

TERRY LEE LEMON
TAPE #1
April 19, 2005
Interviewed by Micheal L. Minthorn
Transcribed by Micheal L. Minthorn

Side A

I: This is an interview conducted with Terry Lemon on March 19, 2005 in La Grande, Oregon. Let's begin Mr. Lemon could you please tell me your full name please and your date of birth and where you were born, basic information like that.

TL: Terry Lee Lemon, uh, born March 5th, 1945, in Walla Walla, Washington.

I: And what brought uh, you to La Grande? How did it come to be you came to La Grande, you and your family?

TL: Uh we moved here in February of 1947 and I was two years old at the time. Or soon to be two the next month. My father, uh, along with a partner purchased the Globe Furniture Company. And we moved here because of that. They opened the first part of that year and uh, we left Walla Walla. Came here, rented a couple of homes and ended up living in about 1949 at 1101 11th Street.

I: Uh before we go any further could you- do you remember the name of your father's business partner at Globe?

TL: Oh very well, his name is Ebert Hickox.

I: Okay and then where did you live after uh, 1101 11th Street.

TL: Well we lived, uh; I grew up in that neighborhood. Lived in that neighborhood from about '49 until I was married in 1966.

I: So you said that you lived in this house until 1966?

TL: Right, we were, I was married in 1966 and uh, we didn't live in that house. We lived at uh, two different addresses a block apart in that, in that neighborhood. 1101 11th and 1001 11th, and moved to 1001 11th in 1955. Uh, a block down the street and then lived there until 1968 and then my parents moved from at- I'm sorry were there 'til '66 and my parents moved from there in 1968 to Island City where they lived until they were both deceased.

I: Tell me about that neighborhood. Uh, of living in that neighborhood, the kinds of things that you did there and about the lot itself.

TL: Well it was neighborhood full of a lot of kids. And we were all kind of about the same age and uh, it looks different today than it did then. Uh, across the street from 1101 11th there was a huge vacant lot. And that vacant lot was just a rough lot. It was a neighborhood baseball diamond and we had holes dug all over that and tunnels dug to play all sorts of fun games like army and war and cowboys and Indians. And uh, there was a big old frame wire backstop on the corner of L and 11th that was the back of the baseball diamond and uh, it was kind of a well- all of our neighborhood projects there, uh, I was prob'ly, oh, seven or eight years old. There was a little neighborhood grocery store a block away, uh, that uh, an older man owned. He seemed really ancient to us, he prob'ly wasn't that old but uh, we all went over there to buy candy all the time and he was always giving us a hard time in the grocery store. And so we sort of decided he was kind of a mean old man and we, kinda' like to, kinda' like to do somethin' to him. And he had the habit of driving his car across that vacant lot to get from one side to the other; it was a short cut. So we all decided we all being about 15 of us, that we'd dig a hole deep enough out in the middle of that lot for his car to drive his car into. And so we dug and dug and that hole got to be so deep that we had to stand on each other's shoulders to get out of it. And it was about six or seven feet wide and probably five or six feet deep. Then we decided it would be a good idea really wanted to get him we'd fill it full of water. So we worked on that and we couldn't find enough neighborhood hose to get up- to fill the hole up. So, we scratched that idea and decided we'd just cover it with limbs and grass and maybe he'd drive his car in it. Well, that was pretty successful because it wasn't more than a day or so later that he was traveling across that short cut and he drove his car in there. He didn't drop his wheels in he dropped the whole car in. Nose down and he had to get a wrecker down there to lift the car out of the hole. And I thought boy we're really gonna' get in trouble for that. But most of our parents sort of saw the humor in that and we never none of us ever got in trouble for that. But anyway, we all felt like that we kinda' got the mean old guy at the grocery store that gave us a hard time when we went in to buy candy. (chuckles)

I: Did that ever change him?

TL: Didn't change him, he just got old and more ornery and gave us a little harder time. I think he knew who the guilt people were. But, in about 1955- that, that property's all full of red brick duplexes and there's oh, probably about nine there now or so- eight or nine. And that, filled that whole. 'Course that was a pretty unpopular things with the neighborhood gang because we lost our baseball diamond, we lost of play area, and we lost the big hole we could drop a car in to. A few important things like that, and, and uh, so that's- that is today the way it was when it was built. Those, those properties are still there and those duplexes are still there and um.

I: Who were some of your neighborhood friends that made up this gang of 15 you're talking about?

TL: Well, one- one lady still lives there. Her husband's deceased and their kids are grown and gone. But, but uh, Nelly Thomas still lives there. And she lives at uh, I don't recall her address. She's on the corner of 11th and K. And she's lived there probably, oh, 40 years, I imagine. There's another fella' that lives down, part way down the street in his- in the house that he lived in as a child and then he moved away and then his grandparents lived there. And then he came back and he lives there now and his name's Alden Prescott. And Alden's still resides in La Grande and still works here. And he lives uh, he lived next door to where we lived at 1101 11- so his address would have been 1103, uh I'm sorry 1001 11th and his would have been 1003 11th. And he lives there today.

I: Now he was one of the kids...?

TL: He was one of the kids, gang members of the six year old crew that lived down there.

I: The 11th Street Gang?

TL: The 11th Street Gang. Right.

I: Tell me about this um, you, you have talked about a Mrs. Mullend.

TL: Mrs. Mullends lived across the street, uh, kind of diagonally across the street from 11- where we lived at 1101 11th and she was a lady that, that was from Ireland. And she a kind of little old grey-haired lady. Really feisty and had a real heavy Irish accent. And uh, that's a- that house is still there. It's a large two-story and, and uh, guy by the name of Jim Huber who was here, you know in La Grande for years and years as the county extension agent. He lived there for a long time after Mullends- Mrs. Mullends lived there. But Mrs. Mullends was there and she owned about half of that block that's still, uh, part of it, part of it's still mostly vacant. Uh, there's been a home built on the other side of it. And then there's a home over on 12th Street that, that owns part of that. But, um, that was another place where the neighborhood crew used to like to play. And, and uh, again we were sort of looking for something to do one day and she had a lot of old fruit trees over there and we picked the fruit offa' one- I wanna' say it's an apple tree because I don't think we knew George Washington then to chop down the cherry- but we got all the fruit off the bottom part of the tree and we couldn't get to the top. So as we had had the tree mostly cut down and it was starting to tip towards the ground she caught us. And, and in her Irish brogue she was just really thrashin' us verbally. She just really gave us a (chuckles) cursed and screamed at us and anyway we all ran off and, and again we got away with what we did. Unfortunately we prob'ly shoulda' got caught. But anyway, she was a great lady

and an interesting person and fun to talk to because of her really heavy Irish accent.

I: Now she was a neighbor also?

TL: She was a neighbor and she's been deceased for many, many ears and.

I: Let's talk about school. Where did you first go to school?

TL: Well being in that neighborhood Ackerman Grade School was just right up the hill. 'Cause that was on the back side of the college. And uh, I went to Ackerman, uh, started in the first grade in 1951. And went through the sixth grade there. At the time that was a lab school for the college. And it was, you know, all the years it was used as a grade school. But I remember one year at the- it was uh- in the grade school we had 24 student teachers one year in our classroom. You know it's a good place to go to school.

I: Yeah tell me how did that work?

TL: Well I think they drew lots and with every, every lesson that was taught we had someone different every lesson. And they'd just take turns. They all sat at the back of the room and, and they- we had, gosh I don't know- six- let's see- we had 24- woulda' been six a quarter- and ever day- they tried all to teach every day. And uh, every lesson we had someone different. Must have been really easy on the, on the teacher, the main teacher in the classroom. She uh, she had a lot of help teaching.

I: Would you, um, uh, would these teachers, uh, reappear from day to day?

TL: Oh they would. Yeah they were the same ones all term. And then we'd have six more the next term.

I: How much actual teaching did your actual teacher do?

TL: Well, I- you know I really don't remember- she did some, but, but I would say less than prob'ly half the time she was teaching. 'Cause I was- that school was really a lab school. And I think in remembering back and what I know now that the college didn't send teachers out as much to other schools as they do now. They really relied on the Ackerman Lab School as a student teaching school.

I: And you went there through the sixth grade?

TL: Through the sixth grade.

I: Tell me about your principal?

- TL: Well the principal was uh, Miller, uh; I don't recall his first name. Um, when I first started in the first grade I didn't really think I should be there. And so I was- got pretty good at not going to school. I played hooky a lot and I always got caught. I wasn't really good at it. They'd figure out that I wasn't there and pretty soon I- they'd find me somewhere. And so the principal and I got to be on a really familiar basis with each other. We- he was Mr. Miller Sir and I was- blankety-blank little Lemon kid. (chuckles)
- I: What, what would typically happen when they would find you- where, where would you go?
- TL: Well I'd just kinda' hang out in the neighborhood. I was in the first grade so there was kids, 'er neighborhood kids that weren't in school yet so I'd stay with them and we'd kinda' play and do what we normally, you know. It just go outside and just kinda' bein' in the neighborhood and then uh, that was mostly I the first grade. And, and the first grade teacher, her and I were- got on a pretty familiar basis, too. I got spanked I don't know how many times in the first grade.
- I: Do you remember her name?
- TL: Mrs. Darby. I did very well.
- I: Who would catch you?
- TL: Oh usually they'd call home and my parents'd- my mother would find me out somewhere or they'd call home and report in that Terry wasn't there. And after a while they thought that prob'ly my parents oughta' know every time I wasn't there. Not thinking maybe I was homesick, or, something legitimate. So they'd be out lookin' for me and I usually wasn't too hard to find.
- I: Was it usually your parents who would catch up with you?
- TL: Yeah. And I wasn't- I wasn't real good at it.
- I: Well, where did you go to school next?
- TL: Well I went to the, uh, middle school. La Grande Junior High School. It's a middle school now, the junior high school and that was a, uh, three-year junior high. Seventh, eighth, and ninth. And that would have been from '57 to 1960. And then uh, went to high school at uh, La Grande High School from uh, '60 and- er, '61 until I graduated in '63.
- I: Any highlights from your junior high years? UH, sports, activities, anything that stands out for this time period?

TL: Oh not, not really I guess- I, uh, I was in track for a couple years. Uh, ran is what I did in track, ran the mile. And some relays.

I: This was in junior high?

TL: In junior high. Yeah. Uh, played in the band. Played the trombone. Started in the seventh grade. And was in the orchestra and the symphonic band. I always enjoyed music and I, I started, I took piano lessons from the first grade and for about 12 years actually.

I: Let's talk that before we move on. Who, who did you study piano with?

TL: Uh, Mildred Van Blocklen. [?] And Mildred uh, is still here and she I think she still teaches piano. Mildred's in her early 90's or mid-90's maybe. And uh, but I took lessons from her for nine years beginning in the first grade. And uh, mostly classical music. And then I got interested in more uh, more popular music and in the seventh grade there was a group of us that formed a, a dance band. And we had a five-piece band. Uh, called The Bluenotes. And one of the fellows in the band, uh, lived down in the neighborhood on 11th Street. And his name is Scott Wheeler and his father was an engineer on the railroad but he was also a very talented musician and played the- played saxophone and also had a dance band of his own. And so he squired us, us five fledgling musicians into a little bit of a dance band. And he had music for us and orchestrated music and helped us and spent lots of time working with us. And that was in the seventh grade. And we were able to play some. We played for a- some school dances and just kind of on a very limited basis. But, um.

I: Did you get paid for this at that time?

TL: You know I think we did a few times. And it was big pay- I think; I think our high life was maybe \$10 a piece. A dance. Or a.

I: But that could be a significant sum of money at that time?

TL: Well it was. Yeah. Yeah. I went on from that, uh, uh, after that I, I became acquainted with- well I, uh there was a band in college. And I was in uh, going into high school at the time. And uh, there was a band in college that was needing a piano player. And somehow they knew about me and I uh, auditioned for 'em and, and uh, they hired me to play piano in, in their band. And these fella's were all several years older than me and uh, were all in college at, at uh Eastern. And I was with them for about four years. And we traveled around mostly northeastern Oregon prob'ly down to as far as John Day. Uh, played quite a bit there. Played a lot in Wallow County. Played public dances, lot of high school proms, winter formals. Played a lot at the college uh, there was- in those days there was lots of kinda' formal type dances at the college. And that would have been in the early 60's when we were playing. And so that was kind of the rock 'n roll era but, but

we still played a lot of old standards. And oh, Glenn Miller type music. Uh, not a lot of hard rock and roll. Some but mostly kind of old standards, things you danced to at a formal dance.

I: What was the name of that band?

TL: Uh, The Tone Dusters.

I: Do you remember any of the- the other members of the band? What were some of their names?

TL: Well, Bob Patterson was the leader and Bob was from Baker. And uh, a had trumpet player by the name of uh, Lee Payne. Lee was from Baker. Uh, bass player- well, our drum player was Bill Peacock. And Bill is a local fellow, went all through school here and owned Peacock Lumber Company from his- well his family had Peacock Lumber Company at Alicel. And they closed just a few years ago. But bill's still in the area I believe. Uh, another fellow that was a local man was, was Alan Mosier. And he played a bass guitar. Uh, he's not here any longer but he grew up here in La Grande and went to college here. And we had another drum player when Bill wasn't able to play and her name was Sherry Hilton. Sherry was a student at Eastern. A red-headed gal and nobody thought any- a woman could play the drums. But she was- she's just a terrific drum player.

I: She broke the rules?

TL: She broke the rules and was an excellent musician.

I: How long was this band together? How long did you play with them?

TL: Well I played with 'em four years and there were two gals that played with 'em before I did. Beth and Ruth Combs. They were local girls, grew up here. Uh, one of 'em- or both of 'em still live here. I can't remember if they both do, ones does. And anyway they sang and very talented. They both went to- all through school here and went to college here. And uh, one of 'em'd play the piano and uh, the other one sang. And they weren't able to continue with the band. So that left a spot open for a piano player and that's where I came in and played piano. And I wasn't a very good singer so I didn't try that.

I: So you played in eastern Oregon? You played at, at the college for dances and proms and formals. Uh, where else did you play? Where did this band play? You played, you toured a little bit.

TL: Well, we didn't tour a big area. Mostly eastern Oregon. UH, we played in Baker, Ontario, John Day. Played a lot in Wallowa County. We played some clubs in- public nightclubs in Wallowa County. Had some regular engagements in Wallowa County a couple different times through the winter. Uh, was every Saturday night

we'd drive up and play for five hours and spend the night and come home. Or drive back home.

I: I think you were telling me you had a major engagement with them one winter?

TL: Oh the Gold Room? Yeah the Gold Room was kind of a cowboy bar and was in Joseph.

I: That was in Joseph?

TL: That was in Joseph. Yeah that was a fun place to play. There was always excitement at the Gold Room and they had a big dance floor and a big bar and it was a nice- had a good restaurant. It was kind of, kind of the place to go in Wallow County on, on weekends. And we booked in for every Friday and Saturday night through the winter one year. There was always something exciting happening in the Gold Room. That's back when Joseph was a cowboy town and not, not what it's developed in to today. The all chic all chic culture.

I: The art scene thing? Tell me how it would be to play uh, tell me how it would be to be on the road with this band knowing you were in high school and there would be such an age disparity. I bet that must have been exciting but did that present any problems or did- any escapades as a result of that?

TL: Well, no we- we were all pretty compatible. And, and uh, the other guys in the band were all, uh, lots of fun. They all had great personalities and uh, some of 'em we water-skied together with. I knew most of 'em pretty well before, or knew 'em before I, uh went to work for 'em. And, and uh, um, so things went, you know, really well. They treated me really well, you know? And one of them and the age disparity didn't seem to be, you know, any kind of an obstacle. We'd each, you know, take- they, they furnished cars for transportation and when it came to be my turn I was, went to my parents. They had a big station wagon we'd load up with instruments and drums and al the stuff and all of us. And usually we traveled in one vehicle, or tried to. And that was in the days when you had big cars. You'd do that in a van or a station wagon or something.

I: When it was your turn did you do the driving?

TL: Well, I did. Yeah. I drove.

I: So you were old enough to drive, then, when you were?

