.

ESm: Let's say what was wrong with Summerville as a place to live?

LS: We were doing pretty good. My dad had...and this is another story in itself and I don't know if you want to talk about it now or not, but...

ESm: If it helps us to understand what living there in those days was like, yes.

LS: Alright, well, we'll do that. My mother and my dad married about two years before my oldest brother was born. My dad lived about a half mile from where my mother was born and raised. My dad came there as a man probably in his middle teens. And he started building a house, barn and whatever we needed as best he could.

ESm: Had he come from Scotland or was he born in this country.

LS: No, he was born in Canada. His ma...his mother and dad both came from Scotland and they followed the wheat farmers from Canada...they had just gotten married. They'd met in what we may think of as London, Canada, which is near the Great Lakes area. And so after they got married they followed the wheat harvest to make enough money to travel. And they traveled across and they spent one winter after harvesting in Montana, living there, and then traveled on to west. And I don't have the exact story of what prompted them to come to the Grande Ronde Valley, but they did move to the Grande Ronde Valley and my dad at that time was a kid of seven or eight years old. So they settled...

ESm: This had been about 1880?

LS: No, this was closer to...this would've been after the turn of the century, probably 1900. They settled over on a place out of Flora on the breaks of the Grande Ronde Viller...Grande Ronde Valley...I mean the...

ES: River.

LS: Grande Ronde River out of Flora. And we...they settled there to...so that my granddad could go across the Grande Ronde River the next year to harvest or help plant and grow the wheat over in that part of the country. So here he was and shortly after they go there my dad's younger sister, Bessie, who later become Bessie Oliver, she was born there. They lived in a little cabin, dirt floor and very basics of things to have. And here when he went over to get some work the next spring one morning my grandmother Sanderson tending to what would normally be doing in the morning for my dad and this little baby. And she happened to come in and here was a rattlesnake in on the dirt floor curled up close to where my Aunt Bessie, which was a baby, was in a crib. So when Grandpa Sanderson came back from what he set out to do Grandma Sanderson said, "We're moving!" [laugh] So they did move to La Grande and later they moved out to Summerville and to the old Sanderson place just close to where I was born and raised. But then as they...my mom and dad...my mom and dad had us two children then. I was around four and __ my brother would have been about ten. They just thought "We can do better." They had pictures of going to work for this dairy. It was some type of relative of our that had this up there.

ESm: Did do better mean...

LS: It didn't work out. It didn't work out.

ESm: Did do better to them mean anything other than having more money?

LS: Basically, we had no money in those days. __ for many, many years we traded this...traded beef or pork that we had butchered with other people. And as we worked for people we traded man power for man power. Traded...when we butchered, why, we'd give other people the pork or the beef and vica-versa. And that was pretty much the way we lived 'til I got up in high school.

ESm: I suspect, though, that at that time you might occasionally see a Montgomery Ward catalog or you might see a Watkins product man come by.

LS: We sure did.

ESm: Now, they wanted money, didn't they? Did you want what they had to sell?

LS: We'd dream of having what they had to sell. [laughs] And of course during harvest time my dad would go out and work for farmers. His wages would...as I was growing up as a kid he would get a dollar a day board and room. Mom

would stay at home there and my brother, who was six years older than I was, we did a lot on the farm. And then he would get off from the farm he worked on to do what was necessary around our place. And in the wintertime when it was cold we had a saw...we had a...we had a...we did a lot of cutting of wood, the cutting of rails and fence posts and then we would sell those in the spring and summer. And that would bring in some money. And of course one...in the fall of the year what we might have had to sell, like was a bit of wheat and perhaps potatoes and other things that we could sell and get money out of. And of course as we were raising a certain amount of cattle we would sell of the ones that were...[end tape]

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ESm: Tell me about a visit from the Watkins product man.

LS: Yes, we'd have the Watkins man that came to our home. And I still remember his last name it was Peck. Peck. Louis Peck. And he was a fascinating man. He only had one leg.

ESm: Did he arrive by a horse and a buggy or car?

LS: He would arrive with a horse and a buggy. And he would always stay overnight.

ESm: With you?

LS: Yes. It just seemed like that that was kind of a convenient place. And we so enjoyed him because... He was a rather portly man and perhaps he seemed awfully old in those days. He was probably was up to nearly forty.

ESm: Dressed how?

LS: Oh, dressed nice. Dressed, but not...

ESm: Suit?

LS: Somewhat, I think so.

ESm: White shirt, tie?

LS: Oh, perhaps. I can't remember.

ESm: Hat.

LS: And a hat, oh yes, definitely a hat.

ESm: Did he look like a big city feller?

LS: [laugh] Never thought of that. Never thought of that. I think he lived in Cove so it wasn't an awful long way. But when he'd go to bed at night...of course we only had two bedrooms so he would sleep with my brother or I or sometimes both of us. He'd take that great big ol' wooden leg off and that was so fascinating to us. [laugh] But we waited for him and of course all of our different things that we had, spices and whatever, you know, pretty important to buy.

ESm: Now, did he come with two or three big suitcases?

LS: Yes. Yes he did. And they were pretty...pretty heavy for him to handle. But yes, he'd bring them in.

ESm: Would he lay them out on the floor?

LS: And lay them out. Lay them out on the table and floor. And...

ESm: And you'd pick them over, or what?

LS: My mother...

ESm: Or did you point and say...

LS: My mother did all of that for buying.
ESm: You boys weren't allowed to touch.
LS: Ah, no. No, really not.
ESm: Okay.
LS: But I have to tell you this one thing that was just funny because a very, very dear, dear man, my Granddad Sanderson's younger brother, name was Eric. He just...everybody loved my Uncle Eric. And he was just so well liked but he didn't do very good in business. He'd tried businesses two or three times. But those days there was Pro'bition. And of course Uncle Harry, being a good Scotchman, he indulged as much as he could whenever he could. It would always make my mother curious because after the Watkins man had been there a little while Uncle Harry would come. The vanilla extract would disappear.
ES: There's no vanilla like that.
LS: [laughs] But it...he enjoyed his...he enjoyed getting' the vanilla.
ESm: It does say alcohol. Eight and a quarter percent. That gives it a kick! [laughs]
ES: Yeah. ____
ESm: Very...very good. I want to take a picture of that.
LS: But the Raleigh man...
ESm: You called him the Wally man?
LS: Raleigh.
ESm: Raleigh.
LS: Raleigh.
ESm: That was a...
ES: Raleigh was another...
ESm: Raleigh products.
ES: Mm-hmm.
ESm: Similar to the Watkins products?
ES: Yes.
LS: Then again, typical to watch for the Raleigh man. But Watkins was the...I guess the most prominent of the two.
ESm: How often would these men come?
LS: I would say probably twice a year, probably.
ES: I can't remember that part.
LS: I can't either.
ESm: Did they...would they come when it was snowing?
LS: No, no.
ESm: It was strictly fair weather selling?
LS: I would think so. I can't remember year time. So much of that would freeze.
ESm: And I suppose they wanted cash for any sale.
ES: I can't remember...
LS: I can't either. Of course they would pay so much to stay overnight which probably twenty, twenty-five cents perhaps and that would go toward buying. You know...
ESm: Do you have the impression that your mother was buying much? Maybe more than two or three items at a time?
LS: Oh yes.

ESm: Really?

LS: Yes. I would think...I would think twelve or fifteen things.

ESm: Did it range mostly in the vanilla and the food line or did she buy brushes and washcloths and other sorts of things like that?

ES: Mother got those from the Flora brush man.

LS: We never did have a Flora brush when I was a kid. I don't know. There were other things such as you suggested that remind me, but I'm probably not sure on that.

ESm: But you implied earlier that there were several things that the Watkins man brought that you would like to have yourself.

LS: Not as a child for me. Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward, you bet! [laugh]

ESm: Did you shop from the Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward catalog or wish you could?

ES: ___ my mom, yeah. I have another story on the Watkins. I worked for a lady one summer for my room and board and the Watkins had a red liniment that they put out in the same type bottle as their vanilla. We were cooking for hay men and she baked a pie. And she put in the vanilla into this pie and I looked at it and it wasn't quite the right color and I tasted it. And she had grabbed the red liniment bottle instead of the vanilla bottle. [laughs] So we just dipped it up and stirred it up and put the vanilla in it and it was fine.

ESm: Ate the liniment anyway. Anybody remark about that?

ES: No. ___

ESm: A new flavored treat.

ES: Yeah. [laugh]

ESm: The liniment probably had a fair amount of alcohol in it, too.

ES: Probably did, uh-huh.

ESm: How about catalogs? Did you make use of catalogs?

ES: Um, not an awful lot.

ESm: Did you spend some time leafing through wishing?

ES: Just to sit and look at them, uh-huh. ___

ESm: What kinds of items especially attracted your attention?

ES: Oh, probably clothing which we didn't have too much of in those days. My mother worked for a dollar a day and kept two kids and so we didn't have a lot. A lot more wishing than a lot more buying.

ESm: Did that wishing ever become so strong that you really felt as though you wanted to be able to change your situation so you could have more of those things?

ES: No because we didn't have 'em we didn't know what they would be like with...to have 'em.

ESm: Do you think that's really true?

ES: Mm-hmm. Yeah, I do. I don't...just enough clothes to go to school and maybe a new dress or a new pair of shoes on Easter was all I ever cared about.

ESm: At that time there really wasn't much of a consuming urge?

ES: Uh-uh. There really wasn't.

ESm: We certainly have it now.

ES: Oh, I know! The times have changed.

ESm: Is there any way...any other way you can account for the fact that that wishing didn't become a strong urge?

ES: No, other than I didn't...probably really couldn't have it and then didn't worry about it.

ESm: Okay. That's just the way it is and there's no point in thinking about changing it?

ES: Yeah. No, 'cause we kids and poor old Mom had quite a time puttin' clothes on our back and food in our mouths.

ESm: It didn't bother you too much if your shoes were worn or your dress had holes in it?

ES: Hmm. [laugh] Maybe it did, but I don't think it would have.

ESm: Oh. She saw that everything was repaired, at least, huh?

ES: I might say some more about Summerville and the buildings.

ESm: Alright.

ES: They at one time had a big livery stable. They had a hotel. They had a bank, a brewery. The brewery and the bank were not operating at the time that I lived there, or the hotel. It was lived in by the people that owned it, an elderly man.

ESm: Had it been a beer brewery?

ES: It was a...yeah, it was a beer brewery, uh-huh. And there was a large hall that was...I guess the Masons had built it. There was quite an active Masonic lodge there at that time. And every Memorial Day all of the women in the valley and all over would bring food and they would have this big Memorial Day dinner. And people they would be standing in line clear around that hall and wait to eat. And they generally wanted ___ I don't even remember how much they charged for it. But I know that I just felt real privileged to be able to wait on the tables and to serve ice cream and all. There'd be so many people that have...that knew about it...of course, most of 'em are gone now...but have remarked about what a wonderful dinner that was and the wonderful way to spend Memorial Day. And that money that they made on that went to the cemetery ___ cemetery.

ESm: What was usually on the menu?

ES: Oh golly! Fried chicken, ham, beef, turkey, pies of all kinds, pastries, just all you can think of.

ESm: One big potluck.

ES: Oh ___ yeah! The table was probably as long from here ___.

ESm: Were you involved in preparing food?

ES: Oh no, I was too young to do that.

ESm: But you could eat it.

ES: Oh, you bet! [laughs]

ESm: Was that an all-day affair?

ES: Uh-huh. As long as anybody would come, you know.

ESm: Starting at eleven o'clock in the morning, maybe, and run until five or six?

ES: Yeah, I think probably about that.

ESm: Any entertainment?

ES: No entertainment.

ESm: No band?

ES: Mm-mm. No band, no screamin', no hollering.

ESm: How did people dress for that? Any different from the ordinary day?

ES: Uh-huh. Of course they didn't wear...everybody didn't wear jeans, all jeans then like they do now, but mostly dresses and __

ESm: Clean jeans, maybe?

ES: Huh?

ESm: Clean jeans?

ES: Yeah, and clean jeans. Patched jeans.

ESm: And that was a tradition that had gone on perhaps as long as Summerville had existed?

ES: Yeah. That was a yearly thing. One year to the next.

ESm: Do you think maybe two hundred or three hundred people would come?

ES: Oh, I'm sure! Five hundred, wouldn't you?

LS: For what?

ES: The Memorial Day dinners at Summerville.

LS: Must have been. Must have been. The whole valley including many people from La Grande would come.

ESm: Did you go?

LS: Oh yes! We participated, both of us.

ESm: But she said she was pretty young.

ES: Yeah, but way that was fun to do. I mean, you were big stuff when you to help do that. [laughs]

LS: We...when...my brother and another boy when he was old enough they would carry coffee from another house where this group of people were just making the coffee. And we'd bring the coffee in a big pot from where it was being made to the hall. And water, I guess. And then when I got to be old enough...and he got to make...he made fifty cents. And fifty cents was a lot of money in those days!

ESm: Surely the men brought their own liquor?

LS: No.

ES: There was no liquor. I don't think there was any liquor.

