

Frances Tubbs

8/16/04, T1, S1

AC: ...August 16, 2004. I'm talking to Frances Tubbs at her home at 504 M Street. Frances, if you would just state your full name for us.

FT: Frances Marie Smith Tubbs.

AC: Alright. And when were you born?

FT: September the 17<sup>th</sup>, 1908.

AC: And where were you born?

FT: In \_\_\_ and \_\_\_...between Redger and Tillocasa in Missoura. It was a farm my grandmother had. Only my father met my mother in La Grande and he was a railroader and she...they had a house right across from the railroad down here.

AC: What street might that be? Do you remember?

FT: It was just kind of a set-off...[knocking at the door]

AC: Okay. We're talking about when you were born and where you were born.

FT: My father met my mother he had five boys and when my grandmother had this house and let the railroadmen come inbetween times when they were working to sleep.

AC: So was your mom born in La Grande or your father?

FT: No. Neither one. They both lived here. She met him at her mother's when he had typhoid and my mother took care... My mother's name was Clara Amelia Scoll – s-c-o-double-l – and she lived there with her mother and she took care of him. So when he got well he said he had to marry her because he couldn't pay the bill. So they got married on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 1906.

AC: Now if he had typhoid how did he get typhoid?

FT: I don't... He worked for the railroad, I don't know.

AC: Was there a typhoid epidemic that swept through La Grande at that time, do you know?

FT: No. Not that I know of. It was just one of those things that he got and she took care of him.

AC: So what did he do on the railroad?

FT: When they got married it was December the 6<sup>th</sup> and his father died in Missoura and he went back and took my mother to Missoura to be with his mother. She had a little farm and he had a lot of family in the two, Tillacasa, Missoura and Redger, Missoura, quite a big family. When I was six months old he decided he couldn't take this anymore, he had to come back to railroad in La Grande.

AC: So he... They actually moved to Missouri where you were born and then moved back to La Grande?

FT: Yes.

AC: And you were how old?

FT: Pardon?

AC: How old were you when you moved back here?

FT: Six months. In November my grandmother passed away and she was November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1908.

AC: Now where did your family live when they first moved back to La Grande?

FT: The place I can remember was 1414 Monroe Street. We lived there... And then my little sister was born and she was... I was three years old and she was just one year old...no, two...no, wait a minute... I was three and she was two and we moved next door to 1412. The thing I can remember then is Dad coming home from fishing and he had this huge big salmon or fish then out of the Grande Ronde that was swimming around in the back...a big tub, wash tub. I remember that, seeing that. I just couldn't picture...and I'd go over and put my hand in the water, you know. Then my second sister... My first sister's name was Amy Cora and my middle sister was Freda Elaine. I think that's right. Yes. She was born in July, Amy was born in August, and I was born in September.

AC: Was it just the three of you girls?

FT: Yes, just three of us. My dad always wanted a boy, but he didn't get it. I was the boy. I helped him with his dogs. He raised dogs, hunting dogs. He loved to hunt.

AC: What kind of dogs?

FT: Newellens and Springer...not Springer... Newellens and...hunting dogs.

AC: What did he hunt for?

FT: Anything. Pheasant...

AC: Did he hunt deer and elk?

FT: Oh yes.

AC: So at that time was there a lot of elk and deer around? Was it easy to get?

FT: Yes. You could go... And we lived on the – in the wintertime – on the wild game 'cause she loved...my mother was a wonderful cook. We always had some kind of wild game, duck, goose, deer, then fishing. He'd get his fish from around here.

AC: So he could get salmon right out of the Grande Ronde River?

FT: Maybe it was a big...

AC: Like a trout or something like that?

FT: I think, if I remember right, we didn't have... I don't think we've ever had salmon in the Grande Ronde. Trout.

AC: So how would your mom...mother prepare the meals? Was it a big feast that you'd usually have, or what kind of meals? You said she was a good cook. What kinds of things would she cook?

FT: Oh, his one thing that he loved was cornmeal baked with white... His father was a miller on weekdays and on Sundays he was a preacher. They always had white cornmeal for their bread. He'd have his cornmeal dinner and he would have cornbread and milk and sugar for his...where we would have cookies or something. That was his dessert. He was a big man. He was 6'2 1/2" with a broad... And I have his eyes.

AC: So what was his name?

FT: John Bowen, b-o-w-e-n. The railroaders around here all know about him.

AC: So tell me some things about him that you remember in terms of the railroad.

FT: You didn't have... You didn't have any movies or that sort of thing, nothing like that, but rodeos and those you had. But he was more for his outdoor... We'd go weekends during the summertime when it was nice that he would be one day a week maybe on the road because... And we'd go and stay in the mountains for a week at a time and we play in the... And we usually went Catherine Creek.

AC: Did you take a tent and things like that?

FT: No. We'd sleep on a pine bough and Mother always had enough things to cover you and everything that you were protected. He had an old...I can't think of the...mutt...was it a Mitchell? The old car that we had, you know, and it had side curtains...a side curtain. When it would be raining or something we'd have to have those side curtains up. Every once in a while...and then when it was cold. I remember us kids used to have something we'd blow and make it sound like something had happened to the car so we had to stop and look at the wheel. [laughs] Our early lives were close with home. We had all of the... We had Christmas, we always had Christmas and New Years and birthdays, Fourth of July. And my father could sing. Lots of times when he'd come in off the road we'd sit in the backyard and he'd sing to us all of the...The Old Grey Mare, she ain't what she used to be. [laughs] There was Nelly Bray and there was another one that we loved and I probably will think about it later on. He always had a garden, always had his own garden, grew his own cabbage and always made his own sauerkraut. The neighborhood would love to come or he would send them sauerkraut. And it was good.

AC: And was this on Monroe that...Monroe Street that he had this big garden?

FT: I don't think he had very much of a garden there because he was working pretty steady. I had...we called him Uncle Jim, but he had a bakery on Fir Street and it was... There was a big horse...no...now you see, I get so upset.

AC: So you had an Uncle Jim and he had a bakery on Fir Street?

FT: On Fir. And a saloon.

AC: And a saloon and a baker together?

FT: No, next door.

AC: Next door to each other?

FT: Yeah. But he had a saloon. His name was Jim Faulkerson. He was Scotch. He had a family and I was named for his daughter, his daughter was Frances.

AC: What kind of things did he make at his bakery? Breads and desserts?

FT: Bread. I had a wooden big box that they shipped the bread in around. You didn't have...if you had...you didn't have donuts and things like that – those you took from your cookbook – but your bread and stuff like that. She has that wooden deal.

AC: So every day or every week would you go get bread at the bakery and bring it home?

FT: We didn't. We just got our bread, but he would ship it around to, you know, the farms and different places or anybody that wanted it, or the stores.

AC: Did they mill the flour in La Grande?

FT: Yes.

AC: They did. At the flourmill?

FT: There was a flourmill in Union...not Union, Island City. They recently took that out, but it's been there for as long as I can remember.

AC: So when you went to get bread what kinds of bread would he make?

FT: What I can remember was just white, but probably other kinds because I had a recipe book that had different kinds of bread that was my grandmother's. So he

probably...but it seemed to me there was just...the big boxes that the bread was in was white.

AC: What about shopping at that time when you were a young girl? What kinds of... Where did you go to get your vegetables and your meat?