TL: Yeah. Yeah. We went over Dooley Mountain one time headed to uh; I think we were going to John Day. That was where the highway through Sumpter is now. We had to drive over the old Dooley Mountain and that was a crooked old mountain road. It went up over the top and down to ___ [363] and on into John Day. And, and we were driving over that one time and I, I remember going

- around a- it was slick and I went around the corner too fast and we slid broadside all the way around that corner looking down into a canyon about 500 feet below us. Everybody sort of gasped and hung on and luckily I pulled us through. And uh, we made it and, you know we drove a lot in the winter. And a few bad roads and a few close calls but we always seemed to get there.
- I: Now I think you told me, um, about a, a, one of your maybe more lucrative engagements at that Gold Room during a New Year's, uh, one time? You told me a little about that.
- TL: Oh yeah we, we uh, at the time bands were paid 20, 25 dollars a- per individual. Usually it was kind of a going rate, so like a four-piece; five-piece band was typically hired for 100, 150 dollars sometimes 200 dollars a night. Um, and we had a steady engagement at, at the Gold Room and we- they paid us- and there was four of us then. We had four pieces. Uh, and they paid us \$20 a piece, a night. So on a Friday, Saturday night we each made forty bucks. And that was a great part-time job because we could do that two nights a week on a weekend and make as much as most people made at a part-time job working all week long. So, those guys going to college was kind of important for them and I lived at home so it wasn't as important for me. But uh, it was a great part-time work. 'Course it was a lot of fun and.
- I: Well let's compare that if we can. Let's say if your working say a regular job on the weekend or something like that. What would you make instead in a day's time, for example?
- TL: Well I- it seems to me wages then were- gosh I don't know- I- well I worked down at uh, at the furniture store and was paid a dollar an hour. At about that same time. And, I'm not sure where minimum wage fit into that but it- you know it was- a dollar, a dollar and a half somewhere in there. So if you'd worked an eight- hour day, on Saturday you know you could see what you'd make and compared it making 20 dollars for five hours work, you know, in the evening.
- I: Quite a bit of difference. Quite a bit.
- TL: Yeah it was quite a bit of difference for as old as.
- I: Um, before we go back and cover high school, uh, you were telling me you studied piano with one other person?
- TL: Oh I did and it was, uh, Angeline and Avery Millering and Avery was- what he did, he was a great musician- played the piano and played the organ and he was pretty well known around the community during that time and for quite a few years. He was, he played at the- he was a member of the Christian Church and played there a lot. He, he played uh, played dance music around uh, he was just a, he was a great musician. But his mainstay, he was assistant- he, he worked for the

school system and his last job was assistant superintendent of schools for the La Grande School District was what his profession was. But uh, I took lessons from him for four years and uh studied a lot of theory. Uh, uh, uh, Avery was uh, you know, interested and I was too I playing popular music. So it completely changed my music style from classical music which was mostly all sight-read to contemporary style of playing that was more chords and improvisation. Um, creating your own music and other good bases of theory to do all that.

I: Was that an easy transition to make from music on the printed page to improvisation?

TL: Yeah, well it was for me because- well, it, it, it was for me because I was really interested in it. And we spent a year or so just didn't really basic uh, chords, theory before we did a lot of playing. You, know, I mean he was really strong in those areas and so you just didn't sit down and just play. You knew what you doin' and why you were doing it.

I: Do you think that he was a good influence then for that? Did, did that influence and help you with your playing then when you, you were in these bands?

TL: Oh I think so. Right. Right . And I'd started playing- and see well ahead of that with, with uh, the Bluenotes and then I'd already started with uh, Avery before I played for the Tone Dusters. And that's what really gave me the basis to play for the Tone Dusters. I'd been taking lessons from Avery for probably oh a year or a little longer before the Tone Dusters came along.

I: Did you work on any of your material in your lesson time with him to develop any of this material?

TL: Oh yeah. Yeah. Did a lot of that. Yeah. Work on things that we were playing and uh, the Tone Dusters were playing. We'd work on that and, and it was, you know a great help in developing a style of playing that uh, really fit that.

I: Let's go back to high school. Um, well let's go back to talking about high school. You went to?

TL: I went to La Grande High School. Uh, and graduated in '63.

I: What sort of activities were you involved in at high school? We know you were in the bands and uh, and as your part-time work.

TL: Well, I did that. That was part of my strongest part, was, was, was music. Uh, snow skied uh, in high school. At the time and maybe they do now but the high school ran ski busses up to, um, Spout Springs ski area. And that was a, pretty much a ever weekend thing in the winter. They had a huge ski club and everybody went skiing. You know great, great times there. Uh.

I: Were you in music organizations in high school?

TL: Well the bands. Uh, there- they had an orchestra and a, uh marching band. We was in a marching band. We used to march at games and parades and um, play concerts. Band, symphonic band and then the uh.

End of Side A

Side B

- I: So you were telling us that you played in the pep band.
- TL: Pep bands played at most, most of the games, basketball games, they were always at a basketball game and, and some of the football games.
- I: Did you win any, uh, or were you given any awards or citations for your, for your music abilities in school. Did the have letters or ____ [006] like that?
- TL: Well, not really. No. Not, not really. Not really.
- I: Were you involved in any sports in high school?
- TL: No I was in junior high and then high school came along and, and uh, I, I decided not to do that. Be in sports.
- I: You graduated in 1963?
- TL: '63 and then uh, before I graduated in the spring I joined the Oregon National Guard and then after graduation you have an active e duty commitment at that time. And, and uh, so I stayed here, uh, that summer and, and worked uh, like I had previous years spent the summer working at uh Globe Furniture. And.
- I: Before we um, before we cover the military service I just wanna' ask, um, do you uh, still have involvement with the high school? Do you attend reunions or socialize with any of your classmates today?
- TL: Well mostly through reunions, yeah. We've had uh, the typical 10, 10, 20 year, we didn't have a 30; we had a 40 year reunion last year.
- I: Have you been to them all?
- TL: Been to 'em all. Yeah. And there's still a few, prob'ly several people from that class that are still here in La Grande.
- I: Okay so you uh, according to what you said then you enlisted your- into the National Guard during your last year?
- TL: Yeah spring; spring uh, of my senior in high school. And uh, that was a time when there was really no military conflicts anywhere. Uh, just seemed liked it was good to do and I was interested in doing it. And uh.
- I: Was there a draft at that time?

TL: There was a draft at that time. And you could get deferred from the draft for a lot of different reasons. Going to college was one of 'em. Uh.

I: But you opted to participate?

TL: Right. 'Cause eventually if, if ya' didn't- if you weren't married, and that was another deferment but, you know, for most guys it was something you'd have to face sooner or later. And it seemed like a reasonable choice to, to uh, join the Guards and then I could be here. I wanted to go to college and I could be here to, to do that. And uh, so it just, you know? It seemed a good decision to do that.

I: What was the enlistment term at that time?

TL: Well, at the time you had a basic eight-year term, but part of that could be served in on a standby status. Um, and the enlistment times changed with the Guards over the years but it was interesting at that time when you enlisted, you had an eight year commitment and then you had an active duty guard commitment that, uh, actually was predicated on the length- on, on uh, time after you'd done your active duty time. So when you joined, uh, a period of time would go by until you could do your active duty training which then was typically six months. But when you were discharged after you r six months training, then you only three years of active guard time out of the eight years. So the eight years started when you enlisted, but your active time only- you were only obligated for three years after your six month active duty time.

I: And this active duty time was your basic training and?

TL: Basic training and uh, AIT which is uh, advanced infantry train is what that stands for. But it, it involves any type of schooling. Not necessarily infantry school. And then there was a period of time, depending on the school that uh, when you graduated. Or, or, were through with the school completed that then you just worked at whatever your job was that you were trained for. Your MOS that you were trained for until you completed your six months.

I: When you enlisted, uh, you joined the local unit? What was the name of that unit?

TL: I did. It was uh; well it was the Sunrise Division of 41st Infantry Division and battalion escapes me.

I: I have notes here. Um, so you said that you were with Headquarters Company?

TL: It, it was Headquarters Company. And La Grande was- the battalion was made up of, of company- other guard units, mostly in eastern Oregon. Baker, Ontario, Pendleton, there was one or two others but La Grande was Headquarters Company for that. And that was a little bit of an advantage 'cause you had more

things to do. You could, you could uh, had more job opportunities at the local- at, at La Grande because it was battalion headquarters.

I: Where did you attend boot camp?

TL: Went to Ft. Ord, California.

I: And where did you, uh, take your individual training after that?

TL: I spent all six months at Ft. Ord. And, and after- after boot camp I went- my AIT training was in the personnel administration school.

I: And that was the position you held with the Guard when you came back?

TL: Well, I was company clerk which was part of that. That was part of that training was company clerk. And I did that, I did that for the three years I- actually it was about three and a half years before I was discharged. Or, I was in the lucky position of, of being able to go in and tell the CO that I was gonna' leave and I'd already typed up my own discharge papers, and, "Here ya' are. Sign 'em." (chuckles)

I: Um, so you were the local "Radar O'Reilly" of the, of the team here in La Grande and you did spend all of your Guard time here in La Grande?

TL: I was. I did.

I: Um, what was our range of rank?

TL: Well I, of course everybody starts out as a private and when I discharged I was a Specialist Five, or Spec 5, E-5.

I: E-5.

TL: And the company clerk was an interesting position because you were the one person that knew everything that was going on in the company. Everything flowed through you and that was kind of an interesting spot to be in. If anybody wanted to know anything, you'd go to the company clerk. Because he's the one that sits there in the CO's office and uh, all the information flows through there.

I: Knows all.

TL: He knows all.

I: And that's what I recall. Tell me now it's quite different- I spent uh, I spent six years in the Guard myself and it's quite a different uh, manner of drilling or performing these duties than. Uh, when I was in it was one weekend in the month

and two weeks in the summer but I've heard you say that they drilled differently. Tel me about that.

TL: Well when I first started it was uh, every Monday night. And then, one Sunday a month. And then every Monday night. There were no weekends and then two weeks of uh, camp in the summer. And usually we went to either to Ft. Lewis or uh, Yakima Firing Range. And then, towards the end of my three year time that changed to a weekend a month.

I: And the two weeks in the summer?

TL: And the two weeks in the summer.

I: Were any of your classmates or friends in this Guard unit with you locally?

TL: Seemed like most of the people that were there- there were very few of my class that actually joined. There were some older fella's that had joined. Uh, but the members here were mostly all local. But usually a little older; not too many out of my own class. Uh, there was a few.

I: How long did you serve?

TL: Well I served, uh, about three and a half years after my active Guard time and that completed my obligation. So I was actually discharged- but that completed my active duty obligation. And I was discharged in 19- sixty...about midway through 1967.

I: This was a discharge that you typed up yourself?

TL: Right. And I was- and that was the discharge from active Guard duty and then I had to complete the eight-year total obligation being on Standby Reserve then which uh, at that time amounted to doing nothing basically. Unlike, unlike today. And it was interesting that, uh, when I was on active duty one of the, one of the training seminars I went to they showed us a film of a place far, far away that nobody had ever heard of before. And it was called Viet Nam. And we watched guerilla activities on this, this training film and we were told there was a few military people there. Just very few and it was just a place kinda' on the other side of the world and, and nobody paid a lot of attention to it. And that, and of course Viet Nam was just coming to life when I was discharged. That was in '66-'67. And uh, but, you know it's an interesting perspective, I think about that quite a bit. You know how they presented that to us in 1963.

I: Like it was no big deal?

TL: Not a big deal and just, you know, this is something just to sit down and watch a film about and see maybe what a few military advisors are doing. But it was no hype about it at all. Just nothing.

I: Now you said that, um, when you first began that, uh, the meetings of the Guard unit were on Monday nights? At what time frame?

TL: Uh they- I think we drilled from 7 to 9 or 9:30.

I: And you also mentioned that at that time the rules were different about, concerning employers and, and uh.

TL: Well they were. And then, then unlike now the employers didn't have to- to- they weren't legally obligated to show any consideration to a Guard member. They could, uh, your two weeks active duty in the summer, uh, typically was your vacation time from your employer. So, and very typically then if you worked for, you know, just one of the average employers downtown La Grande not being the type of government employment or if one of the mills you took- they had two weeks vacation. And so most of 'em including where I worked at Globe Furniture that was your, your two weeks drill was your two weeks vacation. And then they had no obligation to, to hold jobs or preserve your employment or whatever in respect to that.

I: Do you know of any employers who did- uh who were very cooperative with theirs or did everybody basically have to use vacation? Sounds like most of them did.

TL: Most of 'em had to use their vacation. That was really common. I worked- it was- there was a couple of fellows that uh, at Globe Furniture where I spent my summers working that were in the Guards prior to me being in the Guards. And uh, they were fulltime employees and that's how they spent their vacation in the summer was two weeks at- on active Guard duty.

I: So if they wanted to take a real vacation then they would have to take a leave without pay situation or?

TL: More or less. Yeah.

I: Let's move on to college. Uh, after La Grande High School you did go to college where? And tell us about that.

TL: Well I started school- when I got back from active Guard duty at Ft. Ord uh, that was in February of '64. Uh, it was interesting as soon as I got back I can remember that was a time in 1964 there was a flood in La Grande. It was prob'ly the worst time that we'd had with high water. The Grande Ronde River flooded, uh, on the freeway and there was floods on the north sides of town. The riverbed-

the flood came from the Grande Ronde River. And uh, got out of its banks and it's been changed a lot since then. Re-channeled and banks built up but at that time we had a lot of early- had a really heavy, low snow pack and turned off and started to rain and cause the river to overflow its banks. And then it also caused the ground water to come up. And um, when I got back from Guards I hadn't been back more than just a couple of weeks and they activated the Guard unit here to deal with the floods. And we did lots of sandbagging and um, mostly that's what we did. But the old underpass historically known as "Old Leaky" filled completely full of water. That's in the pass from- from Adams out to the Island City strip was full to the top of water. And that was an old streambed through there and it always leaked when the groundwater got high. But this time it filled to the top and, Globe Furniture was a block down the street and it was kind of an old riverbed through that part of town and, and we had lots of water in that basement. There was prob'ly a foot of water in that basement all over in there. And then my father lived down there for a week or so at nights just to keep the pumps going to get that basement pumped out. And they had a lot of furniture damage; it was all retail display area.

I: How long did you spend on duty then uh with the Guard unit to help with that disaster?

TL: Well we were prob'ly, not a long time, maybe two weeks during that high water 'til it started to recede. But we sandbagged all over town. They had a lot- there was lots of high water on the north side of town. Lot of homes had water in 'em or around 'em and uh, south side it wasn't too bad. Some of the local, some of the small streams down the south side of town that would periodically had some high water. But most of it was on the north side of town and around the river. The underpass was full water for, gosh it was prob'ly a month or more before it receded.

I: I, I guess I should ask more about that before we move back to college here? Were you called out at any other time, because the National Guard does serve uh, local disasters?

TL: They do. NO, that was the only one. There was some fires after I was discharged from active duty that the Guard was called on. Anthony Lakes fire being one of them that was in, well, I wasn't in the Guards at that time.

I: So you were just called out once then?

TL: Just the one time. Yeah. That was February of '64. Actually then end of January- no it was in February 'cause I had just gotten back- and then I enrolled in uh, college at Eastern for spring term. It was '64. And uh, graduated in '69. Went for five years, graduated in the spring of, end of spring term 1969. Uh, with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies & Business. And that was the first graduating quote business class. Not a, not business administration like it is today.

That was when it was a business-oriented general studies program and that was the first graduating class in that particular major. And uh, the school kind of, didn't have a lot of business instructors. They had three or four business instructors and struggled for good, quality people. And uh, kind of an interesting time at the school in that particular field.

I: Was there any particular focus that you took in your studies, uh, in business?

TL: Well I took- at the time with what was offered, uh, I took everything- all the bus- every business class that was offered I took. Uh. And.

I: How about accounting?

TL: Took all the accounting classes, prob'ly focused on accounting more than anything because I was interested in it. They had a great accounting instructor by the name of Leonard Good who had been at the school forever. And retired from Eastern and a great accounting instructor and offered really good classes. So that was an inspiration to do that. He was probably the best instructor and was the head of the business department at that time.

I: Did you attend college on a scholarship or have any GI funding or anything like that?

TL: Unfortunately, uh, being in the Guards there was no GI Bill in the Guards. You didn't- it was structured, uh the state, uh, funding program was structured not to include National Guard people because it was hard to meet the requirements. There was, there was more active duty required than what you, most Guard people would have. And so you didn't meet those requirements. But, the good side is compared to today I used to budget \$500 a year for tuition and books to go to school. And tuition was \$98 when I started.

I: That was my next question.

TL: And books- you could buy books for the year for prob'ly a hundred dollars. I'll never forget, my daughter would graduated from Eastern in 2000. She was in her maybe sophomore or junior year. And she had one book that at the time I guess it's not unusual but we spent \$189 for one book for her, one term. And that was only one book for one class. She used to budget and she was a nursing student. And I think it must have been a nursing book. But in comparison, I'd budget a hundred dollars for the year for books. And that, and you could, you know some of the books uh, in your lower division you had sequence classes and one book'd get ya' through for the year. But you normally had to buy books ever term of some sort.

