

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

MRS. BARBARA CADY BUFFAM

At Mrs. Buffam's home in Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER: SHIRLEY TANZER

Date of Interview: October 23, 1982

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for

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Interviewer: Shirley Tanzer

SHIRLEY TANZER: Mrs. Buffam, where did your family come from?

BARBARA CADY BUFFAM: My father came from Wisconsin, and then he went to Kansas and met my mother. Then he came on out to Washington where his father was located at the time, and then he went back and married my mother and they came out to Washington and then to McMinnville and then to Beaverton.

TANZER: Where in Washington did they live?

BARBARA: In Ellensburg; they were there in Ellensburg for several years.

TANZER: How had your grandfather come to Washington?

BARBARA: How did he? I really don't know. I'm sure maybe by train.

TANZER: Where had they come from in Europe?

BARBARA: My father's people probably came from England, originally; and I imagine my mother's people did, too. I'm really not too sure about that far back.

TANZER: Do you know why they decided to come to Oregon?

BARBARA: I think my grandfather thought that the business climate was good here in Oregon. In one of the letters I was just reading the other day, one of my father's sisters wrote, "If you think about ever coming this way, boots and shoes are very expensive here and I'm sure that this would be a good place for you to locate." My grandfather had been in the boot and shoe business in Ellensburg, so I'm sure that was the main reason they came here.

TANZER: When you say the boot and shoe business, do you mean the manufacturing?

BARBARA: No, I think it was just the selling. As far as I know, everything has always pointed to having a retail store. My grandfather was here first; he had a store here in Beaverton. When my father left Ellensburg, he went to McMinnville. But he was in business with my grandfather there. Seemingly, my grandfather was in Beaverton because we have correspondence between my father in McMinnville and my grandfather here. Why they were separated, I really don't know.

TANZER: Was your father in the same business as your grandfather?

BARBARA: Yes. They were in business together, and my father was always in the store business for many, many years but it did change. He left the shoe business, sold the business in McMinnville, then moved to Beaverton. And he had a store not too soon afterwards. But that was not a boot and shoe business store. It was food merchandise.

TANZER: Where was that store?

BARBARA: I think the first one was across the railroad tracks, close to Stipe's Garage. The building, of course, has been torn down. After my father built the building in 1914, it was located where the Children's Shop is now. He had a store there. I can remember the store being in that location for many years.

TANZER: The 1914 building then is at the corner of Farmington and Watson, is it not? Does it still stand?

BARBARA: Yes.

TANZER: Your grandfather was active in politics?

BARBARA: Yes, he was the first mayor of Beaverton. Alonzo Bert Cady. He was referred to as A.B. Cady. I don't remember him.

TANZER: What have you heard about him from the family?

BARBARA: Well, let's see, what are my memories? I don't have too many stories about my grandfather. I do know that he built a very nice home and it is still standing on 7th and Angel Street. It was in the middle of the block, between 6th & 7th and Angel and Watson, but it was moved -- oh, maybe 20 years ago -- so now it's on the corner of 7th and Angel. It has always had good care. The people have appreciated that it was an old home and have taken care of it. It was built in 1906 or 1907.

TANZER: Your father's name was ...

BARBARA: Fred Willis (F.W.)

TANZER: Did they ever talk about their coming to Beaverton?

BARBARA: No. I really don't know why they picked Beaverton.

TANZER: Did your father ever talk about what his expectations were when he came here?

BARBARA: Oh, just to make a living for the family and to make life better. He was very interested in education. He was on the school board for many years. My sister finished her 8th grade here in Beaverton and then had to do most all of her high school work up at Tualatin Academy which was part of Pacific University.

My brother was four years younger than my sister and when he got ready for high school, my father kept adding grades in the grade school. And when Willis was ready for the 9th grade, my father saw that there were teachers who could teach him (and the rest of the 9th graders, of course) and as Willis got older, my father kept adding grades to the school until they had a high school here (laughter).

But my father was always very interested in education; my mother, too, because she had been a teacher in Kansas.

TANZER: What type of schooling did your father have?

BARBARA: He was a high school graduate and he went to business school in Portland at one time.

TANZER: What type of work did your father actually do?

BARBARA: Well, he had his stores. First he was with Cady-Anderson Co., and then Cady-Pegg. These were grocery stores, and I imagine they carried a few notions and pins and needles and maybe some pots and pans, everything the farmers would need. He had a delivery route all through the countryside, people would come in and order things or call in orders and then he or one of the people working with him would deliver them to the people in the outlying areas.

