

JT: Where?
BT: In Dodge City, Kansas.
JT: Dodge City, Kansas.
BT: In 1915.
JT: And you came from Kansas?
BT: Came out from Kansas in August 1923. We got here the last day of August. My mother and father and five brothers and sisters in a Model T Ford.
JT: And you were going where when you came?
BT: My dad was headed for Roseburg.
JT: Uh huh.
BT: But, when he hit La Grande, he was broke and that's where we ended up.
JT: And, he was an electrician by trade?
BT: Yeah. And, the first place I lived here in La Grande was – it was a big two-story house right down here where the college coliseum is.
JT: Uh huh.
BT: I lived there in that house, and we got here the last day of August and had to go to school about two days later.
JT: And what school did you go to?
BT: Went to Central School, and I can't remember ... some of my teachers' names was Nell Mahaffey (?).
JT: Uh huh.
BT: And Mrs. Gower, Mrs. Schneider – they were in high school.
JT: Uh huh.
BT: And ...
JT: What grade were you in, Bill, when you ...
BT: Third.
JT: Third grade.
BT: I think the teacher's name was Mrs. McNeice (?) when I was in the third grade.
JT: Uh huh.
BT: And I went through Central School and then into high school, but I didn't finish high school.
JT: Uh huh. Well, how was it when you came from Dodge City to La Grande, did you feel comfortable?
BT: Well it was quite a change because of the mountains. I'd never seen a mountain until we got – we come out of Kansas into Colorado, and then we saw the Rockie Mountains there, and I thought there was no way we're going to go over the top of those mountains, but we did, and we came up through Wyoming and then into La Grande.
JT: Uh huh.
BT: But the difference here was ... was the mountains. We didn't have any in Kansas, you know, it was just all flat, back in the prairies.
JT: And your dad went right to work as an electrician?
BT: Yeah – he went right to work the second day he was here – went to work for an electric shop that was located right across the street from M.J. Goss – where M.J. Goss is now. It was – the fella had that shop was named Harry Williams, and dad worked for him for a few years, and then dad bought him out, and bought the shop out himself.
JT: Uh huh.
BT: And, uh, then the depression come along and that was the end of everything.
JT: A lot of people suffered during that time.
BT: Yeah.

JT: While – while you were going to school, was there anything significant that happened?

BT: Not – not really, other than just meeting new kids and stuff, you know, but we had – I remember – we later lived on Cedar Street, Cedar and K, and this teacher, Nell MaHaffey, lived in a house behind us, but there was a big field out there, and then Deals (?) lived up on the Sunset Drive – where Sunset Drive is that was just a big field, and Nell MaHaffey lived in a house in the center of that field. And, of course, she had - she had a niece that lived with her – June Deal, and she used to come by and holler at me to get – get ready to get to school, and I didn't like that. The teacher lived too close to me.. (laughter) She put me on her lap one day and ...I was messing around doing something, and she put me on her lap and says "I've got to dust your britches for you." (laughter) Things like that, but other than that, just ..

JT: Then you did the normal things kids do growing up?

BT: Yeah – yeah. Got into all kinds of problems and troubles (laughter)

JT: You hunted and fished?

BT: Yeah, we used to go up to Morgan Lake, you know, fishing. Walk up there and fish all day and then walk back with a whole tub full of perch, and Dad he'd say "Just don't go back up there and do that again." He didn't want no more of them fish, but we just had – well in those days when we were kids and the depression come along, you didn't have anything, so we had to make up our own stuff. We'd sleigh ride in the winter, and we'd go up here to Slaughter (?) Pond and ice skate in the winter time, and then you'd just swim in the river.

JT: Did you have – what they call "high banks"?

BT: Yeah down the – high banks and the dump was right on the river down there.

JT: That was above high banks?

BT: Yeah, and we swam right below in the river – I don't know how we ever kept from getting typhoid fever and everything else, and then we had another one at the river – down at the park, under the bridge.

JT: Riverside Park?

BT: Yeah – Riverside Park. We swam down there. That's where I learned to swim – my brother threw me in and said "start swimming." (laughter)

JT: Well, when did you start learning to be an electrician?

BT: My dad had a shop here – he came back. They moved to Portland in '39. He worked for the Highway Department. When they built the shops – the old highway shops – he went to work in there – he wired that building as an electrician. Then when they got done, there was no work so he went to work for the highway shops, and he worked there for about 10 or 12 years, and then he got transferred to Portland, and he went to work on the interstate bridge as an electrician down there. And then in '45 he moved back here and started another shop. And he had a shop in there just behind Zimmerman's on Fir Street, across the alley from Zimmerman's.

JT: Where Doyle Zimmerman started the first ...

BT: Yeah – his first store there, and I went to work for him there, but just as a helper. And I worked for him, and ...

JT: Was that an apprenticeship type?

BT: Well, it was ...I just went in as a helper, and I worked for him for a couple of years and then he moved back to Portland as times got tough again, and he went back to Portland. And, after that ... let's see before that I worked for Frank Clevinger (?).

JT: Uh huh.

BT: In the moving and storage.

JT: Yeah – down where Connie's Storage is now.

BT: Yeah, and worked with Jess Turnbull. Him and I worked together. He drove one truck and I drove the other truck. I worked for Frank for 3 or 4 years, and then I went to work for my dad after that. Well, after Frank sold out to Eppling (?), and I worked for Mr. Eppling – Gordon

Eppling when they had that for awhile. Then when they got out of there, I went to work – after my dad left in '45, oh about it – I know – it was '52 I went to work for Doyle Zimmerman.

JT: Oh.

BT: And I worked for Doyle for a couple years – worked with Eddie Hutson. We laid rugs and linoleum and tile, and worked on the planks (?) in the store. I worked for him, and then after that I went to work for Buckley, Buckley's Electric.

JT: Yeah – I remember – down on Depot.

BT: Yeah. I worked there, and then after Buckley sold out, Jim Maldonado's father-in-law opened a shop here on the corner where – on the corner of Adams and Depot, across from Rexall Drug.

JT: Yeah.

BT: And I went to work for him for a few years, and ..

JT: Now to get to work as an electrician, you had to take tests and ..

BT: Yeah, well I took my test for electrical – for the electrician journeyman test. I took that from a fella that was an electrician in La Grande, Roy Rand (?) He was a – after he got over – out of his electrical work, well he went in as an electrical inspector, and I took an examination from him in 1950, and Bob Munhall (?) and I took the – our two exams together, down in Roy's basement one night, and passed the test and then in 19 – right after that I went to work for an electrical construction out of Boise and wired the library at the college.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: When they built it – another fella and I – can't remem...

JT: Walter Pierce Library?

BT: Yeah. I can't..., but I had my journeyman card then, and after I got done there, let's see where'd I go then. Oh, I went to work for Bohnenkamp – Bill Bohnenkamp. I worked for him for a couple of years, and then I worked for different contractors out of Portland, and I worked for – done a lot of work over at the college for a contractor – Watco Electric out of Portland, and Evergreen Electric out of – yeah Evergreen Electric in Portland. And I worked for Electrical Construction out of Portland, down on Y. I was down there for about a year rebuilding and rewiring that.

JT: You and Mitch Jason (?)?

BT: Yeah – Mitch Jason and I – we worked together quite a bit. And then we went over to Hanford – Mitch and I. We were over there awhile when they – on that – the nuclear plant over there, and then I came back here, and that's when I went to work for Bohnenkamp, I think. I worked for Bohnenkamp and then after I got done at Bohnenkamps, I worked (a couple of words here I couldn't understand), and I went to work at the college.

JT: Uh huh. Well, when you first went to work as an electrician, were they – had they phased out (something tube ?)? Uh ...

BT: Yeah – that was pretty well gone then. There was – you got into a lot of (something tube ?) wiring from the old houses, but it was all phased out. It was all Romex cable. Yeah they done away with that.

JT: Had – did they have, uh, ground at that time or the three wires – the two wires and ground – did that come ..

BT: Yeah – that come after I went into it.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: We've had 220, 110, 440 and all that – all three wire, and then we'd have the 3-wire single phase – I mean 3-phase and 4-wire 3-phase, and different – all kinds of that stuff, and then when Mitch and I came back from Hanford, we – Mr. Buckley called us. He got a contract at Central School – when they built the Central School. He got a contract to wire that, and he called us over from Hanford and said if you guys will come back and wire the school, I've got all the

material and all you got – here’s the blueprints – go up there and I’ll leave you alone. So Mitch and I wired Central School.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: Then I went to work at the college as an electrician and later on as the maintenance foreman. I retired there in ’77 – July ’77.

BT: I went to the college in May 1959 ‘til ’77.

JT: What year did you move here on G Avenue?

BT: Oh gee – ’57, wasn’t it. Yeah. August of ’57 we moved here on G Avenue.

JT: Our next door neighbors.

BT: Huh?

JT: As our next door neighbors.

BT: Yeah.

JT: You – you told me a little story about when you were going to school that Elridge Huffman had said you was married ..

BT: Oh yeah.

JT: What grade was that?

BT: That was the first – that was the first – the freshman year in high school, wasn’t it? (I think Mary was talking here in the background)

BT: No I wasn’t in .. I wasn’t in high school in your senior year. (more talking in the background from Mary)

BT: No it was our freshman year when they made me sit with – you sit with me or me sit with you (laughter)

(more talking here from Mary)

BT: I know when you’d come into Elridge Huffman’s room in the morning or to go to class, the first thing he’d say “put that gum in the wastepaper basket” whether you had any gum or not. (laughter)

JT: Well, it must have worked – you got married in what year?

BT: 1935.

JT: 1935?

BT: Mary graduated in ’34, and we got married the next year – September 1935. We’ve been married almost 67 years.

JT: That’s a day or two.