I: Did you find that expensive at the time, however?

TL: Not, not particularly. No. It didn't seem to be as expensive compared to today's costs for school. It seemed to be a smaller percentage of your budget.

I: And you said \$98 was the fulltime tuition?

TL: Fulltime tuition. Uh, 15 credit hours or, no 12. 12 or more credit hours. Right.

I: Um, did you receive an honors or awards during your academic career at Eastern?

TL: Well they let me graduate. I, I was on the Dean's List, I was on the Dean's List for?

I: On the Dean's Good List?

TL: By then it was the Dean's God List. As compared to my grade school experiences. I don't know, I was on the Dean's List in grade school also but that was not the good list. But, but anyway I was, you know my grades were good in college and, and I didn't graduate with any honors but I was good enough to be on the Dean's List.

I: How about activities? Extra-curricular academic activities? Were you involved in any sports, music, other things?

TL: Well, not, not really. Our, our band, uh, as I was going in to college the guys that I played with in the Tone Dusters were graduating. So our band kind of dissolved. And, and, uh, so I didn't have that through school. And uh, I didn't follow through with any of the college bands or, or anything. I just, I, I, kept up my music mostly just for my own entertainment. Uh.

I: But pretty much you just stuck to academics, or your?

TL: Yeah. Academics and a very strong social life.

I: Well that's important. Of course. Um, uh, a question I'm throwing in for my own benefit here. Uh, you, um told me that you had Miss Loso for a class or two? Did you- what classes did you have?

TL: Well I just had her for one and it was a western civ class. And I was never really strong in literature and as Mary Jo alluded to we weren't really prepared very well coming out of high school to deal with heavy duty literature classes. And I took that class, I think I was a sophomore when I took that class and I really struggled. I passed it but it was a, you know, it was a struggle. She's.

I: She was a challenge?

- TL: She was a challenge! She gave you lots to do and lots to read and I wasn't a very fast reader at the time. I comprehended really well but I was really a slow reader. And so, had this huge volume of books to read and that's, you know, and then along with everything else you had to do, all your other classes. It was really difficult. Very time consuming.
- I: Tell me; you said that uh, you were a third generation graduate of Eastern Oregon? Is that? Or with family now is three generations?
- TL: No. No. Well, uh, Mary Jo's family is the one that has a history with Eastern. I, I graduated- neither one of my parents, uh my father was, did not attend anything beyond high school. My mother uh, graduated from the uh, St. Mary's Nursing Academy in Walla Walla. Never attended Eastern but I graduated from Eastern. Mary Jo graduated from Eastern. And then both of our, our son and daughter both graduated in 2000 fro Eastern. So what? I'm a two- I guess I'm a two generation product.
- I: Two generations now from Eastern. Okay. Let's see, uh, I have a note about your mother- what was your mother's name and our father's name?
- TL: Well, my father's name was John Lemon. Uh, mother's was Margaret Lemon. Harmon being her maiden name. My father grew up in Midvale, Idaho is where he's originally from.
- I: And did your parents live out there lives over here, did you say?
- TL: They did. Yeah. They moved here like I said in '47 and then they, the both deceased here.
- I: Was your mother practicing as a nurse when she came here?
- TL: She was, uh, she uh, worked uh, fulltime in Walla Walla. She moved- they moved here, she worked part-time and then she was uh, worked for 20 years as Dr. Wesley Allen's office nurse. And Dr. Allen was a very well known, popular uh, general practitioner. He retired just a few years ago. Uh, sold his practice and just recently- well about a year ago he moved from La Grande. But she worked for him for 20 years fulltime.
- I: Next we have here notes about working at Globe Furniture Store.
- TL: Well from the time I was old enough to pick up one side of a dinette chair, I suppose which was- gosh, I worked there prob'ly starting I was maybe 10 years old. And I'd work just kinda' off and on. And then, when I was prob'ly 12 I was working all, that was my part-time summer job. Or fulltime summer job, part-time during the school year just kinda' as the needed me and I didn't work as steady

part-time time during the school year. But worked a lotta' - lotta' Saturdays if, you know, they were busy. But every summer I'd work there fulltime.

I: I do have a note, uh; from about June of '69 it says here, uh, you worked for about a year.

TL: Well I did in '69 when I graduated from college I, uh, was offered a job there on a fulltime basis year 'round, with, with you know, uh, uh the idea of that being a career in the store there. And so when I graduated in that summer I worked fulltime, uh, from that point on and then in 1972 my father's partner Ebert Hickox- and Ebert was well into his 70's and he was a very young 70's.

(Pone rings. Short pause.)

I: So we're continuing to talk about Globe Furniture Store now.

TL: Yeah. Well, anyway, I beginning work there after uh, after college, after graduation. Uh, fulltime with the idea of that to be, to lead into a career there. My father's partner who was, uh, in his 70's was wanting to retire. And so the way that developed- is retirement ended up being, uh, selling his half interest in the store to uh, another man from uh, out of town. And his, his uh, his name, last name was Basil and they moved here from Hoquiam, Washington. He had had a furniture store there and, and uh, had sold it and was looking for another store to go into. So, uh, uh Ebert sold his interest being half to Basil. And that was in '72 and then uh, dad continued on uh, there until uh, early '73 and then he came to me one day and told me that he'd agreed to sell his interest to basil, uh, in uh, June of that year. And so, the handwriting on the wall for me was basically not much of a career there. So I began looking for something else to do. And dad left, uh, in June of '73 and I knew that- Mary and Jo and I made the decision we'd like to stay in La Grande. She was- she had a teaching contract in, in Union at the time. And, and uh, was committed there for the school year. And we decided that we'd like to stay in la Grande and uh, if we had a family some day it was a good place to raise a family. And of course it was home for us. And so I set about trying to find something else to do for a work career. And became interested in the real estate profession. And uh, decided that I'd pursue that until something else came along. And, or I could find something else. So in November of '73 I went down to, to uh, Portland to the Real Estate School of Oregon and went to school there for a few weeks to prepare to pass the, the state exam which was given in Salem. And so I went in November, uh, took the exam at the end of November and, and uh, passed it. And then came back, worked through the Christmas holiday at the store. And then, uh, January 1 of '74, uh, became employed with Lester Real Estate.

I: Okay before we go to that, um, let' see I have a question about that uh, Globe Furniture Store. Was your father offered the opportunity to buy that other half of the business? Or was there a reason why perhaps he didn't pick it up himself?

TL: Well uh, I think he wanted to buy- the reasons were financial but he didn't. And uh, so it appeared to him that the best thing to do at the time and with Ebert wanting to leave was to let it go the way it did.

I: Okay.

TL: And uh, and his partnership with uh, with uh, with Basil of- was not the successful and him and Ebert's had been in the years past. So dad thought it would be better for, I think, the success of the store and all the relationships considered that he'd just sell his part and, and that was a way for him to kind of semi-retire also. And he was early retirement; he was only 55 at the time. But uh, it provided him with a means of retirement.

I: Now you said that uh, one of your jobs, uh I now there were probably one job title covered numerous things that you did in the store. What sort of tasks and jobs did you have at the store?

TL: Well when I started out with my five year general studies business degree in hand I started out delivering furniture. And uh, did that for a year or so and then I worked my way into uh, into sales. Uh, being a salesman and managing uh, the appliance department in the store. And also the electronics department. Um, but I was basically in sales. I did, did a lot of custom drapery work. Uh, managed that department for the last year I was there.

I: I think you mentioned floor covering, too?

TL: Floor work. Did a lot of lot floor covering business and.

End of Side B

End of Tape #1

Transcription completed on Sunday, November 04, 2007

TERRY LEE LEMON

TAPE #2

April 19, 2005

Interviewed by Micheal L. Minthorn

Transcribed by Micheal L. Minthorn

Side A

- I: We're continuing the interview with Terry Lemon. It is April 19, 2005. We're in La Grande, Oregon. All right. So we were talking about, uh- we were finishing up with the Globe Furniture Store. You were working as a salesman and anything else about that particular job that you did before we move on to real estate?
- TL: Uh, no. No, not really.
- I: Okay. So next you went to the Real Estate School of Oregon. Where was that?
- TL: That was in Portland and it was held in the Masonic building in downtown Portland.
- I: And you said that you uh, went to this school in January of '74?
- TL: Actually went in November of '73 and I began working January '74.
- I: That's right. Um, what kind of coursework was it? How, how was the- tell me about that and then how it's changed uh, today?
- TL: Well at the time there wasn't anything that was required by the state to get a license other than just pass the test. And the test was given monthly in Salem at the fairgrounds. And cost \$25 to take the test and you could take it every month for maybe three times- three or four times. And then if ya' didn't pass then you had to wait a period of time being three months or something like that before you could take it again. But there was no education required unlike today. So, but to pass the test, it, it was very- it was a long test. It was- it took all afternoon to take. Uh, it was a really involved test and without a fair amount of, of knowledge you couldn't pass it. It wasn't a kind of a test you just passed by luck. It was too long, too involved.
- I: So, so the coursework was not real estate coursework, it was actually coursework, or the course was actually designed for you to take the test?
- TL: The course was designed to take the test but in- but in, in the design of the course it was- you had to have a lot of real estate knowledge. They concentrated on real estate law practice. Uh, most of the fields of real estate were involved because the test was pretty comprehensive and covered just most everything, every field of real estate. So the test was, it was kind of a crash course, lasted two weeks. And go to school eight hours a day and then spend half the night studying and then do it again the next day. And, and then at the end of that time you had to sign up to take the, the state test which is usually within two weeks of that. Mine was just right at the end of it. I finished the school on- at the end of the week and then on the next Monday took the test.
- I: Was uh, were the fees for that test separate or were they built in to the tuition for that school?

TL: No they were speerate. Completely separate entity. The state test was put on b the real estate agency.

I: Tell us about that exam? Uh, where was it held and, and?

TL: Well the exam was held at the fairgrounds in Salem. And it averaged- when I took it there was 1200, about 1200 people that took the test. No, I take that back there was 1500 that took it. There was 1200 taking the salesman's test and 300 taking the broker's exam. And I was in the salesman's test, uh, you had to have three years experience before you could take- licensed, three years pexerience before you could take the broker's exam. So.

I: Did you eventually take that one?

TL: I did not, I never did have a broker's license, no. But at the time the pass rate on the test was about 12-15% pass rate and the failure rate would have been what was left out of that. About an 85% percent failure rate. And mostly because ther was no requirements to take the test other than pay the fee. There was no education required. Today it's completel different. You have to have education, completed hours recorded of education and a lot of prep work to take that test. And those number are just about reversed. In fact they're better than reversed. The pass rate's uh, 90% or so. The numbers are donw a lot from what they were then, but uh, the pass rate's much higher.

I: So, they, they actually these days they build specific coursework about various topics in real estate for you to study as well for a test?

TL: Right. Yeah they do. Yeah you've got a- ou've got ta' cover three different fields in real estate. And, and each one has a little built-in test with it. They're done with private school s do that around the state now that ou've gotta' have those hours logged and classes completed before you can apply to take the state exam now.

I: Were you ever qualified to teach any of these courses by your experience?

TL: Well from experience I would have been prob'ly qualified.

I: Did you ever do that?

TL: Never did. No. Experience would have qualified me prob'ly to teach all of them I imagine.

I: Did you pass the test on the first try?

TL: I did. Yeah. Yeah.

I: How'd ya' feel about that?

TL: Well, it was a relief because I knew at the time that the pass rate was, was pretty low. And 'course you go through a test, if you've had experience taking tests and I've had a lot of experience because of going to college. And I wasn't too long, I was three-four years out of college. So I was still in the mental mode or knowing how to take tests. And that went a long ways. Um, so I felt pretty good about it when I completed it. You had to have a 70% pass rate to- uh, 70% pass rate on it. And uh, I, I can remember looking around the classroom at people of all different ages. There was several people in there that were, oh, prob'ly 50 years of age, 60 years of age. And I could see a lot of panic look on a lot of faces. People look at that test and just were overwhelmed with it. Either they hadn't been to school to study for it or hadn't had the education or they didn't know how to take a test. And one fella' that was sitting beside me, it was his fourth time takin' it.

I: So we're finishing up talking about real estate school itself. Do you uh, recall what your score was? Did they tell you at that time?

TL: At the time you didn't-if you passed you didn't know your score. If you failed they gave ya' your score.

I: So you passed and never did know?

TL: So I never, never knew. I felt pretty good about the test but uh, you know did not know my score at the time. And the test at the time was, was uh, written by people in the real estate agency, they were not trained in writing tests. And so it was a very ambiguous test. It was not a good measure of your knowledge. Uh, unlike today they have professional testing agencies that write those exams. So it's, it's- your much more professional tests uh, far superior to what they were 30 years ago.

I: So, uh, then next you went to work for a real estate company?

TL: I did. I worked for Lester Real Estate and it was the only company I'd work for. Uh, worked for the man's name that owned it was Russell Lester who had, uh, acquired the company from his father. So it was, it was an old time La Grande real estate company. And I worked for him until actually I retired from active real estate practice in 2002. And uh, was there, you know, fulltime all that time. Saw several swings in the real estate market. The real estate market's very cyclical and, and there was several ups and down times through, through all that time but I, you know I stayed at it fulltime. And that's all I did for that period of time until I retired. And did mostly sales, did some developing. Built uh, several homes for resale, built rental properties during that time. Sales were still the mainstay but uh, it was a pretty strong sideline.

I: Now this uh, uh, was this- at the time you began to um buy nor build a uh, rental property for your own, for your own business, or?

TL: Well it was. I I bought some older properties in the mid-70's and then uh, actually built some in the, in the late 70's, early 80's. Uh, built several homes for resale during that time. But I built, uh, several properties that I still own today. Built at that time. And uh, bought several through that time. Most of 'em I still own, I've sold a few of them over the years. Uh some of the older ones I've sold I don't own any longer.

I: So, um, although you have uh, retired completely from real estate you still do manage property then?

TL: I do. Yeah I manage my own property. Right.

I: Um, were there any, uh, uh, any, an out of the ordinary homes that you built for resale in the area, anything uh, out of the ordinary, or?

TL: Well, no. Most of 'em were, were, you know, fairly standard type homes of, of the late 70's. Uh, built two nicer homes in Island City in what's called Mt. View Addition. They were larger homes of the 2000 square foot variety and larger. And uh, built one of 'em on a lot out there that uh, was- that had been vacant for some time and it was all built up around this particular lot. And I was in sales, you know, doing that at the time. And I'd ask about that lot a few times, and I'd had several other sales people tell me- I felt were honorable- saying well that lot was tied up- I can't remember- it had legal, a lot of legal problems or was, it was an estate or something. And we just couldn't buy- no one could sell it. And I thought, well, okay I'll just look a little further so I went to the courthouse and come to find out the lot had been foreclosed on for property taxes. Delinquent property taxes. And to buy the lot all you had to do was pay the back property taxes. So I paid the \$5000 in back property taxes and a, and a few hundred dollars in legal fees and I was a proud owner of that lot. So I built a really nice home for resale on it. And it's just as you drive in the Mt. View Addition, Island City. That's an area kind of across from the golf course down McCallister Lane.

I: You considered that a bargain deal?

TL: That I did because I just bought another one for about twice that much, further in the Mt. View Addition. Just within months of that. Same size lot basically and so it was really a bargain. And it was kind of funny, I was, one of those things you're sort of happy with yourself about because you, uh, you'd had quite a few people tell ya' that no that can't happen and you made it happen. So, just from having that knowledge to explore it and, and know what to do about it and what to do with it. So, it turned out to be a good investment and made a good resale house for resale.