LS: The only thing that might have been was like your uncle and another guy or two was the moonshiners would perhaps have something out at the car, but never...

ES: What uncle of mine was a moonshiner?

LS: [laughs] Uncle Press.

ES: Oh! I forgot about him. [laughs]

ESm: Now that we're on that, tell me about this moonshine manufacturer.

LS: There were moonshine...

ES: He made beer. I know he made beer.

LS: No, he'd make beer and wine.

ESm: Did you see those operations up close?

LS: Of both of them?

ESm: Yeah.

LS: Oh, yes, yeah.

ESm: Would they do it out in shed somewhere?

LS: No, no. They'd be __ right in the house. But things like whiskey, that wasn't moonshine that was done out somewhere where they didn't want to be caught at it, you know. But as far as making...

ESm: So that was __

LS: In some cases.

ES: Beer at that time they didn't want to get caught at either. Dad made beer. I'd go get a cup of it and he'd give me a cup of it and I'd take a sip and go out behind the house and pour it out and go back for another one. I don't know if he thought I was drinkin' it or not.

ESm: What did you want him to think?

ES: [laugh] I don't know.

ESm: That you could hold your liquor? [laughs] There must have been a newspaper in Summerville at that time, around that time, wasn't there?

LS: I don't remember.

ES: I don't remember, either.

ESm: Did you read any newspaper?

LS: We had...we had *The Observer* later in life. I can't remember when we first started getting it. I think I was probably in high school before we...'cause we couldn't afford it.

ESm: I was asking that partly to find out whether reading was a part of each of your young lives.

ES: I don't remember reading the newspaper.

LS: In my case, I read everything that we had sometimes two or three times. We had probably fifteen, twenty books that were very precious to us.

ESm: Do you remember what some of them were?

LS: *God Made the World*. There was one that had to do with World War I, pictures and episodes of the World War I. We had *Ben Hurr*, *St. Elmo*, *The Little Shepard of Kingdom Come*. These are just some that comes to our mind right now. But...

ESm: No books that were specifically for children or young people?

LS: Yes. Yes there were.

ES: I couldn't be bothered to get along with those books. [laughs] I had better things to do. Not like I don't know what.

ESm: Was music part of your young lives?

LS: Can I talk first? Indirectly, mine was in that the Hug family that you have had or will learn a lot about because they were the background of the early pioneers of Elgin beginning. And these people were swift and they were quite talented, these people. My Grandfather Neederer was a great yodeler and I don't remember my grandmother being so much. But I had an Aunt Tillie. She was Lydia M. Hug. She was an educator. She never married. But she had many talents. And so when I was in high school I traded a horse for a saxophone. And I never did read music worth a hoot, but...

ESm: Was that a good bargain?

ES: ___ [laugh]

ESm: Which was worth more? At the time.

LS: I did get another horse later. I learned to play that and it gave me a lot of satisfaction. And my brother bought that from me so I got my money back.

ESm: Did you teach yourself to play?

LS: By ear, yeah. By ear. By ear. And he then got it and he played in a little orchestra that played weekends at the dances like at Summerville or Pleasant Grove. And he would...

ES: —

ESm: Let's move up to Dry Creek School, then. Is that the first school you went to?

LS: My first school was when we made our trip to Vancouver Island, north of Victoria, a place called Sydney. When we found out that we were financially in bad trouble we moved back to Vancouver, Washington and that was my first school. And I went there for probably three or four months, maybe five, and my mom and dad got into another adventure that went sour quick. They bought an upstairs apartment. What we bought was just the furnishings because we were paying rent for the rest of it. And it turned out that after we bought it that the people that had it knew that the place was going to be condemned because the boiler was bad. So we...from there we moved back to what is called Puloma which is just outside of Portland on the Columbia River and went to work. My mom worked and my brother and dad milked cows on a dairy. And that was the last part of my first year of school. And right after that we got a letter from home and the man who was...he and his family were renting our farm he got blood poisoning from a splinter in his finger and died and so we had to go back to take over the farm again. And so my second grade was back at Dry Creek School. The one-room school.

ESm: I think from the article in the article in The Observer I read that it was built about 19...or 1880-so or '85.

LS: It's all recorded in this book here. When it was built and what went into it.

ESm: The school was probably thirty or forty years old at least when you got there.

LS: Yes. My...my dad went through four years of school at the...that there. He would only go in wintertime when it was too stormy to work. So he was probably...went to five or six years of school there, but finally made it somewhere into the fourth grade. My mother went all eight years through that school there. And of course my brother went all...well, intermittently when he was not at Vancouver and then they'd...yeah.

ESm: Or Puloma.

LS: Uh-huh. So the first year...the first year that we got back the teacher that taught our class lived in our home with us. And so my...her brother he drove a buggy with a horse to the school and he transported the teacher and I to school.

ESm: What time did she need to get there?

LS: She needed to get there about...I never really thought about time, but school took up at nine o'clock. So we had to be early enough to get the big fire started in the heater in the one-room school and to...

ESm: A fairly large room.

LS: It was all one big room, yes. The outhouses were outside. And the wood was in an anteroom, uh-huh. Just one big school...big room.

ESm: I've been in it. I can visualize it.

ES: The old red schoolhouse?

ESm: Yeah.

ES: Mm-hmm.

ESm: Yes. Took some pictures of it. But you had to get there early enough so she had time to make the fire and get lessons ready, I suppose.

LS: Right. And she...

ESm: So you were...you kind of had an inside view of what a teacher's life is like, didn't you? She was living with you.

LS: I was in the...I would have been in the either second or third grade at that time and I don't...I don't have a...I don't have a memory about... I don't remember living at our home. I can just remember some pictures where she would ride to school.

ESm: Do you remember what she looked like?

LS: She was awfully, awfully impressive is about all I can remember. She dressed nice.

ESm: A stocky lady?

LS: Somewhat. Somewhat. Pretty face.

ESm: What sort of a temperament?

LS: I don't remember that.

ESm: Do you remember talking in a loud angry voice?

LS: I actually today don't. I would be guessing.

ESm: I think if she did you would remember that.

LS: [laugh] I can remember the next two years of school real well. I would have been in the third or fourth...third grade then, I think.

ESm: I can remember my kindergarten teacher better than almost any other teacher...

LS: You can!

ESm: ...so I thought you might remember your second grade teacher.

LS: I can...

ES: ...impression on...

LS: I could remember a first grade teacher that I had at Columbia School and things that she did and put us through. And I can remember a couple of songs that she taught us and I can still remember 'em all this day.

ESm: Tell me something about the routine at Dry Creek.

LS: The following year there was a local lady by the name of Fern McGinnis. She was born and raised right near the school. And her dad was so proud...his name was Clem McGinnis...and he had a thrashing machine. And just before he opened school that year he showed us what he had made out of belt straps, big wide belt straps off of the machine that powered...

ESm: The mill?

LS: Mill, uh-huh, the trashing machine.

ESm: Oh.

LS: And he had told us, "Boy, those kids are gonna be good because if she doesn't here's what I made for her to use!" So the kids came to school that fall and there was some pretty ornery kids at that time. And so she whacked a few of 'em with these big belts so all the kids did they put on three or four pairs of britches above overalls. And they'd yell and holler and she'd whip one and then another. And somebody got to laughing they'd whip him. Really, this is true. These kids would just make a big farce out of it. She'd whip 'em 'til she got tired. I may be exaggerating a little, but not much. The next year, the next year we had another teacher come in. Her name was Pet Elmer. I think Pet was her midd...was her nickname, but Pet Elmer. She was a raw bone lady probably five foot seven. Kind of a stern look. And some of these smart kids that had been so ornery

- before... If they had two or three pairs of overalls she'd shirt 'em down to the one. And she had a little belt like that and they...they got about one lickin' and that was it. I can remember one of the kids dads brought this kid up because my dad was on the school board that year and showed him what had happened. My dad said, "Well, he probably needed it." But not many kids got lickin's and most everybody said that was one of the best years we ever had as far as she's a good teacher and we learned well and there was no nonsense went on.
- ESm: What would you say, this is to child, you __, made you think that a teacher was good at what she did?
- LS: That was my first impression was at the end of that year. All...we all respected her. She was firm, but she was very fair. And of course we learned a lot just listening to our...the parents talking to other parents, you know. She was a well-respected woman.
- ESm: I wondered whether there was anything about the way she presented the lessons that somehow made learning more effective.
- LS: I don't really...I don't really know, Eugene. It'd be second-handed by thinking back in retrospect.
- ESm: From what I know about teaching methods, and I've been a teacher for many years so I've thought about this a lot, in a school like that it would have been a lot of wrote learning. Memorizing and multiplication tables, doing x number of problems, memorizing spelling, memorizing lists of prepositions, memorizing the capitals of states and so am I correct about that?
- ES: We had all of that. You bet we did.
- ESm: This is wrote learning.
- ES: And Palmer method. Now you can't read what the kids write.
- ESm: Yes. Certainly one can't say that wrote learning is a bad way of teaching or learning, however, it has severe limitations. So I wondered was there a teacher you thought were really good maybe went beyond wrote learning a little bit. For instance, in having discussions about subjects, possibly controversial subjects, so make you think more deeply. Did any of them do that?
- ES: I don't think we were old enough to really pay too much attention. Either that or it wasn't...it wasn't as important then as it is now that I can see.
- LS: Eugene, as I think back and think of answering your question, probably, probably Pet Elmer without even realizing it did some of this. I was having too much fun playing as a kid growing up and my last three years in grade school were kind of easy. In fact, my eighth grade teacher was only seventeen years old. And when it come to taking my county examination to pass the eighth grade she sat with me and...[end tape]

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- ESm: Okay. You just barely passed the eighth grade exam?
- LS: Yes. And so consequently...
- ESm: And you cheated to do it.

LS: So consequently...I did everything I could possibly do. I didn't realize how close it was. But...so consequently when I got to be a freshman in high school things were terribly hard, terribly wrong. The good subject in high school for boys was agriculture. I had already made up my mind I didn't want to be a farmer so I had nothing to do with 4-H and all of these things which would have been extremely good, you know. And so I didn't do that. I thought, "Oh, I'm gonna be, you know..." So I took French and I forget what else.

ESm: Probably some science and some math and an English class.

LS: Yes, yes. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

ESm: You had to do some writing.

LS: I guess so.

ES: And history, world history, ancient history.

LS: Yeah, yeah. But I had to...I had to learn how to learn. My freshman class was real, real hard on me. And at that period of my life of all things I don't know if was eating too much creamery stuff or something I broke out in boils and pimples and I was just in a mess as a kid in high school. And I was only about...weighed about ninety...ninety pounds.

ESm: How embarrassing!

LS: Yes.

ES: [laugh]

LS: And I was...

ES: One big pimple.

LS: ...bashful to begin with. My freshman and sophomore years were real, real...

ESm: Misery.

LS: Yes. Personal misery.

ESm: I fully appreciate that.

LS: I was so embarrassed in what I did.

ESm: This was La Grande High School?

LS: No, no. That was Imbler.

ESm: Imbler High School.

LS: Yes, Imbler. And of course my folks had to move...I say had... By that time my brother was in high school and for him to get to school we moved first year to Summerville so that he could...that was only...almost five miles closer than from home. And at home, why, roads are all snowed in in the wintertime. So we moved to Summerville and if some way or another we could get a ride from some kid that did have transportation we'd get there. Otherwise we'd have to walk it, you know, or get a ride on the way which didn't always happen. But the point being is that here we were then living in Summerville with new acquaintances so you didn't do all that good learning.

ESm: But before we get on too much to high school why is it that you and many other people apparently, according to this Observer article, have this deep attachment to Dry Creek School and you want to come back year after year to have a reunion?

ES: That's the only one-room school that is still standing.

ESm: No.

ES: And incidentally the picture that they put in the paper was the Summerville school and not the Dry Creek school.

ESm: I know of at least two others that are still standing, still could be used as schools.

ES: Where are they?

ESm: Mt. Emily and Willowdale. Willowdale is over near Hot Lake.

ES: Oh really? I didn't even...

ESm: They haven't been converted to houses or anything. They've been temporarily used for storing things like wheat in the Mt...or hay in the Mt. Emily school. But they still stand. But Dry Creek is probably the outstanding example. But it's not...it's just the fact that the building's there, is it, that keeps you coming back?

LS: No, it's the people. It's the people and to mix with other people that we knew earlier. This becomes more cherished as I grow older.

ESm: But is that because it was a one-room school with eight grades in one room?

LS: No, no.

ESm: What was special about the people then who went to it?

LS: Because they are our best friends that are quickly disappearing.

ESm: Right.