BT: Yeah. We got married and Mary was working for a Greek fellow that had a candy store downtown by the Arcade Theater, the Liberty Theater. She was working there and I went up and pitched bundles – hauled bundles to the thrashing machine up at – in Ladd Canyon to Stockhoff’s place. I worked up there for two weeks and made \$20.00, came back to town – we got married. And, that’s all we had was \$20.00.

JT: You once told me a story that you and Mary met Dallas McKinnon on the street and he said “I’m going to Hollywood to be a movie star.”

BT: Yeah – right. Yeah he was a nephew of Mrs. Burnett, or Birnie.

JT: Mrs. Birnie?

BT: Yeah.

JT: Mrs. George Birnie?

(Mary is talking here in the background, but I couldn’t really make out what she was saying – something about him being dressed up.)

BT: Yeah – he went to Hollywood.

(More talking by Mary)

JT: Yes - he came Cincinnati from Daniel Boone.

BT: Yeah.

JT: And, other movies.

BT: Yeah – he was in school with us here.

JT: Well, you knew a celebrity.

BT: Yeah (laughter) right.

JT: All these years you went out and you hunted and fished.

BT: Yeah – ever since I can remember. I started hunting elk in about 1937, right after I got married, and I've hunted them every year since. And fishing and stuff. Used to go down the Snake River quite a bit, up to Phillips quite a bit fishing.

JT: What's the biggest changes locally that you can think of?

BT: Oh, I think the college is one of the big changes that was made, because that's – over there where the college is built, that's where I used to play all the time in that field, and when they built the college, well that ...

JT: How big was the cemetery over at the college that they had to take when they started building it?

BT: It was mostly on top of that hill up there. It wasn't as big as it is over here now, you know, of course, but it – there was quite a few old holes left up there where they dug out the graves and moved them, and when they were building the main – the first building at the college, the Administration Building, they dug up a lot of bones up there.

JT: Do you remember any particular thing that – why they picked that spot for the college, and what was being said around town?

BT: I, uh, I don't know why they picked that spot, but I know La Grande and Pendleton were both after that college, and La Grande somehow, I don't know why, they won out on it, and uh they built it up on that hill, but ...

JT: Possibly because of Walter Pierce being Governor at the time?

BT: Could have been, yeah, and then where "H" Street is there, where the hill is, that was just a big gravel pit in there. There was no street there, and I remember we lived down on G Avenue, had a big red barn there, and they dug the basement up there with teams (?) and presnos (?) you know, and there was glass and then they kept the horses down there in our barn at night.

JT: Oh.

BT: And us kids would always make it up there about 6 00 in the evening – they'd get off work to ride those horses back down – we'd water 'em in the creek there by Winn's place.

JT: This was in 1929?

BT: Clyde Winn .. Yeah, and then they'd keep the horses in our barn.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: We got to ride those horses all the time.

JT: Well in those old days, there was quite an expanse between Old Town and New Town by the railroad..

BT: Yeah.

JT: where there weren't any houses, and a lot of vacant lots.

BT: Yeah. Especially on Fourth Street here, there wasn't hardly any, you know, going down Fourth Street here between here and the school. There was just a few houses along in there .. on .., and then the – you had the Sacred Heart Academy down there

JT: Uh huh.

BT: Where the hospital is now.

JT: Where they built the St. Joseph's Hospital later.

BT: Yeah. Where it is now. We had that, but there weren't too many houses, and over here toward the college there weren't too many houses – just one or two houses over in there. There was a few there on I - H, I, J Avenue, right before where the library is in there now – there was a few houses in there, but the rest of that out there was just a big flat where they used to – the

circus used to come up there, and they'd pitch tents up on that flat. The Owsley Barn Circus would come in every year.

JT: You told me they used to march the elephants up Fourth Street and then turn on K and go over on that hill before the college.

BT: Yeah. They'd – they usually stopped there on K and Fourth and they'd get the fire hose out and they'd water — wash them elephants down and water 'em and get them all cooled down and then they'd go over, and then they'd use the elephants to put the tents up, and us kids always went over there – we always went down and met the train. They always come in on a train – met the train too – way early in the morning and then we'd stick with 'em all day and go up – they'd let us help put up the tents and stuff – put in the bleachers and then we'd get a free ticket to the circus.

JT: That was a good project.

BT: And then if we stayed and helped tear down, then we got all the soda pop and lemonade and stuff, not soda pop. They had lemonade and stuff like that. We got that – all the goodies after it was tore down. So we'd put in a long day.

JT: Sounds like fun.

BT: Yeah. We used to have a lot of fun up there. We always looked forward to that circus coming to town. Uh, I don't know it's changed a lot, with the college coming in and then the railroad going out. That was a pretty good change.

JT: You say most everybody in town had relatives that worked for the railroad?

BT: Yeah, most everybody did. Most of the people that lived here worked for the railroad.

JT: The round house, yard crew ...

BT: After the mill came in, Mt. Emily Mill,

JT: That was 1925.

BT: A lot of people worked for the mill, but they did have a mill down where the fairgrounds is – Bowman (?) Hicks, and a lot of guys worked there, and they had another mill at Perry that they ...

JT: That was the Stoddard..

BT: Yeah. I think that was Palmer Lumber – I'm not sure.

JT: Well Palmer was before Bowman Hicks.

BT: Yeah. (something here not clear) Bowman Hicks.

JT: Yeah. Down by the fairgrounds.

BT: Yeah. They had those and, and then the railroad was the biggest industries around, you know. And then later well the college come in and, uh, some of these other outfits, and Mt. Emily's built up to Boise Cascade and made a big outfit.

JT: Oh, when you were a kid, what were the theaters that you had.

BT: Theaters? There was, on Next to Zimmerman's, well, the building there was called a car building on the corner of Adams and Fir and next to it was the Star Theater. It was a wood building – a wood building. And then up the street there on They had the Arcade Theater next to where the City Hall is now. It was later the Liberty. And then right down the street about three or four doors was another theater called "Sherry's," Sherry's Theater, and then it was later called the State Theater.

JT: Yeah.

BT: Yeah, and they had those three shows here.

JT: Well, what about – was Rex Theater up above – what was last called the Phoenix Building – was that ..

BT: I don't remember Rex Theater.

JT: Maybe that was a little before your time.

BT: Could have been. Yeah. I don't remember that one – the Star Theater ...

JT: Over Red Cross, not Red Cross, excuse me, Payless Drug was later.

BT: Yeah.

JT: Rex has been upstairs.

BT: Yeah. I don't remember .. what was up there but I remember was a clothing store on the down floor and on the upstairs was the armory. They had the armory up there – National Guard Armory.

(Mary is saying something here in the background.)

BT: What? Yeah – there was a skating rink up there too.

JT: Oh.

BT: Yeah, where the armory was – there was a skating rink before it was an armory. Yeah. We used to go down there and skate – roller skating.

JT: Did you ever go down to Zuber (?) Hall ?

BT: Yeah down to Zuber Hall, but we mostly, us kids, we mostly went to the Eagles.

JT: Oh.

BT: They were next to the Elks Lodge – right next door.

JT: And Honan (?) Hall?

BT: Yeah, and Honan Hall was over there, but we mostly went to the Eagles, cause it was a cheaper dance. We'd get in for a dime, if you, oh, sneak in. They played mostly older – old time music up at the Eagles, more than they'd – they played more modern music down at Zuber – Zuber Hall, but we used to go down there, and – you could go in the balcony for free.

JT: Oh.

BT: A fella that was a janitor at Central School, Mr. Lilly, he took tickets down there – oh at the dance there on Saturday night, and he knew every kid in town. And, if you happened to be doing pretty good with him, he'd slip you in the door, but usually you could go upstairs and – for nothing. Well, there was a lot of guys that would go upstairs there, and when they'd have a moonlight walk or something, they'd turn the lights down, and we'd all peel over the edge of the balcony and drop down on the dance floor. (laughter) The balcony may be empty when they'd turn the lights back on. We used to go to the show that way at the Arcade Theater, when they had the – when the high school was having their homecoming game, you know, they'd have a big rally and they'd have a big bonfire and they'd burn a big – you know like they do, with the bonfire, and then after that they'd all get into a line – a circ (?) line, little more or less, and they'd go downtown – all the high school kids. And, they'd be arm in arm, and they'd go in – in the evenings they'd go into whatever stores was open and then through the stores and through the pool halls, and then they'd go up and go through the theater.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: Well us kids would get on the tail end of that, and when they went through the theater, we'd drop off in there (laughter), and the front seats would all fill up in the theater all of a sudden. They'd go through the – all of the theaters, and that's the way they got in the show quite a bit. Of course, a show in them days was a dime – 10 cents, but nobody had a dime very much. I remember that – that was a great deal when they had that homecoming deal.

JT: Is there any thing that you'd rather been than an electrician?

BT: That I'd rather been?

JT: Uh huh.

BT: Oh, I always wanted to – thought I'd like to work for the Forest Service.

JT: Oh.

BT: Of course in those days they didn't have much of a Forest Service. Later on I always thought I'd like to have – went to work for the Forest Service.

(Mary said something here in the background)

BT: Yeah. I loved to be out in the mountains. I never did really really really like electrical work.

JT: Is that right?

BT: That's odd because I was in it for years – 30 years I guess, but I never never really liked it.

JT: That was your way of making a living?

BT: Yeah. I got stuck with it and I had to stay with it, but I didn't – didn't really enjoy, what I could say enjoy, doing that kind of work for some reason – I don't ...

(Mary said something here in the background)

BT: Yeah, but now Michael – he became a – he got his – I got him into it, and then he's got two boys, and one of them is an electrician, and the other studying.

JT: Well they often follow in families.

BT: Yeah, and my brother was an electrician – my older brother.