- I: Uh you were telling me that you uh, sold a particular home to um, a basketball coach?
- TL: Well I did and, and I remember who that was. It was, uh, the assistant basketball coach for the Chicago Bulls. Uh, was in the, in the La grande area. And he'd married a local lady that was local at one time from the Bohnenkamp family in La Grande. Which was an old family that had been in La Grande for years and years and years. And she was part of that. And anyway she married, uh, the assistant coach for the Chicago Bulls and, and at that time it was in the late- well I don't know when they were married. He was hee loking for a home, anyway, in the late 70's, early 80's. And uh, and I showed him- he wanted a home around the golf course and we'd looked at a couple of homes ther. But, his- I guess to back up a minute, what he was known for with, with the Chicago Bulls. He was the coach that developed their triangle offense.
- I: What was his name?
- TL: His name was Tex Winter. And at the time he gave me a business card with the Chicago Bulls red bull head emblem on it. And it was one of those things that you kind of hang on to. I put it in my box of business cards that I keep forever. And, rather than in my other boxes you keep for a little while and get rid of. And uh.
- I: You still have that?
- TL: I still have it. Anyway, Tex, he loked at a home and- and uh, and he didn't, he didn't buy anything. And he just, you know, kinda' left town and thought well, he'd deal with it later. So, ten years he came back. Just almost, well, it was just almost exactly ten years he came back. That same home on Countr Club Lane by the golf course was for sale again. In fact, it sold- I'd been involved in, in a couple sales on the home, uh, between the time he had first looked at it and the ten years that ensued to the time that he came back to La Grande. And so that home was for sale again and he ended up buyin' it 10 years later for about two and a half time of what he could have bought it for ten years before.
- I: Did he buy it from you?
- TL: I had it listed, he bought for the other sales person in the office. But I sort of was involved in the sale in it.
- I: So, uh, but sometimes when this happens, uh, the property is listed under you as the agent, so, does that mean you get a split then of the?
- TL: Sure. Yeah. Just an agent gets part of the fee and some agent does, the office does.
- I: Did you show him that house ten years prior?

TL: I did. Yeah I spent a lot of time with him. In fact I was on vacation and out of the office when he came back. And I didn't end up working with him. He got started with another sales person and so the just followed through on it and completed the sale But.

I: Do you know if the still own that house?

TL: Uh, I think they have since sold it. He was gonna' remodel it and do a lot of work on it. And it, it never happened and I think that they decided they didn't wanna' live in La Grande. And he's- I believe he's prob'ly since retired. Because he, he followed uh, the tie he followed Phil Jackson from Chicago to LA. And, and was his assistant there. And it was during that time that I think he sold the home here which has just been a few years ago.

I: My notes next tell me that we were gonna' talk a little bit about a hopeful deal with an industrial park?

TL: Oh, the park? Well there's been a real push in the last more than two years to develop a- for the development of a industrial park. Light industrial park on the corner of Gekeler and Highwa 30. UH, ther's a fully good size parcel being 50 to, I can't remember, 50 to 80 acres, thereabouts. Uh, that's uh, the eastern Oregon Development Corporation and the City of La Grande, uh, have really been interested in developing it into an industrial park. And it appears that it's gonna' happen. There's been lots of work done on it and uh, looks like that'll prob'ly come to pass. But I think the spark for that- I was involved in, uh, 10+ years ago, uh, Kampgorunds of America came to La Grande, ebing KOA looking for a site for a campground. And they had one in Boise and one in Portland but they wanted something in between and decided La Grande'd be a good place for it being kind of the hub of the tri-county area and being on the interstate. So, uh, I looked of rproperty along the area big enough to accmomdate them. Abnd they wanted a 10 acre site. And so that, that site coming up being farm land at the time, which it still is. But it was zoned farming at the time, but it was located so ideally being just uh, a milr or two off the interstate. Just down from the truck stop and on one of the main accesses in La Grande being old Highwa 30. Uh, they thought that'd be just a great place to be and there was sewer and water in Gekeler Lane which they needed. Uh, and good access to it. The thing we needed to have happen is we needed a zone change. And that land was, uh, out of the city but in the urban growth line. And, and what that means is property out of the city limits and within the urban growth line is under the city's jurisdiction. It's designated for future city expansion, development. Uh, so the city has some control of what happens there, but it's still county land. And so the county has the final sa over what happens there in the way of a zone change, or whatever the case might be. So, we had to pursue a zone change with the city with ultimate approval of the county. Uh, and that, that's a real project in Oregon with the Land Conservation & Development Commission, uh, being involved in the state level. And with their state-wide planning goals lots of work has to be done to meet those goals and to get the zone

change. And so, we were involved in, in a number of uh, hearings with the planning commission, city council, county court. Uh, we finally got it approved, uh, and through that whole process there was some local interest. One being an adjoining owner and another business interest, uh, in the area that had opposed that all the way through. And, and uh, so when it was finally approved they, they appealed that final approval to LUBA which is the state Land Use Board of Appeals, uh, under the LCDC. That's the appeal process that's done, uh, that's the first state-wide, er, first state appeal that's done through the land development process at the state level. Uh, so that went through a hearing with them, uh, and that's- that's about a five to six month program to get that resolved and back. And they remanded it back to the county for more consideration and on the basis that the county hadn't addressed all the land use goals. Well, this process had been going on for over two years. And, and finally, KOA had hung in there through the whole process. They finally just kind of lost interest in the project. It got to be so drawn out and they got involved in other projects. And so finally they just kinda' went away. But that interest in that land remained all through that time. And there's city, and there's still people at the city level of La Grande that were here at the time and still remember well all that process and all the push to get that done and all the work that we did demonstrating that, that La Grande needed more land for an industrial park. For future industrial expansion. Which, which we don't have. And uh, we made a real effort and that was one of the, one of the goals that we had to address was a need- was a needs goal. And so there's still people that remained at the city and a lot of local uh, business people that still thought that should happen. And uh, that project kind of laid idle for a few years and then it- then it picked up again through the, uh, Union County UCDC. Uh, Union County Economic Development Corporation. Uh, their efforts and uh, just more interest in having industrial lands. So uh, that spark that the KOA and all that work was, was the forerunner of, of getting that park. The location of that park and the value it'd be to the city of La Grande to have another industrial park in that area.

I: Do you find it ironic that, that all the work you did on that is going- seemed to be for naught at the time and now it's gonna' perhaps happen?

TL: Well, it does. You know, one the one hand it's aggravating on one hand because most real estate people when they do that kind of work don't get paid for it. Only time you get paid is when you close a sale and some areas some people get paid for consulting work and you start into a project working on a, on a, uh, an hourly basis, time and material type basis and you get paid for our work. But typically in this area that's not the case, so you go out there and spend tons of time. And this, like I say this went on for over two years and then if your sale doesn't close you don't- you've done that for nothing. So, you know, on that hand it's, it's, you know, it's aggravating if something like that doesn't work out. It's and you know time is money. The only thing you have to sell as a realtor is your time and expertise. Uh, on the other hand it, it makes me feel good that, that, you know, that provided a spark for something that's really needed in the community. And, and there's gonna' be a lot of good things come out of that if it comes to pass. And

it appears that there's still problems to be addressed but it would appear that that's gonna' happen sometime in the future. And so, you know, that's a rewarding thing to see happen. Especially with how it got started.

I: And you do think that is a good use for that property?

TL: Oh I do.

I: Um, now how about that original landowner that objected?

TL: Well he was an adjoining owner and uh, he's still an adjoining owner.

I: Is he still objecting?

TL: He hasn't been objecting. No. Interesting. He's kinda' went away on these objections.

I: So it seems to be a little more irony in the, in the affair?

TL: A little more irony, right, right. And that, and that was the main reason that, uh, if they hadn't have been appealed, if they would have let the decision stand with the city and the county that- there'd be a KOA campground there right now. And more- prob'ly the transition into an industrial park there would have been an easier road have- having that happened than what it is today. 'Cause that would have paved the way for, uh, future development to take place a lot easier. There was some physical things there that had to be done. The sewere and water and access and most of those would have been addressed with, with KOA. And anything else that came along would have just fallen in place out there.

I: Before we move on to real estate changes, uh, that you- that you've witnessed during your career- what became of Lester Real Estate Company?

TL: Well, uh, Rusell lester, the owner, uh, wanted to partly retire two years ago. Actually in 2002, he sold Lester real Estate. The business and the, the building property to ERA, which is a local real estate franschise just down the street two blocks. And they're in that- our old Lester Real Estate location. They moved out of their leased property into the building we're in- we were in at 1702 Fourth Street.

I: So is the name Lester Real Estate dissolved then?

TL: It is.

I: And uh, Russell Lester is he retired?

TL: Actually he still works. He kept an office there, works uh, he's a broker but not what's called a designated broker. He doesn't have any management responsibilities in the office. He just works as kind of a sales person.

I: For ERA?

TL: For ERA. Right.

I: Okay, um, we've, uh, talk about, a little bit about the changes in the real estate business between the time you started and the time you retired, or recently. Um.

TL: Well there's one, uh, there was probably 50% more real estate offices in La Grande in the 70's when I started. There was a number of offices here that aren't here now. There was more sales people, uh, probably 30-40% more active sales people in the area. Um, the, the businesses, the, the real estate companies that are here now are most of 'em larger. They have more people working for 'em. And there's, there were quite a bit fewer numbers. And uh, Union County Board of Realtors numbers are gone prob'ly from an all-time high maybe in the late 70's. The business changed- well I don't know that the business has changed, the laws have changed over the yers. The licensing requirements have changed, uh, there's your responsibility as a realtor and what, what you need to do in your agent responsibilities to your clients. Whether you're working for a buyer or seller it's changed tremendously. There's much more, many more laws that have, uh, came about increasing your responsibilities to your vclient. Uh, as opposed to the way they were in 1974.

I: I think you mentioned that the schooling requirements have changed. That you now don't just study for a test ou have to take coursework.

TL: Right. Right. Yeah there's really- there are stil some schools to attend to study for the- to pass, to pass the license exam. But, but, there's also required schools that you have to take and so many hours of schooling. Uh, and the license laws just went through another big revision in the last two years making everyone a broker. Now, everybody'll have a salesman's license and a broker's license. Everybody's a broker. And that increased the schooling a lot and prob'ly doubled the amount of schooling you need. The number of hours you need. In- changed licensing requirement to the test from being a salesman's test or a broker's test.

I: Would have found yourself in a position of having to go back to take a class or a course if you had stayed in the business?

TL: Yeah. I would have. Yeah.

I: Would that have been- does that have any, uh, influence upon your decision to retire?

TL: No it didn't.

I: You had already planned to?

TL: I'd already planned to retire. Right.

I: You talked about, um, some hard times for real estate and in the 80's and depression and?

TL: Well it, it did and, and the real estate business cycles, uh, prob'ly the hardest cycle the local area had went through. What I mean- I say cycle I mean that the real estate environment is uh, financing, everything associated with the real estate industry cycles. And in the 80's we went through a downward trend. The whole country did and, and La Grande's always been a little more isolated as far as anything that was impacting the whole country, uh, was a little delayed getting to La Grande. And then La Grande was always a little longer coming out of it. And uh, California went into a real estate down cycle in about '80-'81. It didn't really hit La Grande til a year or two later, '82-'83. And uh, we went through a time where uh, interest rates were high and uh, the unemployment rate was high statewide. Locally it was high. Um, and so real estate sales, uh, really plunged. And uh, there was a number of rental property- there was four different- three or four different state agencies that came into the area and built low income- low cost housing at the time apartment complexes. And the result of that was just flooded the market with, with, with uh rental property. And uh, the impact was that, that it just devastated the local rental market. It was very hard to rent property during that time. And there was also a time when people were wanting to sell their homes and, couldn't 'cause the market, it was, the market was flooded with homes for sale. And when that happens values go down because what sets value is supply and demand. So we had a high supply and a low demand and values started down and they continued down. Values dropped by an average of about 30% locally. And what happens is people that haven't owned a home very long, their home gets to be worth less than what the mortgage is on it. So if you sell your home, you've gotta' sell it for more than what market value is just to pay your mortgage off. And that doesn't happen. And so we have a lot of property foreclosures. People didn't pay. Some people, you know, they moved for all different reasons. All the normal reasons. Some of it being unemployment, uh, had to leave their homes in a very poor rental market. The market was flooded with rentals, they couldn't rent their home. And they couldn't sell it for what the mortgage was on it in a lot of cases. So it, it led to a lot of property foreclosures. There was a lot of foreclosures in the area. All the banks had, had to deal with foreclosures. And I, you know, it was contended the difference between a recession and a depression. A depression is when you lose your home. And that's what happened here. There was a number of property foreclosures. A lot of rental properties were foreclosed on because people couldn't rent their properties and had- and couldn't subsidize the mortgage enough to uh, keep payments current.

I: Did that affect you any because if you're- if you were uh, managing property b then?

TL: Well yeah it did. It uh, I survived it okay. I didn't lose any property. Made it, made it work and it was very difficult.

End of Side A
Side B

I: Okay so you were telling me about the vacancy rate in your properties was sometimes 50%?

TL: Right. Right. And those kind of vacancy rates makes you, make you lay awake at nights wondering how you're gonna' make ends meet the next day. But I was fortunate enough to, to make it all work and survive. And a lot of people weren't. A lot of people lost rental properties that, uh, and lots of them. And I'd had a- as a sales person I've had people- had people come to me and just beg me to sell their rental property. And there

was no buyers for it. You couldn't give a rental property away because who wanted to buy something that you had to sub- turn around and start subsidizing?

I: So you never had to give up any of your properties?

TL: I didn't give up anything, no. I, I made it all work.

I: Uh, very fortunate. Um. So now, uh, I think it's this rental is where you transitioned now. You talked about, uh, leaving the office in 2002. You don't apparently just walk away from real estate, or get the gold watch and retire kind of thing?

TL: Well, not, not really if you're a, if you're a conscientious person and, and care about your clients you just don't all of a sudden say, "Well, I'm gonna' retire," and walk away from him. You've gotta' start winding down and I started winding down in the fall of 2001 taking taking less listings and, and uh, trying to get involved in less sales. And any type of a sale that looked like it was gonna' continue on for more 30 or 60 days I'd refer to someone else. Another sales person in the office. Or as listings came in, you took the- you take listings for six months is an average listing time. And so I would refer listings to other sales people just looking ahead to the spring of 2002 that, you know, when I finally walked away I wasn't gonna' walk away from anything. And it, and it, as it worked out, my last listing that, that I had was a lot on the north side of town and I think the month I decided to leave that sold. So I had.

I: That was in March?

TL: That was in March. I had no listings and no sales when I left. Everything was done. And I felt good about that. I didn't have to leave anything up in the air or, or turn around and walk away from any clients.

I: So at this time then you just have your rental property and that's a business of your own?

TL: It is.

I: How many properties do you have?

TL: Yeah, I've got about 20 properties.

I: Here in La Grande?

TL: Yeah.

I: All in La Grande?

TL: Yeah.

I: Um, trade organizations that you belonged to. Uh, I have here Union County Board of Realtors.

TL: Well most of 'em were just business-oriented. Union County Board of Realtors was, was a local uh, uh, real estate organization. And uh, the ___ [038] organization. Uh.

I: How long were you with the Board of Realtors?

TL: Well, I actually joined when I, uh, went to work for Lester Real Estate. That's an organization that's been around for a lot of years. And it's a, it's affiliated with the Oregon Assosiation of Realtors. And, and that, that's a trade organization and, and it's a, it's a, it's an organization that sets business practices and how you conduct ourself. And they have a code of ethics you uh, scribe to. And uh, standards fo practice and, and ways you conduct yourself and your business. Not all real estate agents are realtors. Most are, of course, but some aren't. And so this is an organization that's, that's not real estate agents. It's a realtor organization which is a trade name.

I: Are you still involved with them?

TL: I'm not.

I: Uh did you hold any positions of authority?

TL: I was on the Board of Directors for a number of different times for several years. I never held a, an elected, I never held an office but I was on Board of Directors.

I: Then uh, you- we were beginning to talk about the Northeast Oregon Rental Association. What's that about?

TL: Right. Well that's an organization of rental owners. They're a state organization with uh, local branches. Uh, Union County being, being one. And it's a trade organization also. You pay dues to belong, uh, there's some real educational values to belonging to that. They- it keeps you in touch with the latest rental, rental laws that change every other year when the Lesiglature meets. Every two years the rental laws change somewhat. Uh, there's a tremendous amount of forms to deal with, uh, that the organization uh, creates forms and updates and keeps them current to what the current state laws are. And uh, makes it much easier to conduct your business and be on top of it and be in compliance with the latest landlord-tenant laws.

I: Same question as this one. When did you join, do you still belong and did you hold any offices?

TL: Well I, I, I joined uh, that organization was, was in its infancy when I bought my first rental property in 1975. Or it didn't exist, I don't recall which came first. But I joined in the mid-70's and uh, that was early on in the life of that organization. Uh, I'm still a, still a member. It's, it's an organization you pay dues in to. Really that's the oly

requirement for membership. But it's it's all members of- people that own rental property that's the purpose of belonging to it. Um, and I haven't held an office in it. No. Uh, if they, they sponsor educational seminars through the year. We have state conventions uh, once a year. La Grande hosted about four or five years ago the state convention. And there's a- different trade shows and trade schools, uh, educational seminars at their conventions, usually. Their uh, three or four day convention.