LS: An example, I would never have gone to what we call a retirement place to eat at lunchtimes. I wouldn't have even thought about it. We had one up in the valley where we lived and my...I'm talking about my wife now, my first wife, my previous wife...until she...when she passed away my whole life completely changed. Close friends that knew for so long and long all of a sudden I'm not a part of them anymore. It's a life fact that will happen to each one of us that have it happen to us. That's how Elma and I got attached to each other. And it was after my wife passed away about two or three months that one close friend of mine his wife had gone back to Bremerton to stay for a while and he started going to the Senior Center down there. He finally talked me into going once. All of a sudden I met people that I'd never known before, but they were my age. They were my type of people to visit with. And within a year I became the president of the group and I was closely associated with 'em until Elma and I left this valley that I had lived in for so long. And to this day there's tremendous joy in going to this center down here. Why? It's the people. It's not the management of it, it's not...it's just so comfortable to relive. And I find often that you're somebody that knew somebody that I knew. Just like visiting with you I all of a sudden feel like I know you. I don't know if you feel like that or not.

ES: Well, yeah. The first year...the first time I ever went down here was by myself. And me I'd rather go to McDonald's and eat a hamburger. [laugh] I was too young for 'em, I thought.

ESm: Maybe there isn't anything in particular about a one-room school that forms allegiances in people for the rest of their lives although I'm speculating that there might be something there that you wouldn't find in other larger schools. Perhaps because you know the people there of your children or better than you do in a larger school.

LS: I'm sure that's true.

ESm: And a lot of people, of course, talk about how the older kids helped the younger kids and that makes a special kind of bonding among all the kids in that school.

ES:

ESm: Do you think that's true?

LS: Not to me.

ES: Some did especially when there were more than one in a family the older ones would help the younger ones. Another thing that we always found interesting. Sandy had an aunt that lived about a half a mile from the school house...

LS: They call me Sandy, but it's Lyle.

ESm: You told me that, yes.

ES: I had...my brother and I boarded up at my aunt's which was a little up the hill from Sanderson Spring. There were five of us kids that would have to walk to and from school just from Aunt ___ place. Then we picked up Sandy and all his cousins down along the line 'cause it was about eight or ten of us all together. And every night when we would go home from school or start home from school one of us would have to have a drink of water at his Aunt Bessie's place. She always had cookies or apples or something so we'd all get treated, but somebody had to have a drink of water before we got going. [laugh] That was quite a memory.

LS: And she...down through the years she was always Aunt Bessie to every kid that lived up that direction. She...she had a...you can take things off that you don't want to hear on it?

ES: Sure.

LS: She...she...she and her husband...she was my aunt. She and her husband had three children and they lived on a hill...up over the hill from where I was...knew her. And these children were probably up 'til...up to maybe six or seven years old. I'm not sure. But one...I guess it was either the second or third of July the parents...their parents, Aunt Bessie and her husband Bert Oliver, had gone out to milk the cows. They had a mantle and I have to assume that the mantle may have had a clock or something on it and up a ways. But they had a table down low. Now this was in July so it's hard for to me imagine except it was quite awfully late because they had that table with a kerosene lamp setting on the table. Well, the oldest of these three children got up on the table to reach up to the mantle where they had placed some fireworks like firecrackers. They tipped this table over, set the house a-fire. All three children perished. That was my Aunt Annie.

ES: You're what?

LS: I mean Aunt Bessie, yes. And my Uncle Bert got badly burned.

ES: Then they turned around and had three more.

LS: They built a house down below it to start all over again. If ever if I knew she'd 've had a nervous breakdown it should have been one of those. And these three children but she just loved kids. And when they'd come home from school, why, she'd always have something. She's just a loving, loving...she'd never say anything bad about anybody. If she said anything she said, "Well, that's probably what they said." But there's somethin' always good about...she never said anything I ever heard directly bad about anybody.

ES: They used to have Easter gatherings there and everybody around would bring food, come eat and then they'd hide Easter eggs for the kids and have prizes for 'em. Have all their new Easter clothes on. It was quite a...quite something to look forward to. I've missed that, I think, more than anything in my later years.

LS: So we grew up with their three children. You know one of them that's still alive one very senior Emery Oliver is one of her... That's her second of the children that they raised later. Emery should be a great source of knowledge.

ESm: Marshal Philby is interviewing him.

ES: Oh he is.

ESm: Marshal owns Dry Creek School, as you probably know.

LS: Yes, uh-huh. If Emery...Emery has such good memories of things. Much better than I do.

ESm: When you were growing up in the Summerville/Imbler region were you aware of crime of any sort?

ES: Only on Halloween tippin' over toilets and putting wagons up on the schoolhouse.

ESm: That's not exactly crime. [laughs] I suppose it's illegal technically, but you kind of expect it.

LS: One thing that might be interesting is while I was quite young at the time. There were...there was a sheriff of Umatilla County. His name is Till Taylor. There is a monument standing in Pendleton to this day commemorating him, Till Taylor. And were two...I believe they were escapees from the state penitentiary who killed him. And they were loose and those days not much for telephones and things, but people would keep track with other people. And there was a report that these two men had escaped up through somewhere in La Grande area and were traveling across what in those days were called the old winter trail...winter road which later's become the Elgin...

ES: Tollgate.

LS: ...Tollgate highway. So a posse of perhaps six men were farmed north of Summerville, one of which way my uncle Bert Oliver, Emery's dad. And these five men were told that these people are probably seeking places to get warm and perhaps get some food at a sheepherder's camp which was near the road going through there. So this posse came upon this place one evening and they went up and went up to talk to the sheepherder and the others stayed back. And the sheepherder whom he asked if these two men were there sleeping. He pointed out where they were. And then the rest of 'em come in and took these two without incident. We captured them. I can remember that real well because that was so unusual to have that kind of a crime.

ESm: What kind of illegal activity could have...could young people have gotten involved with in that time around here?

ES: Drinking.

LS: Yes, yes, drinking. Of course, there wasn't too much to do with too much drinking. It was pretty well tolerated and pretty well stayed within bounds. Occasionally there was an automobile accident and sometimes deaths, but there was no real crime involved with is as far as prosecuting.

ESm: Did you feel as though you were living among honest, virtuous people?

LS: Absolutely.

ES: Mm-hmm.

LS: Absolutely. And if there was such a thing that type of a family our persons were identified and everybody knew about it, word of mouth. Like, for an example, cases where perhaps some grain was stolen. In those days we had grain in sacks

- in piles. Or if there was...we didn't have hay balers in those days. It was just hay in a field. But if things like that would happen or something disappeared you pretty well know who took it, you know, and it was usually right. Most people become identified and they was pretty much isolated as far as friendships with the families were concerned. And generally people...most people would move out of the valley again. I can think of a few cases like that, can't you?
- ES: I can think of one out at our house.
- LS: Yeah.
- ES: ___ this kid or just about first grader, I guess. My mom had a bunch of these wound up handkerchiefs, the old wounded handkerchiefs, and stuffed back in boxes upstairs that we didn't use very much and other things. And we came home one day and the neighbors said ___. And when Dad would have the graining shocks out there, why, the grain in front...the shocks in front of their house kinda dwindled down to nothing 'cause they were throwin' 'em over the fence to the chickens and pig. Other than that, why...
- ESm: One of the recent additions to the Elgin museum, Historical Society, is an old jail that was a building maybe eight by twelve or so, bars on the window. It's sitting next to the Opera House now. And I gather that was outside of Elgin not too far. Why do you think that they would have needed a jail there?
- ES: Maybe cattle wrastlers or horse thieves or...
- ESm: Alright, you didn't mention that. Were they around every once in a while?
- ES: Oh, I think so. I can't recall any personally 'cause I ___ horse thief.
- ESm: This could be from your early adulthood, too.
- ES: Then someplace to put a drunk.
- ESm: More likely a drunk than a horse thief?
- ES: [laugh] Yeah.
- ESm: What role were you aware that churches played in people's lives let's say in the 1920s and the '30s?
- ES: I went to Sunday School at the church there in Summerville. And my Sunday School teacher was Mrs. Starns and what she said was law. And I tried not to miss a Sunday and we had church services in the evening. And I sang. Many times my mother sang solos or for a program. She certainly taught me not to...I mean one of the Ten Commandments that I remember so clearly and try...try awfully hard to still with is "Thou shalt not take thy Lord's name in vain." And it just makes cold chills go over me when I hear somebody do that. But she was a wonderful Sunday School teacher.
- ESm: How did she attain her power or ability to make you think that what she said was the law?
- ES: I don't know. I don't know what her religious background was 'cause she was there when I went. She was just a good person. And like I say, I...I really don't know. I was at that age where it was something to look up to. We had missionaries come through and hold...or evangelists come through and would hold these meetings. And I joined the church. I was baptized in the Cove swimming pool.
- ESm: Was it the Baptist?

ES: I always thought I was a Baptist, but come to... I always thought I was a Methodist. I guess come to find out I was actually the one that dunks.

ESm: Baptist?

ES: Baptist, okay. So then I found out I was Baptist, [laugh] but I didn't know of the difference.

ESm: Can you tell me more about why people seem to accept so readily the precept and the rules of the church?

ES: I...I really can't. I don't know. I don't know if it's the way it's presented to them. Is this what you're meaning?

ESm: Yes. One way that some churches try to make people do the right thing is to threaten them with hellfire and eternal damnation.

ES: Uh-huh. Well, I don't...I did believe that there was a hell and a heaven, but I don't remember them...of course when these evangelists get going, why, anything comes out. But I can't tell you really.

ESm: You felt it though. You felt that the church was an important influence on people's behavior.

ES: Um, I felt like it was, but I didn't...I didn't __.

ESm: Did they define for you what virtue is?

ES: No. If they did I don't remember. That's been eighty years ago! [laugh]

LS: Not quite.

ES: Well, seventy-five anyway.

ESm: I'm always interested in how religion as it manifests in [doorbell]... I'll turn this off. [tape stopped]

ES: ...things. I never did believe in smoking and drinking. I swear once in a while.

ESm: You drank that beer and then spit it out so I guess that was the beginning of your not wanting to have alcohol.

ES: [laugh] But to me they were not really...I mean a religious person didn't do that. Then here...

ESm: Why? What...why would that... doing those make you not...not a good religious person?

ES: This is the way I was taught. This is the way she taught us. That you don't...a good person doesn't smoke, they don't drink.

ESm: Did she call this sin?

ES: I think so.

ESm: So you got a concept of sin?

ES: Uh-huh.

ESm: Sin was any behavior that other people would say was normal, but the churches said was not?

ES: That was my impression of it.

ESm: Straight and narrow, would that be another term that applies?

ES: Do what?

ESm: The "straight and narrow" definition of life?

ES: Yeah, that's Baptist, I think.

ESm: Yes.

ES: And what I know of the definition of the thinkings of all the churches I have no idea. But I was sitting downtown a number of years ago where I could see the

- Presbyterian church and some of the men came out on the sidewalk, lit up a cigarette, smoked it and went back in. Now to me that wasn't religion the way I had been taught. But I know they do that.
- ESm: Now there...those are effects of the church on every day behavior, the choices that you have to make between doing this and not doing this. Now what about the theology part? In Christianity most churches' theology, the divinity of Jesus Christ and the resurrection and the salvation and so on, is fairly prominent. Were you aware very much of the theology?
- ES: Not too much other than Easter Sunday and Christmas. And like I say, a kid at that age didn't have too much...
- ESm: But are we talking only about when you were very young, or are we talking...?
- ES: I didn't go to church much after I was...
- ESm: Oh. Why?
- ES: I had...and this is an excuse...I had three kids. I had cows to milk and chores to do and I couldn't get it all done.
- ESm: Not an excuse, that's a good reason! [laughs] So you found it fairly easy to laps from church attendance? Did you figure, well, I've already learned the important lessons so why do I need to keep going back?
- ES: I didn't think too much about it, really.
- ESm: Now Sandy says that hardly a church was darkened by his presence. You didn't...you just didn't have any connection at all at the churches?
- LS: Yes and no. I should've had quite a lot of influence. My background from my mother's side it was for about lack of a better word...when this Hug family came from Switzerland they were six grown children. And they came to this country because their mother, for lack of a better word, was, in my opinion at least, she was a zealot. Church came first then down the line was family and so forth. So she with her six children came to the new country. She personally felt that she had a calling. I think I'm right on this. Brigham Young. She left her husband and one grown man child...child...son and there's quite a story in this book about that here...and came to Utah. And a chain of circumstances arose, which is not told in here, but they...the mother was disillusioned and she died within a year and the husband she left behind died within a year. So these six children tried to make a living in southern Utah. And I'm not sure on my facts on this, but I'm of the opinion that this Grandma Neederer, who was originally a Hug, was the first white child that was born in Santa Clara, Utah. I don't have facts to back that up, but accept it as probably true. And uh...
- ES: Her name was Clara.
- LS: Clara. So over the years in growing up myself I have nothing either way on the Mormon religion pers... [end tape]

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- LS: My one year living in Imbler during my fifth grade of school I was friends with a close...my closest friend, boy friend, was a Mormon and we went to church almost every Sunday. It wasn't that my folks said, "Oh, you must go," or "no, you don't need to." It was just that it was pleasant. Then when I got into high

school in the wintertime, why, I will live with them often in the wintertime because of snow and to get to school. And so during that time I would always go to school...go to church on Sunday. And they had a group called the Trailblazers which is similar to the Boy Scouts that I enjoyed doing. So just during those periods of time. They were very pleasant experiences, but as far as absorbing the church as something that affected my life Lynn, my friend, and his family affected me quite a bit, but this...so did other people who were otherwise. So I never did become __ with it or did I find that I did like it for any particular reason. __ or not. So going on throughout my life I did have some experiences in churches, some good and some, from my feeling, very bad which I won't delve into.