JT: When you were a kid – how old were you when you cut your thumb off?

BT: I was 17, about 17 years old. That was kind of an odd deal, because we had – when I lived up on the end of Second Street, right at the bottom of the hill – Second Street. We had a big old tree out there and we decided – my brother and I decided to cut it down. We cut that tree down, and then I went around in the back of the house – we had a chop block out there, and I started to split some of the wood, and then boy I cut my thumb off, come down, you know, and off it went, and I run in the house and hollered at mom that I cut my hand off, and run out the front door (the end of the tape here ...) and we were working on British fine layers, and you'd go to work in the morning – they'd say “Well we haven't got any equipment, you'll have to just go over to the ship and wander around – act like you're doing something.” Well that went on for about six weeks. Every morning you didn't have nothing to do – stand around and try to act like you're doing something all day long, you know, for six weeks. Finally I went over to the boss one morning, and I told him, I said I'm quitting – getting out of here. He said you can't quit. He says your froze in here, cause during the war they froze you, and I says you don't see no icicles hanging on me, I'm leaving. I says I'm getting so lazy I don't even want to wash my hands and face when I go home at night. So he says if you quit, I'll turn you into the draft board. So I quit and come back home and about two weeks later I got a notice from the President – “Report” down to Portland, so a bunch of us hauled us down to Portland, and went through the examination down there okay until I come out and the guy looked at it and he says “You don't have a thumb on your left hand.” He says “If you had a stub there we'd take you, but we can't take you.” And he says “I'm sorry.” And I thought “You're sorry!”

(Mary is talking here in the background – One of the guys that went with him in that group was Doyle .)

JT: Oh.

BT: Yeah, Doyle was down there with us on that and Charlie Cater – he was in on the train with us.

JT: Well, Wes Taal must have been with you too.

BT: Wes could have been there probably.

JT: Yeah, but you said he went down there when Charlie Cater ..

BT: Well I was with Charlie Cater.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: But in, I don't know, about 19.. I can't remember what year it was I joined the National Guards. I was in the Guards for about three years, and we used to go down to Camp Klaptett (?) in the summertime for our two weeks' training.

JT: Oh.

BT: Down by Seaside, and I remember one time we were going down on the train – I lost my hat, and I got latrine duty for that. I didn't have my hat, but then there was, oh, a guy named – I remember Captain Bean was the Captain, and then Jessie Andrews was the Lieutenant, and I remember Duke – a guy called Duke Oliver was the Sargent. I remember those guys, and I remember Howard Peterson, some of the guys that was in there with me.

JT: What year was that?

BT: I think it was around 1930 something '31, '32, but us kids used to – we didn't have nothing to do, and old Daisy didn't have any money, so we'd go hiking up on the hill, you know, and there was a place up there above Slaughter Pond on the south hill – they had a big old wooden building setting up there. It wasn't a big building – they called it the "Pest House," and that's where they would take people and – that had a communicable disease – they would put them in there that – you know to isolate them. They'd put them in the Pest House.

JT: From the community?

BT: Yeah.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And that old place was empty, and us kids used to go up there and play cowboy and Indians, and I remember one time we were – a bunch of us got up in the attic and the other bunch that was supposed to be the – I guess we were the Indians – I don't know, and they are the cowboys. They started shooting 22s up through the attic at us. I don't know how somebody didn't get shot at, you know, with those 22s – they was live with ammunition. It was crazy kids. So we were coming down from there one time, and there was a kid that was running around with us – his name was Axel (?) Oliver, and there was a – my brother had come home from the Navy and he brought a buddy with him, and they were with us. So my brother's buddy told Axel – he said "Well hold up that 22 box and I'll shoot it out of your hand." So Axel he holds up this 22 box and Gil – Gil was the guy's name .. Gil he shot it out and he shot his thumb off.

JT: Oh boy.

BT: Laughter – And we used to play with live ammunition like that, and I don't know how we ever survived, but I was with a fella – a kid I run around with, Glenn Ford, not Glenn Ford, Walter Ford, and we were up at the high school field. We played hooky that day – we didn't go to school that day; we played hooky – we was walking across the field, and, uh, a kid named Mike Zupan (?) had a pistol, a 22 pistol, and he – what he did he cut the lead off of it, but he just cut the lead off – even with the brass and left a little lead in there, and he thought he was shooting blanks. He thought "Well this is just a blank." And, we were walking across the field, Walter and I, and I bent down to pick up something, a rock or something, and about that time I heard a snap, and Walter grabbed his neck. Well, what happened Mike Zupan had shot that 22, which he thought was a blank shell, at us and when I bent down it missed me and hit Walter in the neck, and of course it was – they hauled him off to the hospital and then from then on he never did – he was paralyzed on the left side (Wow – Bill you had an angel watching out for you). Broke his foot, and his arm – he couldn't use his arm. But it just – if I hadn't bent down, it would probably have hit me.

JT: Got you?

BT: Yeah. But we was – done some crazy things – like all kids I guess. Then there was, of course we lived in Old Town, and we had the Old Town gang, and you had the north side gang, and the railroad tracks was the borderline.

JT: The division point.

BT: Yeah. You didn't – you go across that line and you're going to get in trouble. But the odd part of it was most of the kids that lived in Old Town went with girls that lived on the north side, and the north side guys went with girls that lived on the south side. So we had a lot of fun. We'd get up there in the winter time on that Second Street hill and we'd – everybody'd get out there at

night and sleigh ride up and down that hill. Old Jess Turnbull – he'd bring a great big toboggan, and we all rode on that toboggan, and we'd build a big bonfire up there and have a heck of a time.

JT: You talked about Jess Turnbull when you both worked for Clefingier – wasn't he supposed to be the strongest man in town?

BT: Boy – yeah he was.

JT: He could move a piano almost by himself?

BT: I seen him take a strap and go around a piano and put it on his – get it up on his back and walk off with the piano – on his back. He was a strong man – he was a strong young man.

(Something from Mary here in the background)

BT: Yeah, and a real nice guy – always wore that big old cowboy hat – he was a really really nice guy. Him and his – he had a brother named Del – he worked for Clefingier too before I went to work there. They both drove trucks and they kept the trucks up there on - oh Frank Clefingier lived up here on Third Street. They kept the trucks in a barn over there on Second Street, and I worked with him. And, we – Mary and I – we bought a little house over on First and I Avenue. We was living over there when I worked for Frank Clefingier. In fact, I got a picture somewhere around here of me with my truck. Called "go anywhere" truck it was called.

JT: Interesting time.

BT: Yeah.

(Mary is saying something here in the background about their first house)

BT: Oh yeah – when we first got married we lived in that little house up there on Cedar and – well on Cedar there just off of D. It's still there, but it's got – they've built on to it since we lived in there. We rented that when we first got married for \$1.25 a month. And, the water was out in the yard, and a two-holer out back, and we didn't have nothing. We had a hard time paying the \$2.50, or I mean the \$1.25, and then we had kerosene lights. We didn't have no electricity cause we couldn't afford to have it turned on.

JT: Was that Eastern Oregon Electric in those days?

BT; Yeah – Eastern Oregon Electric. They had the powerhouse up on Morgan Lake Road, going up the hill.

JT: (?) Canyon?

BT: Uh huh - (?) Canyon. And later we moved down on 611 C, right next to Jess Turnbull – the house is still there. They've built on – it's right on the creek. We moved in there. That's where our daughter was born, when Virginia was born we lived there.

(Mary is saying something in the background)

BT: We lived there for quite awhile, and we lived different spots.

(Mary in the background)

BT: Yeah – that didn't have – yeah it didn't have lights or water.

JT: By the time I got acquainted with you, you were living down on H, wasn't it?

BT: Yeah – I lived down on 8th.

JT: You and Mitch came in and you gotten the old garage at the Catholic Church, and you were going to move it down on H.

BT: Yeah – it's down there yet. It's still there, and they made – it looks like they built onto it and made a house – kind of an apartment out of it. Father McMahan gave me that garage and we got that old truck and went down and got a permit and hauled that thing ...

JT: Well I sold you the permit when I worked at the City Treasurer's office.

BT; Yeah.

JT: And that's the first time I remember Bill.

BT: And that thing is still sitting down there. I don't know how we ever did that – I still don't know how we did that. Cause we backed the truck – I was – I borrowed the truck from somebody

– oh Mike Lynch. I got it from Mike Lynch, and we backed the truck into – inside the garage – just the nose sticking out, and then we jacked the garage up, and we put some beams across the flatbed truck, and let the garage back down on the beams. We only had about four inches of clearance going down the street – Mitch was out in front guiding me, and I was driving that thing – couldn't see nothing. Hauled that clear down there on G or H.

JT: A lot of people don't realize how many houses in La Grande were moved in those days.

BT: Yeah – there was quite a lot of 'em.

JT: Mr. Lovely – he was one of the movers?

BT: Yeah he was a mover.

JT: There was another one – lived down there on Second.

BT: And, I don't know whether Hildebrandt was or not. Whether he moved houses – he was – he done house – cement work, sidewalks, and – and, done some house construction – some.

JT: You still see his name on the sidewalks, if you walk up Fourth Street.

BT: Uh huh.

JT: That's when they were proud enough to put their name in there and the year that they ...

BT: Yeah – them sidewalks are still here, but they mixed that cement with river gravel, you know – that's what – in the Administration Building over at the college – all that gravel came from the river. Hauled it up there in wagons, and had a big mixer up there and mixed it up, and that's the hardest concrete in this town, I do believe, because I've tried to drill holes in that building lot of times, and that is really hard stuff. It and Ackerman. Really, really...

JT: How long after the college was built that they built Ackerman?

BT: They built Ackerman in '35, and the college – the other building, I think, was '29, and along about that same time they built the Sacajewa Hotel.