FT: Mostly you grew your own here.

AC: Was there a grocery store?

FT: Grocery stores, yes. We had the grocery store on the corner of Fir Street and Monroe, Fir Street and Monroe. It was down the street...just across the street from where we lived.

AC: Do you remember the name of that grocery store?

FT: It was Harris.

AC: Harris Grocery Store?

FT: I know we traded there all the time and he would give us kids candy. We'd go in and he'd give us a piece of candy.

AC: Like stick candy or gumdrops?

FT: Gumdrops, you know.

AC: Did you buy things or did you trade for things?

FT: No, we bought. Because my dad would be paid, you know, and... Harris Grocery, yeah. And one time... You know, we had sidewalks then, board sidewalks, and your streets were dirt. If you remember...and that was in the old days.

AC: So you'd walk on the boardwalks then?

FT: One day I was with Mother, we were buying stuff, and she got... Generally you didn't have eggs in the deal, you just had 'em in a sack. I was walkin' down the street with her and goin' like this and I busted all the eggs on the post that was...you know.

AC: Uh-oh. You were in trouble then? [laughs]

FT: I'll never forget that.

AC: So what would your mother make for Christmas dinner? What kind of meal would you have?

FT: We always had turkey for Thanksgiving and sometimes we'd have ham for Christmas or...ham, yeah. Of course we had wild meat, you know, it was a lot easier and a lot better and Mother could clean it and do everything with it. We always had the different kinds of meat.

AC: What about your father's job? Can you tell me a little bit about what...?

FT: He started out as a fireman.

AC: Fireman?

FT: He had a great big shovel and he put in the front of the...front of the engine was open and he'd fill that with coal, big chunks of coal, big mallies they called 'em. And he loved those. He despised the things they have now. They weren't anything in comparison to his big mallies. Of course they a little bit different type of smaller first, but he was a fireman and then he went up to engineer.

AC: So what was his job as a fireman? What did he do?

FT: Shoveling the coal.

AC: For the engine on the train?

FT: Yes. It ran on coal.

AC: So that took a lot of strength. He'd be a strong man.  
FT: He was.  
AC: He was a young man when he got that job?  
FT: Yes. He was in his twenties. He came out from Missoura to work on the railroad. Of course his brothers in Missoura were railroaders, too, but it was a different kind of...to what he was doing in the West.  
AC: What was the difference?  
FT: Dad was on the big engine, but they were on the sidetracks and doing things like that and probably did some of the...but they were all railroaders, too, other than what they did with farms.  
AC: Would you ever get to ride on the railroad system? Did you ever get the chance?  
FT: Never got to get inside. But I went on lots of trips. We lived in... When we lived over on Monroe my mother had a friend that lived on X Avenue. So there was a house on 1809 X and we lived...she let Mom know that the house was open. So we went over and moved into 1809 X and that's when I started first grade. But we lived... We lived in Pleasant Valley when I was...I turned six just before we left. She wouldn't let me go to school because I had to ride horseback with the boys. So she schooled me at home. I can remember it would be cold on the floor and she put us up on the big table and we'd do schoolwork, I'd be sitting on the table with it.  
AC: So your father started as a fireman, then what was his job after that?  
FT: Engineer.  
AC: And what do you remember about his job as an engineer?  
FT: He was on the big engines and went according to orders. See, the firemen just did what they were supposed to do, but he got the orders.  
AC: Where did the orders come from?  
FT: Portland and up and down the line.  
AC: Do you remember what he wore when he went to work as an engineer?  
FT: Pardon?  
AC: Do you remember what he wore when he went to work as an engineer?  
FT: Overalls.  
AC: Overalls?  
FT: Overalls. Over the shoulder.  
AC: Did he have a hat?  
FT: Cap.  
AC: Was it the stripped engineer's cap?  
FT: Yeah. That's what he wore. And he always had a cigar. They called him Jumbo.  
AC: Jumbo?  
FT: Some of his pals. 'Cause he wasn't really fat, he was just husky, big shoulders and long arms.  
AC: So he got his orders from Portland and then what would he do?  
FT: He would run according to what they told him to.  
AC: What were his hours? Did he have to get up early in the morning?  
FT: Oh, I tell ya! Anytime of the day or night that he got called out for a trip.  
AC: Is that why you lived so close to the railroad tracks is that you wanted...?  
FT: So close to where? The railroad?

AC: Yes.

FT: Yes. Then. We didn't have to be, but there was a lot of railroad people on that side of town. That was Railroad Town over there.

AC: How would they get a hold of him to tell him to come in?

FT: Telephone.

AC: Telephone.

FT: It wasn't like we have now, but it was just telephone... And my mother worked for *The Observer*, but that wasn't what it was called then. I can't... I'm trying to think. She set type for the \_\_\_\_ when they had *The Observer* here. She was doing that when they got married.

AC: How did she know how to do that?

FT: Just went and learned.

AC: Just got the job.

FT: Yeah, the job and put her on. She was very good at it. She used to take care of the Curry kids sometimes. That was when the old Curry building... That just broke my heart when they took that Curry building down. Of all...

AC: Is that where the old *Observer* was that they took down recently? The old *Observer* building? That was the Curry building?

FT: Yeah. The Curry building. It was in there, you know, as long as I could remember. In the early days, why, she... And I have pictures of showing her on the front with the rest of the group. I was very proud of that picture.

AC: So would you go over there after school? Was she doing it when you were in school?

FT: No. Because she wasn't working there when I was in school in La Grande. We lived on 1809 X and I went to Greenwood School. And then we...

AC: How many teachers taught at Greenwood at that time?

FT: Oh, I would have no idea. But it was a huge big building. That was another great building they took out.

AC: Was it a two-story building?

FT: Oh yes. A big one. It was bigger than the one on...Riveria.

AC: Oh, bigger than Rivera?

FT: Yeah.

AC: Wow.

FT: It was a big one. We had a lot of teachers. Then we'd go – as I got older – we would go up to Central School to the school there for sewing and cooking for the girls and down below was the boys' shop.

AC: Was this in your later elementary years?

FT: No. I was about...probably about six or seven years.

AC: When you started cooking and sewing?

FT: \_\_\_\_

AC: Wow.

FT: And then from there I went to Central.

AC: What kinds of... What kinds of lessons did they teach you at the Greenwood School in the early years? Do you remember any particular lessons and kinds of subjects that you liked at that school?

FT: I remember school \_\_\_\_ with history books and things like that.