I: Is that a big organization for this area?

TL: Well, it was uh, I don't recall the membership numbers, uh, mabe 50, 60 members something like that locally. But it's, it's a state-wide organization.

I: Next I have a note that uh, you have have held vestitures at the church- at your church and first of all, what is a vestiture? And which church did you do that with?

TL: Well, I'm a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and uh, I was raised in the Christian Church and when my wife and I were married she's a cradle Episcopalian being born into the church. And so I could see that probably I wasn't gonna' win her over to the Christian Church so I became a member of the Episcopal Church and when we were married in '66. And I've been a member ever since.

I: I think I used the wrong term. I'm sorry, vestry, I think.

TL: I'm getting there. I'll correct that. (chuckles)

I: Okay. Great. Good.

TL: Uh, the vestry is the board of directors for the church and I've served on that in years past, for several years. Uh, and we're still, we're, we're active in the church and different committees and groups.

I: Well one of the notes I have about this vestry was that, that- by your experience you managed the rectory. What was that about?

TL: Well I did. Being, being my- with my rental experience, uh, there's a house right next door to the church. And that's been the Rector's, that's been the rectory for the church. And we've had ministers in the past that have lived there. And some that have chose not to live there. And it's prob'ly been uh, not used as a rectory for the past 25 years more so than it's been used as a rectory. And those, and during those times I've been the one to manage that as a, as a rental property. And uh, coincidentally, we just had our current Rector just two months ago moved in to the Rectory. ___ [111] so now it's a rectory again rather than a rental property.

I: Um, so did that- was that successful? I assume that brings income then into the church?

TL: It was. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah it was income for the church.

I: The next organization that I have uh, listed here is the University Foundation at Eastern Oregon University. Tell me about that.

TL: Well the past few years and my wife's been involved more than I have. But I've been on the foundation at the university for, gosh, 10, 15 years probly. And the Foundation is the fundraising basis of the, of the foundation is fundraising for the school. And uh, I continue to be on that. We just uh, just did make a- it's a financial commitment to the President's Club- the Foundation which increases your, your level of donating to the Foundation.

I: And uh, I think we talked last time: what is the, the requirement- or what is the, how do you get into that President's Club?

TL: Well, the President's Club is basically it, it the basis of the Foundation is, is to generate funds. And that's the purpose of the membership is to do that either through fundraising projects- more so through donating and uh, they, they look for other donors uh, for the, to donate property. Large donors to, to donate blocks of money to the Foundation. And then the membership has, makes a commitment to donate through the year. But the President's Club uh, is a- is a level of, is a group of, how do I wanna' say it? It's a, it's a level of membership that's- you belong to by what you donate into. And that level you have to make a five year commitment of \$1000 a year to the Foundation.

I: Minimum?

TL: Minimum. Uh, to be a member of the President's Club.

I: How long have you been a member of the President's Club?

TL: Actually just this year. We've become a little more interested in, in since our retirement and being involved with the college, and, and.

I: But you had belonged to the Foundation previously?

TL: I had.

I: And did you have any involvement with the uh fundraising that went on for the new science complex that? Uh, I know that there was quite a bit of uh, work that, that had to take place to um- my understanding is that there were some matching funds that had to be, um had to be raised by that had to be raised by the Foundation.

TL: Yeah it was. Yeah. Part of the donations and the Foundation covered that and we donated to, to that. Um, and then they had a few large donors to, to that project. Uh.

I: Wel what, what do the members do typically? You know, uh, in this foundation, uh, in their meetings? I mean do you generate ideas for fundraising or do you just manage the money or what exactly entails being a member?

TL: Well there's a- part of the organization manages the money. It's, it's- part of it goes to scholarships, uh, projects that need funding through the college. Uh, through the year- they had one, actually one meeting a year among, of the whole group. And it's an annual meeting that's normally held in May. Uh, the Presidnet's Club, uh, meets as a- more of a social type function probably four or five times during the year. It takes place at the college. We've got a, they call it Gala, Presidential Gala that's being held April the 30th in the uh, Alumni Room at Ackerman. And that's just, that's mainly just a social event.

I: Do you serve on an particular committees of the organiaation?

TL: I don't. No.

I: Just a general member?

TL: Just a general member. Right.

I: All right. So, we're now in retirement and um, I know that there's no cobwebs being collected around here that, that you're staying pretty busy. What are some of the things that you do in your, in uh, your, your post-employment days?

TL: Well the rental business keeps me busy somewhat. It's a part-time job. Uh, you know with that many properties there's always someone coming or going. And 'course you deal with vacancies. Re-rent properties and, and everything that's involved with that. Uh, my wife and I travel wuite a little bit. Uh, we just booked in for another Caribbean cruise the other day which'll keep us going next- which'll happen next psring that we're loking forward to. And last uh, a year ago in September we took a trip across the country uh, with our RV. Went to uh, Tennessee to see her unce in Tennessee. We were gone for a month or so. We've been to Arizona two months this winter.

I: With your RV?

TL: With our RV.

I: Do you belong to an RV organizations?

TL: Oh, the Good Sam Club which is a national organization. Uh, we belong to it but really ew don't function in it. We have friends that we travel with and, and uh, we've spent- we've had an RV since 1985. And we, we use it around locally. We used to take our kids down to the Snake River a lot and with the boat and an RV ___ [196] us a place to stay and both gave us something to do. And we just- that was the highlight of their life. We used to go down there and we'd spend two or three weeks a year there and around

locally. But since we've been retired we've expanded our horizons some and traveled a little bit more. We went to California to see Mary Jo's sister several times. And uh, Arizona. A trip back east. We plan to do more of that. You know, even with the cost of transportation going up like it has been. But uh.

I: What are some of your hobbies?

TL: Well, we've- probably when we're home- I don't have- I'm not a model airplane builder or uh, any certain hobbies. We- our home situated on about an acre that I happen to be the chief gardener for. That uh, keeps me busy with the home.

I: Does that pay a lot?

TL: It's a very high paying job!

I: Is it?

TL: In fact the highest pay is, is I get to continue on my employment without being asked to leave if I don't do my job, so! (chuckles)

I: Oh so your not an at-will employee?

TL: (laughs) Servitude.

I: Are you a sportsman? What kind of?

TL: Well I used to hunt and fish a lot. I don't- my, my son and I, my father, we used to hunt a lot together. I used to hunt a lot with my father. Fish and then my son and I did. And, and he's been gone for a couple of years- my son has been- left home a couple years ago when he graduated. And so my hunting and fishing days have kinda' wound down. And uh, we still fish some. Yeah.

I: How about that piano?

TL: Oh for my own entertainment and my, I um, getting to be kind of a rusty piano plaer. But I still, still do some. We have our, our piano. It's interesting enough, it's an 1870's vintage that came around the, the Horn up to Portland and came on- covered, by covered wagon to La Grande. And it was my wife's great-aunt's piano. And, of course she passed away she gave it me and it stayed in my wife's grandmother's home which is here in La grande for a few years after that. And then we moved it, actually to this home when we built this in 1978. So ever since. But.

I: What was the, what was the name of the original owner? The relative of this paino?

TL: Uh, May Neal. Well that's who, that's- actually it was her- and my wife could tell me better- it was her parents that had the piano. And it was, and the ended up with it. And they lived in Owyhee, she taught school all her life in Owyhee and, and uh, but the piano remained here at her sister's who was my wife's grandmother. And she was here one time, heard me play and, and said, you know, "Someday I want ya' to have that." And so, someday came and, that was in 1978 we moved it here and it's been here ever since. So.

I: Now you say you're getting a little rusty on that piano? You, you haven't considered checking back in with Miss Van Brocklen for- uh, refresher?

TL: Little bit. Yeah I don't play as much as. Well, prob'ly would be a good id ea if I do that.

I: I think we've missed an organization here. You told me that you had some involvement with uh, the high school wrestling boosters? What does that involve?

TL: Well actually- I think that was my wife's agenda. We- our son wrestled all through high school. And the booster club was just a, a, a club of parents- mostly parents of wrestlers and it could be any adult. But mostly parents of wrestlers that supported the program mainly through, every time there was a wrestling meet here they hd a food booth that the provided food for. And sold refreshments and so on for the wrestling tournaments and uh, you know just kind of general support. Sometimes they'd buy things for the club or donate money sometimes when they needed, you know, accessories.

I: Did you man the concessions and?

TL: Did some. Yeah. Yeah it was. Right. Great on dishes and pots and pans and the real technical stuff.

I: Um the one item we haven't talked about and I am going to ask each of you to discuss it a little bit is we haven't talked about your marriage. Who did you marry and when did you do that?

TL: Well we were married, uh, December 18th, 1966. And we were both incollege at the time.

I: What's your wife's anme?

TL: Mary Jo Lemon. And her maiden name was Peck. And uh.

I: Where did you get married?

TL: We were married at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande.

I: Now when, when ou, uh, you talked earlier about she was born into the church and ou blonged to the Christian Church. Did you make a conversion before the marriage?

TL: Well, it was an eas conversion. I wasn't really trong in the Christina Church. And uh, I soon had it made clear to me that I was gonna' be made a member of the Episcopal Church, and so that was an easy conversion.

I: Did that come about as the result of a revelation or declaration maybe?

TL: Not really. No. No it was pretty, pretty diplomatic. Yeah. I was eased into that. That was fine, I was ready for a church to be onvolved in of my own and Mary Jo is really, you know she is a cradle Episcopalian. She's a strong member of the church and so it seemed to be a pretty natural transition and it worked well for me.

I: When did you first meet your wife?

TL: Well we actually, uh, met- uh, I was in the seventh grade, she was in the eighth grade at uh, junior high school. And we went together for ten years before we were married.

I: Starting from this seventh and eighth grade?

TL: Well starting in junior high, yeah. That we went to. And we had a few breaks in between and uh, so we were off and on a little bit. But pretty much on through junior high and high school. Mostly high school and, and then into college. And then we were married- she was telling we were both in college when we married, I had two years left and she a term left. And she was gonna' graduate in education, and, and uh, so we were married in December. She graduated in March at the end of winter term and then substitute taught that spring. And I continued on for two more years until '69 when I graduated. But she went to work as a teacher in uh, Union. As a first grade teacher and, and was the breadwinner of the family there for two years while I finished school.

I: Where did you first live?

TL: We lived at a house over on Jackson Street. Across- it was across the street from the old railroad- Union Pacific roundhouse that's since been torn down. But uh, we were there for, oh, les than a year and then we moved to a house at 1603 L which is just right below, L Street which goes in front of the college steps. And it's just a block off the front of those steps.

I: Did you own that house?

TL: No we rented it. And then we moved- we bought a home about two blocks away, our first home we obught in '69 when I graduated. Only about two blocks away and we moved from that home to Ninth Street and then to where we are today.

I: Did you sell yourself that house through the real estate agency?

TL: Actually it was before I had a, before I had a license. I just- that was in '69. And then when it came time to sell it I sold it. Right.

I: Uh-huh. And then you moved here?

TL: Built this house. Bought this proerty in '77, built the house, moved here in '78.

I: And for the record that house is 96 Walnut in La Grande.

TL: Right. Moved in here since '78. Bught this porerty and then bought some more land around it. Ee've got about an, an acre of property. It was one of the old pioneer houses was on this property, uh, right next door to us. Or just off to the north end of the house. There was an old- the house was gone but there was an old stone foundation there. And it had been there since 18- I believe 1860 to 1870's was when that house wsa built. But this called Old Town or Old La Grande and, and uh. There was a road that went in front of our house which is now Walnut Street that went on up the hill to Morgan Lake and back in the mountains. And, and it was also, uh, a route that uh, wagons came on. The Old Oregon Trail went on up the hill at B Street, but there another route in front of us that continued on around- I, I think either into the mountains or on around the edge of the, the fotthills. And there was a big spring that was a, a watering place for horses on this property. And they'd stop here and water animals and continue on and. Uh, there was a large old barn that was part of this house. The old foundation, but it was here when we bought the property. It was a big old barn that had survived up til about 1969. In fact, where we have our garden and that barn was burnt down. I think it was on purpose just to rif of it. That's where our garden is. We didn't know it at the time and we started rototilling our garden we rototilled up old pieces of harness and old square nails and just all kinds of junk that, that you would expect to find with a barn. That's where our garden is.

I: Were any of these things you found preserved?

TL: Not really. No. Most of 'em were metal parts. We found a few burnt pieces of, of lumber. Boards that were in that's uh, burning down the barn But, but the pieces that we found that were preserved at all were, were all metal and 'course they, you know, don't survive very well.

I: Was this street paved when you first moved here?

TL: It wasn't, no. It was, it was a gravel road. Pretty good gravel road because there was homes up, uh, in the Morgam Lake area. And the people in- there was, there was no homes on this side of the street on the unpaved portion and homes across the street. And the people across the street wanted this road paved. But hadn't had any luck because the- no one on the other side of the street had any impetus to get it done. And so they, of course verybody shares equally on a front foot cost basis and the people that own the property on this side had half of the control of the street. Vote, vote-wise by according to the county. [?] [377] And so when I came along I knew that if bought this I could get the

street paved with, with- because I'd, I'd done that before for other building projects. We put in a street or I put in a street right off of B Street that I built some houses on, and so I knew how to- I knew the process to go through with the city to get it done. And, and what it took to get it done. And so we lived here for about- well as soon as I- soon as I bought the property we'd built the house, moved in and I went to work on getting the street paved. And about two years later that came to pass. We got it paved and everybody worked it out with the other owners. There was a lot of issues as far as right-of-ways and frontage and, all sorts of things to work out with that but I got it done. And, and so, 'cause I didn't- I had no desire to live on a, you know, on a gravel street or a dirt street. It was pretty dusty when there was a lot of traffic on the mountain. And come off the hill pretty fast and always a fog a dust and the people across the street just, you know, hated that. And much rather that they paved the street, so I was able to solve that problem for everybody. Me included and.

I: Now for the record I believe this house is on the east side of Walnut, if I have my direction straight?

TL: Actually it's on the west side.

I: Is it on- I'm sorry it is on the west side. And I turned around in my chair, I guess. How many children do you have?

TL: Two children. A son and a daughter.

I: What are their names?

TL: Uh, Greg and Jennifer. Greg was born in '76 and Jennifer in '77.

I: And uh, earlier we talked about the history of education in this family. They're both also Eastern Oregon graduates?

TL: Yeah they both graduated in 2000. Greg graduated in English and Jennifer graduated in the OHSU nursing program. And she went on to work in Boise at St Luke's. Greg went on to work for about two years, a year and a half after he graduated and then he went back to school at University of Montana and got a master's in uh, journalism. And he lives there now in Hamilton out of Missoula and works as a journalist for a newspaper there.

I: Uh I've hit almost all of my topics and I saved one for the end because I wanted you to tell me the story again that we talked about when we first met about the water tiles in La Grande. Um, playing in those water tiles. What are they? What are the water tiles first of all? And then tell us the story about, about um, playing around them?

TL: Well it's not a, it's not a big story but across south La Grande there's two or three creeks that come out of the hills. Deer Canyon uh, Mill Creek- there's one other one But anyway, they cross across La Grande from west to east going downhill and they

eventually all end up in the Grande Ronde River. Um, through the years those have been tiled underground, concrete normally four to six foot diameter concrete tiles that's all been tiled under, underground. In fact, I sold a home off of Sunset years ago that- one of those creeks went right underneath the house. And when it ran a lot of water, you could hear water running underneath this house through this concrete tile. And there was an easement for it, was, you know, done right. It was legal, it was all there. But that creek went right underneath this house. It was down in the ground a couple of feet, the top of the tile. But, but you could hear water running during a really hard runoff. But anyway, those run down uh, across town and when they got to- when one of 'em got to the college property, uh, it surfaced- well it surfaced where, where Dorion East and West is now. And I was in grade school at Ackerman at the time just, you know, grade school age. Just old enough to maybe get away from home to play someplace else, not to be right under my parents' uh, watchful eye. And we'd go up to the college and uh, one of those- that creek went underneath Dorion, which tiled underneath Dorion and then it surfaced right on the other side and then it went underground again. And it came out down b 12th Street where the college- I can't think of what they call it- it's, it's a big utility building down.

I: Physical plant?