ESm: Did you have the sense when you were fairly young living around here that there was considerable religious tolerance? That there wasn't any particular denomination that was looked down upon or persecuted?

LS: I grew up that way with my parents. Under my parents' supervision I grew up that way, yes. It wasn't until later that I became somewhat involved in one circumstance bad and one that was extremely good. But I to this day, as I explained to you a little while ago. I don't know if you want that on here or not.

ESm: I don't think we need to.

LS: Okay.

ES: My grandmother Conrad came from Switzerland and she came alone. She was...as I get the story, about six years old and she came over with Mormon missionaries. So she kinda leaned towards the Mormon religion, but Grandpa he never would. But he did a lot for her with the Mormons...I mean for the Mormons. They lived in Utah. My dad was born in Utah. And then they came here to the valley and, as I get the story, he was the first one to bring to Hereford cattle in here. And that I don't know really whether it was or not. But they settled out in the center of the valley here and __ and he had one child born here in 1900. And the others were all...I don't know where they must have went. Dad and some of his brothers, I know, are in Utah, but I haven't tracked 'em all down yet.

ESm: When either of you were in your early years did you have any contact whatsoever with people of another race?

ES: No. There weren't very many people around at that time I mean like it is now. Not to me. There's just as many bad white ones as there are black ones and there's an awful lot of good black ones.

ESm: Most of the Chinese had probably left La Grande by the time you were...you could have been aware of them?

ES: Yeah.

ESm: Mm-hmm.

LS: Definitely.

ESm: There has been a small black community in La Grande, however, for most of the twentieth century.

ES: Mm-hmm. Chinatown down under there down where the Ford garage used to be. I don't know what's in there now.

ESm: Yes.

ES: On Jefferson. I remember my dad he used to...he was hurt in the war, his back, and he used to get some kind of a concoction from the Chinese. As I remember it was a yucky green color, but he would drink that stuff and it was supposed to help him. I don't know, maybe it was...

ESm: Probably an herbal mix.

ES: ...a little something __[laugh], but I was too young to know anything about that.

ESm: When I ask about religion and race I'm...was trying to get at any perceptions you might have had about tensions or disagreements or lack of respect for people who didn't fit quite the majority look and set of habits.

LS: Now are you asking us in relation to Union County?

ESm: Yes.

LS: Yeah.

ESm: Yes.

LS: None whatsoever for me.

ES: I can't think of any.

LS: I think there was a...without even realizing it I think there's some little, just somewhat, feeling which without __ you just never quite accepted interracial marriages.

ESm: That was nationwide.

LS: And that...

ESm: For quite a number of years.

LS: And it was not until I got out in the big world before I started encountering it.

ES: Now it's a common thing.

ESm: Yes. Not exactly related, but let's talk for a bit about any awareness you had of politics, local or regional politics and how they might effect anything that was happening in this county.

LS: Oh, absolutely.

ES: This is a politician, I'm not.

ESm: Alright. I came to the right place to ask.

LS: She's...she's a Democrat and I'm the Republican. [laughs] And if I look back it was that my grandfather Neederer was a Republican. My good cousin, Emery Oliver, he's a lifelong Democrat and we are constantly are digging up something to dig each other up with.

ESm: I'm very interested in what persuaded I guess the majority of people since this county was formed to lean toward Republicanism.

LS: You're asking me now?

ESm: I'm interested in that that's why I'm asking you.

LS: I'm...I'm very a wonderful one to ask because really it was just that my mother and dad become Republicans particularly because my granddad Neederer was a good Republican.

ESm: So you're a Republican out of habit. [laughs]

LS: Yeah. Of all the people...I think of all the people, of course I tremendously respect my mother and my dad...my mother and my father. But to me the great...greatest picture I can picture of anyone is my grandfather Neederer yet I was not all that close to him. But just what he accomplished, what he did in his lifetime is just to me his picture, oh, I'd like...I can wish I can be more like him.

ESm: When it comes to a choice of a political party did you have any conversations with family members that persuaded you that they had the right take on politics?

LS: My...I think my principle of fact was after I went to work for Union Oil Company. And I was never in...I've never belonged to a labor union in my life. I've always in a sort of a supervisory position or management position. And so my life was among people who had pretty much that same thing. And I'm sure if I look back that that happened after I went to work for a corporation.

ESm: Not much that would be traceable to your experience in Union County then that affected your choice of a political party?

LS: No, it was my family.

ESm: Even now when you reflect back on your earlier days can you see any actions or strong statements of belief that would suggest that they were somehow identified with a republican ideology?

LS: No. All my life, all my life I've been very strong...right or wrong I've always been...[laughs] But in my last ten years I somewhat question once in a while because certain...certain things that one party...and of course that's strictly because I'm a very avid listener to politics. And I think when...I think we somewhat get too much of it and I think that I get over influenced. Some of the people that are so strong on one thing and not on another.

ESm: Maybe you should switch over to NPR Radio to get a more balanced ___.

LS: I tried to do that but then I...I don't know. If I could just pick the best out of the two. [laugh]

ES: ___ switch over. Usually you want to get your mind off of it a little bit.

ESm: Were you aware at all of county government?

ES: The what?

ESm: County government in Union County?

ES: Uh, not really other than... I might say when...the first I remember Dad...I think Dad was a Republican and I was a Republican. And then after I got married there was a fellow running for an office that was a Democrat so we switched over to Democrat and have been Democrat ever since.

ESm: It sounds as though there's ___.

ES: Even more so when I ___ as Republican. [laughs]

ESm: Yes. But weren't there things that the county commissioners were doing that effected you in some way?

ES: No, not really.

ESm: No?

ES: I didn't pay too much attention to it really. I think you can get kind of carried away with it.

ESm: Or you can be oblivious.

ES: Uh-huh.

ESm: Mm-hmm. I don't know which is worse. They're both bad. ___

LS: Can we quote you on that?

ESm: Yes.

LS: This is interesting because I got a letter from the Republican party today which want to... I've carefully chosen as a Republican to get my viewpoints. And I know that will indefinitely lead to they want a contribution.

ESm: Sure.

LS: So it went in the garbage because I'm not that much of a Republican.

ESm: Related to politics somewhat is the judicial system. La Grande has had a courthouse...or Union County has had a courthouse first in Union and then in La Grande and there was a big controversy about that, where it should be. I think maybe some people around Union are still angry that it was moved.

ES: Yes, probably so.

ESm: And I suppose you would have heard about some people who had been brought before a judge for some reason. Any perceptions about how the judicial system works in this county or has worked?

ES: The only thing I think...the only time I've had much anything to do with it...my son had stuff stolen from a...it was his house for a while now it's just a shed...out on the Foothill Road and the people were caught. And he had to go to court one day and was...

ESm: What did they do?

ES: They had caught these people and they were trying...getting...oh shoot, what were they doing? Getting this gal, it just happened to be a girl. And she was being brought up for sentencing and he was supposed to be there. The judge...I won't mention any names...but he sat there...

ESm: Musing.

ES: And pretty soon he made his decision. She was supposed to pay Tom so much money and all of that there. I thought, you guy, is that the way our judges do? But I didn't have much use for him in the first place so I wasn't...[laugh]

ESm: He wasn't the most attentive of judges.

ES: No.

ESm: Mm-hmm.

ES: And he's a very prominent man.

LS: Never having lived in the valley during my adult life much I can't make anything that would show much light.

ESm: Okay.

ES: Boy those old bombers are sure blowin' out fast! Must be going over there that fire. You can still see some of the smoke up there on the hill.

ESm: Mm-hmm.

LS: That must be Wallowa. But in today's world I think that a great many things that happened are opinions that I've formed quite long ago. For an example, my grandpa and grandma, Grandpa Neederer to me I just picture him as he was always neat, he was always orderly, he always had everything just ___. And to this day there are particularly two men that come to our Senior Center, and they are politicians, and both of them are very impressive. And I would be hard put to know for exactly are they a Republican or a Democrat, but they present themselves well. They're neat, they're orderly. They talk...they speak well. And I think that they take the time to...I'm sure they's talked to all types of people. They are people that I'm impressed with.

ESm: Did either of you have memorable experiences with anybody in the medical profession in your early years?

LS: I have one particular... Shortly after I went to work for Union Oil Company I went out hunting one afternoon deer hunting north of Summerville way up in back of where I was born and raised. Had a fellow hunting with me and unfortunately he shot me. And...

ESm: In the what?

LS: Part of my leg. Blew side of it off. And I had a pretty rough experience getting into town and getting to a doctor. And fortunately I had had another minor accident happen late at night at the service station where I got a hold of this man. He was a new doctor and had just come to town. He name was a Dr. Ottley. And he took care of me that night and I was so impressed with him when I had this hunting accident all I could think of "I want to go to him", which I did. And he was a young man, but he had studies that the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. And this was in October of 1941 just a little while before Pearl Harbor. And he took a look at it and he says, "I've got to get somebody that knows more than I do." So he got another doctor. And this other doctor had told him, he says, "We better take the kid's leg off. He's been nearly four hours and it was a gunshot wound and he's bound to get blood poisoning." And Ottley said, "No." He said, "Just before...one of the last things I talked about I told him I would try to save his leg as I could." And he says, "We've been getting miraculous result from __ rocks." They used them back then. They had 'em here, but apparently the older doctor didn't even know enough about them. He says, "We'll work on him. We'll try to do best we can, but this is pretty bad because something like that, such a mess, he just gets blood poison it'd just be cut, cut, cut. Might as well take it off now, but we'll work and try it." And they saved it and I've still got a leg. So he was always just my precious favorite doctor because of it.

ESm: Now this must...his...you must have been taken to the original Grande Ronde Hospital.

LS: No, it was the St...

ES: St. Joseph.

LS: St. Joseph.

ESm: St. Joseph?

LS: Yeah. 1941.

ESm: That's right. It was in operation about the same time as the white one on the hill going out of town, wasn't it?

LS: The La Grande...the old La Grande hospital you mean?

ESm: Grande Ronde Hospital.

LS: The old one.

ESm: Yeah.

LS: Going out of town.

ESm: Yes.

LS: This...

ES: It was a while after that. __

ESm: I know about when it went out, but it was in operation at the same time as St. Joseph?

ES: Oh yeah.

LS: Yeah, it was still in operation. But the St. Joseph was quite new then.

ESm: Can you describe how it looked? Or smelled?
LS: What? The hospital?
ESm: Yes.
ES: No, your leg.
ESm: No, the hospital. [laughs]
LS: Of course it's probably the first and only time that I've ever...was ever in it, but I was in it there for some little while. Not necessarily. I was in quite a lot of shock because we were about three miles from the car and twenty miles from town and it was getting dark. And we got tangled up in shaperal brush getting to the car.
ESm: You were still able to walk on it apparently.
LS: The kid that shot me he was little like me, but he was very wiry and he would run...of course he was just wild. I almost had to threaten to shoot him to take me out. He wanted to go get somebody and I knew he'd never find me, you know. I was bleeding reasonably bad. So I would...when he'd just give out then I had...we were carrying our guns...guns with us and I would take one and jump up to it...jump up to it 'cause no I couldn't walk on this.
ESm: I hope the guns were not loaded at that point.
LS: [laugh]
ESm: So what your experience at the hospital was probably kind of vague and fuzzy for you. You weren't in a high state of alertness.
LS: Well, after the operation and the next day or two or three, why, everything else was very, very...I suppose it was ether that they took me out on. I don't really remember.
ESm: The nurses were nuns.
LS: No, no.
ESm: No?
LS: No.
ES: Some of 'em.
LS: Some, but not all.
ES: I thought all of them were.
LS: No. There were...like Hamilton, Mrs. Hamilton, Earl Hamilton's son's wife. For a little while I had a definite crush on her. She was so lovely. Took care of me and then there was a Philipino young man that worked in the hospital as their sort of...what do you call em?
ESm: Orderly.
LS: Orderly. He's still alive. He's ninety-...in his late nineties now.
ES: He goes to the Senior Center.
LS: Wonderful man.
ESm: Santos?
ES: Hmm?
ESm: Santos?
LS: Paul Santos?
ES: Uh-huh.
LS: Yes, yes. Paul Santos.
ESm: He was a custodian at John Turner's house.

LS: Okay. That's him then, uh-huh. Isn't this wonderful how you tie all these things for good questions!

ESm: Of course I'm learning the network here. Figuring out how things fit together.

LS: And of course that particular summer was the second year that the college had introduced flying at the college. First year Glen McKenzie flew and I was right to be drafted so I thought I'll try and see if I can get a commission out of it so I signed up for that. And you got night classes fore meterology and navigation and things like that at the college. Then you flew during the daytime up here. And so I'd already completed my primary flying and at that time I signed up for sure in the Army air corps and went into secondary flying October 23rd, which when this accident happened. The day of Pearl Harbor's the first day I ever drove a car, after the accident. So of course by then, why, I was put into 4F program. They ended my flying career and my military.