AC: What was your favorite subject?  
FT: Books, any kind. I loved books. History and arithmetic, taught to the tune of a hickory stick.  
AC: Oh. Did you ever get the hickory stick?  
FT: No.  
AC: Did you see people get the hickory stick?  
FT: Hmm?  
AC: Did you ever see someone receive a switch?  
FT: Not really switched. I've seen them with their fingers hit a little bit, but... Adia \_\_\_ went there, but then they...  
AC: Stop for just a second. [recording paused] Okay, we're continuing. Go ahead.  
FT: We moved to Pleasant Valley before I was six years old and, like I told you, she wouldn't let me go to school because I had to ride on a horse and it was bad weather and she didn't want me to ride on a horse with the boys. So she taught me at home. We were there... She had... She became ill and lost a baby boy while we were there. Then we moved back to La Grande.  
AC: Do you remember how old you were when you moved back?  
FT: Six.  
AC: So it would've been in the early 'teens?  
FT: I went to school at Riveria and I went at seven. I was six, but I was seven in September after I'd started. I went to Greenwood until I was about in the seventh grade I think and then I went up to Central School. My two sisters they were each two years behind and two years.  
AC: Now when did you move to Telocaset?  
FT: That was later.  
AC: Oh, it was later.  
FT: I was eleven, going on twelve.  
AC: Now why did you move there? [end tape]

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AC: Okay, we're continuing our story.  
FT: Was when they had China Mary's restaurant was on Adams Avenue, the west side of Adams Avenue.  
AC: So there was a China Mary's restaurant on Adams Avenue?  
FT: Yes.  
AC: Okay. And then what was your story about the Tong War?  
FT: I don't know too much, but I do know it happened when my mother was on the street and she saw these two Chinese fighting at each other.  
AC: And she was at the post office?  
FT: Yes. And they were down further beyond the China Mary's.  
AC: And that was where the Safeway was?  
FT: No. Back of the Safeway.  
AC: Back of the Safeway.

FT: Back of our old Safeway here. It was even back further. I was trying to... No, I wasn't probably four or five. I can't remember for sure, but I do know there was a Tong War. We had underground Chinese that was back...

AC: What were the Chinese doing there? Were they working on the railroad?

FT: Working. They would help with... Some of 'em worked on the railroad. But that was before the First World War That was before the First World War, around in there, in that early time.

AC: Tell me about what happened when your mom...your mother was going to the post office. What did she see?

FT: She just saw these two guys fighting and shooting. She was far enough away she knew what was going on, but... I was trying to think of... But I just remembered that because she talked about it.

AC: So did you ever meet any Chinese people when you were...

FT: Oh, I've met a lot of Chinese people here.

AC: Were they at your school?

FT: Hmm?

AC: Were there Chinese children going to your school?

FT: No. But there were colored boys and girls in our school then. I had a special friend, her name was Misner, and she was as black as the ace of spades and I was blond as could be.

AC: Misner?

FT: Misner. And then I had lots of contact with the colored people because I worked at the clubhouse and I've known a lot of colored people and liked them very much. They were my friends.

AC: How were they treated in La Grande?

FT: They had their "across the track." That's where we were. We were "across the track." That's the dividing point. Because we were railroaders and we weren't the elite. My family comes from France and Scotland and England.

AC: Did you ever witness there being any negative comments from the whites about the blacks in La Grande at that time?

FT: No. Only that they just had their own part of the...

AC: Their own place. What about the Chinese? How were they treated?

FT: Like I say, I didn't see too much of that because they took them out of here after...they didn't have them working for them after they got their railroads going and that.

AC: So the Chinese moved away after that?

FT: Or moved to someplace else. We had a little Chinese girl that lived next door to us. One of the boys had married her. She'd been married to one of the railroaders. I don't remember her name, but I know that she used to come over and visit with Mom and Mom would go and visit with her because she was so lonely. She brought green tea and that's where we started...got set on green tea was when that little girl brought us... And my mother and I always had green tea. When Dad was on the road... The railroad now that goes up to Joseph then the railroad was up there and it was very active. They called it the \_\_\_\_\_. My mother and I would fix a little crackers and cheese in the oven and have our green tea when we were waiting for him to come home. The other two kids were in bed,



but I was with my mom. We'd have our green tea and then Dad would come home about midnight. He'd go up in the morning and then come home late at night.

AC: So you met him every night with your crackers and cheese?

FT: When he was on the road we had, yeah. And I was about seven and eight at that time. That's when I was starting at Greenwood School.

AC: So tell me about your move to Telocaset. How did that happen?

FT: I think we were still living on X Avenue, 1809 X, and Dad got transferred and he had to work out of Telocaset. I went to school there. I was eleven and then went to twelve while we were still there. I had a very dear friend through my whole life, Areta Howelsly, and she died not too long ago with cancer. But we were pals and always got letters and cards and things from Areta, dear old pal. Even through adult and on through until just, I think, a couple years ago. I can't remember exactly. I have some of her cards.

AC: Did you meet her in Telocaset?

FT: Yes. Went to school.

AC: What was...

FT: It was a big school there, you know, for railroaders and that. It was like a big school. Not a big school like we have in here, but for a country school it was a big...

AC: Was it a one-room or two-room schoolhouse or bigger?

FT: Oh, I think... I don't know, but it was two or three. But it was a big square white building and it was... You knew it was a schoolhouse. It didn't have a bell up on top or anything, but... And I met Areta there and some other friends. Brad Shaw was a railroader then and I met his two girls and they're both gone. We had... One night we had a party and you put your basket with your deal, you know, you...what do you call 'em...

AC: Did they have rations in those days?

FT: You got your basket from...

AC: Was it something you got at school?

FT: No.

AC: That you brought from home?

FT: Like you to get something. Rationed off. You had ration...no...yeah, it wasn't that exactly because you'd get your card and then you'd get your deal for it.

AC: Your ration.

FT: And it would be cookies or cake or something that somebody had bakes for you. I got one. A guy got one for me and I wouldn't go anyway. [laughs]

AC: So if they paid money so that you could bring your basket to go eat with them? So it was kind of like an auction?

FT: Yeah.

AC: Oh, I see. But you wouldn't go with this guy?

FT: No. Mom was so mad at me! She said, "you're not very nice." But I hung back and I didn't go eat with him. I was tryin' to...a little bit backward about meeting men and people.

AC: Was it very different for you to go to a small school in a small town from living in La Grande? Did you like it immediately or not?

FT: What I did in Pleasant Valley it was horseback and a small school. Then when I came to La Grande it was a big school. Greenwood School was a big school. Then when I went to... Dad had to go to Telocaset then that wasn't as big a school, but it was bigger than what we had in Pleasant Valley. But there was a few years in between, too, you know.

AC: So was his job different when you moved to Telocaset?

FT: No. Yes, because he was an engineer then. I crawled underneath the train one time and I got the spanking of my life because he said, "one jerk of that train and you'd been run over." He was just livid. He was so...

AC: What happened?

FT: It was during a time in Telocaset...no...yeah, Telocaset and we got our water from a well and a deal up above. We carried the water back to the house. Eventually the railroad put in from our place \_\_ we first went there. I went up to get water and we had to start it and the think was slick with ice and snow. I got my finger caught and tore the end of it off. Dad wanted him to take it off and the doctor said no. He sewed it up and fixed it so I could heal it. When I was later on in school I played the violin and I could use my hand with that. But that was sure something.

AC: Were did you live in Telocaset?

FT: We lived down close to the railroad. The railroad came out between, there was one side and then the other side. On the other side was the grocery store and on this side was the... The mail came to our house and the mail was part of our house, a room of it, where they'd get our mail. Not our mail, but the mail for... And I'm not sure whether that's continued, but I know it used to come and the people would come and get their mail there in this one room. My dad rushed me to the... He had called for the train to stop and took me into La Grande to have my hand taken care off.

AC: So you had to go on the train all the way to La Grande?

FT: Yes. That would be very far, but we had to go into La Grande because we didn't have any such there.

AC: So was Telocaset mainly a railroad town at that time?