He went to Portland -- I remember stories. He would hitch up his wagon and his team and go into Portland down over the Canyon Road when the road was just planks, and it was an all-day trip. He would leave early in the morning and go in and get produce and things from Portland. Sometimes he needed flour and sugar and that sort of thing. And then he would come back out. He would get back out very late at night.

I also remember the stories about when the gypsies would come to Beaverton. At that time they were interested in only one thing: that was seeing how many things they could steal or filch from the store. They would also come into homes if they were very close. We lived only four blocks from the store, so he would call my mother on the phone and say, "Mame, lock the doors. Be sure Barbara's inside. The gypsies are in town."

TANZER: Was he afraid for your personal well being?

BARBARA: For my well being, but he was also afraid of what they would do. If they got in the house, they would just take everything in sight and we always had nice dishes and silverware and things. He was afraid Mother couldn't handle it, so he'd always call her on the phone, "Lock the door!"

TANZER: Do you think she could have handled it?

BARBARA: I doubt it.

TANZER: What type of person was your mother?

BARBARA: A very calm person, one interested in education and music. Her church meant a great deal to her. She was always busy. She was organized. In those days you washed on one day, you ironed on another day, you cleaned house on another day. Saturday was always her baking day. And she would bake a huge pot of beans and bread for the week, and rolls, and cakes and it was my job to bake the cakes when I got old enough.

But I think evidently the gypsies frightened her. Because I grew up with that fear of gypsies. You know, they say children get that from their parents so I imagine that she was frightened of this.

TANZER: I wonder why. Do you have any idea?

BARBARA: I think just because she couldn't understand them. They dressed differently, you know. They were dressed in their long skirts and since they would come in and take everything, they would just go through and clean the counter off very fast. You had no recourse, you see, and we didn't have policemen per se in Beaverton at that time.

TANZER: Who were the law enforcement people?

BARBARA: I don't think there were any. Because I remember when we got our first police chief; and he just patrolled around the stores. People just were inherently good, I think, you know? And they looked after each other.

TANZER: Where did your mother's family live?

BARBARA: In Kansas. Originally they came from Vermont; then they moved to Kansas by train. They lived there for many, many years. That's where my mother taught school. She rode horseback to a country school, and then after she married my father, they came out to the West Coast. We have several stories of when Mother would go back to Kansas to visit. She was one of six children, and one sister at a time would come out. One of her sisters was a schoolteacher, another was a secretary, and two others came out and married people here. And then finally her mother and father came out. They settled in Portland. They came out in the early 1900's because I have pictures taken when I was a baby on my grandmother's porch, and I was born in 1912, so I would say they may have come in 1910. I really don't know.

TANZER: Did your mother work out of the house?

BARBARA: No. Never.

TANZER: What were her interests?

BARBARA: Well, mainly music and the church and her family. After my father died, she boarded schoolteachers for four years. Then she died just after my senior year in high school; she died of cancer. People weren't very active in outside things at that time. You were confined, more or less, to home. She always had big dinners -- did lots of entertaining.

TANZER: How large is the immediate family?

BARBARA: Well, there were just the three of us children. But she had all these relatives in Portland, so they would come out. My sister was living in Portland at the time; she was married and they came out by train.

Entertaining, I would say, was one of my mother's big interests, because she did love to entertain. On Sunday evening, often my mother and father after evening service at the church, would ask everybody to come up and have a bite to eat. Mother always had plenty.

TANZER: What would be the bite to eat?

BARBARA: What would it be? Oooh, we'd bring out the cold roast beef and

the cake that had been made the day before and her fresh bread that had been made the day before, and that was it.

TANZER: Now what was the age difference between you and your brother and sister?

BARBARA: My sister was 20 years older than I; my brother was 16 years older. I might be what you would call an afterthought.

TANZER: You were probably raised pretty much by yourself in the house. When you were growing up, were your sister and brother still at home?

BARBARA: Oh, yes, I was. No, not my sister. She married when I was 8. My brother was around for more of the time, but I was raised alone and spoiled, I'm sure.

TANZER: Did either one of them work at the store?

BARBARA: My brother did, yes, for quite a while.

TANZER: What was your father's role in the community? You said he was interested in the school board.

BARBARA: He was interested in the town since he was a mayor of the town, too. He was very active in the church, and he was on the church building committee when he died.

TANZER: How important was religion to you as a child?

BARBARA: Very important. As it has remained all my life. I think the idea came from my folks that you must be a giver and not a taker, that life is richer if you give.

TANZER: Did you attend church regularly? Do you still do that?

BARBARA: Oh, yes, very much. Yes. We go to the Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ, the same church that my parents went to.

TANZER: What about your own children?