ESm: So the injury was severe enough that it exempted you from the draft.

LS: Oh yeah. I was a...I was a...I had a...I limped badly all my life up until fifteen years ago. Fifteen years ago I got a new knee and it's lengthened my leg out. I was real bow-legged and always limped. So up until fifteen years ago.

ESm: Now you told me I think earlier that you had two years of college at Eastern Oregon Normal School, as it was called then. Part of that then was the classes related to flying?

LS: No.

ESm:

LS: I'd already graduated in 1936 and this was in 1941, but I'd had additional classes where I got credit for while I was flying.

ESm: You graduated from Eastern Oregon Normal School in '36?

LS: Yeah.

ESm: Is that with a four-year degree?

LS: Two.

ESm: Two.

LS: Two.

ESm: And was that supposed to be for teaching?

LS: No. Junior college. Two years of college.

ESm: They didn't call it junior college then, did they?

LS: I went to a normal school, but they called it junior college, yes.

ESm: They did?

LS: Uh-huh. 'Cause I didn't take any academics for teaching in those days. Basically I took economics and...my majors were economics and psychology.

ESm: Now what turned you around to want to do that since the eighth grade...

LS: I didn't want to be a farmer. Very simple. I got out of college and I still didn't know what I wanted.

ESm: You said your first eight years were pretty much of a flop, you had a terrible freshman year. You probably just squeaked through high school. Why would you want to go to college?

LS: No, my last two years...my last two years were real good.

ESm: Oh, you had a renaissance!

LS: Oh, I had a renaissance.

ES: You learned how to study.
ESm: That could be.
LS: Yeah, in fact I woulda had a...I would have had a...I had a...what do you call it?
To play fastball at Forest Grove.
ESm: Scholarship?
LS: Uh-huh. Scholarship. I had to have a good grade to do that.
ESm: But you weren't six-one, how could you play basketball?
LS: I didn't. I played baseball.
ESm: Oh, you said...I see, baseball.
LS: Yeah. We had a good team.
ES: But that was before he was injured.
ESm: Yeah. '35, '36 thereabout.
LS: Uh-huh.
ESm: Yeah.
ES: I took classes at the normal school the first year it was in operation.
ESm: '29?
ES: I was in third grade. [laugh]
ESm: At Ackerman?
ES: Uh-huh. No, they didn't have Ackerman then. It was just the normal school.
ESm: Oh, I see. Yeah, that's right.
ES: In the main building.
ESm: The experimental school I think they called it, or lab school. That was what it was.
ES: Yeah. I know I didn't want to go to my anymore so we moved...I went on the other side of the street and lived with my grandmother.
ESm: Why didn't you want to go to it anymore?
ES: Every six weeks you'd get a batch of teachers.
ESm: Student teachers. What was the matter...what was wrong with that?
ES: You just get used to some of 'em and then the new ones would come in and to me it was kind of a turmoil.
ESm: You wanted more stability?
ES: Mm-hmm.
ESm: Hmm. Otherwise was it enjoyable being there?
ES: Oh yes. Yeah, my...we were going to have a puppet show and my castle got picked for the puppet show. [laugh] We had to draw a castle. I don't even remember what the show was, but we had to draw a castle. And mine was ___. It got picked. I don't know who picked it.
ESm: Do you remember any more details about that school or about the building?
ES: No, uh-huh. Other than it was just in the...still standing and I'm scared to death they're gonna start in on it one of these days.
ESm: You mean the building? The Inlow Hall.
ES: Uh-huh.
ESm: Oh no. They're preserving that.
ES: Are they? They better. And the steps too.
ESm: That's a problem. The steps need repaired. I talked to Jerry Young, who's the president of the EOU Foundation, they're in charge of it, and it's gonna cost in

the millions partly because there's been erosion so they need to do new drainage...tile drainage or pipes and something about vegetation. Some kind of roots or something like that that's growing in and destroying there. So it's a big project.

ES: They better get some money and do it.

ESm: They'd like to very much. Money is the problem.

ES: 'Cause that's part of the college.

ESm: Yes. Do you remember Evensong?

ES: Oh, you bet.

ESm: What are your memories of it?

ES: Oh, just how beautiful it was and the graduates all coming down the steps and stand there and stand there out in the rain and why it would rain when they're walking.

ESm: What did you think it was all about? Why they were doing it?

ES: You just graduating from college.

ESm: I know, but they're...you don't have to go through some rigamoroll like that. Why did they do it that way?

ES: I don't know. [laugh] I never thought anything about it.

ESm: Except it was beautiful.

ES: Uh-huh. That's just the way it was. It was beautiful.

ESm: Do you remember about lighting...the symbolic lighting of their torches?

ES: Not really, uh-huh.

ESm: They all carried flashlights. When they got down to the bottom of the stairs there'd be a place where they would get their torch, turn on the flashlight, then they went off into the dusk.

ES: Oh. [end tape]

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ES: Now about Evensong, this goes back a little farther back at Summerville. When in the...my days when I was a kid people would have large flocks of sheep. And many times they would trail them over from Pendleton and I don't know if it was through the mountains or what. But they would trail them out to the north end of the valley up in the mountains there and they'd get through Summerville. And we kids would always stand out there and there was usually a bumper lamb or two that they didn't want to have to fool with so they'd give it to one of the kids. We'd never have one 'cause we didn't have a place to keep it. Because they banned the sheep at the...

ESm: Hundreds of them?

ES: Oh yes.

ESm: Where were they taking them?

ES: To the north end of the valley up in the mountain.

ESm: For summer pasture?

ES: Uh-huh.

ESm: Do you remember any other kind of...well, there were lumber mills of course in the valley, but any other kinds of industries of any sort?

LS: Can I talk on that one first?

ESm: Certainly.

ES: The...I can't...right around...the earlier mills in Elgin and the mill here.

ESm: Wasn't there a mill right behind or right next to Dry Creek School on the creek there...crick.

LS: Fiber factory. Fibers were made out of pine needles.

ESm: I've not heard about that. Now tell me. You weave them together?

LS: And this is where Emery Oliver will come in real strong. His memory is so good. But I want to back up just a little bit because to get into the Sanderson Springs. My dad was the second owner of the property he lived on that he bought. First it was a hundred and forty acres. It had been __ as a land grant and I have to...this is where Emery'd come in...because I'm not sure if I pronounced it right or spell it right. Maybe you know it. Nokomis land grant. Ever heard of it?

ESm: No.

LS: I have always accepted the name of Nokomis, but Emery corrects me and says it's a little different than that. But anyway, it was an original land grant...

ESm: From the U.S. government?

LS: Yes. U.S. government was attempting to promote a railroad to go up through the Grande Ronde Valley, out through what's called the swell, out through my Uncle Frank Whittle's property and part of the grading building or the line was done out through there.

ESm: That would go from Union and Cove, wasn't it? Or was it La Grande?

LS: Anyway it's going north to Summerville or by Summerville and on up through sort of what we might think of as the Ruckle Road and come out I don't know where. But anyway...

ES: It went through Imbler, didn't it?

LS: I don't know exactly where it went. No, I think it...no, it was west of where the present road of Imbler is. It was over in the swell, that bottom part of the valley.

ES: I know, but I mean instead of building it there they built it through Imbler.

LS: And up to...up to Wallowa, Joseph, but this was to go to...

ESm: Generally west.

LS: West.

ESm: Or northwest.

LS: Uh-huh. Now I've lost my train of thought.

ESm: Industry.

LS: Oh, okay.

ESm: Pine needles.

LS: Yes. One of the principle bodies of water that was coming to feed the Grande Ronde River, one of them wasn't as big as Catherine Creek in Union, but it was a sizable stream, was the one that headed at the Sanderson Springs. And in the early '20s La Grande surveyed that water considering it to be the source of water for the city of La Grande. August Stang, who built the Stang Mill, was one of the principle supporters of this, but there were other businessmen of that time that were also supporting it. And they measured the water for quality and quantity.

They put little dams at the five springs. One was on Granddad Sanderson's place and four of 'em was on my dad's place. And the basic water, keeping out the other water that'd come in, but just those and the flow was exactly in middle of January as it was in the middle of July. And this should be somewhere in the recorder's office somewhere, La Grande still to this day, and the quality was of a like nature coming from the high country in the Minam area. Whether that's true or not I don't know, but that's was what was told to us. At then of that survey the city voted and at that time it was gonna cost quite a lot of money and also it didn't have very much fall so it'd have to be quite a lot of pumping to get it here. So it was voted down. But that was something that was a major thought to La Grande at that time. This bit of water, which is probably...oh, I would just...now I'm guessing, probably at that time that water was flowing at twice the volume it is today. In eighty years two of those springs are practically...well, two of 'em are gone now, they're not even flowing and the third one is very small. The big spring that is on the right hand side of the road going north from Summerville is still flowing the principle amount. But back in those days with that...with quite that...twice that water and water power being the principle provider of power these mills would be built along that creek. And this Nokomis land grant they were timber people. And of course they would take off first growth timber and sell it and my dad bought that piece of property from them. But there was an Wadin Wright Lumber Company. Nokomis was not a...didn't have a mill, but...Wadin Wright was there. I don't know what the name of the company was that had this fiber factory. But the fiber they would make like horses'...

ES: Collars.

LS: Collars, you know, and things like that on it. Then I guess that it was not too successful. But there were little mills between below where we lived and Summerville.

ESm: All using the power from this crick.

LS: Uh-huh.

ESm: Did all five springs, or six springs, flow into it?

LS: They flow together right there down in my dad's property. They all become one crick.

ESm: That crick still has pretty strong flow. I remember seeing it recently.

LS: Yes. But can you imagine it being over twice as big.

ESm: Yeah. Yeah. I can see why they would choose it for power.

LS: Some of that might be imagination on my side of it. This measurement for La Grande was verified and it was a pretty good sized body of water. Over five million gallons of water was coming out of one spring in twenty-four hours.

ESm: That's incredible.

LS: Yeah. Now, talking about the spring I have to bring this picture out from time how long, how long ago? The Umatilla tribe, the Nez Perce, which was in...out of Pendleton and...what's the other place?

ES: Umatilla.

LS: Umatilla. Not the county, but the...

ESm: The reservation.

ES: Had a reservation.

- LS: Reservation. Every spring we'd pack up...now as near as I ever told that the babies to the old people that couldn't even travel anymore all packed up, left the Um...the place...
- ES: Reservation.
- LS: ...reservation and headed up over the Blue Mountains. They got up over the Blue Mountains and Elma and I are not exactly sure if it's just the one trail or if there's more. But the basic trail we refer to as the Government Trail. Sometimes they call it the Indian Trail. But all of the principle travel between over there and here that before roads of much size standard travel. Elma will tell ya about the sheep a little bit, but I'm talking about the Indian travel. They would get...by the time they got from the reservation they would come right down to my dad's place and camp there for close to a week. They'd stay there because there an abundance of fish, there's what's called a ruffle grouse. They're kind that you can just throw a stick at they just sit there, you know, particularly if there's a dog or two that get 'em treed. And then they would get roots and herbs and all the things that Indians use. It was natural. It was right there. And before my dad bought the place they would camp there where the big spring flowed into the other three that were on our property. And so when Dad got the property of course before he ever put fences in they'd come there a little while going to the Wallowas and in the fall come back and the natural place to camp in the fall again. Rest their horses and lots of native grass. Everybody...and while they were there, why, if you wanted to trade for anything they made. Had moccasins and gloves and whatever you could trade that for whatever you might have, you know. And so I can remember before we ever made the trip up to Victoria at Vancouver Island so I was...and I'd be behind my dad and watch as he would go down there with the campfire at night, you know, and see all these strange, funny people. And so...
- ESm: They were entirely peaceful, weren't they?
- LS: Oh, absolutely! Oh yeah. Dad didn't talk with 'em, you know, and we'd...
- ESm: Did you hear any English that you remember?
- LS: I don't remember that.
- ESm: Probably not.
- LS: I don't remember anything like that because then about the time to I could remember things they were big enough...I was big enough to recognize. One year they came in an automobile! No horses anymore. Came in an automobile and they only stayed a day or two. And then after a while they never came anymore. They could get there...to there in one day. But that was a bit of history.
- ESm: It surely was.
- LS: That is very memorable.
- ESm: You were I think very fortunate to see that last phase of a kind of life that was probably native to these Native Americans for thousands or, hundreds at least, of years.
- LS: Whatever, something...something exciting.
- ES: They used to come down and camp on his grandfather's place out here on the Foothill Road and down in the meadow it was just blue with camas. And they'd take camas down there. And there was a warm spring to the side of the house a

ways and a farm. It was a...and they did their washing and all in there. And you'd see it 'cause it was ___.

LS: Now it's something...something else is...Elma will tell you about this...is big herds of sheep.

ES: I already told him.

ESm: She did. She did tell me.