TL: Physical plant. Down below the college is where it came out. So it went underneath that whole athletic field from Dorion, underneath that whole athletic field all the way down to the physical plant in about a six foot tile. And, and it was open on the Dorion end, so we thought it was just great to get inside tile and go all the way to the other end. And when you started at one end and looked at the other end, the other end looked to be maybe the size of a dollar, of a silver dollar. It was that far through there and, and it just looked like a little speck of light at the other end. And there was always water going through it. And so we would get in that tile and, oh it was a long way through there. It was a couple of blocks down through there underneath that field. And we'd run back and forth through that thing and thought that was a great sport, you know? If they'd ever had a big rush of water down through there, it prob'ly coulda' been a little difficult on us. We might not have, we'd have popped out the other end I suppose, eventually, but uh.

I: Well how big was the other end, uh, it looked like a, a silver dollar.

TL: Well it was the same size. It was four to six feet in diameter. But we, but we could stand up in it. And it, and it was- and there was no grates on it or anything. It was just open. There was no grates or anything to block access to it. You could just crawl right down it, get down- there was kind of an open ditch where it came out. And then just a short distance later it, uh, the tile was there and the ditch led right into that tile. So you could down in the ditch and get in the tile and go down to the other end. And it was great sport.

I: You'd just walk through the water?

TL: Just walk through it. Yeah. Um-hm.

I: Um, what's become of those- are they still there?

TL: They're still there.

End of Side B

End of Tape #2

Transcription completed on

TERRY LEE LEMON

TAPE #3

April 19, 2005

Interviewed by Micheal L. Minthorn

Transcribed by Micheal L. Minthorn

Side A

I: And we're completing the interview on August 19, 2005 with Terry Lemon. Okay I'm not sure what we missed on this because the tape clicked, so let's just go back a little bit. Now you were talking about the physical plant.

TL: Well they- most of 'em for the most part, those clips are all tiled across town now. Uh, a couple of ___ [006] as they surfaced. But the one we used to play in uh, they just completed the last part just a couple years ago. Well that came out of that physical plant, I think it as underground there still but then it surfaced just a block down and a pretty deep ditch beside H Street. And that's right where the married housing is at the college. That was tiled uh, just a couple three years ago that was tiled by the ground and it was just an open ditch then. But the end of those tiles have all been, you know, graded so ids couldn't play in 'em anymore. And all those potential difficulties.

I: So now if I get this right, um, you could be in those tiles and water was always pouring through them. If there was some major downpour on the mountain somewhere that they could have in fact, uh, possibly swept you away, or, could have raised suddenly in depth?

TL: Yeah. Could have been exciting.

I: And that never happened?

TL: Never happened. So, you know, it was not pretty likely. And we always liked to be out on a sunny day.

I: Were you supposed to be in those water tiles?

TL: Well, you know common sense would say not, but there was no- they weren't signed or stay out or keep out or dangerous or I mean there was just nothing, you know? And there was no reason- I mean there was nothing telling ya' not to get in there. We knew it prob'ly wasn't a very good idea, but you know that was most of the sport of it was.

I: Of course. Of course. Uh-huh. Anything else like that you ever did that you would talk about? Other.

TL: Well yeah but prob'ly some of those things I'm not gonna' talk about. (chuckles)

I: Well, I'm sure- I'm meaning anything you might want to, uh adventures like that in any other way.

TL: Oh nothing comes to mind.

I: Okay. Okay. Any contributions to the area that you're particularly proud of in your, in your lifetime and career that you've been around La Grande? Anything you're especially proud of accomplishing, or want to be remembered for?

TL: Well, we- I spent you know 30 years in the real estate industry and I suppose that's- anything you do in the real estate industry, it's all from your own generation. Uh, anything you create yourself because you're completely self-employed. So anything that happens there is because you've made it happen. Uh, and I suppose prob'ly that development I did- Lynwood Development, you know. The rental homes I build and the rental properties, uh, developed one block down here on B Street. Put a street in and built three different properties on it. Um, you know prob'ly that part of it, you know, because you- that's all our own creation and you spend so much time and effort doing that. Those things seem to be more important to you, and, just because you worked so hard at 'em.

I: So there places around La Grande and the area that you can actually point to and say, "I've had a hand in this?"

- TL: Yeah. I've had the whole hand in several of 'em. Yeah. Two or three different sites, it just, you know, took some work and development. And, you know, made it happen.
- I: What were some- what's really different about La Grande now than when you were young? Other than of course we know all the development that's taken place. Probably lots of this area even that we're sitting around today was perhaps vacant or less developed than it is now.
- TL: Well it was and I been- I been prob'ly more sensitive you know bein' in the real estate industry. The part of town that, that I live in now, uh, was developed for the mid-60's on. There used to be nothing here. It was just vacant land. And that's all happened since the mid-60's. Uh, part of the expansion has been up uh, well this way and then west of town up in the ___ [060] track area. And I've been involved in some of those projects up there and, you know, selling vacant land and seeing homes built. You know helping some of that take place. Um, you know the college has expanded a lot. And that's- people ask me if that's impacted the, the rental market because I do rent to, to college people- students. Uh, course some instructors, too, I've rented to over the years. And uh, and I, you know- I think that's a really health partnership. And then in the local housing industry and the college because I think they really help each other. And the college is, you know, in the process of building a new, building a new dorm. And but, uh, Dorion East and West are both gonna' be torn down when that's completed. So it's really- you know the balance there prob'ly is, is not, you know they're not gonna' create excess housing that is gonna' be a problem for the local rental industry I don't think. And we're gonna' continue to supplement housing for the, for the college and for the students that don't wanna' live on campus. There's always, uh, you know those numbers. And I- it's been- I guess quite a policy that's been talked about. Once that dorm's completed is to require uh, students early on to live on campus again. That used to be when I went to college that's- the people that lived out of town being a freshman and sophomore in the first two years. At least the first year you had to live on campus. You wanted to be right there and there's no talk of, and I understand the college to makin' it a requirement again.
- I: Yes I believe freshmen are going to be required, except uh, the thing that we talked about which was if they lived out of town and were commuting. I think married students also will have the opportunity to opt out of that as well.
- TL: And I think that's a good program even though that might take aw from the local rental market. But I think, you know students need to need to have that environment, especially when they're first away from home. There's all the things that could happen, you know. Especially bein' a freshman in school. And as they get to be older most of them don't wanna' live in the dorm. They want a different environment. And that seems to be what rental picks up. That's normally what I get for tenants for tenants or junior, seniors, graduate students. And of course having been the business as long as I had been I'd be a little reluctant to rent to

first time kids bein' away from home anyway, you know. So there's a lot of benefits having to live on campus. Oh you know it's a good partnership between the college and the local industry.

I: I believe the studies have shown that living on campus has a critical- is a critical determining factor as to whether they'll even make it to their second year in college that um, what they're calling the "living experience," the campus living experience is critically important so it seems that you must agree with that?

TL: Yeah, I do. And I was what's called a "townie." And I don't know what local students are called now but when I went to school they were called townies. And you always had a little harder time connecting with the college being a townie than if you lived o campus. 'Cause you were away from that environment and you had to work t it just a little bit harder to be part of the campus community as opposed to living on campus like was required. So I think there's some- you know some benefits now. I think it's a real positive thing.

I: I agree with you on that. I'm a townie and it is, you have to work just a little bit harder to, um, stay connected with what's going on because school has so many things that, that take place. ____ [106] if you're not there.

TL: That's right.

I: Well, uh, anything else that you wanna' take about that we might not have that you can think of?

TL: No I don't think so. We covered it.

I: Uh, I wanna' thank you for helping us out with this project. It's gonna' be very important to the overall history project. Thanks a lot!

TL: Good. You bet. My pleasure. Hope it works.

End of Side A

NO Side B

End of Tape #3

Transcription completed on Thursday, November 01, 2007

TERRY LEE LEMON

SESSION #2

June 17, 2005

Interviewed by Micheal L. Minthorn

Transcribed by Micheal L. Minthorn

Side A

I: Well what is a typical day like for a real estate broker? A real estate person. What sort of routine would you typically follow if you say you had one? Or maybe had groups of routines at varying times?

TL: You do something for so long you don't think about it, you know, you just do it.

I: Right.

TL: I did that for 30 years so I did it for a fair length of time, didn't I? Uh, you know the normal day would start about eight or eight-thirty in the morning. And, and go to the office. The day started with the office normally. Uh, once in a while you'd have something to do on the way in. Drive by a property to look at the outside or maybe put a sign in the yard or, you know, normally not seeing or talking to people. Uh, but you know, typically, you know, going to the office eight, eight-thirty. Uh, you're working with people that- you're kinda' working on other people's schedules. Again it's a people business. You don't- you don't really sell property, you don't list property. You sell people and ___ people. [019] It's a people business and so your schedule has to fit everybody else's schedule. And so if you were working with someone that's- maybe it's best to talk to him in the morning. Your day starts by, you know, making phone calls to you know on other people's schedules. So I talk to them a bit. Uh, I've called people at six in the morning just because that's when they were available. And uh, they- you know normally you go to the office, do some of that. You'd kind of sit down and kinda' organize your day if it wasn't already organized for you. Things you had to do. Um, there was a certain amount of paperwork. Uh, listing updates and your multiple listing directory. If you had uh, letters to write, uh, work on the computer and uh, normally you'd do those things in the morning. Or 'cause usually that's when you weren't seeing people or showing property or meeting with people. That's typically would take place. Lot of lunch hours, Afternoons, evenings, you know, but not first thing in the morning. And as your day would, you know, would develop, your time would be spent more time talking to people and customers, clients. Uh, you know, if you were working with someone, you know, showing them property a lot of times they've- you know they've had to leave on their noon hour, so you get a lot of noon hours. Uh, 12 o'clock appointments are really common. Uh, did morning. Through the afternoon that's kind of when your day develops as far as actually seeing property, I guess. Uh, lots of times if you were having to meet someone uh, you know, it was on a weekday a typical day would be five o'clock. You know, people like to kinda' get their day done? So they, uh they'd wanna' see your vice versa. Lot of people at the end of their workday and before their evening got started. Dinner hour and that sort of thing. If they had property to look at, you know, that was a very common time. Five to six, six-thirty, in there. Uh, it was like, do it at those times. And like I said, you

- know, it's a- your day revolves around what's everybody else wants. Is what's best for you normally. And uh.
- I: So you would say that, um, like I guess then we would say that, uh, a lot of people might think that a real estate person is uh, a business job that's like a nine to five Monday through Friday. But this wouldn't be true at all?
- TL: No not at all. No. You're a 24-7 job. And uh, and we didn't keep the office on weekends. And now that's- that business has changed in the last years. Most real estate offices in La Grande didn't open on weekends. Some towns they're open all weekend, that's their big time. And obviously it's, you know, good reason for it. But you know, then obviously we've had people come here from bigger cities and wanna' look at property on a weekend. And all the real estate offices in town'd be closed. It just, they couldn't believe it. They said, gosh you guys! Where we're from, that's prime time, everybody's out really working, you know? We come to La Grande and everything's closed.
- I: So is that where you would accommodate, uh, people?
- TL: It was by appointment.
- I: Um, would they call and tell you this? Or so how did you know or catch on so that you weren't- you didn't miss any customers, did you?
- TL: Well sometimes- well- well- yeah sometimes. Because if something just came in cold turkey, didn't have any- you know, hadn't made arrangements ahead of time to see someone. That they just came in to town on a Saturday or Sunday and they expect to walk into a real estate office and get property information that's when we'd get that reaction. And, and I'd talk to people that spent the weekend in town and then they'd leave and on Monday they'd call back to the office. Sometimes our office and they'd say, "Hey we were in town this weekend and we couldn't find anybody to, to talk to!" (chuckles) It was kinda' interesting. Small town La Grande that's just the way everybody operated. That's changed now a little bit prob'ly the last- actually maybe the last maybe seven or eight years. And it- like most offices are open on Saturdays and none on Sundays. And most of 'em are only open Saturday mornings. They have- some of them have the office. And then it's by appointment, you know. Spend a lot of weekends working, but it's by appointment.
- I: Is it? So you could still be working Sundays occasionally?
- TL: Occasionally. Yeah.
- I: Would tend to be by appointment at that time?

TL: Yeah. Yeah. I've always chuckled about days off. I sold a home on Thanksgiving Day one day. On Thanksgiving Day. I can't remember, I think it was right- these people had finished their dinner and I think it was before ours. So, about a two or three hour window there that I spent, you know, sold some property. Everybody was happy and.

I: And made it to dinner?

TL: Yeah and made it to dinner.

I: Uh-huh.

TL: Ya' know so you do those things, you know, it's just part of it. Your life is kind of controlled by ever'body else. It's part of business.

I: Are there any other, um, general routines that you might, that you might go through from time to time in the course of a day?

TL: Well we had organized times that we had a, we had a staff meeting once a week. And a multiple listing service which involved all the offices in town met once a week. Uh.

I: What would that be about?

TL: Well it was, it was a meeting- basically for everyone to talk about new properties listed. Uh, sales that were pending. It was just a weekly update on, on the service basically with everybody together in a formal meeting. Talking about, uh, those things. New things on the market. Properties sold, changes made in listings. Uh, any other, you know organized activities it involved for the multiple listing service. We'd tour a property once a week. Kind of a- ___ [100] list of properties around the valley. Do that. Uh, and then there were, you know, organizational meetings. Uh, county board of realtors met monthly and uh, there was a rental owners association. And I'm part of that, I belong to that. And that meets monthly.

I: Yeah we've talked about that.

TL: A fairly organized group.

I: How does a real estate person make their money? How do the, how do they make their income I should say?

TL: Well, typically the, the standard- not always but typically the standard is 100% commission.

I: What does that means?

- TL: Well that means that you do not have a guaranteed salary. Nothing per hour. Nothing by the week or month. Not a salary based income. It's a, it's a commission based income only paid to you when you close a sale. When a sale closes you get paid. You don't ever close a sale you don't paid. So.
- I: So it requires a lot of motivation, I would say?
- TL: That's right.
- I: Uh-huh.
- TL: You earn what you produce.
- I: Uh-huh. Wee there people would couldn't produce?
- TL: Oh yeah. Very high turnover rate.
- I: In the, in this occupation?
- TL: Yes. Yes. People get into it and, and for different reasons just aren't successful. And uh, and, and your- most offices, brokers that you work for, sales managers tell people to don't expect any income for a few months. 'Cause it takes a while even if ya' have a sale or a listing that sells the very first day you work it takes 30 to 60 days for a sale to close. So no income until the sale closes.
- I: Would you say that people would, um, that this would still be a primary occupation? That people would not normally engage in other employment at the same time?
- TL: Didn't used to be. There was- it used to be a lot of part-time sales people. That's' changed in the last, oh, 10 to 15 years, 10 years especially. Even more the last five years that there aren't very many part-time people. It's, it's a- the license laws changed. It takes a- they've got a fairly strict license law. It takes a- quite a bit of education to qualify to take the state exam. It's highly regulated by the state. And it takes a fair investment money-wise, time-wise to accomplish that. And didn't used to be, it used to be very easy to get a license. Ya' had to take- you always had to take a state exam. But there was, once you had your license there weren't a lot of license requirements. And it was easy to take- there was no requirements to take the exam. Now there's quite a few- there's several hours of education to take even to qualify to take it. And then the license law is, is a more strict. And so it's just really weeded out the part-timer. It's mostly full timers. There's a few part-time people but generally it's more fulltime. Uh, percentage-wise it's hard to say 89% fulltime prob'ly. ____ [145]
- I: Would you say um, it was uh, more than a 40-hour work week typically?

TL: Well, no. I, you know on the average year in and year out prob'ly not. You know you hear about people working 60 and 80-hour weeks and sometimes you do that. But you know prob'ly on the average it's a 40 to 50-hour week. You know, sometimes you have a little long days; sometimes you might work all weekend. But, uh being self-employed which actually, and under state law you're self-employer and, and people you worked for generally would bring- have some basic guidelines of, of when you needed to be in the office and that sort of thing. But if, you know, if your work was in order and you could afford to do it you could take time off during the week. Just you might work weekend and then you might take a day off during the week or something, you could arrange it. So that you had that luxury of being able to ___ [159] your time that way.

I: So in, in the course of your typical work week or your typical work pattern, let's say then: would you have uh, specific goals set for yourself? Uh, um, in other words I guess I'm trying to say, you know, well, uh, I'm gonna' sell so many houses this month and this year, or?