JT: Yeah. Well it was about '27 that I was told.

BT: Yeah.

JT: Because it was before the depression, and then the La Grande Hotel was built about that time, also.

BT: Yeah, the La Grande Hotel up there, and it didn't last – only about three or four years, they tore it back down again.

JT: What do you remember about the Chinese?

BT: Oh, when I first came here, I'd never seen a Chinese – a Chinaman before, and I was scared to death of 'em. I'd seen lots of mexicans and gypsies, but not Chinaman. And, there was a lot of Chinese down in Chinatown there below where the old Safeway store is now, went down on Jefferson ...

JT: It would be 4th and Jefferson.

BT: Yeah, down through there that was Chinatown down there, and there was quite a few Chinese here that had restaurants. There was quite a few Chinese restaurants around, but I was always scared of them. I, I didn't trust them. I always afraid they'd gonna stab me with a knife or something.

JT: Remember the old Chinaman that used to go down the alleys, down ...

BT: Yeah, then when I'd lived in Old Town we had a Chinaman that had a garden up there that he sold produce. I can't remember what was his name ..

(Mary in the background)

BT: Choco ..Charley, I think you're right, and there was quite a few Chinese and blacks – there was a few blacks here too.

JT: Mostly they were on the north side weren't they?

BT: Yeah, except the Chinese were down here.

JT: Right.

BT: And they – they’d – them Chinese once in awhile get into a battle – what they call Tong wars,

JT: Uh huh.

BT: They’d get into – into different Tongs they’d say, and they’d get into fights and have their little battles down there. But I was - I was always scared of them. I remember us kids used to go up and down the alleys. I don’t know what we were doing down there, running up and down the alleys looking for whisk – well we’d find a whiskey bottle. We could sell ‘em for 10 cents.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And, of course, in those days whiskey was all bootleggers, and we’d go up and down the alleys looking for whiskey bottles, and we’d get 10 cents apiece out of them. And, there was – behind the – about where the telephone company is down there on Adams – well now that alley there was a toilet or a hall that went into a restaurant, but there was a toilet back there right next to the alley. And us kids would always go in that toilet and hide from the Chinese and, and we’d sell milk bottles and whiskey bottles, and I remember one time there was a fella that would buy our whiskey bottles. He lived in the Foley Hotel.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And us kids went a clanking up through there one day with a big bag of whiskey bottles and going through the lobby. And he said don’t ever do that again. (laughter here)

JT: Did you know any particular thing about the bootleggers that ..

BT: Yeah. Us kids in Old Town – we were into a lot of stuff. But, I remember that the Harrisons had – they were bootleggers – Sam Harrison lived up on C Avenue. He was a bootlegger, and we knew he had a still somewhere, and he was making whiskey, you know. And, there was us older kids there in Old Town – we were in our – oh 17 and 18, 16, 17, 18 years old. And we couldn’t figure out where he had that still, so we got to watching, but we trailed him one night and he went up on the south hill above the reservoir up here. He went up in there and we followed him up there. And he had a still up there and a spring – there was a spring up there, and he was – that’s where he was making his whiskey. Well, when he left we went in there and run a batch of whiskey off through his still and we had a 10-gallon keg, and we brought the keg down to town – all us kids, and every kid in Old Town was drunk for a month. (laughter). Then we went and stole his still from him. One of ‘em took the still with us, and he had an idea who did it, but he couldn’t do nothing about it because it was against the law, and we talked to one of the kids – his name was Harry Mason, to go up to Sam and tell him we’d trade him his still back for a gallon of whiskey, and so Harry did, and Sam says “I ought to shoot you, but I’ll give you a gallon of whiskey for my still.” So he got his still back and we got another gallon of whiskey, but the whiskey that we run off through that still would make anybody sick. It was rotten. There was John Rothwell, Earl Woods, and myself, and all of us kids up there in Old Town. That was one of our experiences.

(Mary is saying something here in the background about Harry Mason getting drunk.)

BT: That was Earl Woods. Yeah, we couldn’t find Earl for about a day, you know, and there was an old woodshed up there in Old Town down on C Avenue, and, I think – what was her name that lived there? I can’t think of their name.

(Mary in the background)

BT: Yeah – they lived there, and we couldn’t find Earl for about a day, and we finally located him. He was in that woodshed. He had drank a whole bunch of that whiskey and got sick, and he passed out in that woodshed. We finally found him after about a day. That was one of our experiences. And old Sam Harrison was ready to shoot the whole bunch of us. Stealing his still. But that bunch in Old Town was quite a bunch of guys. I remember one night – we used to pull the darndest things. There was a house – an empty house – it was about a two-room house. It had

an attic, and it was on – on D Avenue between Second and First – sat right on the alley there, and it had been empty for years and years, and we thought it was haunted, you know. So we'd go by there – so we thought we'll pull one over this Earl Woods – we called him Pud. We thought we'd pull something on him, so we – it was at night and we got him down there and we told him – we said inside that house you go up in the attic there's a bunch of whiskey stashed up there – some guy stashed some whiskey up there. We had a ladder there – an old wood ladder, and we stuck in there, and one of the guys got up in the attic, and when old Earl put his head up through that hole going into the attic, this guy grabbed him around the neck – it was dark. Old Earl went out of there – I'm telling you he was making tracks when he left there – grabbed him around the neck. – Like scared him to death. By golly Earl, you know, he whacked his thumb off too with an axe – one of my buddies.

JT: Oh boy.

BT: Yeah. Earl and Oh we used to have a lot of fun, but we sure scared Earl to death. He was scared of the dark anyway, and that's the reason we did it.

JT: That was about what year, what?

BT: Oh that was probably about 1933, '32-'33.

JT: When did prohibition go off?

BT: I think '33.

JT: '33?

BT: Yeah. They brought in – they brought in what they called...the beer they brought it, I think was called 3.2 or some alcoholic content – it was rotten stuff. They brought that in about then when they opened it up. But there was a few bootleggers around, you know. You could get a bottle of bootleg any – most anytime if you had the money.

JT: Pearly Stiles was one of 'em?

BT: Yeah – Stiles..there was Stiles and Harrisons, and then down at the old Star Theater when I was a young kid, we'd – we got the bright idea – we didn't have money to go to the show, so we'd crawl up a telephone pole in the alley and then we'd go down the roof and they had skuddle (?) holes up there on the roof, you know, and we'd open up a skuddle hole and get in the attic, then we'd – they had these here, oh they was kind of built down like a – from the ceiling they'd build these deals down that had ...where – I don't know what they were for. They just built a deal down, sloped, and we'd lay in the attic – we'd cut holes through the wood with our pocket knife, and we'd lay up there and watch the movies. Of course they – they would – it – there wasn't no sound – it was all silent movies, and so we'd lay up there and watch the movies until somebody got to throw- one of the kids got to throwing stuff down on the people, and that ended that. They caught us up there. Here come the police.

JT: Is that when Clint Haynes was Chief of Police?

BT: Yeah, Clint Haynes and another guy named Cooper – Claude Cooper.

JT: Well Cooper went on to work for Warner Bros. Studios down there, and he was close to Dallas McKinnon.

BT: I'll be darned. I didn't know that.

JT: Cooper was – wife was a niece or something of Mrs. George Birnie.

BT: Oh. Well I remember he rode a motorcycle, and he had a sidecar.

JT: City Police.

BT: Yeah, City Police. And Clint Haynes was the Chief.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: In fact, before they built the college, we used to play over on the hill – the police had an old Model T Ford red pickup with no top on it. Model T Ford, and that was the police car. Lot of things have changed.

JT: They were hard times, but ..

BT: Yeah. Hard times, but we had a lot of fun.

JT: You had a lot of fun.

BT: We made our own fun – a lot of it, because we didn't have any money, and neither did your parents, you know. You didn't go and ask your dad for a dime, cause you didn't get it anyway, because a dime was a dime. And to get in the show, we'd just sneak in or any way we could get in there. There was a fella that took tickets – they used to have a ticket taker at the Arcade Theater. It was a pretty fancy theater. They had a ticket taker, and he had a uniform on, and he took tickets at the door. Well, if you had a nickel, you'd slip a nickel to him, he'd let you in. Cause you didn't have a dime. But if you had a nickel, he'd let you go in. He made more money than I think the theater did. (laughter) We had all the ins and outs on all the things to do – we'd go up the alley behind the Blue Mountain Creamery, and we'd pick a milk bottle or two up off the back deck, and we'd go around the front door and sell 'em for a nickel. Sell 'em their same bottles back.

JT: That's when Mr. Tyler had Blue Mountain Creamery.

BT: Huh?

JT: When Mr. Tyler had Blue Mountain Creamery?

BT: Yeah – he had the Blue Mountain Creamery – Tyler – Frank Tyler. In fact, when we lived up on Cedar Street, he lived right in front of us on First and Cedar, or First and K, and we lived on Cedar and K. But we lived there – we had a barn out back there too. The same guy that got his thumb shot off, well him and my brother was messing around out there in the barn, and Dad called us in for supper, so we come in for supper and this kid stayed out in the barn, and pretty soon we heard a big explosion. Well him and my brother'd been making a canon out of a piece of pipe and black powder, and he'd been out there dinging around with that, and it blew up and it blew three fingers off his hands, and a big piece of metal went up into his arm. Well this is the same guy that later on got the other thumb shot off with a 22. He was getting pretty fingerless.

(Mary said something here in the background.)

BT: Yeah – Axel (?) Oliver. Well, I run around with his brother – his younger brother.

JT: You mentioned the City dump being down on the river.

BT: Yeah.

JT: It .. I got a call from the City awhile back, and they wanted to know what happened – did they bury the stuff down there? Well, what happened, when the water come up in the spring, it washed most of it down the river.