FT: Yes. There were farms around, but the place there was a railroad stop. And they had a big...huge big tank, water tank, that they took the railroad...up to... It was a little off from the railroad. You would drive into that and then turn and come out and go the other way. I used to know all about that, but I don't anymore.

AC: So there was a turn-around.

FT: It was a... Did they call it an L? You see, it was coming in and then there was an off of that that went up to the big water tank and then it would come down and... So it would go up this way and come back and go on up.

AC: I see. So it would get water?

FT: Yes. And coal if they needed coal.

AC: Oh, so they had coal there?

FT: Yes. They had it so that...

AC: Was there a coal mine near?

FT: No.

AC: How long did you live in Telocaset?

FT: Almost two years and then we came into town.

AC: Was it sad for you to leave Telocaset? Were you sad to go?

FT: No. We were kind of glad to come into La Grande. Of course we had friends up there, but not close friends like we had in La Grande after we got here.

AC: What did you do for fun in Telocaset?

FT: We just went horseback riding and around trips and little side trips.

AC: Were there dances in the town? Were there parties?

FT: Oh yeah. But then I... They'd have their dances, but I didn't go to any of those or anything because I was only going on twelve.

AC: Would your parents go and go dancing?

FT: No.

AC: So you moved back into La Grande. Where did you live then? Do you remember?

FT: We moved back in because Dad got changed. I think it was there at Telocaset that he had a wreck and part of it went into the river there and part on the side rail.

AC: Part of the train wrecked?

FT: Yes, train wreck.

AC: Oh no! What happened?

FT: I don't know. Something wrong with the... It wasn't his fault because he never had any trouble with it. I have a picture of it. Stephanie and Jim have that picture and they're supposed to get that to me. So one of these days I'll have it. But it's a big long picture and it's about that high and it shows where the train...

AC: Did anyone get hurt?

FT: No. It was... It wasn't a passenger train, it was a work train, you know, with all the...there were things in the creek and some of 'em partly on the rails. It wasn't... He'd been in some wrecks, you know, railroad. And of course the rails were different than they are now 'cause things have gone...improved and everything.

AC: So you moved back to La Grande and where did you live when you got back?

FT: When we got back to La Grande from Telocaset we lived on 2804 North Ash. Yeah, because there was a house on the...two houses and then we were 280...no, we were 2804, I think it was. 2604. And then we went...and I went up to Central School. Amy and Freda went to Riveria School. But I went on up to...

AC: What are your memories of going...?

FT: Because that was just before I went into high school.

AC: What are your memories of going to school at Central? What are some of your memories there?

FT: I can't...

AC: Was part of it just like it is now? Was it a different building?

FT: Oh yes. Central School was a huge big building like Greenwood. That was where the middle school is now. I went there, I think, just one or two years and then I went into high school.

AC: Did you continue with your love of reading at that time?

FT: I went into high school and my mother and sisters, I think, \_\_\_\_\_. Then, you know, that was... This one friend, well, not exactly a friend, but something to do with Latin and we got to writing back and forth. The teacher caught me and blamed

me for the whole thing. But I went on and I got...I think it was two or three years of the Latin. I was up into different books.

AC: Was that the only language that was offered at the high school?

FT: No, I don't... No, my mother was, like myself, quite a reader in school and everything and she wanted me to have Latin. She didn't make the other girls, they didn't take it when they got there.

AC: Anything else that you remember about high school? Any of your teachers or any experiences in high school?

FT: Yes, you know, the school, I loved football. I didn't play, but I loved the games and the ones that were in the games.

AC: So you liked to go watch the football games?

FT: Yes. Very much so. And I had... I was trying to think... I don't know exactly whether it was still in grade school or in high school, but I had trouble a little bit with the... After the First World War we went to California just towards the end and took my aunt down there. I had pneumonia and the flu. You know, they had such flu epidemic and they wanted to be sure that my grandmother went down there with her daughter down there.

AC: Was there a flu epidemic in La Grande?

FT: Yeah.

AC: Really?

FT: Every place. And they had it in California, but we didn't realize they had it so bad.

AC: Were a lot of people leaving La Grande because of the flu?

FT: No. They were staying here. But we took my grandmother and Mom wanted to go on a trip down and see her sister and that and take us kids down there. My dad got a great big scuba truck for us to put our clothes in. We had that thing around for years around home that we went to California in. But when we got there my grandmother got it and I got it, the flu. I just about died with it. The one and only... The first time that I've ever seen my father cry. I was pretty bad and I was \_\_\_ just as I came to and saw him crying. He thought I wasn't going to make it. They put a pneumonia jacket on me...

AC: What does that look like?

FT: Cheesecloth and wool stuff in between. They had it up around here and around here.

AC: So around your neck and around your shoulders.

FT: And down my behind, over my hips. Then each day my mother would take a little piece, cut a little piece around 'til it finally got cut off of me. But I had to wear that until I got completely over it. She was going to be sure that I didn't get sick again. But I had to wear that thing underneath my clothes.

AC: How long were you in California before you came back to La Grande?

FT: Probably, I would think, two or three weeks maybe. It was during 1918 I think we were there.

AC: How was La Grande affected by the World War?

FT: We had... They had the planes going through with the boys on it, the soldiers, and they would stop here and we'd get to see them. Then the Methodist Church had kind of a...I don't know...\_\_\_ down there that the boys could stay and sleep

and people could go and see them. My auntie lived here and we used to go down and take them bouquets of flowers or candy, take them some cookies or something we'd baked and take 'em down to the basement of the Methodist Church.

AC: So did a lot of people in town feed them and that kind of thing, too?

FT: Yeah. I don't know whether people that...you know, you don't know exactly when you're that age where they're from, but you knew that they were there. The boys always came over and talked to us and my aunt.

AC: Did a lot of... Did boys that you knew or men that you knew go to the war?

FT: I didn't know. I knew afterwards when I knew what...when I was a little older.

AC: When did you graduate high school?

FT: 1928. I'd been sick with this deal that I was telling you about that I wasn't sure that... I was out of school quite a bit. It wasn't consumption or anything like that. My mother had consumption and had to go to Pike's Peak in Colorado and stay in a tent during the winter for two years to get over hers. It was kind of a, oh, they called it consumption and they called it something else and that. But she was always kind of weak. She had such headaches sometimes.

AC: What did you do when you graduated? Did you stay in La Grande?

FT: I stayed in La Grande. I had a friend, a very dear friend, that he was the first one my mother met when she came here and she met Ada at the depot and they were friends forever. When I got out of high school I went for six months...[end tape]

8/16/04, T2, S1

AC: ...talking about the bookkeeping class that you took. Where did you take that bookkeeping class?

FT: The old Odd Fellows and it had a swimming pool down below and... See, I told you I don't remember.

AC: Yes. So you had a teacher there that taught at the Odd Fellows Club?

FT: Yes. It was a lady.

AC: And you took six weeks of bookkeeping from this lady at the Odd Fellows Hall. Were there other classes at the Odd Fellows Hall other than bookkeeping?

FT: No. It was business.

AC: Oh, business classes.

FT: Yes. And then they had piano and violin.

AC: Oh, piano and violin as well.

FT: Yes. See, I took violin lessons, too. I didn't take from her, I took from the old Catholic school that used to be.

AC: Yeah.

FT: What are you laughing about? What did I say?

AC: Was it six weeks? Was it six months?

FT: Six months.