TL: Yeah. Yeah. You now I, I guess I actually never did myself set down written goals. Sales managers, sales training people say you should do that. You should have list x-number of properties a month to generate x-number of sales. Listings are the, are the key to the business more than sales. Because if you have listings there's a good percentage of them that will sell. If you don't have listings then you don't have sales. Although you, you can sell everything that's listed. So I guess there's one of those grays in that area. But it's ___ [173] or not but that- some offices make people set goals- bigger, bigger sales offices in bigger towns will make people set goals to- some of the listings, some of the sales. Uh, people I worked for didn't do that and I didn't really do that. I knew in my own mind what I had to do to produce the amount of income that I was looking for. So, you know, you had that motivation. Uh, but I didn't have a chart on the wall with checkmarks by it, or anything like. I knew what- you know what had to happen. And I knew that, you know, it's- if you don't spend all your time like a normal workday you just can't- come in and out and spend a couple hours a day and expect to be successful. You need to put in an 8-hour day or a 10-hour day. ___ [187] Be at it all the time and if you do those things then generally you have success. And I always, that's the way I always did it.

I: Now when you uh, I think we've covered a little bit about what the multi-listing was in the previous interview. But, if you sell uh, something that's listed by another office than yours is it a commission share? Do you- how does that work for the real estate person?

TL: Well, it, it, it- if multiple listing service had a uh, a customary- not set in writing but, but there was a customary commission share if; if one office had a listing and the other office sold it. Uh, they would, you know, had an agreed upon split in the total commission. And then – and that commission went to the individual office.

Then each office had a policy, a written policy on, on what that office share of it was. What the sales person share of it was. Depending on the circumstances and, and it varied if it was another office's listing 'cause it- the split, in-office split was different than if it was uh, sold a listing in your office, for example. With the split was different.

I: Is that the way it operates today?

TL: Pretty much. Yeah. Yeah that's pretty much the way it operates.

I: Did it always work out? I guess that would be a question of mine, too?

TL: Seemed to. You ___ [213] would get a higher split on your own- in house- sale listing than you did in other offices. Uh, but you know, they average out. ___ [216] the multiple listing service in most towns anymore or counties, whatever the geographic areas for multiple listing service. Just about every area has a multiple listing service and they'll operate typically the same way.

I: Did you have uh; did you have an area of specialization in real estate, in the real estate market?

TL: Well in a small town, unlike big towns you just about have to be a general practitioner although I did a lot of commercial work. Uh, everybody did residential work. That's kind of your bread and butter, is residential. Commercial is, was always interesting and I did, you know, some of that, maybe more than some did. Uh, in bigger areas, you know people will specialize in all commercial or all residential or, there's enough business there to do that. But, you know, small towns like La Grande uh, ___ [230]

I: Are there um, this is a question of mine- are there, are there, um, real bonuses or features in the real estate market that have happened from time to time or ___ selling, or [233]?

TL: Well you can always have a big sale. You know you could have a, you know, an average house sale today in La Grande- I think the average price of a home in La Grande today is- it's a little over \$100,000. When I started in 1973 prob'ly the average was 12 to 50, 000. I sold lots and lots of homes for 12 to 50,000 dollars n the early 70's. And, you know, then a big sale was two or three hundred thousand dollars. Today a big sale is maybe 700 to a million dollars. You know those aren't real common, but, you know, if you have to be involved in one of those 'course your, the fee splits are, you know, the dollar amounts area lot higher for.

I: Did you, uh, accomplish any of these big sales?

TL: Well I did. I sold a, a, ranch property ___ [248] sale and that was quite a few years ago, It was ranch in Wallowa County, a big ranch. About 50,000 acres. And

it sold for a little over a hundred thousand. Today it'd be, you know, 700,000 today with inflation.

I: Is it competitive in that particular area or aspect of the, the business?

TL: Well it not so much here because, that's, in Wallowa County it is. People in Wallowa County- uh there's a lot of quote, ranch specialists in Wallowa County. Everybody likes to think they're a ranch specialist in Wallowa County, I think, because there's a lot of turnover in big ranches there. Here it's not a big item. There aren't, there's not that much turnover, not many of them to get on the market. And they aren't ranches, they're Ag farms or they're cattle. In Wallowa County, so it's not a big part of the business here in Union County.

I: Let's move on to uh; let's go back to the National Guard for a while. Now we've basically talked about the training, where you took your training, and um, I think I'd like to come back a little bit to the um, to the actual drilling. Now uh, this will be unique for people of course who are in the Guard now, uh, even form the time I came into the Guard because it had moved from this one evening a couple of times a month, did you say? To the weekend thing. So what sort of things would go on when you would drill? Thos were I'm guessing several hours on Monday nights?

TL: Well, my position in the Guard is unique form everyone else. Drilling had a different meaning to me than it prob'ly did to all but three or four people in this unit. I, I was the Company Clerk.

I: Right.

TL: And, and, while everyone was quote drilling, I was in the office. Someone had to man the phone, be in the office all the time and I was the one. And myself, the First Sergeant from time to time and the CO manned the office. And, but I was there all the time. I was a hundred percent of the time. I spent no time on the drill floor. Now in the, the, to go further, you know, my drilling experience actually was, was working the office because that's what I was- that was my job. So that in effect was my drill.

I: That was your military occupation?

TL: That was my MOS. And so my training was working in the office, unlike maybe someone that was in the Infantry out, you know, on the range or, uh, working on the tanks. A lot- I mean the motor pool was in the back, you know, out in the back. And if I remember that and that was, you know their drilling was 'course doing mechanical work. Medics were doing, you know, their part. And, and.

I: I know what. Let's back up a little bit.

TL: I don't know if that answers your question or not.

I: Well, yeah it does answer mine. I'm not sure for the, for the bigger picture how it would be so. What was, uh, was La Grande a Headquarters outfit at the time that you were in?

TL: La Grande was Headquarters Company. Right.

I: And what was the main purpose of the- was it Infantry? Armor?

TL: It was Infantry.

I: It was Infantry?

TL: Right and we had Headquarters Battalion. We had a company, we had a company- headquarters company and then the battalion headquarters was in the same building which was the old armory.

I: And, and were part of a unit or were you part of the battalion?

TL: I was part of the unit. And down the hallway on the other end of the, from where our office was, was our Battalion Headquarters.

I: Right. And naturally this was all in the old armory over by the?

TL: Pool.

I: Pool. Uh-huh. And so what would, what would your company members other than you, for your job say. What was their focus and what would they be doing, for example, on that? And what night a week? What night of the week was it?

TL: Monday night.

I: Monday. Was it one Monday a month? Two?

TL: We drilled; well we drilled generally every Monday night.

I: Okay.

TL: And then one Sunday a month.

I: What would the typical hours be?

TL: Uh, seven to nine on Mondays, evenings. And then all day eight to five or so on Sundays. And, and, you know a typical drill day, you'd come start your day with, with everybody be in formation out on the drill floor. And you'd have some sort

of a little inspection or something. And then everybody would go to their unit in the company. Motor Pool, Medics, Kitchen, or whatever.

I: What was our unit?

TL: Well I was in, in the office.

I: But I mean the unit itself that you were a clerk for?

TL: Headquarters Company.

I: Was the Headquarters Company?

TL: Yeah.

I: Okay. Okay.

TL: And I mean Headquarters Company included the motor pool, the medics, uh, you know, that sort of thing. So everybody would go to their own little area and, and spend the day either training within. You know the medics would train, or the motor pool they were working on equipment, you know? And that was all of course, training. As they were working they were being trained.

I: And this was what the troops would be doing after the- would you go to the initial formation?

TL: No.

I: No. You'd stay in the office and be on the phone. So, uh, so the personnel specialist then, that included- what things did you do for your soldiers?

TL: Well we did what's called a Morning Report which is the daily report of the condition of the company in the mornings at roll and status of the company. What people were doing, uh.

I: Would that be like how many people were present, who was ill, who was?

TL: Right. Right. We did one of those every day. Uh, you know the rest of the day. I mean my day would be did a lot of typing, you know, typing reports. We were kind of a secretary really. For the CO or the First Sergeant. Getting the paperwork done. You were the one that did it. Discharge papers, or if there was a new recruit there was paperwork to do, you know.

I: For their enlistment?

- TL: For their enlistment, you know, and that sort of thing. And you were basically a secretary.
- I: Did people when they enlisted into your unit did they enlist directly into these units at that time?
- TL: Yeah.
- I: Uh, did they- they didn't work necessarily for recruiters like recruiting offices work today?
- TL: You know I don't recall that because when I enlisted I just went down here to Headquarters Company and told 'em I wanted to join and, and uh, they did it all right there. You're- you know you're enlisting in the Oregon National Guard. And they're a function of that, so your- you enlisted locally but your enlisting in the Oregon National Guard. But each, I think each company around the state had the ability to enlist people and that's prob'ly the way it went when you enlisted here. And your time, you know, started here and your time was spent here other than your active duty time.
- I: Now did you have to go to an entrance processing station? An AFEES station on your way?
- TL: I did not.
- I: You did not. And so after you enlisted, so I assume you would take the Oath of Office right there here in the armory with an officer. And then how long was it between the time you took that oath and you went to basic training?
- TL: Well my time- let's see- I'm trying to remember if there was a required- I- when I enlisted in the program I was a senior in high school. And I don't remember if there was a, a minimum, maximum time you had to be- that you were in the Guards before you went on active duty. I'm sure there was, but in my case I was still in high school. I joined the spring of my senior year and then in August of that year I went on active duty the end of August. Uh, which was four or five months after I joined. And at that time you spent a full six months unlike now, I think now- the time varies depending on our MOS, where you go to basic training, you go to your, uh, Advanced Infantry Training which is training at your whatever your MOS is. Then I think you're- I believe you're released from active duty. My active duty time was a set six months, of is what you often, is what you agreed to is six months of active duty initial training.
- I: And that covered both of these trainings?
- TL: Well it covered; yes it actually covered three things: it covered basic training, it covered AIT which was Advanced Infantry training, and then whatever time you

- had left after Advanced Infantry training until the end of your six months. You actually went out and worked in your MOS at a job. The job I was on, I was at Ft. Ord and I worked after my- I had two months of basic training, two months of AIT, then I had about two months of just actual on the job time. And I spent it in a, I believe it was a battalion headquarters working as a uh, Personnel Administration Specialist.
- I: So did that give you the skills you needed when you came back to work in La Grande?
- TL: Pretty much. Yeah it was, it was good training. The AIT school was very good, good instructors and uh, it was good training.
- I: Now did it stay, uh, did it stay on the Monday night program the whole while that you were in?
- TL: Well it did up to the last year. The last year it, it they went to weekends. And that- and I guess maybe since I look at it fortunately or unfortunately- my, I was one of the last few that enlisted under an old program that said you had to have three months of active Guard time after you complete your six months of active duty time. You had an eight year total obligation but only three years of active time after your six months. So I stayed about three and a half years probably of active time after my six months. And then being in the position I was in I typed my own discharge papers and laid 'em on the CO's desk and told him that we were gonna' part company. And he said, "I'm sorry to see you go. Hate to see you leave but I can't do anything about it, so." The I spent the remainder on Standby which was your name is on a roster.
- I: Was the unit ever on alert for uh, active duty for uh, Viet Nam?
- TL: No I was there before Viet Name. Viet Nam was a place that no one had heard of. In fact when I was in basic training they showed us a film one time. And this was in '63. From a little unheard of country in Southeast Asia called Viet Nam. And they said, we have some, we're having a little trouble over there but it isn't much but we do have some advisors here. And here's what they're doing and they showed us about an hour's training film on Viet Nam and people kinda' wondered, uh. That's' interesting but they didn't think much about it and we went on about our day and promptly forgot about it.
- I: So uh, there was no draft in your era?
- TL: There was.
- I: There was?
- TL: Oh yeah. ____ [465]

I: Were you draftable?

TL: Uh, after I got out of high school I was. Well, I was gonna' go to college. And so you could get a deferment going to college. But I was, I was registered for the draft like everyone had registered. And the draft was active. And, and um, I would have been deferred 'til I got out of college. But then _____. [475]

I: What was the attitude between enlisted and the officer personnel at the time?

TL: It was _____. Well in a good relationship. Most of 'em were your, were your, a lot of 'em were personal friends outside of the armory. They were people you run around with you know?

I: Right so how did that affect your, your, as a the um, when you put on a uniform?

TL: Actually it, it, it worked well. Most everybody in the Guard was, was there because of their own choice. They wanted to do it. Like myself. And so you know you have good relationships with people that are, you know, I never personally had a problem with anyone. There as, you know, time to time there would be, you know some conflicts. I mean an officer was an officer and they were in charge and they had to keep the enlisted people, you know, in line which not very many people got out of line but it- you know there would be occasions where that happened. But I personally saw that you know, anybody that had a friendship outside of the Guards, you know. It like away from the armory had difficulties with them.

I: Say these friendships with people, uh would people uh, interact whether they were enlisted or officers there having friendships outside of, or relationships outside ____? [511]

TL: Outside the Guards?

I: Outside of the Guard.

TL: Yes. I think so. Yeah I've had, uh, you know, several friends that I- people that I knew that were officers when I went in and.

End of Side A

Side B

I: Okay you were talking about- you said that you had uh, friendships established already with a few officers before you went in.

TL: Right. The, the CO, uh, commanding officer was a personal friend. Uh, his wife and my wife were in college together and they studied together. And she, she spent time at their home studying. He was a little bit older. They were better- we weren't- he and I weren't as close a friends as his wife and my wife were. But when I uh, when I went to Pendleton to get on the plane for active duty he, he and his wife drove me to Pendleton to catch the plane. And we, you know e remained good friends all the time that he was here. He eventually left La Grande and went for a unit here and stayed with the Guards but, um he was my, he was my boss. My primary boss here being the company clerk he was the company commander and I worked directly under him. And we had a good relationship.

I: Did um, would you say that the uh, how about the dress uh, the military appearance. Was it the same in the Guard as it was on active duty? Was it looser? Was it?

TL: No it was. We- you know, the company maintained a, a fairly strict uh, dress- I mean you had to be dressed appropriately for whatever the dress of the day it was. And everybody pretty well adhered to it. I think people took pride in how they looked. I know I did. And you took good care of your uniforms and uh, when you'd go to drill you were in full uniform and normally it was fatigues. Once in a while they'd have dress-up thing you'd where your greens for. Your dress uniform. And it was fairly simple at that.

I: That's my question. Have any uh, any military parades or special events or things that you participated in?

TL: Uh we were in a few parades. I guess I was only in maybe two or three but uh, you know, there'd be the typical- you know like Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. Local things. I never did do anything out of town but I was in a few parades downtown.

I: Did you ever have any um, uh, military uh, ceremonies where say like the Adjutant General showed up or some visiting dignitary that had you had to prepare for in this area?

TL: Um, we did. I wasn't directly involved in, you know, in those type of things because of, here again my time was in the office. And when those things happened everybody was out there but the company clerk. But there would be times that we were visited by eh uh, commanding general for the Oregon Guard. He, he would make visitations 'cause we were the battalion headquarters. Uh, and that you know prob'ly- I don't remember for sure but at least once a year. Uh, the, the commander- I mean the supreme commander was the Governor of the State of Oregon. But, um the general of the Guard would visit us. He at that time was a local resident and a personal friend of mine.

I: Who was it at that time?

TL: David Baum.

I: Oh.

TL: He was the General and, and the, and the battalion commander also lived in La Grande and he was a personal friend of mine. Was uh, Bill Carey.

I: Is that right?

TL: He was my attorney at the time. He was our family attorney.

I: Uh, he became an Adjutant General didn't he?

TL: Yes. Yes. David- I think he was the Commander of the Oregon Guard for a while. But. Yeah both of those men lived in La Grande during the time that they were in those positions.

I: I didn't know that. I didn't know that. We had big brass come from La Grande as well.

TL: We did. Yeah. Big as it could get in Oregon.

I: Huh. Were you personal friends with both of them?

TL: I was. Yeah. Good friends both of them. Yeah. Bill Carey was a member of our church and, and he's passed away two or three years ago. His wife was still a very good friend of mine. She's still here in La Grande along with, with David Baum's wife. It's interesting, my, my daughter is- David's grand-daughter was my daughter's maid of honor in her wedding last year. They've been close friends all through school. And the fellow that did my root canal was his son in-law. (chuckles) It's a small world.

I: The connections are um, intertwined. Let's go back to the dance band. Um, tell me more about, about rehearsing for the, the dance band. How did you put your act together? Did you uh, were you in rehearsal? How did that work?