BT: Yeah. And the swimming hole was right below it. Then we used to swim at Ordell too. There was an old bridge went across there, and they – we used to swim down in there, right about – right below that rock slide. We used to come down that in a tub.

JT: Yeah.

BT: We'd get – come a banging down through there when the rock slide – in an old galvanized tub. We'd try that – we done that.

JT: Well, was that about the time that boy got killed up there on Devil's Slide?

BT: Yeah, I think so. I think it was before that, then there was another kid – then they built the swimming pool there – Crystal Plunge, there by the viaduct.

JT: Right.

BT: There was a kid got killed in there – electrocuted. I can't remember his name. I can't remember his name, and so they shut that down. It didn't last too many years. I remember we used to go down there swimming, but the water was real cold. We didn't like it – we'd rather swim in the river. Then we had another swimming pool at Perry – out in the – where the weigh station is – Pine Cone. Yeah Pine Cone.

JT: That came right out of the river.

BT: Yeah – that was right out of the river too. And Cove – we had that.
JT: That was 15 miles away.
BT: Yeah, and that was quite a hike over there – hitchhiking or riding our bicycles or something to get over there. Swim all day and then try to walk home at night or hitchhike a ride, and you're hungry.
JT: The warm water made you tired.
BT: Yeah – that warm water would take all the stuff out of you, you know. We had a lot of things to do. We had to – didn't have any money, so we had to do something, a lot of it wasn't for the good of the country. (laughter)
JT: Kids have a way of finding trouble.
BT: Yeah. Right.
JT: Well, did you ever fish in Catherine Creek in the days when the salmon come up?
BT: My dad did – I didn't, but I remember my dad used to go over there and fish for salmon, and then he also – I think I have a picture of him somewhere around here, when we first came from Kansas he fished – he went fishing on Indian Creek.
JT: Uh huh.
BT: Caught a great big salmon up there. I've got a picture of him with that and boy that was something. In Kansas you didn't have that kind of fishing. All you had was perch.

(THIS WAS THE END OF THE TAPE)

May 7, 2002

William Talbott's home

Interviewer: John Turner

Tape 1, side 1

JT: Bill you told me that you lived at the top of 8th Street Hill before the college was built, and there was wooden steps. Can you tell me what happened at that time?
BT: Well I – before I lived up there I lived down here on the end of G Avenue where the coliseum is, and friends of mine, Mary's stepdad – they lived where Hoke Hall is – well I ran around with her stepbrothers. We used to go downtown to the show and stuff, and we had to go down the steps up there on the hill – the one over the hill by the Science Building – it went down from L Avenue down to N.
JT: Uh huh.
BT: And because the H Street – there was no street there. There was just a big gravel pit, so we couldn't go down through there usually – it was too hard to get through there. So we would always go over down these steps. Well these loggers had come in from Starkey, and they'd go over to Mary's Stepdad's and they would stay, and he had a lot of whiskey and wine that he made, and they stayed there on the weekends. And they'd – us kids would always beg 'em for money to give us to go to the show. So we'd – they'd always dish us out some dimes and nickels, and so then we'd go to the show. But they also had a couple of cows, and we had to peddle the milk, and there was some people lived down on Madison Avenue that we had to take the milk to – Mary's mother sold milk to them. So in the evenings we'd take the milk down there and then we'd slip off to the show, down to the old Star Theatre. Well, one time we were down there and we come home – we were all half scared of the dark anyway. And we must have been to a pretty scary movie – like Frankenstein or something, cause we weren't too – we were kind of watching the steps and everything else, and we came up 7th Street to those steps, and we started up them steps, and we got almost to the top and looked up and here was a couple of guys up there – 2 or

three guys there had these white robes with white hoods on – just sitting up on top of – they were sitting on the top step. And us kids came up there from that scary movie and saw those guys, and you talk about clean the house – it was out of there in a hurry. But they were Klu Klux Klan guys, and I never knew much about Klu Klux Klan. In those days didn't think nothing of it – I don't know we didn't pay attention – we just thought it was some guys just going around with robes on. They used to burn a cross at night on the face of Table Mountain every once in awhile - I don't know maybe once a month or something, and they'd burn this cross up there. And so us kids being curious like we always are – all kids are – we sneaked up Deal Canyon one night when they had a cross burning up there, and come around the back of Table Mountain went up on top where we could see down there where they were, and there was 5 or 6 guys down there. I don't know whether they were having a meeting or what they were doing, but they were there with this cross they were burning. But they'd burn those crosses, and we watched them for awhile – we didn't know what was going on, and finally one of the kids got wild, and he rolled a rock down there, and that put the end – the stop to that. They come roaring up out of there, and us kids took off down Deal Canyon, and, but that's about all I ever had with those Klu Klux Klans, but I do know they did have a chapter here in the 20s...

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And probably was some pretty prominent La Grande residents in it, but we – as kids we didn't know what it all meant or anything. That was my experience with those Klu Klux Klan guys, but we were scared of them anyway – we didn't pay much attention to those guys – when we seen 'em we got out of there. They – there was quite a few of them around here, I think, but every so often they'd burn that cross up on the face of Table Mountain, and I don't know whether they were having meetings, or – I think they had their meetings in town, and some guys just went up there and started the cross and stayed there. It was a wonder they didn't burn the whole place up – of course the high school used to burn a nail up there too. So that was our experience with the Klu Klux Klan. We would have to peddle that milk at night and, about every night we'd go peddle the milk and come back up those steps. But the steps went up – there was two sections of them – they'd go up about halfway, and then there was kind of a deck, and then they went on up.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: But later on in about 1930 I lived in the house right up there next to those steps.

JT: Oh.

BT: There was two houses up there – in fact sitting right over there the house I lived in.

JT: The house is sitting at, uh, 5th and H now?

BT: Yeah.

JT: It sat on the hill?

BT: Yeah – it sat on that hill.

JT: Uh huh. But this was all prior to the time the college was built?

BT: Oh yeah. Yeah, before the college was built out there – that was just a big field out there, and it was full of holes where they had taken graves – moved the graves out of there and put em over there in the – where the cemetery – the Hillcrest Cemetery. It wasn't – it was called the Masonic at that time – the Masonic Cemetery. And, why they moved those graves I don't know – unless they just wanted to start a new cemetery, but they left all the holes up there, and that's where us kids would play on there on that hill. That was our play place. We – in fact we sat a whole thing on fire one time with all the cheat (?) grass up there with – light little fires and see if we could stomp them out. It got away from us. Here come the fire engine, the fire chief, and the chief of police and everybody else. Why we got out of that in a hurry. But that was our play place over there, and then, of course, we were – with being scared at night – I lived down at the end of G and right next to us was a cemetery. Well we'd go to the show and then we'd come at

night – well I'd have to walk from my friend's house there where Hoke Hall is over to my house, and boy I was scared to death, cause that cemetery was right there, and walking in the dark – I wasn't too happy about that kind of a thing.

JT: They didn't have street lights in those days.

BT: No – there was no street light – there was no street there, but just a field and a path down through there. That was some of our experiences there, and, well, uh, the first thing I ever got tangled up in this town was when we came here I got acquainted – like I say we lived down there and they lived over by Hoke, and I got acquainted with these kids, and Mr. Beardon there in the field back of Mary's Stepdad's house – he had a big garden out there ..

JT: Which is now part of the high school – I mean the college field .

BT: It would be part of the college field,

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And he had a big garden out there, and he had a lot of pumpkins out there. Well, Nick Thomas, Mary's stepbrother, says – oh he says “Hey let's go get us some of those pumpkin – they belong to my uncle – he said we can have all of them we want.” So we went over there and was into the pumpkin patch when here come the sheriff, Jess Schaures (?). And he nailed us, but I run and Mary's stepdad had a corral there that he kept his cows in – there by the house. I run and got into the corral and, uh, the sheriff would say “Come on Bill – come in we're going to go to jail.” He had my brother – my two brothers and then two of the other kids rounded up, and I said “No I ain't going – I ain't going.” I was about 7 years old, and he took em – he took em all up to the jail – up to the courthouse – they had a jail upstairs above the – on the second floor of the courthouse – they put them in jail. They put these kids in jail. Well, when the – my dad come home from work, Mr. Thomas (Mary's stepdad) come over and he told em – he says “Your kids all got in jail this afternoon” he says, and it was just a big field there across from the courthouse – across down to Joe's house, and he says “I gave em a licking all the way across that field, he says and I gave your kids a licking too. And Dad says well if I'd been there I would have given your kids a licking. (laughter) But I never did go to jail – I got out of it – I stayed in the corral. (laughter). And these dumb pumpkins belonged to Mr. Beardon, who used to live right up here on the corner.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And Nick – Nick said it was his own. That was the first mess of stuff I got tangled up in right after we come here from Kansas. Oh we used to get in a lot of fun though – had lots of fun – different things we got into, and uh, but the Klu Klux Klan – that's all I know much about them.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: They didn't – well we – I know they always had it at night after dark.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: Always lit that cross.

JT: Well doing things as kids – did you fish up the Grande Ronde River – like we all did at different times.

BT: Yeah, yeah - I used to fish up there.

JT: Did you have a bicycle that you rode?

BT: No ..

JT: Or did you walk?

BT: We walked up there – we'd walk down here to the river, not way up the river, you know, and then in the summertime we'd go swimming in the river – there at Ordell.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: There was a big swimming hole there. We'd swim there and some – one of the kids would mention “Let's go swimming,” and away we'd go, and we'd stay up there all day long

swimming, you know, come home we'd be hungry and tired and usually sunburnt – like red as a beet, and we used to swim in there, but then – then they'd have the swimming pool up at Pinecomb, but we didn't go in there because we didn't have the money. We always swam in the river. And I don't know whether I told you about the Best (?) house up here – did I ever tell you about the –

JT: You mentioned there was a Best house up in Old Town, on the south..