BARBARA: They went to church, too, as long as they were here. As they have married, they have gone different ways. One of our sons became a Catholic. He married a Catholic girl, and she became a Catholic and they're a very fine family. One of our other sons went to the Presbyterian Church and was active in it for many years. Our daughter has become a Methodist, because there are no Congregationalists back in New Mexico, in the area where she is, so she's found a very good home in the Methodist Church.

TANZER: Were you married in the same church?

BARBARA: Yes. The church is part of our life. One of the stories about my mother and why I think in many ways she was very dependent on my father, was that after my father died, we realized that she had never bought a piece of meat on her own. My father had always done all the meat purchasing, so she had to go down to the butcher and he had to tell her all the different cuts and everything.

She knew how to cook them, but she had just never purchased anything. My father had always brought home all the meat.

TANZER: And he did all the grocery shopping?

BARBARA: I imagine a great deal of it, yes, since he had the store for so many years. Then he sold the store and went into the real estate business. He was in real estate for quite a few years and that is what he was doing when he died. But I imagine he did most of the shopping because he was downtown, so he'd just stop at the store on his way home and buy everything.

TANZER: What years did he have the store?

BARBARA: Oh, I imagine from about 1912, maybe even 1910, until probably 1920, something like that.

TANZER: And he served two terms as mayor but they were not consecutive. Do you remember the dates of the terms?

BARBARA: No, I don't remember the dates.

TANZER: Are there any other things about the family you would like to tell me?

BARBARA: We were a very close family. We were always together for birthdays and holidays and it was a very warm family to grow up in. We had good times.

TANZER: Did your sister visit Beaverton frequently?

BARBARA: Oh, yes. After my folks died, I made my home with either my sister or my brother for a good share of time. You know, I was teaching and so I had my own place, but until I could get on my feet, I had to make their home my home.

TANZER: How old was your father when he died?

BARBARA: Sixty-five. Mother was about the same, about sixty-five. She outlived him by five years. He died of a heart attack brought on by an accident. We had been going up the Columbia River Highway and spent the day there with relatives. Coming back on Sandy Boulevard, a truck turned left right in front of us and my father couldn't stop in time, so he hit the truck. It injured many of us in varying degrees. We thought my father was going to get off scot free cause he seemingly came out of it just fine, but three days afterwards he had the serious heart attack and died. He evidently had hardening of the arteries because he'd had some chest pains and things, but they didn't know that much about heart trouble in 1925, and so there was nothing they could do for it. He had old Dr. C. E. Mason and there wasn't anything that he could do for him, and then he died three days after the accident. We had the accident, I think, on a Saturday, and my mother's little finger was almost cut off and I remember my 3-year-old nephew had a bad bump on his head. We were all thrown forward -- naturally when a moving object hits another moving object -- there was quite a bang. But anyway, that was the cause of his death.

TANZER: After his last term of office as mayor of Beaverton, did he continue being politically active?

BARBARA: Oh, yes, there was always something going on.

TANZER: What were his major interests aside from being mayor?

BARBARA: Oh, just the good of the community and things that would help Beaverton grow.

TANZER: Did he discuss Beaverton's growth with you at all?

BARBARA: No.

TANZER: Do you remember going to any of his organizations?

BARBARA: No, I was too young. I was only 13, you see, when he died.

TANZER: And then your mother lived until you were 18?

BARBARA: Until I was 19.

TANZER: Then where did you live?

BARBARA: With either my sister or my brother.

TANZER: Which one did you spend the most amount of time with?

BARBARA: I imagine my brother because he was here in Beaverton, and I had more friends in Beaverton.

TANZER: That is difficult, losing one's parents so young. How much schooling did you have?

BARBARA: Well, after I graduated from high school in 1930, I went to Pacific University for one year. My mother had a cancer operation the year I was a senior in high school. When I went to Pacific University, she felt pretty good but yet she wasn't topnotch, and then in the spring of the year she began to realize the cancer was returning, so she asked me not to go the next year. She had some high school teachers living with her and she wanted me to stay home and help do the work, so I did and then in November, why she died.

I was pretty good friends with one of the high school teachers who was living there, so this high school teacher helped me, and I just continued putting meals on the table and I got through the winter -- I don't know how. I think they were all very good sports and just stuck it out with me, and everybody kind of helped me.

TANZER: And you were running the whole house?

BARBARA: Yes, I was running the whole house (laughter). I didn't know too much about it but I managed some way.

TANZER: So you went to Beaverton Grade School and from there to ...

BARBARA: Beaverton High School, then Pacific University. After my mother died and in the spring of '32, a friend I graduated from high school with said, "Barbara, what are you going to do now?" And I said, "I really don't know." We

were in the Depression at the time and I said, "I really haven't any idea." And she said, "Well, have you thought about teaching?"