LS: And us kids when they'd come up through our place, you know, where there's probably a half a mile of road that would travel and it was fenced then...fenced. So us little kids we'd hear that their sheep were here...bringing a herd a sheeps over. We'd run down to get to the very edge of our property and ask 'em if we could help 'em herd the sheep. 'Cause there was no...they'd get across the...into our property, you know, and of course sheep herders always glad to get rid of little bummer lambs so if we'd do that they'd give us a lamb. Then we'd bottle-feed it, you know, and then have a bummer lamb. That was a big experience to get a bummer lamb that we'd have to feed with a bottle.

ESm: Can we go back for a minute to that pine weaving factory you spoke about? Do you know anymore about what the process was?

LS: I don't know a thing about that, no.

ESm: The first time I've heard of it. You said it wasn't very successful.

LS: You say it's the first time you've heard that it is now?

ESm: When you mentioned it.

LS: Talk to...talk to Emery Oliver then. Their folks...the Olivers had a mill. Emery's great-uncle, I think it is, Turner Alber. And whether he owned this fiber factory or not I don't know. The only thing is is us little kids we'd sneak out behind the barn in the schoolhouse and roll this fiber up and smoke it.

ESm: Ah!

ES: [laugh]

ESm: I bet it tasted awful.

LS: Montgomery Ward catalogs. [laughs]

ESm: You were being really naughty.

LS: Oh yeah, yeah. As a matter of fact something else. I told you about Wa...August Stang was involved with promoting the water for La Grande.

ESm: Mm-hmm.

LS: He likes to come out to our place and fish. And August Stang always had a cigar. And after he'd smoke a little while he'd throw it away. When I was probably eight or nine or ten years of life...

ESm: You rescued it, hmm?

LS: ...I'd find 'em and smoke 'em. [laughs]

ES: ___

LS: This is before Elma went to school in Summerville...and I mean to church. And I have to add something to that is that Mrs. Starrs who she spoke of as the teacher of the Sunday School. I knew the Starrs. And the Starrs family were a highly respected. Everybody respected Dennis. Just fine people. And for her...a member of the Starrs family saying anything just became right for all of us. But before Mrs. Starrs started running a Sunday School, why, they would evangelists or preachers that hold church or...

ES: Revival meetings.
LS: Revival meetings, yeah. And of course us kids were expected to go, which we did. We always...kids on horseback. There'd probably be four or five of us on horseback each. In my case I had a horse, my brother's horse, by then. So we went to this particular one Sunday and our folks were having a get-together at a people's place about a mile and half. In fact, that's where Emery Oliver lives now. But people by the name of Monahan lived there. Our folks went to...us kids all went to this Sunday School. There must have been six or seven of us. I was one of the younger ones. Some of the older kids one of 'em got a hold of a plug of chewin' tobacco, which of course all of us were chewin' on, you know. This old horse that I had she was gettin' pretty old by then. She had tendency to shy. So on the way from Summerville, I hadn't gotten very far, and Old Flossie shied. Off I went and away. I don't think I ever can remember being sicker than that in my entire life. [laughs]
ES: Poor Mom couldn't understand why he was sick.
LS: But I made...we made it up to that place and Dad took my horse home and Mom took me in the buddy or hack or whatever we had at that time. That doesn't need to be in the...[laughs] Those are memories that come up.
ESm: Oh yes. Do you think we've come to the end of your most important memories about...
LS: Do I address you as Eugene or Doctor?
ESm: Eugene.
LS: Eugene, okay.
ES: Um, I can't think of anymore right now, not that happened to me.
ESm: Okay, well, I can come back if you want me to. [tape stopped]

L. & E. Sanderson

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ES: Okay. This is number nine, isn't it? Nine?
ESa: Yes. Uh-huh. This was taken out in the middle of the Grande Ronde Valley on my grandfather and grandmother's place. And I have no idea what time a there or what year it was other than there is a small boy there. And that's possibly my dad. And he was born in 1896.
ES: Maybe right around 1900 then?
ESa: I think it would be around then. And this is the way that they bound the grain and they used...the family was shocking it, putting it into shocks so that it would finish drying out and be ready for the thrashing machine.
ES: And exactly what did that machine that's in that picture do?
ESa: It cut it and wraps twine around it or whatever...bind or twine so that it would hold it in a sheath.
ES: And it was...did that simply operate from the wheels turning or did it have some other source of power?
ESa: Just from the wheels turning.

ES: They have gears, perhaps, that would...would cause the binding to go around the shocks?

ESa: Mm-hmm.

ES: Yeah. And you don't have any idea of what they were cutting there? Was it hay?

ESa: Probably wheat.

ES: Wheat.

ESa: Wheat or oats, uh-huh.

ES: And did you say that after it was put in those shocks it would stand upright for a while until it dried?

ESa: Mm-hmm. 'Til it dried and then we'd come out a team and wagon and pitch it onto the wagon and take it to the trashing machine.

ES: Would it stand up for several days or a couple of weeks? How long?

ESa: A few days, probably, wouldn't you say?

LS: Depend more...a lot more on the climate.

ESa: Weather.

LS: Climate weather wise. And also, when the trashing machine can get to the place. But I'd say if there had been rain naturally it had to set longer.

ES: And Elma what did you say you did in relation to that machine?

ESa: [laugh] I was not any place around.

ES: You weren't involved in the shocking or the piling or anything?

ESa: Oh heavens no! Not in... This was a little before my time.

ES: I thought maybe, though, there were still machines operating similar to that when you were...?

ESa: No, I didn't.

ES: No.

ESa: My time came about probably twenty, twenty-two years later than this.

ES: Okay. Alright let's go on to number one.

LS: Go on number one. Alright. Number one...yeah, number one ____. My family in the...about 19...1917...in 1917 my brother took and left myself and my old kitty Tommy and my mother and I. And the house as you can see is already built, but not very long. In fact, there were some things that continued to be done, but basically we're setting there getting our picture.

ES: Was that the first house you lived in?

LS: That's the first and only house that I lived in for the first few years of my life.

ES: And exactly where is it?

LS: This is approximately four-and-a-half miles north of Summerville and more directly about one-and-three-quarters miles north of the Dry Creek school where of course my brother and I went to part of our school. Virgil my brother is a little over six years older than I am so he had a great deal to do with my childhood.

ES: Did your father have something to do with building the house?

LS: Somewhat. I should say he had a lot to do with it. He had a carpenter that did the guidance; helped him know ___...helped him to, you know. A fella by the name of Bill German. My memory serves me very well here. Jim Sherman was a man older than my mother and dad...father...and he was cross-eyed. Very interesting man. And he enjoyed...he enjoyed his work. It was very obvious that he enjoyed

his work and he was good at it. They'd work that from sunup 'til sundown and sometimes much longer than that.

ES: In addition to building houses did he build barns and outhouses and stables and that sort of thing?

LS: I'm quite sure he did. My memory of him was when I was quite young. I don't know what's happened to him in his later life.

ES: How many rooms did this house have?

LS: It had one...it had a front room, dining room and a kitchen and two bedrooms and then___.

ES: Mm-hmm.

LS: And then we had a room...took care of the...we call it the separator separating the cream from the milk. And then this led off down into a little basement which was on the north side of the house. I don't think we have a picture of that. But that was kind of...like some of these old...call 'er root house.

ES: It didn't have toilet or running water?

LS: We had running water inside. As you recall seeing the spring which is at the new house. There was much more...I'm sure it was...I say at least twice as much water before I __ that spring. It seemed like quite a bit more than that.

ES: Exactly how did the water get from the spring inside the house?

LS: There is something that is called a hydraulic ram. For lack of a...I don't know how to better describe it. But we had a dam below the spring that was coming out of the ground and this dam we'd have a stream of water going over it...over the dam. And we had a pipe running from this dam up two...up two feet away with a certain amount of fall. And the distance of this fall would go into this ram, as we called it. And this ram when the water would go through it just...you'd hear it go "pump, pump, pump, pump." It all has to do with hydraulics. Please understand I don't know much about hydraulics. [laugh]

ES: What do you suppose operated the hydraulic part? Just the pressure of the water?

LS: Yes. The distance of the fall to where it goes into this ram and then this ram would pump the water up the hill to a lar...what we had was a large wooden tank that was above our hou...above in the shed close to our house. And from this...from this water tank the water would then flow down into our kitchen and we had...we had a faucet there to get our water.

ES: Anything more than a trickle?

LS: No, it was there.

ES: A spurt?

LS: Not a spurt, no. It'd be more like...

ES: A steady flow?

LS: More like a steady flow.

ES: Okay.

LS: Yes. It's interesting you'd bring this up because you forget about it.

ES: Yes. So that supplied drinking water and bathing, washing water?

LS: Right. Yes it did.

ES: But toilet facilities were outside?

LS: The toilets...yes, the toilet was the...were outside. We had a toilet where __ at the time. ____

ES: Did this house have electricity at the beginning?
LS: No. No. I...what?
ESa: It never did have...
LS: Never did. When I left the farm finally in...when I was seventeen...
ESa: What year was it?
LS: It was in 1919 when I finally moved out from the farm to go on to college. There was still no electricity.
ES: And lighting was what? Kerosene?
LS: Kerosene and...yes, uh-huh. It was kerosene.
ES: Were these lamps that you carried around or were some of them hung from above or attached to the wall in some way?
LS: In our home we had...we had kerosene lamp...lantern...lamps and kerosene...
ES: That you'd carry around?
LS: Not lamps, no. We called them lanterns with a handle on 'em. The lamps set on tables and also on the walls with a bracket to hold them.
ES: I imagined they smelled a lot, didn't they, the kerosene lamps?
LS: Oh...
ESa: Not too much.
LS: I don't think we were much very aware. We were used to it.
ES: I was always aware...aware of kerosene. Several people's houses that I visited had kerosene heaters and I always thought that "ugh, what a stink!"
LS: Also, I think they came into being...well, at least we had a lamp that was a gas...gasoline and lanterns that was gasoline.
ES: Now number two is in an enlargement of this group in front of the house.
LS: Yes.
ES: It's your mother...
LS: Yes.
ES: ...and your oldest brother Virgil...
LS: Virgil.
ES: ...is on the left or the right?
LS: On the...is on the...is on the left just behind me.
ES: On the left and you're on the right?
LS: No, that's my...oh, I'm down below. I'm the little guy in a white shirt. And this is my dad.
ES: Oh, I see. I see. I thought you said something earlier about your...oh, you're cat here.
LS: Yeah, that's old...old Tommy.
ES: Old Tommy. Throughout your childhood was he with you?
LS: Oh yes. As a matter of fact...a little story. This is interesting because in order for...in order for Virgil to go to high school we moved to Imbler. We had a home out there in the apple orchards where my mother and dad worked with the apples. And we took our...we took our kitty Tommy with us. Now that was seven miles from our old farm. And one day he disappeared shortly after we got there. I can't recall. Maybe a week or so. Of course we felt that he got killed or something. And he turned up back at home. ___ I'm sure.
ES: Yes, yes.

LS: I remember he ___. And Vir...how he traveled we don't know, but he had to cross a creek two or three times. When he got home his pads on his paws were just raw another day of ___.

ES: You'd suspected that's where he'd gone so you went out to find him, is that it?

LS: The people that were renting our farm they let us know...

ES: Oh, I see.

LS: ...that the cat had come home. So we took him back to Imbler again, but only lived a few days. Because see here a...here Virgil was in high school and he was a little kitty about the time I was born so he was twelve or somethin' years old. That's pretty rough on an old kitty.

ES: Maybe he died of a broken heart rather than the bloody paws.

LS: It was just too much for him.

ES: Yes, yes. I sympathize 'cause I like cats, too. Now I see a little boy in a dress here with a hat on. Number three.

LS: [laugh] How do you know it's a boy?

ES: I'm guessing. [laughs] There's no other way to tell.

LS: That's right. That was me. My mother dressed me and I guess she dressed my brother when he was young in dresses because she made those out of flour sacks.

ES: Now is that what you wore all the time or just on Sundays? [laughs]

LS: I'm sure I wore it all the time.

ES: Little boys wearing dresses that somehow doesn't seem as though it would work very well.

LS: Yeah.

ES: Getting it caught in things all the time.

LS: It seems to me that my younger years, why, it was several things...

ES: What did you wear under the dress?

LS:diapers I suspect.

ES: I think you're a little too old for diapers in that picture.

LS: Do you really?

ES: Yes.

LS: I don't know.

ES: Maybe you just wore a pair of blue jeans.

LS: Unfortunately I never did wear blue jeans until I got in eight or nine years old. My mother built all my clothes that I ever wore there early.

ES: She built that dress, too, probably?

LS: Oh absolutely, absolutely.

ES: Was that made out of a flour sack, do you think?

LS: I know it was made out of a flour sack.

ES: And that's like a ___

LS: I was told that.

ES: Yeah. Knitted cap you had on there.

LS: Yes it is. Yes it is.

ES: And apparently some kind of a belt or is that just your arms?

LS: Those are my arms.

ES: Oh yes. It's just a loose straight dress.

LS: Yes, yes. See, I'm walking so I must have been two years old.

ES: Uh-huh. At least.

LS: So that was the way my life began up until then.

ES: And apparently this was on the porch of this house. It looks like that. Same kind of a beam there.

LS: This is on...we'll call this the front porch, can I?