BT: Yeah – it was up on 12th Street. Us kids used to go up there and play around that, and then we got to messing around with 22s, and we'd get up in the attic, and we'd have cowboy and Indian fights, and we got up in the attic one time and the crazy kids down below started shooting bullets up through the attic (laughter) and that ended that, and one of the guys told one of the kids to hold a box of – an empty shell box up in his hand and he'd shoot it out between his fingers, and he shot his thumb off (laughter). That ...

JT: Oh kids don't think of the consequences, do they?

BT: No. No don't think. I know when I lived – I lived – I told you this, maybe. I lived up on Cedar and K Avenue, the corner – we had a barn out back, and my brother and another kid got out there, and they were building a - a canon – they were going to build em a canon, and they worked – oh half a day out there building this canon out of a piece of pipe and black powder, and we were in the home there in the evening having supper when we heard a big explosion out in the barn, and well this kid come out of there, and he blew off two fingers and run a big piece of pipe up in his arm – just about killed him – well my brother was in the house eating supper, he kept messing with that dang bomb, and he finally got it to go off – blew two fingers off – well, he's the same guy that got his thumb shot off up here at the Best (?) house, so he was minus a few fingers (laughter). That kind of crazy stuff we used to – you know – we didn't have anything to do but get in trouble, it seemed like.

JT: Well, as a kid, did you notice that the lack of money didn't really bother you so much?

BT: Uh uh.

JT: You had entertainment to do and not always the dangerous kind.

BT: Yeah – we didn't have money to go to the shows and stuff. We had to go sneak in most of the time, but these loggers would come to town, they'd be up in Starkey for a month – they'd come down – they'd spend every nickel they had over a weekend, and they'd always give us kids some money. So that's where we got our show money a lot of times, and we didn't have, you know, we had to make our own entertainment. I remember there down on G Avenue, when I lived down there, well on H Avenue Harley (?) Hudson lived there, and out behind his house he had an old small barn out back that they'd built, but they didn't finish it. And us kids got in there, and that was our – we built a saloon in there – made us a saloon, and we each had a dog, and that was our horses. We had a saloon and dogs, and we didn't have dogs on a leash – we put them on a rope and let them run all over the field down there with them dogs, and the dogs had more fun than the guys did – us kids did. And in that old saloon we had built us a bar in there, and we had bottles strung out in there for whiskey and stuff in it was supposed to be, and that kind of stuff that kept us busy, and done our own entertainment. In the wintertime, we skied, not skied we ice skated – sleigh rides ..

JT: Slaughter Pond?

BT: Yeah up on Slaughter Pond we used to ice skate up there, and then when I was about 16 or 17, we lived in Old Town, right at the foot of Second Street, and we used to go out there on the hill – hell all the kids, half the grownups in Old Town, would come up on top of that hill at night, and we'd sleigh ride there – build a big bonfire and sleigh ride. I remember Jess Turnbull built a great big tobaggan and had kids and people and everybody else on that thing – that's on thing we did in the wintertime, and we just made our own entertainment. We didn't have any money.

JT: You didn't measure by how much money was spent?

BT: No, but we'd sleigh ride, we, on that hill – Second Street hill – the Hildebrandts, I think lived at the top of the hill, and there was a dairy up there too – (couldn't understand the name) had a dairy up there – the road that goes up the hill – the reservoir, and that's where we would sleigh ride, and Old Town – people – well they'd get together and play cards, and people would get together and they'd have house dances on Saturday nights – different houses around. They'd have – they'd just move all the furniture out and roll up the rugs, and there would have big time – have house dances – we used to go to house dances on Saturday nights, play pinochle, and that kind of stuff.

JT: It was a time when people helped other people. It – today people kind of stay off to themselves.

BT: Yeah – in those days you kind of – well you didn't have money, so if you had a sack of spuds and the other guy had a sack of apples, you traded, and I remember one time – us kids used to spend a lot of time in Starkey up at Gust Tsaitos', cause he married my wife's stepsister, and we spent a lot of time up there. We'd go up there in the summertime, and Gust he'd say now I got to go to town today, and I want you kids messing around with those pigs or those calves. Well he'd no sooner get out of sight than we'd be down in the pig pen riding pigs and riding calves (laughter), and he'd come home and he'd say "You guys have been doing that." And he was Greek and he could really rattle it off to you. But we went up there one summer – me and my brother, and Mike and Nick, his sister's – or his wife's brothers, and we put up hay up there for him. And Gust – we put up hay for Gust and, we put up hay up the lane from Gust' up there there was a guy up there had a place called – his name was Thornberg, and later on he had a beer parlour here in town ...

JT: Al Thornberg.

BT: Yeah – Al Thornberg, and so we put up his hay – well they had these wild horses up there – they work 'em about once a year though, and they're wilder than the dickens, and we'd hook them horses up to the dang machinery. Well, we wrecked more machinery than we made hay. I remember one time Nick was on the mowing machine, and it had a team of them wild horses hooked up to it, and they – something spooked 'em, and they took off – down through the field and Nick fell off the back of the mowing machine. He went over backwards and fell off of that thing, and those horses went down through the field and hit the timber down there, and one horse went one side of a tree, and the other one went the other side, and the mowing machine hit the middle – it just scattered mowing machine parts all over that field, and when Nick fell off, he said "I lost the can of Velvet – you guys seen my can of Velvet (laughter)?" He was worried about his tobacco, and that mowing machine busted into a million pieces – the horses still going. It took us a half a day the next day to find them horses, and we broke more stuff – well I worked up there for two weeks for Gust – my brother and I, and when we got done, he gave us four wiener pigs – gave my brother two and me two, and that was our wages for two weeks – wiener pigs. We brought them home, and my dad – we lived up on the bottom of the Second Street hill – my dad says "okay," and so he grabbed em, and he built a pen out in the backyard for them pigs. We raised those pigs, and except one was a runt and never did grow. It was about the size of Sam there. It was just a little thing, and it would follow you all over – he was a pet – he just followed us kids all over Old Town all summer – that pig. Finally gave him to a friend of mine that lived up the street, and he butchered him – butchered that little pig, but we worked two weeks for little pigs – wiener pigs – they were worth about \$1.00 apiece, I think. Then we went over to Pete Ables, and we – there where the Starkey store is, and we put up his hay, and Gust had a hay rake there and he just had it all fixed up – all taken care of nice and .., and Nick took it and started down through the river with it and broke the tongue out of it. That ruined the hay rake. We .spent, we ruined more machinery than we made money for, I'll tell you that, but this

Al Thornberg, I think, I think Wright had that place later – it was up the lane from Tsaitosos'. I remember them horses – them horses were – to harness them up, you had to get in the barn and throw a blindfold on one of them to harness it – they were that wild. They'd come at you pawing with their front feet and everything else – they was a wild – well they didn't – they'd run wild all the time, and that's the ones that run away with the mowing machine. But we spent a lot of time in Starkey up there riding horses, riding the pigs, riding the calves, Gust chewing us out all the time.

JT: The businesses around town – there was a grocery store almost in every neighborhood, wasn't there?

BT: Yeah. There was little – you know like down on Sixth Street – down on the corner of Sixth and I don't know what street that is, there was a – Moores had a store down there – it was called "Red and White Grocery" where that professional business is there on Sixth.

JT: Sixth and Penn?

BT: Yeah, yeah – that's it. There was a grocery store there, and there was a grocery store right here on Fourth Street where Mrs. – uh what's her name? Lives right here on the corner – that big second two-story house..

JT: Oh, Worthem (?)

BT: Yeah – there was a grocery store in there.

JT: Oh, I didn't know that.

BT: Mr., Mr. Pennington or Mr. Pembroke – I can't remember what his name was, and he kept after us kids when we were young – when we first got married – he kept us from starving to death – he'd give us credit on groceries – we'd finally pay him, but we'd have an awful time, and then there was a store in Old Town – there was two stores in Old Town – one was old man Spears store.

JT: On C Avenue.

BT: On C and Third, and then at one time right across the street there was another store there for a short while – not very long.

JT: And that one at Fourth and C.

BT: Yeah and then the one on the end of Fourth Street was – Mr. Hoffman built that – he built that Hoffman's Grocery. There was a lot of little stores around, and down across the tracks there was three or four little stores down there and, of course, in town you had the – Epplings – had a market there on Adams, and then they had down below, where the U.S. Bank is in there – they had a store down there called, uh Big Bear Grocery Store, and then on down, where Globe is I think it was, there was a Piggly Wiggly in there at one time. So had a lot of little businesses around, and then so, and most of those little stores – they delivered your groceries - if you wanted groceries, you called them and they delivered them. Or if you went down and bought it, they would deliver – they all had delivery service, and ..which was really nice. But most of the people at that time were – bought most of their groceries on credit, and these people gave em credit, and there was Joel Grocery upon Cedar, and there was a lot of stores.

JT: And the main stores downtown, what were they?

BT: The grocery stores?

JT; Well, any kind of stores downtown.

BT: Oh downtown – well there was where Zimmermans was – that was Carr Furniture was in there. They built that building just about the time we came here, and then across the street from it was Moon Drug – it was a wooden building, and then next to the Carr Furniture was just kind of an open area in there, and later J.C. Penney built there, and J.C. Penney had been – when they moved down there, they were up on Depot Street next to the alley up there where ...

JT: Where Mamecitas is now?

BT: Yeah, yeah, uh huh, that's where she is. They were in there – J.C. Penneys. They built down there and then there was, of course, Bohnenkamps and then up on the next block there was First National Bank and there was Kisses (?) Music Shop, and then there was Hills Store – it was a – what do they call it? kind of like Fox was across the street.

JT: Oh.