I knew I couldn't go back to Pacific University. If my father had lived, I would have graduated from there, because my brother and sister both graduated from there. He was a very firm believer in higher education. So I would have graduated from Pacific, also, but I just didn't have the money.

When he died, my father owned quite a bit of property in Beaverton. He had been in real estate so he had bought and sold and bought and sold and traded around; so he owned quite a few places but some of them were mortgaged. The people who bought them had to let them come back to us. After Mother died, I didn't have the money to keep paying on the mortgages, so we lost a lot of the property.

But this friend I mentioned told me about Monmouth. She was sure I could go to Monmouth for one full year and thought that maybe quite a few of my Pacific University credits would go toward my teaching certificate. So I went down to Monmouth to find out about it, started in June, 1932, and went for one full year, and then I graduated.

TANZER: Where did you teach?

BARBARA: I taught for four years at Tualatin View. It's now a little church, but it was on the corner of 84th and Barnes Road. I went back and forth from Beaverton. Then I went to Kinton, a two-room school, and taught the first four grades. The first year I taught there I got \$50 a month salary in bonds. You couldn't cash them because if you did, you got a discount. The bank would discount them about 10%.

I had borrowed money to go to Pacific University and I paid back all the money I borrowed. They took them and kept them and then cashed them because they were all school warrants, so they held them for me and I cleared up my \$200 that way. But it was pretty tough the first year. By '34 money was getting to be a little bit easier and we would get a few warrants, and then once in a while we would get a paycheck, my second year of teaching.

TANZER: So how did you manage to live?

BARBARA: Well, it was very interesting. You traded this for that (laughter). Every once in a while I would go to the bank and cash one of my warrants. They would discount them maybe 10% so I would get a little bit of cash and make that stretch for a long, long way.

I also boarded -- I still had our home there that I told you about, and some people were living in it trying to rent it. The man finally lost his job so my board was their rent, and I got to live most of the time with them for nothing, for just my rent that they would have paid me. You see, they couldn't pay me any money.

TANZER: Now the house at that time was on Angel between 4th & 5th. To whom was the house sold when you sold it?

BARBARA: To the Peterson family or to Anna Barnes in '32 or '34. She was Anna Peterson Barnes. Maybe she bought it; I can't remember.

TANZER: Did they buy the house and the property?

BARBARA: Yes.

TANZER: Did you hang on to any of the property?

BARBARA: I hung onto two houses, yes, and they helped me through for several years.

TANZER: Did you ever help out in the family store?

BARBARA: No, not in our family store, no. My brother had a store at one time and I helped out in that and then I used to work for Mr. Miller when he had a grocery store down there. It was the Corner Store on Watson. I worked for him during the war years, clerking in the summertime. By that time I was teaching at Merle Davies School, the grade school in Beaverton.

TANZER: So when did you go over to Merle Davies?

BARBARA: In 1939, I came to Beaverton.

TANZER: You had had Miss Merle Davies as your principal?

BARBARA: Yes, in the 8th Grade, and then I came back to teach for her.

TANZER: Oh, excellent! Tell me about her.

BARBARA: Oh, she was a very fine person -- a very strict disciplinarian, very fussy about the upkeep of the schools, the halls. Everything had to be just tip top shape. We had a man, a janitor by the name of Johnnie Summers, and he used to take just A-Number-One care of that school, but I know she made his life terrible at times because she would say, "Johnnie! There's a spot here on the wall!!!" or "Johnnie!! There's something wrong here!" Anyway, she was a large lady -- an imposing woman. The children were scared to death of her, of her size, and the teachers were frightened of her, too (laughter). She was a large-framed woman, and she was heavy, yes. But she was a very nice person, I mean really. She was quite reserved, and you had to get underneath that reserve to know her.

TANZER: Who were some of the other teachers that you recall from your school days?

BARBARA: I had several. I think Miss Davies had the most influence on me, really, of any of the teachers just because she was such a strong personality. Some of the other teachers didn't have the personality that she did. I remember she always read to us. And she would read good books to us. That always impressed me. When I became a teacher, I always read to my students. I always looked forward to it, when she would do it.

TANZER: What were some of the books she read, do you recall?

BARBARA: Oh, no I don't remember any of them now. But they were good stories, stories that you would read. Perhaps Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates, you know, Heidi, some of those old stories.

TANZER: Did she teach then, as well, when she was principal?

BARBARA: Yes, when I went to school to her, yes. She taught the 8th Grade, all subjects.

TANZER: Do you know anything about the Davies family?

BARBARA: No, I don't know very much about her family. She never married. I think she had a brother and I think he preceded her in death. She wasn't a mixer particularly, mainly because of her size. I think she always felt like she was a little too big.