TL: Well the first one when we were really young the Bluenotes. Uh, the father of our drummer- his name was Clark Wheeler. He was very good musician. Had his own dance band that he played in- or group. And uh, played the tenor saxophone, also sang. Uh, very talented man. His son was our drummer and, and Clark was the one that actually kind of would help us practice and he gave us music. Uh, he had lots of, uh, orchestrations. Uh, which was a- had all the parts, you know. And so Clark would lay these out for us and kind of help us do 'em. And direct us and

give us guidance and work with us. He practiced lots and lots with us and we gained a lot of good experience with Clark.

I: Did you have regular times?

TL: You know we did and I don't recall when but we, we practiced prob'ly once a week. We'd get together and it was uh, we had five pieces, I guess. Later when I played with The Tone Dusters, they were already up and running. And they were all good musicians and uh they did their own, they were their own guidance. You know as far they had- when I went o work for them they had their own repertoire of songs. What I needed to do was just learn 'em. They had the way that they liked to play 'em and everything worked except bringin' the new guy which was me onboard and getting' me up to speed with them. We practiced- and we practiced prob'ly here again maybe once a week. Uh, so for mainly for my benefit. And once uh, you know, I got up to speed then we played quite a bit and prob'ly our practice times really varied then. We might only practice maybe once a month then because we were playin', you know, a lot of time through the, through the season. We were playing every weekend. Sometimes two nights a week, one night a week and, and we practiced mainly to learn the material. And that kind of a _____. [095]

I: So you worked more than you practiced after you got, after you got down the basic repertoire of music that ____? [097]

TL: Yeah the season would be from October, November through well you, you know, in, in those days there was lots of winter formals. College, high schools around. That was always big time and those would be in November, December. And you'd have a little lull in January and then the- and then you get kinda' back into the season with uh, proms and spring formals and that sort of thing. 'Cause the schools all- kids all did that sort of thing. They'd usually have three or four formals a year. Three anyway and all the schools did. And so, you know we were playing for lots of them and that was kind of- you know, was kind of our specialty was that type of music.

I: It sounds like, like you made good money at it? For the time.

TL: Well we did at the time. Yeah. It was a good part-time job. I think like I'd mentioned before, you know, you could work one or two nights a week of, you know, of prom you know you only played for three hours. Uh, once in a while you'd have a four hour uh, dance to play for. But sure it was very typical 9 to 11 or 8 to 11 was, you know. And you could make as much, you know, that night or for sure two nights as someone would working part-time in a job all week long after schools. Takin' time away from lots of other things, studies and whatever. And you know we were out having fun in the evening which didn't take away from anything.

- I: I take it you didn't bring books along?
- TL: Oh we did every time we went we took books. Really, really booked it between songs, you know, get the book out. (laughs) No, it was a lot of fun. I mean it was a good time, I mean; it was a job, I mean you played because they like to play. You know it's not a job. It's, it's a fun thing to do.
- I: Tell me about your crowd behavior. What kind of behavior of the crowds um, at the time you were playing?
- TL: Oh the school crowds were always good, you know. And we never, really we never had any bad crowd behavior. Uh, the schools were always, you know, very good. Public dances we, we played, some public dances uh, we played up at uh, we played up in Joseph at quite a few public dances in what was called Hell's Canyon. It was a big Quonset hut building that was kind of in the middle of town where they had dances, lots of public there. And there was on Saturday we'd play from eight 'til twelve or one, and that was, you know, a little longer night to play. And 'course it was open to the public- anybody could come and, and there'd always be, you know, there's always people there that had been drinking. I mean that was pretty standard, you know, and once in a while- I, I really don't remember inside if ever- they had anything very rowdy inside. I mean outside- especially in Joseph things could get a little out of hand from time to time. Uh, but nothing that really, you know, directly affected us. I, we played, oh we played in a few night clubs, uh, ever'body was really, you know, we never really had any difficult, any bad experience. ____ [145] And you know things could get rowdy sometimes but we never experienced it, I guess.
- I: Let's go back to school days for a few minutes for our- wrapping up our hour I promised you here. Um, let's talk about junior or senior high. Um, what kind of, what kind of routines or rituals did you go through at the time, uh, on a daily basis being at school? Uh, you know we're- what am I tryin' to say?
- TL: I mean rituals, your class schedules.
- I: Class procedures things like that. Were there routines or things you went through?
- TL: Well, well, you know, I'm not sure what you're after. In junior high everybody had a home room. And you went- I don't know if they still, if that's still common I don't know. But your first, your first class of the day was your homeroom. So you would, you know, that started your day. If there was any school business or, they took a lunch count or anything, any news about the school or anything that was kind of general, not specific to your classes that took place in your homeroom. And then, I think in junior high we had seven, six or seven classes during the day. And four in the morning and three in the afternoon I think is the way it went. I think school started at eight or eight-thirty. Lunch was 45 minutes, or 40 or 45 minutes. Uh.

I: Uh, did you do flag salutes at that, at that time?

TL: You know I believe we did. I think I- you know I'm not real, I'm not real certain on that but I think in the homeroom we did. I know it was very acceptable at the time. And uh, "One Nation Under God" was very acceptable at the time. No one had a problem with it. And that included myself. And uh, those things just weren't an issue. Um, you know there's a lot of activities in junior high. I was a member of the ski club. We, you know we still skied a lot, you know, and there was- I was in track, uh, in ninth grade. Ran is what I did. Uh, they used to- the school used to have ski busses. We went up to the old Spout Springs ski area. Anthony Lakes then was just a rope tow up the side of the hill. There was no developed ski area where we _____. [192] Spout Springs which was up at Tollgate between Elgin and Milton-Freewater- that was the place to go. That was the biggest ski area and, and everybody went there. It was a fun time. Walla Walla, Milton-Freewater, Pendleton. It was _____ [196] but the school took busses. They'd have two or three busses up there on week- on Saturdays. And they had a ski club that was, you know, you were active, it revolved around skiing and you had a little meeting once a month or something, you know. And whatever, and the focus was, you know, busses and skiing.

I: How about um, how about things like hall activities? Uh, moving about between classes? Uh, did ya' have to have a hall pass to get out of your class during the period? Um, uh.

TL: Not. No. Not really. Uh, I recall in junior high, you know, if you needed to go do something, uh, it seemed like you had to get- you had to check in- you, you could check in with- I think the procedure was to go to the office. Tell 'em, you know, if you had a doctor's appointment or something during the day. Or needed to go out for a family reason or something you'd go to the main office and then they'd give you some sort of a, you'd go in with some sort of a written request from your parents or doctor. And then they'd give ya' something in writing to give to your teacher that you're gonna' be missing your class, class or classes.

I: Did you use passes in high school?

TL: No. No. That _____. [217]

I: Well _____ junior or senior high _____? Anything you participated in or you recall?

TL: Well, at the time everybody in that era was really dressed nice. The thing was, and I used to wear a, a- when I was in ninth grade and high school I'd wear nice slacks. A lot of times a white shirt and a sweater. That was real common.

I: Was that actually expected?

TL: It wasn't, it wasn't, uh, no, back in the school it wasn't. That was just a fad at the time. When I was in junior high, uh, all the cool guys wore Levi jeans down around their hips. And a white t-shirt and white _____. [231]

I: You mean these low-riding pants like you see on, on some of the kids today? Or?

TL: Well, they, they weren't tailored to be low-riding, they just made 'em low-riding. Just pull 'em down far enough that they made 'em low-riding and 'course the seat was baggy and. (chuckles)

I: And that was in junior high?

TL: That was in- yeah that was in the early 60's and the blue jeans- either saddle shoes or the old, the tan and brown saddle shoes. Or white bucks. Uh, a lot of the guys wore, you know, white t-shirts. Uh, Levis. It was, it was kind of Happy Days crowd.

I: Were there hair styles?

TL: There was. There was uh, that was a time just kinda' right in that few years that uh, kind of the greasy buck-tail hair, or buck-tail hairdos were in style. Sit back there and you were really cool if you had duck tails.

I: Did you do that?

TL: I made an attempt at it. My hair never really worked very well for that.

I: Didn't cooperate?

TL: Didn't quite cooperate. Then it went from there to a flat top.

I: That was a fad?

TL: That and that was a fad. Flat tops were really a fad. That was a kind of, we went into high school in the 60's and that was _____. The dress kind of went up, kinda' from jeans to, when jeans they weren't holey jeans like they are today. They were nice Levi's, you know? Not very faded. They got to be too faded then you replaced 'em.

I: Were there dress codes then? Could you be sent home for ____? [260]

TL: I don't, I don't, I don't recall it being a written code as such. Um, the accepted dress for girls was a dress, not pants. Or not jeans. But I don't and I don't know that that was a policy. An administration policy, but that was a peer policy that girls rarely wore pants to school or jeans. Jeans were, I mean if you wore jeans to

school you were there to do some work and _____. [269] Everybody wore dresses or skirts.

I: It meant a work day? Or some sort?

TL: If you wore jeans, If you wore jeans. Yeah. Yeah but your normal classroom day girls wore dresses, skirts, and just rarely wore pants. But I don't know that pants _____ uh, school policy. [274] Uh, some guys, you know, were pretty presentable and your clothes were, were- nice clothes as far as being nice as far as being well kept. Not holes in the jeans. You didn't buy clothes that already had holes in those days. So people had completely different dress in those days. Just almost the exact opposite. And then when I was high school, like I say everybody really dressed nice. I wore- would rarely wear jeans in high school. There was khaki pants or something else. I mean you wore them sometimes to clean up, but you know, when the weather got a bit cooler you could just I mean a sweater was real popular then. Nice shirt and sweater and jeans and uh, or slacks of some kind, you know. Khaki type slacks or- the dress then was much nicer than it is today. Uh, is for lack of a better word not near as casual.

I: What do you know about a person- not saying that you know anything personally about this but what do you know about delinquency? At the time?

TL: I think then, I think it wasn't- delinquency wasn't real- wasn't very high. I think the attendance then was better than it was up 'til recent times maybe. We did not have an attendance officer like you do today to keep kids in school. Uh, most- I mean there was always a drop-out then as there is now. But I think, personally today I think it's pretty small. I'd really like to see the, the really the statistics in that era because it wasn't very high. Most everybody stayed and, and- 'course we didn't have the, the pressures. I don't think we had the social pressures then that there are today. Mainly drug problems. I think that would be the number one thing to distract kids, give them a aversion to goin' to school. Uh you know there was always a certain amount of alcohol and ids smoked then. But those things didn't keep ya' out of school. Uh, you got out of school either- you know there was always kids that just won't go to school. I mean they, they think there's a better way to do it than go to school to school then as there is now.

I: 'Course now I take it you went to school in your high school years? You weren't downtown like you were in first grade? _____. [321] What would happen if you- if you were absent unexcused? What uh, does that have to be explained?

TL: It did and you could be expelled. I mean they, you know, there was, then like now you would be expelled for two or three days they could send ya' home for a day or two or three days. Or just kick ya' out of school. I mean there was- then there was, you know, isolated cases that that happened. And it was bad enough for, you know, the kids that go.

- I: What do you know about, uh, about any possible I suppose sexual activities among students at that time? What was the feeling? What was the?
- TL: Well in those days- I don't now that I would say that morals- oh I would say that morals were better. And I guess that- that's kind of a little bit of a matter of definition, too. But, but for a girl to be pregnant and go to high school was absolutely taboo. That was, that just will not happen. And, and I- 'course, it, it's a matter of record that, that, that teen pregnancies were much less then than they are now. Uh and kids would, you know, there was always a- go out and park and neck and you know? That sort of thing, but, you know, that, you know went on then just like today but, uh, you know, but I, uh. It seems like, you know the issues of, of, of girls being pregnant. There weren't as many. Uh just didn't happen. And, and the, you know, I think the sexual mores then were much tighter than they are now. Or better. You know things weren't near as then than they are now. And then that all reflects on, you know, that has a reflection on your values. Your behavior, things that are acceptable now but it's just a matter of everybody looks and shrugs their shoulders. _____. [363]
- I: Could students be married in high school?
- TL: You could be and there was a couple cases of that. Yeah. And, and they would- the ones I remember. One of the spouses, generally the man was already out of high school. And they just married _____. [370] But you know, she's in school and it's accepted that _____. [374]
- I: Um, how about principals and counselors. Uh, more involved with students? Uh?
- TL: Our principals here in the high school were always really involved. We had principals that were really respected and liked and they, you know, they would involve themselves, you know, in activities. You know, they'd go speak to you. I always had a good relationship with, you know, the administrator. Not so much the superintendent which was _____. [384] Principal, Vice-Principal, uh, there was a counselor a men's- a boy's counselor and a girl's counselor. And, you know, being counselors they were people-type, you know, people-oriented people. And they would be involved with kids. Each of the counselors. But I can remember I always had a good relationship.
- I: Were you counselors in school, were they fulltime at that?
- TL: They were fulltime.
- I: Other than teaching they counseled?
- TL: Yeah they had a fulltime counselor, men's boy's and- I don't recall if they taught it, it was- they spend more time counseling than they were teaching. Uh, yeah.

I: Any of them stand out that you worked with?

TL: Oh really we only had, you know, we only had one. And there was at.

I: They basically covered the student body?

TL: They did. They had one.

I: A boys and a girls?

TL: Right. Right.

I: Any um , major uh, what were the popular foods of your day?

TL: Not a lot different than they have today, just a limited diet I think because there's so much stuff now. But we- you know hamburgers were always a big thing. Hamburgers and fries. We used to go downtown at noon, there was- you know, the guys that had cars. We'd, you know, or one of my friends would take their- we'd have a carload at noon, we'd prob'ly two or three days a week we'd go down to the, the old Artic Circle which was down- actually it's across the side street from Safeway. There was an Artic Circle. That building's still there, but it's, you know, it's- it was built for an Artic Circle. And we used to refer t it as the- as either the One-Nine Club or the Six-Four Club. The One-Nine Club you could get a hamburger for 19 cents. Or the Six-Four Club was you could get two hamburgers, fries, and coke for 64 cents.

I: What a deal!

TL: Yeah. So we- and then there was another little drive-in called Bobbi's Drive-In. And it's where Ranch & Home Realty is now at the beginning of the truck route on Jefferson whre Jefferson cuts into Lynch Motors. Just across form Lynch Motors and straight down Jefferson a block whre it makes a bend to the left. That building on the right was Ranch & Home Realty. Well that was built for a lady by the name of Bobbi, don't remember her last name. But it was Bobbi's Drive-In. And she had a drive-up window and then a little, just a little counter. You could go inside and they had bar stools, just maybe six bar stools at the old style counter. And a couple tables if you wanted to go inside. But everybody used the drive-through. You'd get five hamburgers for a dollar there.

I: Was that- was that tough to come up with a dollar?

TL: Oh not really. 'Cause school lunches were about 50 cents to a dollar. So you know if you got money from your parents or whatever, I mean, if you were not gonna' go home for lunch. I went home about half the time. You now, I; d go home for lunch or _____. [457] Usually the Artic Circle or Bobbi's Drive-In and you know for a buck you could get more than you could eat. You could get five

- hamburgers for a dollar. So for usually we'd, you know, there's be five or six of us in a car and we could all eat lunch for two dollars with a drink.
- I: Those places sound like what we called hangouts when I was in school? Were there other hangout places that are not here today that were real popular then?
- TL: Oh really actually the, the hangout place was, was Nell In and Out. And that's, you know, they're.
- I: And that's always been here now hasn't it?
- TL: It's been there since 1955.
- I: Yeah. Yeah.
- TL: The others really weren't hangouts. I mean they were just places to eat. There was really no place to eat to be there. You just get your food and leave. Head down the street or drag the gut. You know, but Nell's was kind of a hangout, you could pull in there and park.
- I: Now it's been there in that same location all along hasn't it?
- TL: Same location. They had a fire a number of years ago that, that burned up the building. And they rebuilt the building right in the same footprint. And, uh, modernized it. And everything just, is the way it was then. They put up- they've got a canopy there on the side of it that's ____ [486] And if you pull right up in front there facing Adams. Pull right along the ____ [490] and so you could watch the street and see who was drivin' back and forth. Dragging the gut, you know, up and down the street.
- I: Well let me just bring, uh, you know, I'm glad we got to that because that is something that a lot of people don't have any clue about anymore. Because they don't do that is- so Adams was a- was that a main drag? What was that like?
- TL: Well, the, the.
- I: Where'd it go to?
- TL: Well Adams, the old Safeway, now it's the new ODS building. And you drive around that block one way or the other. Generally depend which way you were goin' but you'd rive around that block, all the way on that block. And that gets you back around on Adams. Go on Adams towards Baker and the other end of it was down where Schwab is. Either you turn around.

End of Side B
End of SESSION #2
Transcription completed