BT: A clothing store type of a deal. Then above that on the second floor was the – the National Guard had an armory up there. And then, of course, Rexall Drug, I think it's been there forever, but there was quite a few stores downtown. And then they had was N.K. West (?) was the clothing store across the street where it burned out – where Bohnenkamps burned out – that was N.K. West Store and later Falks, and the next block down Adams, where you got into – on the corner was Roy – oh he had an auto store ..

JT: Roy Farnum?

BT: Roy Farnum was in there and then next to him in there was – Lou Evans had a barber shop, and then you had the Big Bear Market, and then you had - on down you had the Marriage Noodle Parlour (?) up above – the second floor –

JT: (couldn't understand) Murray?

BT: Yeah, and on the corner there you had a grocery store. I don't remember who owned that before – Kress' was in there for a long time, but somebody was in there before that, and then across the street where Sac Hotel was was a big, was a restaurant – called “The Black Cat.” Was..

JT: Charlie Cartheys (?)

BT: uh huh. Where the Sac Hotel was. It was called The Black Cat. And then below that, going on down Adams was the – my dad had an electric shop down in there, and then Norman Frees had a garage down in there where Goss Used Cars are now – over there – not used cars, new cars he keeps over there. That was Norman Frees Chevrolet. And then Goss was across the street. He had Studebakers cars – he sold Studebakers. Well, it's changed, and then you go down from Moons down there, later it was Sprouse Reitz there and then Goss' and some down in there, and way down on the corner Melville's. It's changed since I come here.

JT: Harry McCarthy came in in about the 1930s sometime, didn't he?

BT: Yeah.

JT: And Trotter's Men's Store?

BT: Trotter's Men's Store, and then you had Bernie's Jewelry up there, and Trotter's and the Arcade Theater and Wright's Drug Store, and across the street over there was Western Union, and it seemed like there was a restaurant over there – I can't remember ...

JT: The Green Parrot?

BT: Yeah, I think so, and then

Second Side Starts Here:

BT: We had all kinds of things we would get mixed up in. After we got married, why we still were getting in problems.

JT: But not the kind that got you put in jail or anything like that?

BT: No – I... We, uh

JT: Might say devilment?

BT: We uh – I don't know whether I told you but the first house Mary and I lived in was on – up there on Cedar and just off the corner of B Avenue – a little one-room house. We rented up there right after we got married, and it cost us \$1.25 a month rent, and I remember we didn't have any lights in it, so Lovelands lived across from us, so we strung a big cord across Lovelands

into our house – we were going to have a party or something, and the cord got hot, caught the curtain on fire, and liked to burn the place down.

JT: You didn't have water in the house in those times either.

BT: No, the water was out in the yard on a faucet, and had a two-holer (?) out back, and we didn't have – the house was empty when we moved in. We didn't have a thing, so my mother gave us a bed – mattress and springs, and some stuff, bedding, and I went down to Montgomery Ward and bought \$20 worth of furniture – bought a whole bunch of stuff – bought an unpainted table and couple of chairs, and an ironing board, and a couple of wash tubs. Mary's still got that ironing board out there, and some different things, and I made her a dressing table out of two orange crates. And the house had a cook stove in it. Of course, it didn't - that's all you had for heat. That was about – I don't know where we got a chair or two other than those unpainted things I bought, and we bought a set of dishes and some pots and pans down at Wards. I think it cost about \$20 for the whole all of wax, and that's how we started out. I didn't have a job. Mary was working for a Greek that had a candy store down there on Adams right by the Arcade Theater. Jimmy was his name – he was a little short Greek guy. He made candy and chocolates and all that kind of stuff. Mary worked for him for quite awhile. In fact, the day we got married, he wouldn't let her off to get married. She got married at 1:00. She had to go back to work at 2.

JT: It must have worked, because you've been married – what 67 years?

BT: Yeah – 67, and she made, I think about \$5 a week, and I went to work for a fella up in Old Town that lived on the corner of 4th and C. He had a buzz saw, and everybody in town had wood, you know burned wood, and they had cord wood – they called it cord wood. Well he went around town cutting up this cord wood, and I got a job with him working on that saw. There was two – he run the saw and I – one of us put the wood on the saw – the other one (couldn't understand) it, and we got 10 cents a cord for cutting wood. And, I could make, maybe, \$2.50 a day if we got into a nice big pile of wood, but you worked all day like (couldn't understand word). He had this old one lung (?) – motor that I used to call Wisconsin – I think, Wisconsin Motor – the old one-lunger (?) go banging along, and gee we sawed wood all winter.

JT: Well if it was slab wood you didn't do too well, did you?

BT: No – yeah the slab wood – we didn't do too much on that. We used to buy slab wood, but, uh, I can't try and think of his name – I can't remember his name. He lived on the corner of – I don't remember his name. But that was one of the first jobs after I got married. I can't remember what his name is. And then, of course, the WPA came in and we got all that – we worked that, and I think we made \$44 a month on that.

JT: But the thing about it is prices was comparable to what you were making.

BT: Oh yeah. You go downtown with a \$ 5.00 bill, and you needed a car to haul it home in and, of course, nobody had a car. I remember Mary's brother, Steve, he – before he got married he had a Model A Ford, and we – Mary and I would borrow that to go downtown to haul our groceries home. You'd go down with \$5 or \$10, and you could get all kind of groceries – get a big box of apples for \$2 you know. It's a lot different than now, I'll tell you that. And then, we moved down on C Avenue right next to Turnbulls place – there a fella there named Harvey – Harvey Baker owned it. We rented that a little two-room house. Yeah, we lived there on C Avenue next to Turnbulls in this little two-room house. The house is still there – they've added on to it. I think our rent was \$3 a month there, and the water was out in the backyard. But finally, Jess – old Jess Turnbull came over and he and I put the water in the house. But we didn't have a heating stove in there – just a cook stove, and that's what we heated the house with – you heat the house with the cookstove, and boy in the wintertime, in those old houses with no insulation in them, the frost would be really thick inside in the middle of winter.

JT: Well, did it freeze your water up outside?

BT: Well, we finally put the water inside.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: I remember when I was there in that house, I was working on the WTA and we had to go – I had to walk from there down to the County shops – clear down on the north side on V Avenue down there.

JT: Where the old sugar beet factory used to be.

BT: Yeah – it used to be there, and I had to walk down there in the morning and back from there at night, and To – you know to work, and had to leave about an hour before work time, and then we'd get down there and the County would haul us out somewhere and we'd be shoveling snow or something some place.

JT: How many hours a day did you work?

BT: Oh, eight.

JT: Eight?

BT: Yeah.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And then ...

JT: And how many days a week?

BT: Just ... we worked two weeks five days a week, and then we were off two weeks.

JT: Oh, uh huh.

BT: We would work two – on two and off two, and you got \$44 a month, but then you could – they didn't have – it seemed like they didn't – they had the – they didn't have welfare the way it is now. They had – you could go down and they had places where they'd give you a slip maybe to get some Government cheese or apples or stuff like that.

JT: What we now call surplus.

BT: Yeah.

JT: But they didn't call it that in those days.

BT: They'd give you that stuff – you could get some of that, plus the money of course. We didn't have electricity in the house because we couldn't afford to have it turned on, so we had kerosene lamps and finally ... and water, well we .. half the time we couldn't pay the water bill, so I'd go down and work it out with the City. They'd let you work out your water bill. I'd go down, maybe once a month and work out my water bill – put in a day's working. The City'd let you do that. So in those days

JT: But you didn't feel alone, because everybody was in the same boat?

BT: Yeah, everybody was the same. Yeah. If you needed something to eat, somebody would trade with you or they would give you something. You know – they'd help you out if they had it. But we used to go out and dig potatoes out here in the fields, you know and get a sack of potatoes for digging potatoes, and we'd bring that home and maybe somebody would get a sack of apples, and we'd trade, you know, have apples, and we didn't have much meat because you didn't ... no way to get it – no money. Most of the meat we ate was hamburger, unless hunting season come along and then we'd get a deer or something. Boy we'd have a feast then. But then, we just kept plugging along and I finally got into – I got to work for Frank Clevinger, who had a moving and storage business here – Jess Turnbull worked for him for about 35 years. Living next door to Jess, he finally got me a job with Frank, and we used to haul – move people, and we'd haul long distance. We'd haul down to Portland and up into Washington, different places, and we'd always haul the freight from the railroad – everything came in in those days by rail, and they had a freight house down here, and we went – that was our first thing – every morning go down to the freight house and get the freight and deliver it around town to all the stores. Jess had the north side of Adams and I had the south side of Adams, and we'd deliver to all the stores, you know, everything that they got – Bohnenkamps had furniture and Falks – we had a lot of clothes going in there – big boxes of clothes and cigarettes and candy to different places, and

Zimmermans, all the furniture, and then we would deliver furniture once in awhile for different stores – Montgomery Ward, we delivered for them, and I worked for Frank for, I don't know, about three years I guess – Frank (couldn't catch last name), and he finally sold out to Eppling – Eppling bought it, and Jess and I worked there and then Eppling put in a soft drink deal there, along with his storage and moving deal. And then he had beer.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And we had – I remember one time the beer driver was off – he had, and Jess and I were non-union and the beer driver was union – he had to be union. So Eppling sent Jess and I with the truck down to Portland to get a load of beer. Well we took the truck and down to Portland we went. We went down to the brewery there to get the beer. Of course the guy says we can't load you guys you're non-union. He says "Park your truck across the street and then come back in a couple of hours and we'll have it loaded." So we came back and it was parked over there all loaded. So we started out of Portland and this car starts following us, and they followed us clear out to the other side of Troutdale, and they finally stopped us. There were 5 or 6 guys in this car. Well they were union guys, and we were non-union, and Jess was a great big and husky man, boy nobody messed with him. And one of these guys opened the door on Jess' side – Jess was driving – opened the door and reached in and gonna get the keys and Jess said "If you don't get that arm out of here, I'll break it off and beat you over the head with it." And they backed off and finally they trailed us – they kept after us til we got down to about Cascade Locks, and then they quit us, and we came on home with that damn load of beer. But we didn't go down there no more for no more beer. They were right on us. Unions were pretty strong at that time, I guess, and being non-union they were'nt going to let us get away with that load of beer.