TANZER: So your first professional job was teaching?

BARBARA: I taught at Tualatin View, and then at Kinton Grade School, and then at Beaverton Grade School, which later became Merle Davies Grade School.

TANZER: Where was the Kinton School?

BARBARA: Kinton is out toward Scholls, south of town.

TANZER: Was it part of the Beaverton school system?

BARBARA: No. They had these country schools just scattered all over. There was Hiteon and there was Kinton; there were one-room or two-room schools in those days, and they were in separate school districts.

TANZER: Had you ever thought of taking over the family business?

BARBARA: No. Women didn't do things like that in those days. You taught school or you became a nurse, I believe. How times have changed! (laughter)

TANZER: What happened to the family building -- the house was sold, but to whom was the Cady building sold?

BARBARA: I don't have any answer to that question at all. I think my mother sold it, but I don't know to whom.

TANZER: So you've never been involved at all with the building. Except that it still does bear the family name?

BARBARA: Yes. Name. That's all.

TANZER: What are your particular political interests?

BARBARA: I don't think we should talk politics at this stage of the game (laughter)

TANZER: Are you active politically?

BARBARA: No, I don't go and work for anybody, if that's what you mean, for any party or anything like that. I guess I have been influenced by my husband; he was a government worker, and a government worker could never show allegiance to one party or another. I was married while I was still teaching at Beaverton

Grade School and grew up with the fact that you didn't participate in any politics at all.

TANZER: How did you meet your husband?

BARBARA: Oh, he was in the Post Office and that was a very good way to meet him. Plus I had a very good friend who married one of the men from the Post Office, and so we both went to their wedding and then my husband said, "Well, if Bertha would stoop to marrying a postal employee, I thought, well, gee, maybe I can take you out." So we started dating and we were married shortly thereafter. This was in 1944.

TANZER: And you have four children?

BARBARA: Yes, two of them are stepsons. He had two sons before by a previous marriage. When we married, why, I had an instant family. And then we had two more, one boy and one girl.

TANZER: Your grandfather and your father's lives were so political. Was Mayor of Beaverton an elected position or an appointed position?

BARBARA: I really don't know. I imagine appointed, but yet I don't know. You know, that question has never entered my mind.

TANZER: Since he was mayor for two different periods, it would be interesting to find that out. Was he Republican or Democrat?

BARBARA: Republican.

TANZER: Do you ever hear of the Ku Klux Klan in Beaverton?

BARBARA: No.

TANZER: Well, there was a Klan in Beaverton. A number of people have talked about it. It would have been very interesting if you had heard about it, to know what your father's reaction would have been to that. A number of people told me that either somebody in their family had belonged to it, or they had seen then, and that they were more like a social group than anything else. Without a doubt, though, they were banded together for more than social reasons. But I wondered whether or not you'd heard about them.

So, has your family then historically been Republican?

BARBARA: Yes, I think so. I'm sure. And I have been a registered Republican. It's always been a laughing joke between the two of us because at one time when we thought maybe it would help my husband, I changed and became a Democrat, but (laughter) but we have always voted for the person and not the party anyway, so-- It doesn't matter whether I'm a registered Republican or Democrat, really.

TANZER: You said you had switched your allegiance when you felt it would help your husband. What particular issues were important then?

BARBARA: (Laughter) He had his name in for the Post Office job, to be

postmaster. This was at the time when party politics came in and played a part, and only Democrats had a chance at the job. We thought I should be a registered Democrat, too. He always has been a Democrat. So I changed; you had to be very active in politics, and contribute money to this fund and that fund, you know, go to that dinner and that thing. He just didn't want the job that badly. It was entirely against our principles, to buy a job.

TANZER: Once you bought it, would you really want it??

BARBARA: That's right. The more he found out about it, the less he wanted it. So he just stayed as Assistant Postmaster and was very happy. He retired in 1970.

TANZER: How strongly do you identify with Beaverton?

BARBARA: Very strongly.

TANZER: Is it based on your childhood here, or other reasons?

BARBARA: Oh, I have many ties here. I was born here. I like the valley; have many memories of my folks here, memories of when we would be driving out from Portland, coming down the West Slope hill and my father would never fail to say, "Look at those lights of the valley. Isn't that beautiful?" This would be at nighttime. He loved the valley. And I think I have some of that love still there. I'm sorry in some ways to see Beaverton get so big and to become such a suburb of Portland. In many ways it was nicer when it was a little bit small, and you knew more of the people. Yet, this is progress. And I'm tied to Beaverton.

TANZER: You say you knew so many of the people; do you still keep in contact with them?