AC: It doesn't really matter. So six months of classes at the Odd Fellows Hall where they also taught violin and piano.

FT: No. There were others doing that, but I took at back of the...where the courthouse used to be in back of there was a Catholic school. Remember?

AC: Yes.

FT: And I took violin lessons with my sisters there.

AC: Oh really.

FT: When I was going to Central School. Then I used to play \_\_\_. No, I went there to school and this friend Ada, Ada McCrelly, was working there and she got me a job with them. It was two gals were working for this...I'll think of it. I can't think of the store. But there were two girls working and I did the bookkeeping and Ada and two others waited on customers.

AC: So was it a retail store? A clothing store?

FT: Clothing store.

AC: Okay.

FT: And I worked there...

AC: Was it on Adams Avenue?

FT: Yes. The old hotel was on the corner and then I think it was about two doors down was the Shingle Shack they called it. There's myself and Ada and the other two women and then the other...why can't I think of her name. She was a small, small gal. They did quite a bit with cleaning the windows and I \_\_\_ cleaning the windows, too, in that place. Then they transferred me over to Pendleton. I was over there...I think it was three or four years.

AC: So that was in the '20s for that?

FT: Yes.

AC: When you were working over there?

FT: Yes.

AC: The... One of these guys that goes through and checks the deal for the boss and so on he was a...he got a little fresh with me and pinched me on the rear. I can't remember for sure whether I \_\_\_ or whether I said something to him, yelled at him. He said, "I'll get your job for this." And he did. That was in Pendleton. I was working for the...

FT: Was it another dress store over in Pendleton?

AC: Hmm?

FT: Was it another dress shop in Pendleton?

AC: It was a dress shop. It was sales. It was the Cinderella Shop in La Grande and the Cinderella Shop over there, that's what it was.

FT: So you lost your job because someone pinched you and you told him off? Wow.

AC: He told me, he said, "I'll get your job for this." And he did.

FT: So then did you move back to La Grande after that?

AC: Yeah. I came back and he had two or three and he sent me word and even called me and said if you ever had any trouble and couldn't find good help and would I come back to work. I said no. He talked to me and I said, "well, I'll think about it." I never did answer him or anything 'cause I can a job here with Spydell.

FT: Spydell?

AC: He owned a dress shop. He was a Jewish fellow.

FT: So you did bookkeeping for him?

AC: I was on the floor.

FT: Oh, in retail then.

AC: Yes.

FT: What kinds of dresses did they sell?  
AC: You know, they were pretty much like the dresses now, flappers.  
FT: So kind of flashy or were they for home wear?  
AC: They were a little...  
FT: Short?  
AC: Yeah.  
FT: Just like...  
AC: Did you wear a flapper dress?  
FT: Huh?  
AC: Did you wear a flapper dress while you were at the store?  
FT: No. They didn't show anything, but they were pretty tight... They covered you. But they were... They'd have \_\_\_ and then you'd have net underneath and maybe \_\_\_\_\_.  
AC: Were they evening dresses mostly?  
FT: No. They were daytime dresses, but they were made to stand out. Then their dresses always had cut kind of like this with a hole in the middle.  
AC: Like a circle skirt kind of thing?  
FT: Yes.  
AC: Did they have fringe on 'em? Did any of 'em have fringe? Like you would think of a flapper dress?  
FT: No. They'd have... My one daughter hers was kind of a gray and it went out and then she had a little dog on the side here that she showed. They put things like that on them.  
AC: So when did you get married?  
FT: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1937.  
AC: Were you working in the dress shop when you met? How did you meet?  
FT: At that time I was working at Norton's Goodie Shop.  
AC: Was that on Adams as well?  
FT: Right next to the theater there. She had...made buttons. You know how they used to make buttons, covered, and you make them and then you put them on these pins. I miss those. You'd have to cut your \_\_\_ and put them on you and push them down, you know, you had something to clamp with.  
AC: So you had a button that didn't have fabric on it and then you covered it with fabric?  
FT: Yes.  
AC: Is that it?  
FT: Covered it with fabric and then something on the back that held it. And sometimes it'd be just a little tiny thing that you could sew with a needle.  
AC: So did you just have buttons or what else did they sell?  
FT: No. I did hand stitching. I just run onto some sheets here that I hand stitched just before I got married. It's still \_\_\_\_\_. Hand stitching and embroider and all kinds of things like that. And then she had children's' wear and some ladies' wear.  
AC: Did she make all of the clothes?  
FT: No. The stuff that we did was from machine and it was hand stitching and then the button holes. You know how you make a button hole this way? And just things like that on the machines and I did a lot of that.

AC: How did you meet your husband?  
FT: He was a state policeman. He was in Pendleton when I was working in Pendleton before I came back to La Grande.  
AC: What was he doing when you met him?  
FT: State police. He had training here in La Grande with...now I can't think of that guy's name...[telephone ringing, recording paused]  
AC: Okay, we're continuing. Okay, so he was a state policeman.  
FT: He got his training with a fellow who was here on the police force, the city police force, and rode...not a bike, but what is it?  
AC: Motorcycle?  
FT: Motorcycle. And then the state police came out and these young fellows, Willard Tubbs was my husband's name, and there was another one here. Why can't I think of his name! I knew it just as well as mine. I knew his wife.  
AC: It might come up in a minute.  
FT: Trained them in the state police and then they went to Pendleton. When the one friend of mine and Willard were training... Now his name just... And they were good friends of mine. And he and Willard went to Pendleton and went on the force there. I went over there – that's when I was working – and I went over to this friend's house, his and his wife, and met Willard there. But he was taking some other girls out around and he was...decided he was going to marry this one. I fell in love with him just right after that, just head over heels. Then I found out that they were getting married, why, that was a plight with me. I was just miserable. Then I came over here and worked. He lived for two-and-a-half years over just on the next corner. I wasn't here, I was living in Pendleton. I lived in the...anyway. I lived in an apartment just in walking distance from where I worked, just go across the street and around the corner to the dress shop there. All my old friends, why can't I remember their names?  
AC: That's alright. You're telling your story.  
FT: Anyway, I had been home for a visit over a weekend and this friend that was working in the...a real close friend of mine he said, well, he's getting married. She knew that I liked him real well. He married her for two-and-a-half years and what she did was to get going with the high school kids and then come to the house when he wasn't there and get their drinks and stuff. She was entertaining the high school kids. He came home and caught her and packed her up and her suitcase and stuff and sent her home. He said, "I'm a state policeman. You cannot pull out stuff like that around here." He was just really... So he came to me and we were married as soon as his divorce was final.  
AC: So did you get married in Pendleton?  
FT: No, here. My family lived on 2111...2010 First Street. We lived when I was younger at 2111 Second. When I was in high school we lived over by the viaduct. As soon as the divorce was final in April.  
AC: So you got married.  
FT: And we had been picking cherries and I was canning cherries and he had a call from his marshal in Arlington and he went to answer that. He just put on his jacket and he didn't even go in his clothes, in regular clothes, in uniform is what I meant to say. The next thing I knew he'd been shot \_\_\_. I was pregnant. We had



a little fifteen-month-old little girl that was walking and running around after her Dada.

AC: How did that happen? How did the shooting...?