ES: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

LS: And I'll...when we're looking from here there's a...this is...we call that a barn lot. And the house was inches away from where animals such as horses and cattle would be. They would be in the barn lot. And if we had sheep they would be in the barn lot.

ES: This is picture number one.

LS: They would never be around in the house here. The only thing that'd get in the house...I mean get in this part of the house was the cat and our dogs. They would never be allowed in the house. The dogs the cats never came in the house. They were always outside.

ES: By the way, did this front door enter into a hallway that went all the way through to the back?

LS: You walked through this door into the front room and there was no hallway you just...off to the right was a door to the front bedroom where my mother and dad slept. Then there was another door we walked through into the dining room and to the right of it was a door that walked into the bedroom that my brother and I slept in. And then...that was the dining room and then the dining room walked into the kitchen. But in this dining room there's another door that walked into sort of utility room. And then...but you were seeing me in this picture and back in this barn lot there was a walkway. It would walk from the barn lot into this back...back porch. This box that you see right there that was a wood box. And as we kids grew older we would fill this wood box with wood. And inside they...inside the house they could take the wood out to put into the kitchen stove and the front room stove. Those were the two stoves in our house. One was a cooking stove in the kitchen and a heating stove in the front room.

ES: Now number four shows a little boy, some chickens and a grown woman.

LS: That's right. That is me and Tommy, old Tommy kitty, and my mother. She always...she was always very proud of her chickens...of her Rhode Island red chickens. We raised enough eggs to buy things at the store. Went and trade the eggs in for some of the expense there.

ES: How many of those eggs do you think you ate?

LS: I'm sorry?

ES: How many of those eggs do you think you ate?

LS: An awful lot.

ES: Hundreds?

LS: In a period of time I would say no question about it. I'd say it...my mother of course did not have a lot of facilities for a lot of cooking. And I'm talkin' about pots and pans and all that. She just had the basics and she was so busy working out around different farm requirements that a woman has to do in those days. Because my dad was often out working for other people. By working with other people, why, he would get enough to pay for different things that we needed

around the farm there. So when he did that her duties would be to milk the cows, separate the milk from the cream, make sure that all of the barn animals were fed. That was when my brother and I were too young to do those things.

ES: What did she feed these chickens?

LS: Oh, different types of wheat like wheats, oats.

ES: That you had raised on your farm?

LS: Yes, yes.

ES: Did you ever see her kill one? Chicken?

LS: Mm-hmm. Many, many, many.

ES: How did she do it?

LS: Cut off their heads.

ES: Did she have an axe and put the chicken on a stump and whack it?

LS: Right. That's the way it happened.

ES: And then did you see the chicken run around for a while without a head?

LS: [laugh]

ES: Blood spurting out?

LS: Yes.

ES: So did I. I remember that.

LS: You do?

ES: Oh yeah.

ESa: I __ my neck.

ES: Yeah. And then after she killed that what did she do?

LS: Dressed it out.

ES: You have to...

ESa: Get a pan of scalding water and scald it.

ES: So you can pull the...pluck the feathers out.

LS: Yes.

ES: Did you watch her pluck the feathers or maybe you helped pluck them?

LS: Yes. We all could help on that.

ES: And then she'd take out the innards?

LS: Uh-huh. Yes.

ES: Did you eat those too?

LS: Oh, the gizzard and the liver and the heart.

ES: She'd boil those separately I suppose?

LS: I think so.

ES: Did she boil the chicken or roast it?

LS: All...all...all of the above.

ES: Or sometimes cut it up and fry it.

LS: Uh-huh.

ES: How often do you think you had chicken? To eat, I mean?

LS: Probably once a week. Probably once a week. Perhaps more. Yes, that was quite a ___...one of the staples.

ES: Yeah. Is this the same barn that we see in picture number one?

LS: This is the barn and this is the...this is...isn't that funny, from that picture I have stop and...what'd you say you mean?

ES: Is this the barn?

LS: No. This...this is what we called the granary.

ES: In picture number one.

LS: In picture number one this is a granary, uh-huh. And to the left of the granary, which we can...oh, wait a minute, wait a minute. I'm sorry. See this building over to the right?

ES: Yes.

LS: That's the granary and this is the chicken house.

ES: Oh yes.

LS: This is the chicken house where the chickens would roost and we'd feed them outside.

ES: And this is the side of it in picture number four?

LS: Oh no. This...

ES: No?

LS: This is the barn. This is the horse...this is the cattle side...

ES: It looks bigger than a chicken house to me.

LS: Yeah, this is the barn and this is...this part of this barn there's a door here and the...we put...drive the cattle, the milk cows, into this side and there were stanches that the cows would get into to milk. And then there's a more...more of this barn on the other side just like this where the horses go in. And in the middle of this big barn...it was a big barn, big to us...was the hay mound.

ES: Uh-huh. I suspect that we would call those chickens free range.

LS: I never heard that term before.

ES: That's the term that's being used now. They're supposed to be better, tastier, if they're allowed to roam around rather than sit in a house all day long completely bored. [laugh]

LS: Exactly.

ES: So high class chickens, free range. Very good.

LS: And also...

ESa: They're sure a lot better flavor than the ones, you know.

ES: Yeah. Sure.

LS: Also something before we pass it up chickens being around the buildings there were...there were predators that...like hawks and weasels and occasionally even a mink that would destroy chickens. And having them around the home they had quite a degree of protection. However, it was not unusual to have to kill a hawk or an owl or...conceivably a coyote.

ES: I suppose there were at least two or three roosters so all the eggs were fertilized?

LS: Yes. Certain times of the year. Certain times of the year they were...they were more preferable not to be fertilized when you sold 'em to say a grocery store. But yes in the spring of the year we hatched the little ones, why, we'd be there.

ES: By the way do you remember whether most of those eggs were brown shelled?

LS: The Rhode Island reds were brown shelled, yes. We...I don't recall us ever having white eggs. We later had larger chickens called ___ but they were different kinds as I grew older that we found.

ES: Did your mother replenish the flock of chickens simply through the eggs that hatched or did she buy chicks each spring?

LS: No, I don't recall her ever buying chicks. Now this could've been and I just don't remember it, but we might...we might trade with other people, you know. Of course remember that when we were...when we moved to Summerville the first year for my brother to go to school and I went to the fourth grade there in Summerville. Then we went to Imbler, as I mentioned before, on my fifth grade of grade school and my brother went to high school too. Then we returned to the farm. So we had to replace the chickens because they had been taken over by whoever was renting the farm and they kept them. So I can remember now that after the early years when we had the Rhode Island red chickens my mother was attracted to these what was called Buff Harpingtons and they were a larger, larger chicken. Produced a lot more meat and they also produced good eggs, too.

ES: Alright, let's switch over to Imbler. You're on the baseball team in picture number five.

LS: I was not all that good a player. I did play...Imbler had a real good team. Every year they turned out a good team and several reasons. One reason was that we didn't play football in the period of my time. The period of my brother's time six years older they did have a football team. And they quit that because of I guess expense...expenses. So what helped make us a good team is I guess we were one of the only teams in this part of the valley that didn't have a football team. So we practiced in the fall.

ES: Practiced baseball?

LS: Baseball.

ES: Mm-hmm.

LS: And in the winter.

ES: Mm-hmm. Gave you a head start come spring.

LS: It give is us a great beca... and number two is we seemed to get good coaches...good coaches for the team. And this man, Mr. James King...this picture...he...quite a remarkable man. He did a good job as principal at the high school there and from there he went on to...I think it was La Grande. And I had the great honor of looking him up when I was later...[end tape]

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ES: Okay.

LS: As he looked him up down in Lebanon, Oregon where he was head of his educational department for...that's quite a large school. So I guess that's all.

ES: What position did you play on the team?

LS: I was in center field. I was small, very small. I only weigh a hundred and fifteen pounds and about the height that I am now, five foot six. But I was quite...I was quite fast. And in that I was small...and this coach had such a way of getting the very best out of people...in that I was small and I could run. When I would get up to bat he taught me to hunch over.

ES: Like this?

LS: Yes. And crowd the inside of the plate. So it made it hard for a pitcher to pitch to me. And we wore padding...

ES: What did they say, "Get up off your knees!" [laughs]

LS: They might be. But anyway, by doing that I got a lot of walks. I got on lot of walks. I was not really afraid of getting hit. And either they'd have to pitch and couldn't get it across, you know. I learned to be a reasonably good bunter. And this teacher, this coach, taught us a lot about bunting.

ES: Did you hit any home runs?

LS: No.

ES: Never.

LS: I had...the first...the first year that I really made the team I was just a ___. There was a couple of reasons for that. I wasn't all that good a player to begin with, but second, always, was that I had a lot of work to do at home, you know, when I was living on the farm. To play ball and then walk home was a long old thing to have happen.

ES: Did this coach have you do any kinds of exercises other than playing baseball itself?

LS: Not really, no.

ES: No calisthenics or push-ups or...

LS: No. We had enough of that at home through chores and gettin' back and forth to school. No, we...

ES: Your muscles were pretty well developed at that time?

LS: They sure were.

ES: Even though you were skinny?

LS: Yes. Just a little short anecdote on this. We never did have a track team of any sort except we did try, but nobody ever did much. And so when I was a senior...a junior in high school a boy in the team...I don't know if he's in the pictures or not...by the name of Dwight Conklin took first place in the mile for eastern Oregon championship. First place. So the next year I was a senior and Dwight was also a senior and so this...it wasn't this...it wasn't Jim...Mr. King it was another teacher who was teaching. And he said, "Now whatever you do, Sanderson, you follow Dwight Conklin. Don't deviate. You follow Dwight Conklin." So I did, I followed him. And Dwight started out real good and did pretty good for probably the first half-mile and then another kid passed us. I thought "That's alright. Now Dwight knows what he's doin'." So then another guy passed us. When the fourth man passed us I thought, "I'll just follow that guy." [laughs] So I took fifth place. I don't know what could've happened if I could've took out after the first one. I think I probably could've ended second place. Because I was running a mile and three-quarters every morning to go to school and a mile and three-quarters to get home.

ES: Sure. Good practice.

LS: Lots of...

ES: You probably should've put more energy into track than to baseball.

LS: I don't know.

ES: You notice I enlarged the picture of you here.

LS: Yeah.

ES: Were you about a sophomore, do you think?

LS: At that one?

ES: Yeah.
LS: I think so.
ES: Number six.
LS: I think so. Either a freshman or a sophomore, but...
ES: You look fairly grim. I guess you were just serious about it...having your picture taken.
LS: I want to be important.
ES: Now number seven here is the boys' glee club, I think you said.
LS: Correct.
ES: Tell me one or two about...stories about being in that and the kinds of songs you sang and where you performed.
LS: They were...they were just at the high school there. And we just whatever we happened to be at a function at a high school.
ES: Do you remember singing songs like "Give me some men who are stout hearted men?" No?
LS: Actually, I don't remember.
ES: That's by Sigmund Romberg. It might be a little later than this time, but I think it's about the same period.
LS: I don't really remember.
ES: Boys' glee clubs used to sing that one a lot. [laughs]
LS: So help me I just haven't much to tell you on that.
ES: Did you sing "hup, hup, hup" athletic kinds of songs or romantic songs or what?
LS: I would think they were more of romantic types.
ES: "My Wild Irish Rose"?
LS: Perhaps.
ES: Did you have an accompanist?
LS: Yes, yes.
ES: Somebody...some boy playing the piano?
LS: No it wasn't. It was...it was one of the...it'd be one of the teachers I'm quite sure.
ES: How often did you practice?
LS: I would make a guess that it was probably about an hour three times a week.
ES: Were you getting credit for this do you think?
LS: Yes, yes.
ES: Okay. What made you want to be in the glee club?
LS: I don't remember that too much. I'm...you know, I set here and I have a pretty much of a blank.
ES: It looks as though there are maybe twenty boys in that.
LS: The whole high school, yes.
ES: The whole high school?
LS: Freshmen.
ES: Boys didn't have a choice about whether they were gonna be in the glee club?
LS: I don't know that.
ES: Usually they do. But maybe at that time with a small high school they said, "Now, in order to have a decent glee club you've all gotta be in it. I don't care whether you can sing or not." [laughs]

LS: It's a pretty good turnout, isn't it? Uh-huh. I don't know. I think it's kind of like music and art and things like that. It was a...perhaps a requirement for...or I mean an elective, but you either do that or something else.

ES: Some boys can't carry a tune. You remember that problem?

LS: I have no trouble on that. I had a wonderful...a good voice.

ES: I mean some other boys have that problem. Did you remember noticing that when you would sing?

LS: No.

ES: No?

LS: Not really. ___ as a group. As a matter of fact, when I went to college I participated in a cappella.

ES: Did you do this all the way through Imbler High School all four years?

LS: No, no. I think it was two years.

ES: In this picture of you that I pulled out again do you think you were beyond sophomore maybe junior?

LS: No, that was about the same.

ES: So about the sophomore year.

LS: Yeah. Uh-huh. See, there I am again right there.

ES: Did I get the right one?

LS: Where?

ES: This is supposed to be you.