BARBARA: I keep in contact with several of them. One good friend who now lives in Grants Pass was one of my girlhood friends. She was Helen Teft, and she lived up on the corner of 6th and Angel.

The street in front of our house was never a road or a street as such, so we met halfway between the homes; we had a little hill, just a little mound where the ground was uneven, and we'd play on that hill for hours on end. We called it Our Hill. She went all through grade school and high school with me, and we have kept in touch, see each other about once or twice a year. I also have a good friend in Hillsboro from those high school days, Gladys Bush.

TANZER: You mentioned that Beaverton had changed and you suppose that's progress. However, as you look at Beaverton from the post-war period to today, if you were going to devise a master plan for Beaverton, what would be its growth?

BARBARA: I think we should try to keep the downtown area going in some way. I'm happy to see it being rejuvenated. I wonder about the advisability of a big hotel coming in. It might be fine for Beaverton, but I just wonder about whether it would go bottoms up. I think there are good shopping areas around. I hate to see too many apartments, but with the price of housing, I guess we have to go to the apartments for living. Maybe what I would think is best wouldn't be practical; and I'm too practical a person at times.

TANZER: The Beaverton Town Square concept rather than the Beaverton Downtown concept, that's particularly what I wondered.

BARBARA: I think that's nice -- the Town Square. I think it has its place. Yet, Dean's Drug Store -- is it making a go of it? Is the Children's Shop making a go of it? Stores that are in downtown Beaverton itself -- what's happening to them?

TANZER: I don't know that they're going to be making a go of it now, with the Town Square. There are going to be people who go downtown because they're used to it; people who walk to downtown Beaverton, rather than those who drive. I think stores in Beaverton Town Square have to amortize their rent so they are a little higher. But it certainly isn't downtown Beaverton.

BARBARA: No. I've talked to Roy Mauer and Dr. Rosenberger who have the Rexall Drug Store downtown, and although they've talked about moving, they just say, "Well, we'll stick it out here for a little while longer."

TANZER: It's really hard to move as much stock as you have in a store like that.

BARBARA: It's hard on them, too. There's no place to park. We still get some of our prescriptions down there just because we feel we should. We like to help them out. But yet we go to some pharmacies closer to us.

TANZER: And a little less expensive. It's hard to beat Fred Meyer's or Payless. That's really tough on the merchants. Do you remember the time when your father was mayor. Either term?

BARBARA: No, I was six then and don't remember too much. I don't imagine he discussed politics at home much. He might have, but I don't remember it.

TANZER: Looking back over your life in Beaverton and your experiences, what difference has it made to you that you are a white Protestant living in Beaverton?

BARBARA: What difference? I don't think it's made any difference to me. I have been sorry that we haven't had more minorities around in this area for our children to grow up with. I think they have been cheated of knowing some very fine people. One of our sons has a very good friend of a Japanese boy and he was just a wonderful person.

TANZER: This was at Beaverton High School?

BARBARA: Yes. He is a dentist here in Beaverton now. They have never known any Negroes, our children, and I think it's to their disadvantage, because there are many other cultures besides ours and many things to be offered to children. I imagine I have been cheated, too, in many respects, but I suppose that would be the difference in my life. I've had to learn about them from television, radio and other ways.

TANZER: Do you remember any anti-Catholic feeling, anti-Black, or anti-Oriental feeling that manifested itself in Beaverton?

BARBARA: Oh, no -- not that manifested itself in Beaverton. My mother had a dislike of Catholics, yes. She got that from my grandmother, who had a dislike of Catholics. My mother's only brother married a Catholic woman and he became a Catholic and my Grandmother Hills would not see my uncle for many, many, many years. It was just terrible. And when I was teaching, I went down and spent a summer with this uncle and his family, and he was the neatest person! I just loved him dearly. He had two boys that were just my age, and we had the best time that summer. But my mother was dead at that time. They were on speaking terms by then. But in my early life, they certainly weren't. I can remember my mother saying, "Oh, there are so many Catholics in Beaverton, so many."

TANZER: How many years was your father on the school board?

BARBARA: Around fifteen years, I think.

TANZER: That was an interesting story that you told me about his adding a grade.

BARBARA: Yes, as my brother got older and ready for high school (There hadn't been a high school in Beaverton), and since my father was on the school board, he just kept adding a grade each year so Willis could graduate here in Beaverton and not have to go to Forest Grove to the Tualatin Academy. My sister had gone up to the Academy for her high school education. She went by the Oregon Electric train to Forest Grove every day. I had one year in college, and then one year at Oregon College of Education at Monmouth.

TANZER: Your father actually provided for your education?

BARBARA: Yes. I found in his last will and testament that he wanted me to have an education, that I should be provided for until I was 30, unless I married first.