FT: He was wanted for fault. He was a criminal and he was wanted. He was \_\_\_ with the marshal and they called Willard. Willard run after him and he was under a culvert and Willard told him to come out, he gave 'em a chance. He came out shooting and got Willard. I went to the...they brought him right into the drugstore and I went into see him and he was dying, you could hear him, you know, croak. I was... I was close to twenty-nine, I think, and he was two years older than I.

AC: You were how old? Twenty-nine?

FT: And I had a little girl.

AC: Before your husband was shot what kind of work was expected of a policeman in La Grande at that time? What kind of things... What was his routine duties as a policeman?

FT: A state policeman?

AC: Yes.

FT: Just the same as they are now. Just what they are now.

AC: So did he drive... How far out did he drive? Did he drive all the way to Pendleton?

FT: No. He didn't... He didn't go quite to The Dalles and this way... He drove out from Arlington.

AC: Do think maybe we should stop here and maybe finish... Let me stop this for a minute. [recording paused]

FT: We moved to Arlington.

AC: Right after you were married?

FT: Yes. And I lived there in Arlington for two-and-a-half years and then that's when I lost him. I came back to La Grande and lived with my parent's because was expecting this baby and had her...was it the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

AC: So he was killed in Arlington?

FT: Just out from Arlington. He'd gone out. He had pistol-whipped this marshal in Arlington and then took out to this outside and got to where there was...was is goin' underneath?

AC: The underpass?

FT: No, it was just the end... You go along and you run over on of these in the road.

AC: You said a culvert before.

FT: Yeah, culvert. He came out from the culvert and he already had his gun ready and loaded and Willard didn't have. He told him to come out.

AC: So you and your husband were living in Arlington. You'd moved to Arlington. And then the shooting occurred in Arlington and then you moved back to La Grande. Is that right?

FT: Yes. My family came and helped me with stuff. My brother-in-law and his wife \_\_\_ and my mom and dad and...oh, they shipped some of my stuff, packed and shipped some of my stuff. I think... I think my cousin that lived in Springfield, close to Pendleton, and I think they came and helped to pack the stuff. They had a truck or something. I can't think of...

AC: And how many months pregnant were you at the time?

FT: From the...well, it was about six months. The baby was a few months old and they were two years apart, not quite two years.

AC: So you moved back to La Grande after that.

FT: And stayed with them just a short time and then I got this place here. I bought this place for \$32,500.

AC: This place is 1604...504 M. So you weren't married very long then, were you? How long were... It was only three years that you had been married? How long?

FT: Two-and-a-half.

AC: Two-and-a-half years. So how soon after you married did you moved to Arlington?

FT: Right away.

AC: Right away.

FT: He had the house and everything all ready.

AC: Oh, that's nice.

FT: When we went. Now, let's see, it was in April, May, June, July... It wasn't two-and-a-half years. It was only two years and two months. I don't know why I got that.

AC: So then you moved to this house that you're in right now and moved on with your life it sounds like, had the baby. Was it difficult... It must've been very difficult for you as a young woman to have to raise two children by yourself. Did you finally go to work?

FT: Hmm?

AC: What did you do? Did you go back to work afterwards?

FT: Sure. Just as soon as I could I went back to work after my youngest one was born.

AC: Did you go back to work at the dress shop?

FT: Went back to work at Norton's Goodie Shop. We can start that on our next deal.

AC: Alright.

FT: Because I went to work at that Norton's Goodie Shop and then we moved that up onto the main Adams Avenue. They were both on Adams Avenue, but this was up two or three districts up in town. Then it was a whole new... 'cause my baby was still nursing when I was working.

AC: Did you take her to work with you?

FT: No. I'd run home at noon to feed her and then they'd give her water, you know. But I only had one side. When my oldest girl was...I had seven...what do you call it?

AC: Cyst?

FT: Yeah, a cyst. Got seven cysts around that one breast. I think it was this one. I think...

AC: Who took care of your children when you were working?

FT: My mother and my sister. I'd come home and do the wash and I'd bathe them and play with 'em. Then for a while I was working nights and coming home and after I was done then go down and work two or three hours down at the store. Money wasn't very handy.

AC: In the '30s?

FT: Yes.  
AC: So was this the Depression?  
FT: '30s and '40s.  
AC: Do you remember anything about how the Depression hit La Grande? Was it real obvious?  
FT: Oh yes. You had food lines. You had...you could only have so much sugar, different things. We can start in on that the next time.  
AC: Okay. Let's do that. We'll conclude then for today. [recording stopped]

8/23/04, T1, S1

FT: Yes. Because my father was engineer on the \_\_\_ train and he got a job for me at the railroad. I was night report clerk. I would go out and take the deals that they would... I was on some kind of a \_\_\_ of things that you'd hang up...take up to the engineer. I picked up notes out there or whatever they were sending and I would do that. Then I was still night report clerk and I worked eighteen months for that deal.  
AC: I my gosh! How old were you? Do you remember?  
FT: I had... I don't...  
AC: So you were night clerk over...  
FT: Yeah. Report clerk.  
AC: Night report clerk.  
FT: I kept reports and... But other people that worked nights and worked the telephone and things.  
AC: What kinds of things did you do at night report clerk?  
FT: Typed up reports and took out the sheets that they gave me to get to the engineer. Just did... And then sometimes I was on the telephone when they were sending...  
AC: So these were orders about what?  
FT: The engineers driving and what...where the stops were and everything and orders and things you got from Portland.  
AC: Now was this working during the Second World War when this was going on?  
FT: '42. My little girl was...let's see...about three years old and the other one was older than that. My first little girl was fifteen months old when her father was killed. I had the other one in November, the following November. There's almost two years between 'em. I was working at this time for...as report clerk and then the war was over and they were changing...like I said, I worked eighteen months for that deal. They were going to send me to Portland and I couldn't take my children and so I said no, I would not go. So I went to work for...that's what I was trying to figure, who... I was working for a company called...  
AC: That's alright. You can just go on. You had your job and you didn't have \_\_\_ for eighteen months and they wanted you to go to Portland, but you decided to stay...  
FT: Because I couldn't have... I'd have to leave my children with my folks and I'd go down there because they would be sending me different places and I wouldn't a definite...  
AC: Schedule.

FT: You know, with the railroad they shift back and forth and around and I would be on call. I said no, I would not leave my two babies. Then I...Norton's Goodie Shop. I did...

AC: Is this the place where you were doing all the buttons and button holes?

FT: Yes. And hand stitching. I hand stitched a lot. In fact, I have a very cute \_\_\_ that was given to me for my wedding present. I loved that. I'd worked for them before and then I went back to working for them and they sold out to a company called Ruts. They came here from Bend. I went down there and they showed me their way of doing business. I had taken six months of... I had taken it in school and then I had taken six more months of sales.

AC: So you went to a school that taught about retail selling?

FT: Yes.

AC: Where was that? Was that in La Grande?

FT: Yes. It was... It was the old building where... It was a big building and they had a basement with a swimming pool and then they had the Rebekah...no, they were Odd Fellows there. Then there was a woman that gave...then this person that gave the...

AC: The retail store.

FT: That gave me the sales talk and the books and everything. I went there for six months. And then I went to... That was when I went to Faulk's, I think. I worked there and then they sold out. They were the old N. K. West building and...

AC: Tell me about working at Faulk's? What did you do at Faulk's store?

FT: Bookkeeper. And sales person.