JT: Then you became a union member when you were an electrician?

BT: Yeah. When I was an electrician I belonged to IBW#48 out of Portland, and then they transferred all of Eastern Oregon down here – they transferred us to Pasco, Washington, they called it No. 112 – it's still No. 112 IBW.

JT: But the idea of the union really benefitted the workers because for the first time they were paid a living wage, and even the people who worked union benefited from the unions because when they paid the unions more, then they paid the people that were non-union a little bit more money.

BT: Yeah. Yeah.

JT: So it was in and all it was a good thing.

BT: Yeah, of course, when I worked for Frank Clawinger (?), we were – we – I was getting – we worked six days a week, eight hours a day, and I was working for \$21 a week, and then when we made these trips to Portland or back, we'd be on the road, maybe we might load up here on a Friday and we'd take off Friday evening for Portland with a load of furniture, but we didn't get to Portland 'til the next morning cause it's all on the old highway – took us 10 hours one way. We would unload, then we'd turn around and drive back, and sometimes we wouldn't get in here 'til Monday morning, and we'd been working all weekend, and we'd start right out working Monday morning again. And we never got any overtime. We just got straight time.

JT: Yeah.

BT: And, of course, he paid our meals, and that was about it, and we'd get sleepy we'd stop and crawl in the back of the truck, wrap up in some of those blankets we had for the furniture and go to sleep – sleep awhile. But we didn't get any overtime or anything like that. But then when I got into the electrical union, of course, that one you'd get your overtime if you worked overtime, and I remember I was working down at – after I got my license, why I worked one winter – summer and winter down at Lime, Oregon where they were rebuilding the lime plant down there ..

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And they had to pay you by 5:00 on Friday night, or you could charge 'em – they had to pay double time from then on 'til you got your check. Well I remember the checks used to come in down there on a Friday afternoon. Well I remember one Friday afternoon the checks didn't come in, and they had to pay us that whole weekend double time, because the checks didn't get there 'til Monday. Boy there were moaning and groaning. It was – I was working for an outfit out of Portland at that time. But that was kind of the way it was. Then when I went for the college, of course, they didn't have a union over there.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And so I tried to get a withdrawal card from the union, and they said no – you're doing electrical work you can't get a withdrawal, so that's when I quit the union. I said I'm not going to pay union dues and have no benefits.

JT: Yeah.

BT: The State has kind of a union of their own, but not as strong as the other unions were, you know. I worked at Hanford for awhile when they were building that – 40, can't remember what year I was over in Hanford. I remember Mitch Aysla (?) and I went to Hanford working over there, and Mr. Buckley had an electric shop here, and he got the contract to wire Central School when they built it – the new Central School, and he called Mitch and I and said if you guys will come over here and wire that school for me, he says, haul the materials up there and I'll leave you alone. The only time I'll see you is on payday. And so we came over, and Mitch and I wired the Central School, and I wired the – I worked for an outfit out of Boise, and me and another fella wired the library at the college when they built it – 1950s we finished that job.

JT: During that time, an electrical contractor had to have a store and work out of a store downtown.

BT: Yeah. He had to have a business place.

JT: But that isn't the way it is today?

BT: No, now they work out of their pickups.

JT: Yeah.

BT: But then you had to have a place of business, and you had to have a supervisor – an electrician with a supervisor's license as one of the employees. Well sometimes these guys would have – would put the business in their wife's name. Then they'd get out of that supervisor deal, but I worked for Buckley, and I worked for Maldonado or his – the guy that owned the shop that Maldonado run was his father-in-law, Copeland, out of Pendleton. I worked for Bill Bohnenkamp down here when he had his electrical shop. I worked for quite a few outfits from out of town doing jobs in town. We rewired a lot of the – Mitch and I rewired a lot of the buildings over the – the Ad Building – they called it then. We rewired that building, and we worked for a Portland contractor – Watco Electric was the name of that, and I worked for Electrical Construction in Portland. I worked for Electrical Construction in Boise, and I worked for quite a few different electrical contractors.

JT: You would say that as the years have gone by that you have done a lot better, and you were able to build your own new home.

BT: Yeah.

JT: And, life has pretty good in those years.

BT: Yeah. When I built the house here – that came along – I had a good friend named Jim Emerson, and he built houses in La Grande at that time – he was building houses. And that was in the winter – the fall of '71, summer and fall of '71. I had this – owned the place here on Fourth Street, and I had the lot out here on 5th and G, and he come down and says why don't we build you a new house out there. And I said I can't build a new house. I don't have no money. And he said I'll see about a loan, and he says work is real slow right now, and he says I'll come down and I'll work and we'll build that – I'll work for \$5 an hour, and he says I'll have my son

help me, Jerry, and he'll work for \$3 an hour. And he says then I'll turn all my commissions – 10 cent commissions back to you. I'll give you all the commissions back. Cause the work was so slow that winter, and that's when we built my house, and I done a lot of the work. He says you can do any of the work you wanted to, and I done a lot of the work – helped him and done the wiring, and put in the furnace and painted and all that. And, uh, so that's how I got my house built. I had one – when I got done with this house, I had \$15,000, about \$15,500 in it complete, and now it's – I don't know what it's at, oh around \$100,000, I suppose, \$75, \$85,000 now. Well all that brick work on the front of it out here and the fireplace and all that – Roy Miller built all that for \$800. Isn't that something?

JT: Yes.

BT: You couldn't even touch that brick now for \$800.

JT: And, again that was people helping other people ..

BT: Yeah.

JT: And having friends.

BT: Yeah, uh huh, and he worked all winter on the house, and we moved in in February of '72, and he got – he even got to set the loan up for us – had a loan of – I borrowed \$15,000 from Pioneer Bank and built the house. I was scared to death to do it. It worried the heck out of me, and then when I rented the old house for a couple of years and then I finally sold it and paid the new one off and called her good.

JT: You've lived in Old Town a lot of years....

BT: Oh yeah.

JT: From when ..

BT: I've lived here in Old Town mostly all the time I've been in Oregon. I think – let's see I've been here 79 years, and we came to Oregon – I've been here since we came to Oregon. And I lived up in Old Town right up ... and I've lived down here in this area for about, I don't know, about 40 years I suppose, or better. I think we moved here in this area in '57.

JT: Uh huh.

BT: And I've been in this house, oh I don't know, almost 30 years in this new house.

JT: Oh past 30, because you moved – right now 30 years.

BT: Yes.

JT: Because you moved in '72 and it's 2002.

BT: Yeah – that would be 30 years just this last February, and well I lived up in Old Town when I first got married, and I lived up there after I was married, and I lived up here by the college, and I lived up by the high school when my folks were living – when I lived with my folks, and down here by the college. And, there was a couple of years Mary and I lived down on H Avenue, down (I think part of this was cut off) that place down in there.

JT: But it really wasn't until after the war that this area built up from Old Town down to what you might say New Town downtown, next to the railroad?

BT: Yeah – before it started building up, down Fourth Street here and, well like these houses over here on 5th and G and F. They were all built later.

JT: And E.

BT: Yeah. They were all built later. Well there wasn't too many houses around in those days. In fact, I never thought. In fact, the house we lived in – the one on Fourth Street – the big two-story house, well when we were kids running around, we always thought that was a haunted house. It was empty for quite a few years.

JT: Oh.

BT: And we were scared of that house. We thought it was haunted. Later I bought it and lived in it. Yeah.

JT: Well the way you get ahead is to work hard and build things and ...

BT: Yeah, and just keep plugging along, and finally it'll work out, but we had the one child, lost her when she was 18 – had cancer, and we thought of adopting after that and then we kind of let that ride and didn't follow through on it. We didn't know whether we could handle it or not, so we gave that idea up – just had the one child. So we don't have any grandkids or nothing, just – got nieces and nephews. Quite a deal – still plugging along.

JT: Well, that's ...

BT: I'll be 87 in December; Mary'll be 88 in September. But I don't have any regrets. I was .. done electrical work for years and years and years, but I never did really like electrical work. I didn't like it, but that's what I did.

JT: You told me you wanted to work for the Forest Service.

BT: Yeah. I always wanted to work out in the woods or up in the hills – the mountain, but I got into electrical work and that's where I had to stay, but if – well when I went to work at the college in 1957, Union scale for an electrician – journeyman electrician was \$3.65 an hour. That was union scale for a journeyman. Now that ain't even minimum wage.

JT: True.

BT: That's what we were getting, and I went to work for the college for about \$350 a month when I went to work over there. I thought we was going to starve to death the first couple of months, but I stuck her out and we made it. Stayed over there 18 years.

JT: Well it's been good times Bill and it's been bad times.

BT: Yeah – had some tough times – especially when my daughter was sick – a couple of years there we had a pretty rough go, and she'd be in the hospital and out of the hospital, in the hospital, you know, and I had a heck of a big hospital bill, and we lived down on H Street, I finally sold that house and paid off those bills, but I still owed the hospital up here about \$1,500, I remember that. St. Joseph's Hospital was run with by the nuns (there was some cut off here – and the tape was very scratchy. I thought it was the end of the tape, but then it started up again.)

JT: I interviewed a lady (there was nothing after this, but there was still tape left) were her relatives and she lived there from when she was three years old until she was a senior in high school (nothing again – I think this tape was bad at the end – off and on you can hear parts of words)