TANZER: Did it specify where you should go to school?

BARBARA: I think it did, yes. He wanted me to go to Pacific University, because that was near home and he thought it was a good school.

TANZER: Now, I want to ask you about the businesses. There was Cady-Anderson, and then there was a Cady-Pegg. Could you give me the historical sequence of this?

BARBARA: Well, it was the Cady-Anderson Company first; this was the General Store, as I remember it. Later, Mr. Pegg must have bought out Mr. Anderson's part in it, and then it became the Cady-Pegg Company. That went on until 1921; I don't know whether they just dissolved the partnership or what, but my father went into real estate at that time, in 1925.

TANZER: Did he sell the store?

BARBARA: I really don't know what happened to it. There are several references that Mr. Pegg was in banking, but I don't know just when he went into banking. He was also the mortician here, the only one that we had in Beaverton.

TANZER: Sounds like everyone in Beaverton was forced to do a number of things.

BARBARA: Yes (laughter).

TANZER: You also mentioned that your father was in real estate. Of the properties that he purchased in those early days, are there any that are still in the family name?

BARBARA: No. Of what was left to me and what the mortgages didn't take, I sold. I sold two homes, at two different times.

TANZER: Tell me about the Cady building itself.

BARBARA: It was built in 1914, a very good brick building. It had many different businesses in it; the bank was there for quite a while. When J. Gibson started, it was First Security. Otherwise, for Mr. Dory Gray, it was just Beaverton Bank, maybe. Anyway the bank was there, and there was a drug store there, and our store was down at the end, where the Children's Shop is now. At that time it was called Cady-Anderson, and then the Cady-Pegg.

TANZER: An early wooden building was called Cady-Anderson; I wondered when that was built.

BARBARA: That was across the tracks, probably before. After Dad built the brick building, they moved into it.

TANZER: How much time did you spend in your father's store?

BARBARA: I didn't spend very much time, really. I can just remember coming down to the store to get things for Mother, doing errands for my father, perhaps. I know they always said my poor teeth, from coming down to the store, and Dad would always give me candy.

TANZER: What kind of store was it?

BARBARA: General merchandise. I remember the jars of candy around and things that he had, and I'm sure he must have had a big cracker barrel and a big wheel of cheese, because this was very typical in stores in those days. And he gave presents at Christmastime, calendars and things, because that's where my picture appeared on one of his calendars, and he gave plates one year and the dustpan, yes, and so it was really probably the only store in Beaverton for quite a while.

TANZER: As a child, what did you do for amusement?

BARBARA: We had a big swing in the yard, and Oh! how I loved to swing. We had a chicken yard. In the chicken yard were two of the nicest Gravenstein apple trees you ever saw. And in the summer I would run in, get myself an apple and take it into the kitchen and wash it good, because it had fallen where the chickens were. And then I would go find a nice shady spot and read a book. That was one of my things. I had a girlfriend, Helen Teft, Molton, who lived two blocks from me and we would meet at our little hill halfway between our two homes and play there in the summertime. She was a very good friend; we went all through

grade school and high school together. I see her still about once or twice a year. She lives in Grants Pass now.

TANZER: Is the hill still there?

BARBARA: No. When they paved the street, why they took the hill out (laughter). In high school, of course, we went to all the games and everything.

TANZER: What about dances?

BARBARA: I wasn't allowed to dance. My mother didn't approve of dancing in those days. On Sunday nights after the young peoples' meeting at church, I would go home with Helen Teft. Her father would play for dances, and so Helen knew, of course, how to dance. So her younger sister and Helen decided they would teach me how to dance. So on Sunday nights, unbeknownst to my mother, I learned how to dance. Then as I got into high school, my mother found out about it. She didn't approve of my dancing, but could see that I was not having the fun and getting to go as much as Helen did. So when I was a junior in high school, she asked me what I wanted to do, the thing I desired to do the most. I told her I wanted to have a dance at my home. And so, bless her heart, she took up our dining room rug, moved all the furniture out of one of our living rooms, and got down on her hands and knees and waxed the floor and let me have a dance.

That was quite a switch in position for her. But times had changed since she had raised her other children, and she realized that she needed to change to keep me happy. She wanted me to be at home and have a good time and have a party, so that's how she changed.

TANZER: What kind of party did you have?

BARBARA: Oh, I had a WONDERFUL party. I can just remember that we had a good time. I don't imagine there were more than five or six couples because at that time (my junior year) there were about five or six couples of us that ran around together, did lots of things together, so I imagine that's what we did. I don't remember who was there. I'm sure Helen was there and a couple of other girls that I ran around with at the time.