AC: What did you sell?

FT: Anything. [laughs] They had... When they closed out I had all kinds of things that I had bought, a small price, very small, just almost gave it away. I had pillow slips and embroidery work and clothes, we had all kinds of clothes. It was a big department store. They had...on the upstairs they had their bookkeeping. We each had our own...

AC: Office or work station?

FT: Not office, but our place where we did our...put our money when we...when somebody bought something.

AC: Cash register?

FT: Yes. Had my own cash register. I always got good grades and my...Faulk was very nice to me.

AC: So what was the experience like for someone...if I was going to walk to into Faulk's what would I see when I walked in there?

FT: Oh, you'd see clothes hanging and counters and this big deal out beyond the porch was one of the deals that I got when they closed the...

AC: Oh, one of the counters?

FT: Yes. And I had that. I had different clothes and things and my dog's bed that I got a new one for her one time and candles and things like that. It had compartments.

AC: Did they sell jewelry and watches and things like that as well?

FT: No. I don't think so. It was material and there was a big...a huge place on one side that had all the materials. I had all kinds of material. In fact, I have some in my basement that I'm going to give away to people that need.

AC: So did they have sewing notions and things with the material?

FT: Yes. Threads and different things you'd use like lace and things like that that you'd use to trim, ribbon.

AC: Did it have men's ware? Men's clothing? Or just women's?

FT: No, I think it was mostly women's if I remember right.

AC: And shoes? Women's shoes as well?

FT: I know it was coats and underwear. And then all kinds of, like I said, sheets and pillowcases and all of those things that go... It was a department store.

AC: How many people would work during the day besides yourself? To help the customers?

FT: I think there were at least six...I mean eight or nine because there were different departments, men and women worked there. Yeah, they did have some shoes because I remember one man that worked in the shoe department. It wasn't a huge shoe department, though.

AC: Was it a popular place with people? Were there a lot of customers?

FT: Yes. And then they sold out and I went to work for... Rats. Some things I might be... I'm trying to think when I went to work for the... I worked for \_\_\_ and I stayed here.

AC: We can continue to talk about Faulk's a little bit. So you did sales and also the bookkeeping as well?

FT: Yeah. We each... I didn't... I didn't do the bookkeeping, really, but I did for my own...we each had our own...what'd you say?

AC: The cash register?

FT: Cash register.

AC: Oh, so you did your bookkeeping yourself? Upstairs, you said, in the upstairs where the...?

FT: No. We each had own right on the floor next to the...

AC: Oh, I see.

FT: ...where our sales were. We'd go and we'd have our sales and give 'em their clothes and or what their merchandise and...

AC: Did you put everything in a bag for them?

FT: Yes.

AC: What did the front of the store look like when you walked in through the store? Was it a glass door?

FT: Yes. And then an aisle and different things and counters. It was just a big department store. They run out of business and I can't remember what was the cause.

AC: Do you remember anything about your boss? What your boss was like?

FT: He was...I was trying to think of his name. He had a wife and she used to come in and he'd wait on her and she'd get her clothes.

AC: What were your hours? When did you have to be at the store? Do you remember?

FT: I think eight o'clock in the morning and then we got off at six, something like that.

AC: Did you get a discount for working there?

FT: No.

AC: You could buy children's clothes?

FT: I usually had to cut down and work out a schedule \_\_\_\_.

AC: If you think about it, how old do you think your children were when you were back working at Faulk's? Were they still young or were they a little bit older? It really doesn't matter, but if you can remember that...

FT: I've had the children and they were in school, but if I could just take a little more time and work this out, the years.

AC: Don't worry about it.

FT: I know when I was working for the railroad I would go eleven at night and get off at seven in the morning. Then I'd go and work part-time at Norton's Goodie Shop with the button... I remember that.

AC: What did you have to work as an employee at Faulk's? Did you have to wear...

FT: Just our regular clothes.

AC: Yeah. But did you have to wear a dress? Did they want you to dress up and look nice?

FT: We'd just wear our regular, you know, just what we would wear.

AC: Normal.

FT: Not what we would wear at home, but nothing really elaborate.

AC: So Faulk's went out of business... Let me turn this off for a minute. [recording paused] Okay. So the Goodie Shop, Norton's Goodie Shop, sold to Reff? Is that r-e-f-f, Reff?

FT: No. R-a-c-h.

AC: R-a-c-h, Rach. How did that change the store?

FT: Because he relations came there and he was from Germany, they were Jewish, and Harold... I had to really concentrate on this and got this lined up. They were there...

AC: So Rach was Jewish man that came from Bend?

FT: Rach came from Bend and got this Norton's Goodie Shop, but he put his nephew in to run the store, he and his wife. They had one child while they were there. And then things got bad and...

AC: What do you mean they got bad?

FT: The Depression. You know, we had one.

AC: So how did that affect the store?

FT: Rach went out of business. I think that was when I went to work for Faulk's.

AC: How did the Depression affect La Grande, that you noticed?

FT: Oh, it was bad. We were on...

AC: You mentioned there were rations.

FT: Yes. Sugar and things like that. You had to have cards to get things. You didn't... If you could have a garden you'd get along pretty good. But there were people in the lines that had to be fed.

AC: Who fed them?

FT: They would get so much and then other people that had gardens would donate food, you know, and help, just like we do now. But it was bad because people were without food and it was a great depression. That's why Faulk's and some other stores went out because they just weren't buying.

AC: When you were at Rach and it went out of business was that...

FT: That's was when I went to Faulk's.

AC: Right. And was that a big disappointment to you?

FT: No. I was happy to have a job. I worked there and then a friend of mine worked at the courthouse and she got me a job.

AC: What'd you do?

FT: Worked at the courthouse. Taxes, for your homes and when they came into pay their bills for their taxes, you know, like you do now, practically the same thing. We'd write those up. I worked in the sheriff's office and I did work for them for twenty-three years.

AC: Oh my gosh! So what did you do in the sheriff's office?

FT: We did the taxes when it was tax time. Then we did...they'd have people come in to be in jail and when you voted you worked with that. And then while I was there, just before I left, they started with computers, just when I left.

AC: When you worked at the police station, how were you treated?

FT: You mean with the sheriff's office?

AC: Sheriff's office.

FT: Very well.

AC: Very well?

FT: Yes. When I was...reached seventy – I think it was seventy – I was supposed to retire and they did, they retired me. I have a picture of that. See, I was going to try...but all my stuff is in boxes and I don't know where things are. I was going to give you some pictures. But how long is this going on?

AC: It will be a little while, so if you find those pictures we'd love to have them. I have a question about voting. How did that procedure work? How were you involved in the voting?

FT: When I was working for the courthouse they would have me come and work on the...I went to a special school over here and helped to count the votes. We'd be 'til after midnight usually. I had a picture of me at the...I was sittin'...I had a pencil and I was asleep or I was closed my eyes. Anyway, they took a picture of me for *The Observer*. If I could find those...

AC: Were those paper and pencil and votes?

FT: Yes.

AC: Was that the voting procedure at that time?

FT: Yes.

AC: And you had to count every single one of those?

FT: Yes.

AC: Wow. It must've been a difficult chore.

FT: We closed at eight o'clock and we'd be counting at midnight. But they had... And I was good at that because I'd had training and I could count and count it off right.

AC: Was that your bookkeeper training?