LS: Yeah. I'm right there, see?

ES: Yeah. That's what I thought.

LS: Right.

ES: Okay. Don't want to give the credit to somebody else.

LS: [laugh] I would've done quite good in music, but...

ES: Number nine I think I see a Model-T or a Model-A Ford which is...

LS: It was a 490 Chevrolet 1922.

ES: Chevrolet?

LS: Yes.

ES: And who's in that picture?

LS: That's my mother and my dad and myself, uh-huh. Yes.

ES: Do you remember the occasion?

LS: It just happened that we were going by my Uncle Willy's home, which is right next to our place, and they happened to have a camera. And they had us stop and took our picture.

ES: Would this have been a Sunday afternoon trip, perhaps?

LS: It would look like it. It would look...either we're going to La Grande, the big town, or we're going to some doings of some sort like picnic or visiting someplace. Back in those days once or twice a month we'd go and visit somebody else. Once or twice a month, why, people would come and visit us when we were not right involved with harvesting or hay or something of that nature.

ES: Did you go willingly on trips like this?

LS: Me?

ES: Yeah.

LS: I didn't ever want to be left behind. [laughs]
ES: Would you take a lunch along in this?
LS: No, no. No, an occasion like this, why...it could...there'd be...there'd be what's calls shitaquas and fairs and reunions. And then there'd be family gatherings like Easter and Fourth of July and things like that.
ES: Do you remember going to a Chataqua any other place than La Grande?
LS: No I don't.
ES: They had them at Riverside Park, didn't they?
ESa: Yes.
LS: Correct, uh-huh.
ES: Do you remember any one that you did go to?
LS: Vaguely, but I do remember yes.
ES: Usually there would be several speakers wouldn't there?
LS: Of course us kids were not interested in that. We were just interested in playing around, you know.
ES: What was there to do other than chase one another?
LS: Oh gosh! I guess...I guess you could try to recall...you try to think of one all your life because you were playing with kids that you never knew before, you know, and sort of ___. I was always very, very bashful as a kid clean up through...clear up through college. Very bashful. And consequently just watching other kids, sometimes chasing 'em or them chasing you. And there you had slides and swings and things like that to take up.
ES: But you don't remember any of the actually programs that the Chataquas offered?
LS: No. No, I really don't. No. I never did attend many after I got out of...
ES: Do you remember whether the ones that you went to in Riverside Park were under a tent?
LS: To me it seemed like that there has always been a building there in the Riverside Park. As long as I can remember.
ES: It would've made a good place.
LS: Yes, yes.
ES: Sure. Where did you get the gas for the Chevrolet?
LS: Which one? This one?
ES: Mm-hmm.
LS: Elma's uncle's...uncle?...uncle's grocery store. In those days they carried gasoline...
ES: In Summerville?
LS: In Summerville, yes. In...above...
ESa: One of these old ___
ES: Now describe that would you? I don't know about that.
ESa: It's just a pump that had a big handle on it and...
ES: You'd move it back and forth?
ESa: Pump it back and forth to pump the gas up into the top of the thing so that'll run out.
ES: Was this self-serve or was there an attendant doing the pumping?
ESa: Oh, sometimes an attendant, sometimes you did it yourself.
LS: ___ okay, I guess that's....

ESa: Then it had a gauge up here on the...on the little tank up above and it was glass usually.

ES: And you could see the gas in it?

ESa: It had numbers...it had the numbers of the gallons.

ES: Could you see the gas in this glass?

ESa: Mm-hmm.

ES: Yeah. Wow.

LS: But back in this day back here that was long before what Elma's talkin' about. With this car yet, and the old Model-T that I told you about that we traveled clear up into Canada with, at their grocery store the gasoline was in a...probably a fifty-five gallon drum and you pumped it out into a...basically a five-gallon can or a one-gallon can. And the gasoline went in under the front seat of the car.

ES: So you'd have to buy five-gallons minimum and then put in what you needed and carry the rest home?

LS: They'd put in whatever you wanted to. If you wanted five gallons they'd take a five-gallon can and pour it in. If you ___ usually it was five gallons the amount. There's no such thing as "fill 'er up" in those days.

ES: And what do we have here in number ele...number ten?

LS: Number ten I was living in La Grande going to college at that time and I had gone out and I was a very fortunate young man. Usually...I can't remember it otherwise...the first day I went out I got my deer. It just happened that way.

ES: And there he is?

LS: And there's one of them ____.

ES: Not the first one.

LS: No. No, that...I got many deer before that. And I did that every year up until I got shot myself.

ES: What kind of gun were you using then?

LS: I had what was called an old 3040 Craig. It was a...

ES: Buckshot?

LS: No, no. It was a regular cartridge like 30 op 6 or something, 30, 40.

ES: Why did you have the deer in that strange position on the car? Was there any other better way to carry it?

LS: [laugh] Usually...usually if you got a deer you like to drive up and down Adams Avenue so people could see it.

ES: Oh. [laughs] Look!

LS: Yeah, yeah.

ES: Blood dripping on the ground?

LS: Oh, no, no. It had all been dressed out.

ES: Oh. Was that just the head then or not the whole body?

LS: It might be just the head. I don't remember anymore. Very possibly it's just the head. But I drove up and down...before I ever...It may be the whole deer. I don't remember.

ESa: After you have a deer on the hood of the car for a while and the heat from the car it isn't too good for the meat.

ES: Do you think you were doing some gloating in this photo?

LS: I just...all my life I had just loved automobiles. Just an innate passion. That's why I have an 03 model out here right now just to be able to think it's an 03. This one here was a 1933 Chevrolet that belonged to a prominent man in town called Roy Barnum...Roy Barnum Supply. He traded that in and I got it so I don't really want to show the deer, but I want to show my car.

ES: Ahh. Were you still in college when this photo was taken?

LS: Yes, yes, I was college...that was college. Can I correct that?

ES: Yeah.

LS: May I please.

ES: It says on the license plate 193 then I can't see the other number.

LS: I don't think it...

ES: Sometime in the 1930s then.

LS: I think this was the...I think this was the first that all after...no, this would be the last year of college. Yeah, you're right.

ES: Uh-huh. What are you wearing there? I guess it's just a regular shirt and pants. I thought it was overalls at first.

LS: No, it's my shirt and trousers.

ES: Was that your hunting outfit or your display outfit?

LS: I think it was my display outfit. [laughs]

ES: This...the antlers on this deer what would you call them?

LS: I think that's be called a two point. Either a two or a three point.

ES: Which means it's about how old?

LS: Two or three years old.

ES: Mm-hmm. Did you have any sentimental feelings about an animal like this?

LS: Not in those days. Because I...

ES: It was prey.

LS: ...when I grew up from a kid, why, this had a lot to do for our winter meat supply.

ES: So if you were a senior in college where do you think this deer went after you finished displaying it on Adams Avenue?

LS: My grandfather and grandmother Diederer, where I was living at the time, run a boarding and rooming house. And this boarding, why, they were feeding eight to ten...more than that, ten to twelve people I think plus my mother and dad and I and Grandpa and Grandma Diederer. So we always had good use for any type of food like this. And used to ___ for after I was working college...after I started working. I would go over to Huntington after work and set around there until...at a...over all night there at restaurant. And when day began to break I'd always have something ___ with me. We'd go on over to the break on the Snake River and to hunt ducks. In those days the...___ not believe this, twenty-four. So no problem getting twenty-four ducks. Also once in a while we'd get a goose. Sometimes we'd even get a Chinese pheasant or two. I'd come home with all of this kill and of course my mother and my grandfolks, my dad was usually out working, would dress all that. That would...they would have a real feast on that...roomers and boarders that were living there. Of course I enjoyed doing that. I'd go...___ sleep that particular twenty-four hours and my shoulder would usually be black and blue.

ES: From all the recoil of the gun.

LS: But that was fun. Uh-huh, right.

ES: In the 1930s how would the meat of a deer like this be preserved? I'm assuming you wouldn't eat it all in a few days.

LS: Yes we would.

ES: You would?

LS: With that many people, yes.

ESa: Canning, probably.

LS: Oh, that's right. Yeah, that's right.

ESa: I don't care for deer meat, but I don't mind it canned. It's got a lot of garlic, pickles and stuff.

LS: Now you've got to remember too that back in 1930s we still...even in La Grande we would trade things with somebody else. Grandpa Diederer would maybe trade that with some other party in town. Use up...if we had...if we butchered a pig, beef...

ES: Do you remember witnessing any of those bartering sessions to know exactly what was said and how the deal was made?

LS: It was very much just a similar, say, the three of us are standing around here.

ES: I'd come in...I...I'd confront you somewhere and say, "Say, I've got a deer. Do you want to trade it for a...what?"

LS: No. It'd be more like you're a neighbor or a relative. And if I...they would probably know ahead of time that I was to go hunting, it's easy and all of them thing. So when we're living like in La Grande we had telephones, you know. "Hello, Eugene. Sandy got a deer yesterday. Can you use a hindquarter or a bunch of ribs?" You know. "Oh yeah, that'd be great." On the same token maybe Eugene was out hunting and give a call and, "Elmer..." same thing.

ES: What would the person who said "That's be great" give you in return?

LS: Probably when they went hunting they'd do the same thing.

ES: You sort of keep a mental note that they owe you something?

LS: Oh yes. Yes.

ES: Ahh.

LS: Yeah. It's a...

ES: Didn't keep books on it, huh?

LS: ___

ES: That's what I meant. I don't know, maybe that's done now. I've never done it so I wanted to know how you did it.

LS: I don't think it does anymore because refrigeration is pretty well done away with that.

ESa: Now we___ we have a grapefruit tree down below and we bring a lot of grapefruit home in the spring. Well, we give it to the neighbors. This man across the street goes fishing up in Canada with his dad and _ turn we get a nice big piece of salmon and halibut and...I mean, it's just...

LS: Yeah, we do this...

ESa: I guess they just feel like...

LS: ...today, right now. This spring we did that. Last spring we did here spring before.

ES: I can image how it would happen around here fairly often.

LS: This neighbor right across the street has two beautiful peach trees and we always have...

ES: Yeah.

LS: And we get them free.

ES: It didn't happen very often in Seattle. [laughs] Elma would you talk more about this building in...let's see...

LS: Summerville?

ES: Summerville. It would be...

LS: ____

ES: ____ It's okay where she is.

ESa: That's ____.

LS: That's why I say...

ESa: I don't know too much about it really.

ES: You were telling me something about it when we were there. Picture number eleven and twelve. Just where it was in relation to other buildings that are no longer there and what kinds of activities went on there.

ESa: This particular building the first I remember of it my uncle John Wagoner had a store in the bottom part of it. The Rebeccas and Odd Fellows met upstairs.

ES: And you think it was built around 19...we saw the date on it, didn't we?

ESa: Yeah, we saw the date on it.

ES: 18-something.

ESa: I can't tell what it is.

ES: I can't read it either without a magnifying glass. Okay. I'll get that later. It's pretty old building anyway.

ESa: Hmm?

ES: It's pretty old building anyway.

ESa: Mm-hmm. Yes it is. And I can remember the Odd Fellows and Rebbecas used to have a clam feed. Someone would go...I guess would go to the coast and get steamer clams, big wash tubs full of 'em. And they'd cook them upstairs on a stove and have a big clam feed. But Uncle John and Aunt Pearl lived in the back. They fixed an apartment type in the back here of the store so they could stay there. Then it was...I don't know if he built...there was a larger building that he had for a store that was just across the way here a little bit. Okay, on the south side...

ES: Before we leave that...the store sold food mainly?

ESa: Uh-huh. Meats and vegetables and canned stuff and coffee and candy and popsicles and all that good old stuff. But across the street years ago was a hotel. And it was run by Maude McCray and his parents.

ES: Maude is a male name?

ESa: Uh-huh.

ES: M-a-u-d-e?

ESa: Uh-huh. I think it was just m-a-u-d. Anyway, then on the...down on the end of the block from there was a big livery stable. And...where people would put their horses, you know, when they'd come to town. Across the street, the main street, from this building...I never did see it, but there was wall there of an old bank building. And they had a bank there. On north on the street they had a brewery.

On the same side of the street that this building is on there was a...and across and the other side of Uncle John's new grocery store, I'll put it that way, was a building that was a doctor's office. And the doctor was married to my dad's...one of his sisters. You could stand in the front door and look clear through the house to the back. That in time became my grandmother's and later my mother's house and I lived there for quite a little bit. And on the other side of that building was another...I'm thinking it was a store where Rosie lived. But it was a store of some kind. And on the other side of that was a harness shop. Then on beyond that was a barber shop and Lot Elmer was the barber. And that was a good place just to go and ask the time of day and listen to the...when I was a kid listen to all of the stories that were going on. They were good stories. And I can't remember...then on the next block were homes. Sandy's folks lived in one of them. And I can't remember too much more about what was there.

ES: The school was part of this group of buildings, wasn't it?

ESa: The what/

ES: The school.

ESa: No, the school was on more or less to itself. The school building.

ES: How far away from the town center?

ESa: Probably...in blocks probably about four or five...[end tape]