But I've often thought about how my mother swung with the times. I've tried to do that, too, as my children went through the 60's. I thought that we have had to make some changes in our values, too.

TANZER: Your values, perhaps, haven't changed but you've changed your acceptance of their values.

BARBARA: Yes, that's better to say. I'm thinking right now of the long-hair question. One of our sons had long hair, and it was very difficult for us to accept.

TANZER: And he grew out of it.

BARBARA: Oh, I'm not so sure. (laughter) The last time I saw it, it was not short short, but not too long either.

TANZER: After your mother died, and your father, your social life and things you did in Beaverton changed considerably, I presume?

BARBARA: Yes. Yes. Everything had changed. That was the Depression so everything had turned around. And I was away from Beaverton for a full year, came back, rented our family home out to a family by the name of Godfreys, and lived with them while I taught.

Clarence and I married in 1944 and there was a group of people that I had known, and Clarence became acquainted with them. They chivareed us after our wedding and we formed a club. It was called the Saturday Night Club That Never Met On A Saturday Night. It met on Tuesday night. It was a group of about 12 people (some of them are widowed now) but we still see them, sometimes once a week, sometimes only twice a month, but very good friends.

Paul and Frieda Knepp are one of them. Martha and Willard Ericson (Willard has died), Amerette Barnes and Bernice Connelly, two retired Beaverton teachers. I used to live with Amerette Barnes before I got married. Oh, there are some others that have come into the group, but we've had a lot of good friends.

TANZER: How was this group banded together?

BARBARA: First, it was a church group -- the minister who married us started the group. We met once a month to have a good discussion and eat. It just gradually changed as that minister left; it has turned into a discussion group -- it kept that same format for many, many years. And then I suppose about 20 years ago we learned to play Mah Jong, and now we meet to play Mah Jong. And that's it.

TANZER: Have your children grown up together as well?

BARBARA: Yes, a lot of our children have, yes. They were different ages, but we always had a Fourth of July picnic for the families, and then we always had a New Year's Eve-progressive dinner, just for the couples in the group.

TANZER: Do your children have the same strong sense of Beaverton? -- belonging to Beaverton as you do?

BARBARA: I don't know whether they do or not. I have often wondered. I don't think so.

TANZER: What do you think is the difference?

BARBARA: Well, maybe because I grew up in Beaverton when it was such a very small town, and my folks had played such a start in building it. And they just grew up here, and haven't seen it progress from nothing to what it is now.

TANZER: How strongly do you feel about Beaverton?

BARBARA: Well, at times I feel very strongly about it. And at other times, it has changed so fast that I don't like it any more. My husband and I this last winter received a letter when we were down in New Mexico, from our grandson who wants to buy our home. So we really had to stop and think, did we want to hang

onto this place, or did we want to sell. We have decided, yes, we wanted to hang onto our home for at least a few more years, and that we didn't want to live permanently in New Mexico. We still, both of us, feel very tied to this area.

Our friends are here, my whole past history is here. So I guess I feel very strongly tied to Beaverton. There's an attachment there that goes very deep.

I'm not a person that likes to move, particularly. We've lived here in this home for 21 years, and I'm very happy here. But on the other hand, with our daughter living in New Mexico, I have very strong attachments to where she is, too. Clarence and I both have a very strong relationship with our daughter, so we are very fortunate that we can spend four or five months down there, close to her. I wouldn't want to live with her, but close.

TANZER: As you reflect back on your whole family, grandfather, father, mother -- the entire family, what picture do you draw of them?

BARBARA: They were very strong, or staunch people. The word staunch Republican was used to describe my father, and I think that's a very good word to describe him because he was a strong person. Whatever he believed, he believed it strongly. He was a very fine church man; my mother was, too, very strong, had strong beliefs in what was right and what was wrong. And they were wonderful people and citizens, yes. Definitely.

SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

INTERVIEW WITH: MRS. BARBARA CADY BUFFAM

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

1. Boot and shoe business in Washington and Oregon
2. Grandfather, A.B. Cady first Beaverton mayor
3. Father, F.W. Cady on school board
4. Cady-Anderson & Cady-Pegg Stores
5. Her mother and the gypsies
6. Brother and sister much older
7. Bethel Congregational Church
8. Deaths of her parents
9. Schooling - Pacific University, Monmouth
10. Teaching; Tualatin View, Kinton
11. Depression; warrants
12. Teaching at Merle Davies (Beaverton Grade School)
13. About Miss Davies
14. Husband worked for Post Office
15. Politics and the Post Office
16. Old friends
17. Downtown Beaverton shopping
18. Lack of other cultures in Beaverton
19. Cady businesses; the Cady Building
20. Play as a child.

(Where unknown, phonetic spellings are used)