FT: Yes. Because I had learned and I was good at it.

AC: Did you remember happening at the sheriff's office while you were there noteworthy, maybe in the newspaper?

FT: While I was there they had a flood out in the valley and they had...[knock at door, recording paused] We were at the courthouse...

AC: We were talking about the flood and you were working at the courthouse.

FT: There were people working...oh darn.

AC: People were trying to stop the flood at that time?

FT: Yes. Trying to...

AC: Maybe just a few more minutes before... So how did the sheriff's office get involved with that? Did they go out and help?

FT: Yes. It was through our office that they were there and going out. It seems to me...hold on a sec...that it was a big flood out in the valley and that was when...[door opened]

AC: Should we stop for a minute? [recording paused] So the sheriff's office was in charge of just keeping communications going?

FT: It was... Some of the... I can't remember for sure whether it was Army or whether it was...

AC: The National Guard or something like that? The National Guard or the Army or whoever was around?

FT: That's what I can't think of.

AC: But they had to go out there and help out with the flood? That must've been a big deal.

FT: Yeah, it was because...anyway, this valley was at one time Island City. It was a...

AC: A big lake?

FT: Yeah. And then it eventually drained out and they had wonderful ground for farming and things like that, you know, mint and hay.

AC: Was your work at the sheriff's office did you do dispatching or was it mostly the bookkeeping?

FT: It was mostly the bookkeeping for taxes and the things that... Well, we worked with the sheriff. Because I can remember when he brought in certain young fellows that were drug addiction were sitting on the floor just a-shakin' and everything and we had to...

AC: You must've seen a lot of people that were sort of the lower end of society in your work. So can I ask you a couple questions about being a single woman with children living in La Grande at the time? It sounded like you were a really a good business woman. You'd always been able to find work.

FT: Yes. I had my... When I was in school, a kid in school, I was good at mathematics. My dad he knew that I loved books and he always kept me with books. I always had lots and lots of books that you could go to. And then as I raised my girls they always had books and prayer books, their Bibles and...[end tape]



AC: I want to ask you about church. What church did you go to, or did you go to church? You were mentioning the Bibles that your kids had.

FT: My mother came from Iowa and she was United Brethren, or the Methodist. She taught school in her hometown. So when we were born we were all baptized and we belonged to the United Methodist Church, always have.

AC: So did you go to the Catholic...Methodist church when you lived here? As long as you've lived here have you gone to the Methodist church?

FT: Until I've gotten so old I can't sit, no, and letting my legs drain out and I'm ninety-six, I will be.

AC: Do you remember going to the Methodist church when you were younger?

FT: Yes. Always. We were baptized and we always went to church and to the programs and...

AC: Do you remember when this church was built here in La Grande? Or was that church there when you arrived?

FT: I can remember going there, like I said, when the troops went through it was then that the church... I'm sure about just when... I can remember the church was there when...oh, Mary was broken down and then they just recently rebuilt it up...

AC: Cast Iron Mary?

FT: Cast Iron Mary. I remember seeing that Cast Iron Mary before it got wrecked. So I don't know just exactly... But you see, I've been here since 1908.

AC: Was there a Methodist church when you got here that you went to?

FT: As far as I know because right away we were going to church.

AC: Do you remember some of the church functions that you went to when you were younger?

FT: Yeah. Epic League and...

AC: What league?

FT: Ethbroth League.

AC: What was that?

FT: It was one of the church groups. I always belonged to the women's. I still do belong, but recently I've kind of...things have been tough and I've let it... But I was always donating and doing things. And we had dinners and had some wonderful pastors.

AC: Do you remember anyone specifically at all that you were close the pastors?

FT: Heath. Pastor Heath. And the one that I loved so well I can't...Burnheart.

AC: Burnheart? Why did you love that pastor so much?

FT: Because he was a good...a good man, a good pastor. He was tall and his wife was small. [laugh] She was short, you know, kind of like you. They were a wonderful pair and they worked in the church. And then Pastor Heath was the one that married my husband and I.

AC: So you got married in a Methodist church?

FT: Yes. And I always went until just recently and did my tithing. I'm going to start again pretty soon when we get all this worked out. My tithing, I'll be sending down, but I've had to drop the tithing.

AC: Did they have Sunday School for the children?

FT: Oh yes. They had their Bibles and they always had books, you know, the...

AC: Were they good at mathematics as you were?

FT: Yes. At times, just like kids, but they knew how to...of course my oldest girl was a nurse and she had Lou Gerhig's disease. That's where you can't use your hands, you can't hold your head up. She lasted six years. Then my youngest girl was a teacher and she was a very good teacher. I had a little trouble with her when she was starting out. She wanted to fight and do things. We had problems, but I talked to her teachers and they worked with me and she got her diploma. She came down with the last group that, you know, the stairway of the college at Evensong?

AC: Yes.

FT: And she was with the last group and then they... Somebody was saying that they were going to repair it or redo it.

AC: They're doing that right now.

FT: Are they?

AC: Yes.

FT: Oh, I didn't know! Oh! I've got... They're being done?

AC: Yes. Right now.

FT: I'll call my daughter and tell her.

AC: That must've been beautiful to watch those people there and sing.

FT: It was just wonderful. They were on each side. They had chairs and things right in that road right below the...and we all went in there and sat and watched the Evensong. And when they sang in the evening when the sun was just going down... Oh, I feel so good!

AC: That must've been beautiful.

FT: My oldest girl didn't come down 'cause she graduated and went to Portland, OHSU, and graduated in nursing down there. She was in the top ten. She was so good to everybody. She tried... She was taller than I. She was about 5'7" and strong. She worked with her people and I don't know where this amyotrophic \_\_\_\_ came from. I donate to it now. But I was then...I retired. In 1989 she...what do you say? She was...

AC: Was that when she got sick?

FT: Yes. When she...they told her that she had...

AC: You were retired by then?

FT: Yes. And I left...I was with her, but I had to come home and get my check and pay my bills and then I'd go back. They said it was...it helped her a lot because I was there.

AC: It sounds like you were a great mom. I think you were a real good mom. Let's see, I think the last question that I wanted to ask you is that you saw a lot and you went through a lot on your own with two girls, what would you say were the best experiences of your life?

FT: With my father and mother. My father was a great hunter and he liked to go hunting, but he was a good father. He used to sing all of these old-fashioned songs, like The Old Gray Mare, she ain't what she used to be. [laughs] And then he would sing Nellie Gray and When Irish Eyes Are Smiling. I wish I could

remember... He was a baritone. He wasn't a bass, but he was in that...between that and...what's a...

AC: Between a bass and a baritone? Tenor?

FT: Tenor. He was between a bass and a tenor. He was a little bit... And he always had a garden. Did I tell you that we always made sauerkraut?

AC: Yes.

FT: And when we could we had somebody at Christmastime that wasn't going to have a meal and we had room for somebody to come and have dinner with us at Christmas, always. He was a big man. My mother was smaller and she had what they called consumption. But our favorite...she worked for the Curry family for *The Observer* local. Then she never worked after that because she took care of three kids, she had three. I had a picture of us, two of us. If I can get to those pictures and get some of them...

AC: Yeah. I'd love to see them and it'd be great if you could put them in the book.

FT: How long are they gonna have this?

AC: Let me turn this off. [recording stopped]